



The GSROR Quarterly

German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies

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

Fundraising Events

Volume 13

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Support GSROR simply by walking your dog!

That's right, simply download the WoofTrax app, choose German Shepherd Rescue of the Rockies as your favorite shelter, and whenever you go for a walk or run, money is donated to GSROR.

It's a great way to get outside with your pup and help a great cause all at the same time! So check it out at: <http://www.wooftrax.com/>

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SAVE THE DATES!

Mother's Day is just around the corner and we'll be having a special Silpada Jewelry Fundraiser!

One of our volunteers, Carol Leabhart, is hosting an online Silpada jewelry fundraiser. Shop on Carol's website, mysilpada.com/carol.leabhart1 anytime between April 17—21, 2015, and 25% of your purchase will be donated to German Shepherd Rescue of the



THANK YOU FROM KATIE



All of us at GSROR, especially Katie, would like to thank you for your Birthday Gifts in donations to help us take care of our kids:.

It was nice to ask for help with donations just to have the money for extra things we sometimes can not afford. Like Zeus, our 9 yr old boy got his teeth clean and a much needed bath. All the dogs in foster received new toys and beds. It was especially nice to receive your gifts of love for support and not being a dog in crisis needing expensive vet care.

Available Dogs



BELLA

Bella is a 1.5 year old female that is looking for a patient and loving family. She is good with other dogs and loves to run and play fetch.



ALLIE

Allie is a 2 year old female who is very sweet, friendly and loves to play.



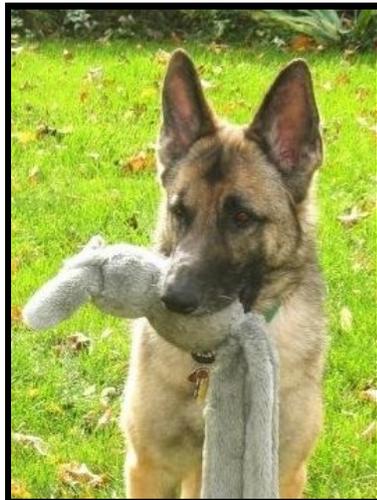
BOBBY

Bobby is a 3 year old girl that lost her dad because he is in the military and was being deployed. A mild mannered sweetie she loves to play fetch and can catch anything.



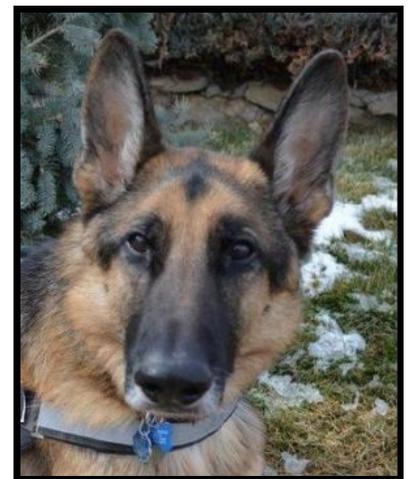
BRONCO

Bronco is a 2 year old male that thinks he is still a puppy and he is an adorable boy in looks and personality.



GINA

Gina is 5 years old, people friendly, enjoys walks and loves to play fetch or with her favorite bunny.



KODI

Kodi is 5 years old and loves long walks, hiking and going on car rides.

For more information on the dogs listed above or about GSROR, please visit our website at www.gsror.com

Available Dogs



SHILOH

Tessa is a 2 year old sweetheart who loves to carry around her toys, enjoys running after balls and is learning how to bring them back to you.



NOAH

Noah is a sweet boy that what was picked up wondering the streets in New Mexico and we guess him to be about 1 year old now. He is crate trained, potty trained and knows sit, down, stay and can walks wonderful on a leash



ZEUS

A happy boy, this 9 year old sweetheart runs and plays like a 2 year old. This sweet boy loves head rubs and every time you sit down, he will be right next to you as he loves being close

For more information about our dogs or about GSROR, please visit our website at www.gsror.com



SAWYER

This wonderful boy is about 1.5 years old and loves to play with toys, run around the yard, go on car rides and walks.



**The more
PEOPLE
I meet, the
more I love my
GERMAN
SHEPHERD**

SHILOH

Shiloh is about 2 years old and still has lots of puppy happiness. She is well behaved, great with other dogs and likes car rides and walks.

Don't take it personally

Anyone who has owned a dog has felt the pangs of frustration that come from being ignored. It is easy to fall into the trap of becoming offended when living with, and training, our dogs. Your new puppy squats right in front of you and adds some “color” to your new carpet and you are not too happy; your older dog lunges and shrieks anytime she spots a rabbit and embarrasses you in the process; your male dog just played fetch in the back yard for thirty minutes, but upon reentering the house decides it wasn't enough, steals an orange off of the kitchen table, and refuses to give it back.

Don't take it personally.

“*Why shouldn't I?*” you may be asking. For starters, once you make it personal (and you have to *make* it personal – it isn't inherently so) you've turned it into a battle of wills. Why on earth would you want to engage your ego and commit yourself to a scenario where one of you has to win and the other has to lose? It's the ultimate in relational sabotage.

If, however, your motivation is to strengthen your relationship with your dog and help advance her training, instead of yelling or getting upset with her, you will ask yourself questions like, *How can I help her understand what is expected of her?* This is a great question, and finding the answer will produce vastly different results than if you reproach her because you “can't believe she would do something like that” to you. She's not doing anything to you; she's just doing it. And while it may be easy to accept this on an intellectual level, de-personalizing your interactions with your dog is a discipline that takes time, patience, and a commitment to showing love by working to improve the situation, instead of just getting what you want out of it and moving on.

