



# The GSROR Quarterly

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies  
A Colorado Non-Profit Organization 501 (c)(3)

## Aa-chooo!!

With spring flowers come seasonal allergies and you might not be the only one needing a tissue! Dogs can suffer from seasonal allergies just like humans



Here are some signs that your dog might be feeling the effects of the blossoming springtime:

- Red, irritated skin
- Itching or biting parts of the skin
- Sneezing
- Watery eyes
- Runny nose
- General irritability

If you see any of these symptoms or behaviors in your dog, check with your veterinarian to see if the problem is seasonal allergies.

If that's the case, some things you can do to help are:

- Give your dog a bath
- Clean and vacuum the bedding and favorite areas of the home
- Wash paws every time your dog comes inside.
- Revisit your dog's diet to see if any ingredients might be contributing to the discomfort.

So, if you find yourself feeling the tickle of spring allergies, remember that your dog might be feeling tickly too!

Volume 14  
Spring 2016

### Inside This Issue...

Available Dogs.....2-3

Behavior Bits.....4

FBI and Animal Cruelty.....5

Colorado Dog Chaining Petition.....5

Fostering Tax Break.....6

GSROR Info.....6

[www.GSROR.com](http://www.GSROR.com)



**TAX TIME** is upon us! Please remember that donating to German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies is tax-deductible, easy to do through our website [www.gsror.com](http://www.gsror.com), and supports the daily needs, including medical concerns, of the dogs in our care searching for a forever home. Cash donations give us the flexibility to apply the funds where needed, but donations of dog supplies and offering to volunteer your time are always welcome! Oh, and check out page 6 for important information regarding tax deductions for volunteer foster pet parents!

Please visit our [website](http://www.gsror.com) for all the ways you can help!



# Every One of These **Dogs** Would **Love** to Find a **Forever** Home

## Available Dogs



### SHILOH

Oh, those ears!  
Shiloh is about 3 years old.  
She likes playing with toys  
and relaxing at home.



### ZEUS

Don't let the grey around my  
muzzle fool you...I am a kid at  
heart. Zeus is around 10 years  
old and always ready for a  
little lovin'.



### THEODORE

This 3 year old boy is ready for an  
adventurous family. Theodore enjoys  
hiking, climbing on rocks and playing in  
creeks.



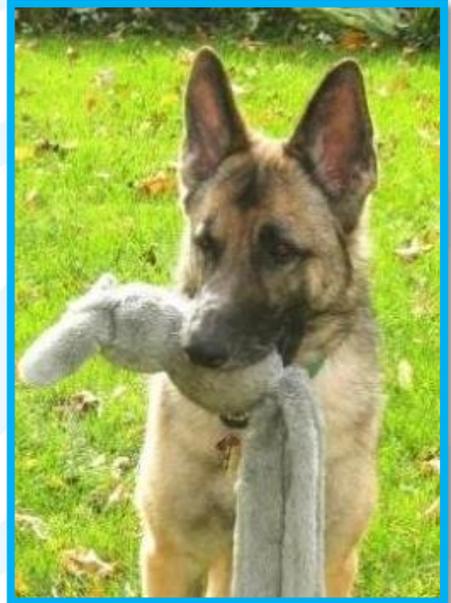
### KIKI

Kiki is about a year old and could use  
a little confidence building. She sweet  
and sensitive and eager to learn.



### BELLA

Bella is a 2.5 year old female looking for a loving and patient family. She is good with other dogs and loves to run.



### GINA

Gina is people friendly, enjoys taking walks and playing with her favorite bunny toy. She is 6 years old.



### BOBBY JO

Bobby Jo lost her home because her dad was being deployed in the military. She is a 4 year old, mild-mannered sweetie who plays fetch like a champ.

For more information about our dogs or about GSROR, please visit our website at [www.gsror.com](http://www.gsror.com)



### KEISHA

A mild-mannered, 10 year old girl, Kesha is very people friendly and loves a good walk or a ride in the car.



# Brian's Bite-Sized Behavior Bits: Multi-dog Households



You like the idea of a well-trained dog, but there's one little challenge: you have multiple dogs in your home which makes training a bit more complicated. So how do you proceed when you live with a pack and every time you ask them to do something, it seems like one or two of your dogs get it right but the others just blow you off?

As with any training scenario, there are a plethora of techniques you can employ that will likely be effective to some degree. However, I always recommend hiring a professional to come in and help you design protocols specific to your situation. Every home with people and dogs living under the same roof will have unique considerations requiring customized training methodologies. For this reason, I tend to outline general training principles in my articles - as opposed to giving explicit step-by-step instructions - which allows you to tailor the information to fit your needs. Outlined below are three principles to abide by when training in the context of a multiple-dog household.

## **Principle 1: Begin by training each dog in isolation.**

It takes more time to teach each dog individually, but that is the cross we bear when we choose to live with a group of dogs. Bring your dogs one at a time to a quiet place and teach them the behaviors they need to know. If they already know commands like Sit, Down, Come, and Stay, but are not especially reliable, you will still need to spend one-on-one time with them to build a more sturdy foundation before you consider issuing commands when they're in a group setting. Just because your dogs intellectually understand the command "Down" doesn't mean they've practiced enough repetitions, or have sufficient motivation to do it when there are other distractions present. Before you command any of your dogs to do something in the presence of the others, prep each of them ahead of time by practicing training around less tempting distractions. This way they'll learn that they need to obey the Down command even when they're interested in other things.

