



# The GSROR Quarterly

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies

A Colorado Non-Profit Organization 501 (c)(3)

## 2014 GSROR Calendars Now Available!



Everyone uses a calendar these days, right? By purchasing the 2014 GSROR Calendar, you can enjoy the winning GSD photos from our annual contest, keep track of all your important dates, AND support our rescue as we continue our work helping dogs in need. It's a WIN-WIN situation! And they make great gifts, too! Calendars are \$20 each. To order your copy, please visit [www.gsr.or.com](http://www.gsr.or.com) for all the details.

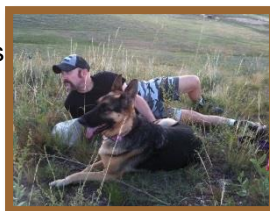
## ♥ The Rewards of Rescue

As we near the end of another busy year, we decided to share a few of the many success stories that keep us doing what we do.



**Aspen** was born at a backyard breeder's home. She and many other dogs were living in filth in small pens outside when the owner could no longer feed any of the 30+ dogs he had on his property and asked for help. Aspen and 2 of her siblings were pulled into rescue and they were all adopted. After one year, Aspen's owners no longer had time for her

and she was brought to GSROR. The owner told us that Aspen was a very insecure dog who was leery of everything and it took her a long time to open up and trust someone, and he felt bad that he had to let her go. What he didn't know was that losing her family would devastate Aspen beyond belief. Within 24 hours of coming to us, her tiny body shut down and Aspen was giving up on life. The trauma of her past and then losing her family was more than she could stand. Aspen was taken to the ER and for the next 5 days the vets worked round the clock to keep her alive. Two of our volunteers would go to the hospital and sit with her, trying to let her know that she was loved, not by the people she knew, but by new friends and that life was worth sticking around for. Aspen hung in there with us, and after the vets released her, she lived in her new foster home, still weak but making improvements everyday. Here she is with her new dad, enjoying life with tons of love and happiness. Never again will she feel the pain of not being wanted.



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**WWW.GSROR.COM**



# Dogs Looking for a Home in Time for the Holidays



ATHENA



JACKSON



BANCHEE



CASSIE



JAXSON



CHLOE



SHILOH



BO



SAMMY

For more information on these wonderful dogs looking for a home, please visit our website at [www.gsr.or.com](http://www.gsr.or.com).



# Happy Holidays from Some Very Happy Dogs!

Join us as we celebrate all the dogs that we have been able to help from the day we opened our doors January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to date.

Ace	Cinder	Isis (2)	Max	Sarge (2)
AJ	Cleo	Ivan	Maya	Shilah
Ajax	Dallas (2)	Jack	Meg	Shilo
Alice	Dash	Jackson	Merlin	Shiloh
Angel (2)	Dawson	Jacob	Misty	Skylar
Anyia	Dex	Jake	Molly	Smokey
Aspen	Dexter	Jarena	Mopsey	Snowden
Athena	Dory	Jasper	Nacoma	Sophia
Axel	Duke (4)	Jaxson	Nakita	Sparky
Baby	Dusty	Jezzy	Natasha	Tasha
Bailey	Dylan	Kaedo	Neptune	Taves
Balto	Ember	Kai	Neria	Tess (2)
Banchee	Emmet	Kaiser	Odin	Thor
Barron	Emory	Kirsha	Orion	Thunder
Batu	Flex	Koda	Ory	Tiny
Bear (3)	Gemma	Kodi	Pilar	Trinity
Beau	General	Kodiac	Porter	Trooper
Bella (2)	Ginger	Koti	Radar (2)	Tundra
Bo	Gloria	Kumba	Rex	Tux
Boo	Greta	Layla	Rocco	Twyla
Bridger	Grizzly	Leah	Rocky	Uma
Bruno	Gunney	Leila	Romeo	Virgil
Bud	Gunni	Leo (3)	Rosco	Wagz
Buddy	Gunny	Lilly (2)	Ruben	Whiskey
Callie	Hana	Lola	Sally	Yukon
Carson	Hank	Lua	Samie	Zeke
Chance	Harley	Luca	Sammie	Zeppelin
Charlie	Hayden	Mario	Sammy	Ziggy
Charlotte	Heidi	Mary	Sampson	Ziva
Chloe	Hera (2)	Matilda	Sara	Ziya

Our wish for 2014 is that we can continue our work to help more unwanted pets find new and forever families.