Think of it this way: if you're teaching your child to tie his shoes, do you take it personally when he doesn't get it on the first try? What about the tenth, or the twentieth? You are tempted to get frustrated, but realize that this will cause you to get angry, thus creating a toxic learning environment and making matters worse. So you breathe, remind yourself that he's just a kid, and smile as you encourage him to try again – this time with better results.

Now imagine instead that you had caved to your frustration and identified with thoughts like, *He's fiddling around because he knows it annoys me.* Regardless of whether or not this is true (and it probably isn't), getting offended is going to take a simple behavior like shoe tying and turn it into something else entirely – something you'll eventually regret. Your child will sense your negative emotions, become intimidated, and have difficulty learning because he's knows you're unhappy with him.

It's really not that much different with our dogs. Regardless of how many times you've worked with your dog on an issue, keep a cool head and focus on finding solutions that bring you closer together instead of breeding conflict. When issues pop up, focus on becoming a better communicator by patiently teaching your dog more desirable manners, and when you start to notice her behavior getting under your skin, take a couple deep breaths, *choose* not to take it personally, and come up with a plan to make things better. If you're at a loss for what to do, you can review literature online or find a local dog trainer to help. Stay positive, stick with it, and have faith that a solution is on the way.

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Tax breaks for pet foster parents...make sure you claim yours

In a [landmark tax court case](#), Jan Van Dusen emerged victorious against the IRS. Van Dusen claimed many tax deductions on her 2004 tax return, for all the expenditures she'd put out for the 70 (yes, you read that correctly) stray and feral cats she had fostered, as part of her volunteer work with Fix Our Ferals, a non-profit California charity.

Van Dusen claimed over \$12,000 related to cat food, vet bills, garbage bags, and other items for her care of the cats. In 2009, a judge finally ruled that because her expenses were used toward a charitable organization, she was legally allowed to claim them. In fact, 90 percent of her vet bills, cleaning supplies, and food was tax deductible.

What does this mean for you?

If you've ever fostered an animal or know anyone who has, you're probably aware of the expenses associated with it. Beside just opening your heart and home to an unfamiliar animal, you also usually have to provide food, gas used to transport the animal to vet appointments or potential adopter meetings, and all the supplies that come with taking care of an animal.

"People have claimed these types of expenses before, thinking it makes sense because they're doing this service for a charitable organization, they should be able to recoup some of their out-of-pocket costs," said Rachel Hirschfeld, [estate planner since 1999 and pet trust lawyer](#) who created the Pet Protection Agreement found on [LegalZoom.com](#). Hirschfeld was one of the first in the country to focus on pet trust laws for the security of pets' futures in cases where their owners might no longer be able to care for them.

Hirschfeld is thrilled with Van Dusen's victory. "There are so many people who want to foster and help animals, and this ruling will make it easier for everyone. More people will foster knowing it's a legal expense and this will help the whole community," she said. She suggested that a great next step would be tax deductions for people even after they've adopted the animals. "If you're adopting from a charitable organization or shelter, you're really helping out the shelter. The whole world would be a better place if people adopted more animals." (*Side note: I adopted my foster dog, and would love to know I could claim her expenses! Wouldn't many of you feel the same way? I know I'm not alone as a "foster failure"*).

How to get the most money back

Hirschfeld has some tips for foster parents planning to claim deductions on their taxes.

- Collect and retain all your receipts associated with foster pet purchases
- Write a note on every receipt and be specific (ie if you go to a hardware store and buy cat litter or lights for the room the dogs are kept in, circle the items on the receipt and write a note about the purpose of the item)
- Remember that as of right now, the only tax-deductible purchases are for foster pets, not resident pets

"This is huge what's happened here!" said Hirschfeld, and encourages all pet foster parents to take advantage of this and share with all their animal networks to help raise the rate of fostering, and thus saving, animals in shelters across the country. "This shows that people are starting to really see animals as actual beings."

Ironically, Hirschfeld used to be terrified of animals. Now she tells the story of adopting her foster dog. "When you adopt an animal, it actually changes your heart."

NOTE: An approved charity is one that is recognized by the IRS with the 501(c)(3) designation as a Not-for-Profit organization.

Be sure to save all receipts, and any single donation over \$250 requires a written receipt with verbiage stating that no goods or services were exchanged for the donation.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/tax-breaks-for-pet-foster-parents-make-sure-you-claim-yours>

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Looking for a new hiking buddy? Maybe someone to snuggle on the couch with and watch TV? Or maybe to take a long car ride on a beautiful spring day? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then you should consider being a GSROR Foster Parent!

In order for us to help save more dogs we need foster parents ... Animal lovers like you to open up your home and foster one of our dogs until they find their forever family. A foster home provides a safe and temporary home for dogs while we search for their permanent home.

Some of our dogs come to us with behavioral issues, so we have found that previous experience with German Shepherds is helpful but not necessary. Our dogs need good, loving foster homes and if you have the desire and interest, we will be there to help.



We do ask that you check out our [Fostering Guidelines](#) and the complete our application. We hope to soon have a program available to educate future foster and adoptive parents about the breed and provide training tips.

If you are interested in becoming a GSROR Foster Parent, make sure to check out the article on page 5 regarding, **Tax Breaks for Pet Foster Parents** This is a great article explaining how to recoup any out-of-pocket expenses you may have as a foster pet parent.

We want to thank you for your interest in helping GSROR by opening up your homes, families, and hearts to help a dog in need. Rescues would not exist if not for the thoughtful time and generosity of foster parents.

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



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.