## **Principle 2: Stack the dogs slowly.**

What do I mean by this? Let's say you have three dogs. Once you've taught each dog the core behaviors they need to know in isolation, work them in pairs. Why not all three at once? Because it's too much of a contrast from the work they've been doing on their own. As any of us with several dogs can attest, bad behaviors and non-compliance is at its worst when our dogs are all together. It's like their hearing goes out the window somehow. So, you'll want to be mindful of this and gradually bring your dogs together by working them in pairs first before moving to stacking/integrating the entire group.

## **Principle 3: Reward the dog that gets it right.**

If you ask several dogs to sit and only one of them does it, don't get hung up on the ones that aren't complying: focus your attention on the dog that "listened" and give him a great big reward! This will create a sense of competition and get the attention of the others. Now ask your dogs to sit again. And again. And again. Repeat the process 10 times in a row, feeding each dog in order as soon as he sits, and I assure you that you'll get more of the crew on board by the end. If you still have a straggler, take him on his own and do some more work until he improves, and then give it another go! If he still ignores the command, gently press on top of his butt until he sits down.

Content Copyrighted 2015. Brian Bergford. All Rights Reserved.

# FBI NOW COUNTS ANIMAL CRUELTY ALONG WITH FELONY CRIMES

As of January 1, 2016, "Acts of cruelty against animals are now counted alongside felony crimes like arson, burglary, assault, and homicide in the FBI's expansive criminal database," according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation website.

The push to create a category in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for animal abuse crimes was spearheaded by the National Sheriffs' Association along with numerous advocacy groups. Prior to this change, acts of animal cruelty were generically listed under "All Other Offenses" and only contained a summary of the crime.

Now, law enforcement agencies will be able to track perpetrators and look for patterns of abuse that often extend beyond animal abuse to crimes against humanity. In addition, over time the detailed collection of such data will

provide law enforcement agencies and animal rights organizations more information that they can use to address animal cruelty in this country.

The FBI is still in the process of activating the NIBRS nationwide and it will take a few years of collecting animal abuse data until it is useable on a large scale. In the meantime, some states are moving ahead to bring awareness to the crime of animal cruelty, like Tennessee, which now has a state-run database listing convicted animal abusers.

For more information:

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016/february/tracking-animal-cruelty>

<http://wkcr.com/2016/01/01/tennessee-becomes-first-state-to-release-animal-abuse-registry/>

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHAINS ARE *NOT* OKAY But Colorado Legislature Currently Says Otherwise



*Isolated, alone, starving, scared, unsheltered, burdened with heavy, harsh metal around the neck....such is the life of a dog cruelly chained outside with no one to speak on their behalf or put an end to the suffering.*

Laws that concern chaining or tethering dogs vary from state to state; and unfortunately, most states do not have any laws that address this issue. Colorado is one such state. But citizens from Colorado and elsewhere who want to see that change are signing a petition on [change.org](http://change.org) requesting that Governor John Hickenlooper ban dog chaining in Colorado.

If you would like to be a voice for those who have no voice and say loud and clear that chains are not okay, please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/john-hickenlooper-ban-dog-chaining-in-colorado>

For more information on dog chaining in this country, see <http://www.peta.org/issues/companion-animal-issues/cruel-practices/chaining-dogs/> and <https://www.animallaw.info/topic/table-state-dog-tether-laws>



# BENEFITS OF FOSTER HOMES and Tax Deductions

~The goal of German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies is to find loving, forever homes for every dog that comes through our door. ~

When dogs enter our care, they have to wait for the right family to come along. Since we do not run GSROR out of a facility, we rely on foster volunteers to open their homes and hearts and offer a better environment for our dogs to live in temporarily. The benefits of living in foster homes are numerous:



- Warm, safe home environment
- Opportunity to receive training
- Special care for any medical issues
- Ability to socialize with people and sometimes other animals.

But *DID YOU KNOW* that in addition to being a highly valued member of our rescue, being a foster parent also has a tax deduction perk?

As a foster parent, you can deduct some of the expenses you incur while fostering a pet for a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, like GSROR. Such expenses might include:

- Veterinary bills
- Pet food
- Pet equipment
- Travel expenses obtained specifically for the pet rescue.

For more information, please check with your local tax professional, accountant or attorney.

To learn more about how to become a foster parent for GSROR, please visit [www.gsror.com](http://www.gsror.com) .

## 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). While providing loving, temporary homes for our dogs in rescue we get them vetted and spend time getting to know them personally so we can place them in the home that best fits their needs. Our 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, training tips and other services.

Newsletter created by GSROR volunteer TL Derheim

## DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME~

Yes, I'd like to help GSDs in need. Here is a contribution to GSROR in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this coupon, along with your check or money order to:

**GSROR**  
**P.O. Box 1481**  
**Westminster, CO 80036**



German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

For additional information about GSROR, or to make a donation via PayPal, check us out on the web at [www.gsror.com](http://www.gsror.com)