## B<sup>4</sup>: Brian's Bite-sized Behavior Bits



*"Our children are counting on us to provide two things: consistency and structure. Children need parents who say what they mean, mean what they say, and do what they say they are going to do."*

– Barbara Coloroso

I love the quote above and believe that it applies to us as dog owners just as much – if not more – than it does to us as parents. Consistency and structure are both of paramount importance in raising a stable dog. In this installment of Brian's Bite-sized Behavior Bits we will focus specifically on the role consistency plays in our training.

I have found that one of the most common frustrations shared by dog owners is their dog's lack of responsiveness to commands. One minute, an owner asks her dog to sit and the dog does so obediently; the next minute when the owner asks her to do the same task, the dog doesn't bother to do anything but stare back at her owner with a blank look or, worse yet, roll her little doggie eyes and walk away. What's up with that? Have you ever felt like you were banging your head against a wall wondering why your dog only sometimes comes back when you call her instead of every time? If so, you are not alone. I have been there plenty of times myself and I can tell you that there can be many reasons for a dog's lack of responsiveness, but the main culprit is a lack of consistency. Allow me to explain what I mean...

If I ask my dog to sit and she doesn't so I ask her three more times before she complies, I have taught her that I will ask more than once and that she only sometimes has to do it. If I do this over a period of time, she will learn to be consistently inconsistent – just like my reinforcement habits. If, however, I ask her to sit and she doesn't so I gently guide her into the position instead of asking again, I am starting to teach her that I will only ask once and she needs to do it the first time. If I do this on a regular basis she will learn to obey commands the first time I give them. In either scenario, my dog's behavior is simply a reflection of the quality of my reinforcement: if I am consistent, she will perform consistently; if I am inconsistent, she will perform inconsistently. Similarly, if I am vigilant to reward her whenever she obeys, she is more likely to be obedient in the future.

So, how can we use this concept in our favor? By becoming aware of the need to be rock-solid predictable in how we train our dogs. We have to realize that if our system of rewards and corrections is sloppy and haphazard, we have no right to complain about non-compliance. So today and every day hereafter, give special attention to being as predictable as possible in every interaction you have with your dog. If you ask her to sit, only ask once and then make sure to follow through with a reward for sitting or some additional guidance to help her into the position if she needs it. If you ask her to come to you, make sure she's on a leash or long line so that you are in control of the situation and can guide her back to you if she gets off track. If you tell her to stay off the couch, don't let her get on the couch – even if she is batting her eyelashes at you and looks as cute as a button – she can be as cute as a button on her dog bed, too.

It's not about being perfect because training and relationships never are. It's about being specific, deciding exactly what you want, and then being a supportive but dependable partner for your pup. Stay steady and true, because clear expectations provide security and direction. It also creates a dog that is reliable and listens when you ask her to do something. Instead of getting frustrated the next time your dog doesn't listen, resolve instead to be absolutely predictable with your follow-through for the ensuing week and then revisit the scenario – my guess is that you will see a drastic improvement in the results. Most training problems (and the related tears of frustration) stem from consistency issues, but if you will put this wonderful ally in your corner you'll soon have people asking you "how did you get her to listen to you so well?" Then, you can smile and simply reply, "I say what I mean, mean what I say, and do what I say I'm going to do."



## “The Rewards of Rescue”, part 2.



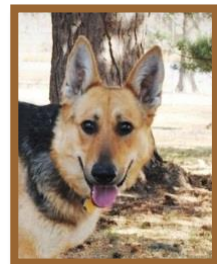
Virgil was found running on the streets starving, weak, and beaten up, when he was taken to the county shelter. He was there for months with no one stopping by his kennel to see him or showing any interest in taking him home and he started to give up. One of the volunteers saw that he had lost his zest to live, as he stayed curled up in the corner of his kennel, not even lifting his head for those who walked by. So, she took him in as a foster. She was able to find him

a new family, but that only lasted a few weeks when disaster hit them and they had to let him go. Virgil was brought into GSROR and was placed with a foster mom and many other pets. He gained weight and started to come out of his shell, but he still kept mostly to himself, afraid to let anyone in. After 7 months of waiting, he was becoming depressed. You see, animals know when they are not with the people they were meant to be with, and even though they have a wonderful foster home, they seem to know it is not their forever home. Just like at the shelter, Virgil was beginning to think that his family was not going to come for him. And then it happened--- his foster mom took him to a home where he lit up like a shining star. Even before he got out of the car, he knew this was home and he ran to his new mom like he knew her all his life. Once inside he made himself right at home and there was a peace in his eyes like we had never seen before. Virgil told his foster, “I am finally home now” and said his good byes as he snuggled up next to his new mommy on his very own dog bed.



Chloe was born in New Mexico, where a lot of animals live on the streets starving for food, water, shelter, and attention. It took a small group of people weeks to get her, as she ran away from them every time they got close. When they finally cornered her and put a leash on, she refused to walk and so they carried her. She came to GSROR still too scared to stand on her legs or to move. We put her with friends at Cisco's Den who have a daycare/boarding facility and

who worked with her everyday with small signs of improvement. Then, one day we got a call – “Chloe is outside in the play yard with the other dogs and she walked there on her own!” This news gave us goose bumps. We knew that she had finally opened the door and was beginning to let people in. I brought her to my house and continued the work. It took months to get Chloe used to being in a home, moving around the furniture, going in and out of doors, and wanting to be loved and petted. First, she started playing with the other dogs, learning from them and doing what they did. Then, she advanced to running around the yard, playing with toys, asking for attention, and being a part of the family, just like a normal dog. Chloe is now more open to meeting new people, likes going for car rides, enjoys walking on leash, playing with dogs, and carrying her stuffed toys around the house. She is still looking for her forever family to come and take her home.

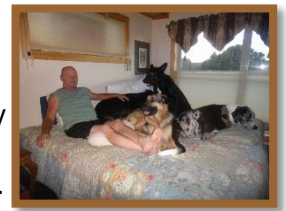


Sampson was picked up by animal control, skinny with severe ear infections and battle scares. Most shelters have to put stays to sleep when there have health problems due to limited funds, but the staff at this shelter choose to help Sampson and they reached out to us to take him. Sampson had had so many ear infections in the past that there were knots of busted cartilage under his skin from scratching so much. The pain this boy must have endured is difficult to comprehend. As we came to know him, we found out that he probably had to fight for every scrap of food or drink of water, as he defended himself against other dogs, strangers, or people who might have hurt him. Sampson showed signs of aggression towards people he didn't know and wouldn't allow anyone to come into his life except his foster parents. They saw a loving, goofy, affectionate, playful side of Sampson that made us keep fighting for him, praying that one day he would let others see the special dog he is. He was a hard one for us to

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## "The Rewards of Rescue", part 3.

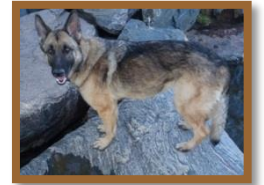
place but we did. After 9 months of asking folks to give him a chance, someone finally did and they write every month with wonderful stories of happiness and about how he has become such a part of their family that they couldn't imagine life without him.



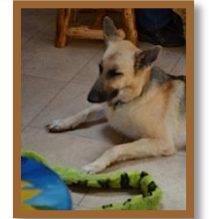
Athena & Hera, theirs is a sad story of neglect within the home. Both girls were bought from different breeders when they were 8 weeks old, within 6 months, by a lady with no job and 2 small children. After a disruption in the family home, both young dogs were put outside, when they needed people most. Even though they had a home, they didn't have a family who loved and cared for them. Athena developed a yeast infection, was grossly malnourished, and was losing her hair. Though she was taken to the vet, the owner declined treatment. Hera was also terribly thin and fragile, almost like a glass figure that could break at the slightest touch. She too had a yeast infection. For two years, these dogs lived under such painful, unloving conditions. Once in rescue, both dogs were taken to the vet,



started on meds, and given high quality food. Athena is in a foster home and has made so many improvements, not only in her health, but also in her love for life. She is a working girl, looking for just the right person to call her own. She enjoys playing with a tennis ball, going on car rides and hanging out. Hera immediately took to life again, when she came home with me.



She enjoyed being a part of everything and loved all the attention. She was adopted to a family who live in the mountains and now enjoys life on a farm. She is healthy, happy and loves all the affection she gets from her new family.



***Every one of our dogs has a sad story to tell, but through our rescue, dedicated volunteers, and the souls who never gave up, they all have happy tails wagging.***

### Riley's Canine Carols

#### Love Those Smells (sung to "Jingle Bells")

Dashing through the door,  
As I got outside to play.  
Chasing all the birds,  
As I watch them fly away.

Biscuits make my day,  
I get them when I sit.  
I get them when I lay,  
And I hope they never quit.

Oh, jingle bells,  
Love those smells,  
Learning how to stay.  
Oh, what fun it is to bark  
When the owner is away-ay!

Jingle bells,  
Love those smells,  
Learning how to stay.  
Oh, what fun it is to bark  
When the owner is away!  
~T.D.

#### Santa Paws (sung to "Santa Claus is Coming to Town")

Oh, you better not jump,  
You better not nip,  
You better not hump,  
You better not rip.  
Santa Paws is coming to town.

He sees you when you're digging.  
He know if you eat trash.  
He watches you pull on the leash,  
And he sees you fight a bath.

So, you better not jump,  
You better not nip,  
You better not hump,  
You better not rip.  
Santa Paws is coming to town.

~T.D.

#### A Dog's Favorite Things (sung to "My Favorite Things")


Each time it's meal time,  
And toys that are soggy.  
Chasing my owner,  
And pals that are doggies.  
Taking a car ride  
That's not to the vet.  
These are the things  
That make my life all set.

Licking my chew bone,  
And rubs on my tummy.  
Crumbs on the carpet,  
And treats that are yummy.

Sunny, warm spots that  
The summer days bring.  
These are a few of my  
Favorite things.

When the flea bites,  
When the door rings,  
When the thunder pounds,  
I simply remember my  
Favorite things  
And then I don't feel  
So down!

~T.D.



*As we look back on the years we have been opened, we are proud of the people who have come together to help our group help more dogs. We are thankful for our volunteers who spend time with the kids. They support our events, make hand-crafted items for us to sell, participate in fundraising, take the dogs on walks, open their doors to foster, get them to vet appointments, and mainly give of themselves and their time to help the ones who have no one else. We would not exist if it wasn't for them.*

*So, here's to you GSROR Volunteers-our many thanks and prayers for help have been answered with you being part of our team.*

*From our door to yours, here's wishing you a Very Happy Holiday and a Glorious New Year!!!*

## A Dog's Christmas Promises



Christmas is for humans, and I will not ruin the surprises by opening all their presents.

Christmas light bulbs, Christmas ornaments, Christmas stockings, and tinsel from the Christmas tree are not food. I will not demolish the Christmas tree and drag the string of lights out into the backyard through the doggy door.

I will not dive into the Christmas tree to get the candy canes (which I will eat -- paper and all).

I will not eat my Christmas doggie treats until after they're out of the stocking!

I will not even THINK about going underneath the Christmas tree and piddling on the dining room rug.

I will not get tangled up in the Christmas tree lights and pull the tree down

I will not pee on Grandma's Christmas presents that are under her tree as soon as we enter her house.

I will not pee on our Christmas tree.

I will not steal the neighbor's Christmas light bulbs.

The bowl underneath the Christmas tree is not a dog dish and I will not drink from it.

**Throw Us a Bone Sometime~**  
**We'd Love to Hear From You!**

Please visit our website at: [www.gsror.com](http://www.gsror.com)

And Like Us on Facebook



### **OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Katie Hodgson

*Director:*

Mickey McNeal

*Secretary:*

Julie Warzecha

*Treasurer:*

Marchelle Heslip

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies (GSROR) serves the public as a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of homeless and abandoned German Shepherd Dogs (GSD) in Denver, Colorado and surrounding areas. While providing loving and temporary care, the goal of German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies is to find well-matched, carefully-screened, permanent homes and families for each dog. As a community resource, we provide nutrition information, referrals, education, and other services.

Newsletter Designed & Written by Volunteer  
TL Derheim