



Why We Rescue

Meet Benson, one of our recent rescue dogs



We are in rescue so we can give dogs like Benson a chance at a long, healthy and happy life. One-year-old Benson was recently rescued from the Devore Shelter by German Shepherd Safe Haven. His left front leg was visibly injured. Without the intervention of GSSH, he would have undoubtedly been euthanized. The sick and the injured are always put at the top of the euthanization list.

Tom saw his picture on Devore's website and knew that he needed to meet him. He drove to Devore the day after Benson was made available for adoption. When he walked up to his kennel, Benson, who was lying on the floor, began wagging his tail. Though Tom was confident that he would be leaving with Benson, he had to evaluate

him just to make sure. Benson's sweet disposition was confirmed during the visit with him in the viewing area. Tom called Jen to discuss the situation and they decided it was a go. There was a strong possibility that he would need surgery on his leg, but they agreed that we needed to save his life. He didn't stand a chance in Devore as an injured dog, we were his only chance for survival.

Once Benson was safely a part of the GSSH pack, we set up an appointment with our veterinarian to get x-rays of his leg to determine the extent of his injuries. Our worst nightmare was confirmed: it was an old injury that healed improperly; he would need to go to a special surgeon. Another option would be to amputate his leg, but we wanted to exhaust all options before choosing such an extreme measure on such a young pup. We are in urgent need of donations to cover the cost of the surgery, as well as other expenses to cover his special medical needs. Please consider donating to this special young boy.



Benson & friends

Save the Date: December 12, 2015!



The fall season reminds us that the holidays are coming up! This is a reminder to save this date: December 12, 2015. We will be participating in the 2015 Laguna Niguel Holiday Parade for the third year in a row. We welcome all volunteers, foster and forever families to walk with us in the parade. We also encourage our supporters to come down and cheer us on! We always have a great time showcasing to the community what wonderful dogs German Shepherds are. It is truly a delight to see the children watching along the sidelines excitedly wave to all dogs and volunteers as we walk along the parade route. For general information regarding the parade, please visit the official parade website at www.lagunaniguelparade.com. For those of you in the GSSH family that would like to join us, an invitation will be sent via email in the upcoming weeks. Hope to see everyone there!

Thank You!



We have received the 2015 Top Rated Nonprofit award

from Greatnonprofits! This is the fourth year in a row that we have received this award. Thank you to our forever families, volunteers and supporters for helping us achieve this! Have you had a great experience with GSSH and want to tell the world about it? Visit GreatNonprofits.org and write a review!



Training Tip:

Did you know that using a command several times and not making your dog follow through with the command the first time can affect his reaction to training? For example, when you tell your dog to sit, tell him the command once and make him sit. That way, he knows there is no negotiation, he must do as he is told.

Did you know...?

Retractable leashes teach your dog bad walking habits and can be dangerous.

- 🐾 They teach your dog to pull by allowing him to walk and wander further and further away from you at his will. They think "the more I pull, the farther I can go!". A dog with good walking habits will walk next to his owner on a loose leash and never lead on the walk.
- 🐾 They can be dangerous to both you and your dog. The further away your dog walks from you, the less control you have over the dog and an unexpected situation such as an unleashed dog charging your dog. And if that were to happen, your instinct may be to grab the leash cord which can cause cuts, burns, and falls. If it gets wrapped around a body part or the dog, it can cause bodily harm or even amputation.
- 🐾 Large, strong dog breeds such as German Shepherds cannot easily be controlled or corrected on a retractable leash. Also their strength can cause the leash to snap which can cause injury.

Volunteer Spotlight: Samantha Scricca



Sam Scricca, who recently became a member of the GSSH Board of Directors, has been a volunteer for a little over a year. She discovered the organization while at a local YMCA; they were holding a showcase event there. She was impressed by the well-behaved dogs, and, having grown up with a GSD, began the process of becoming a volunteer.

"I was impressed with how thorough the process was to become a volunteer," Sam noted. Her favorite part of being a volunteer is spending time with the dogs during showcase events. She appreciates the role that GSSH plays in the dogs' lives, and she can tell that the dogs, many

of whom have had rough lives before being rescued, are thankful to be loved and engaged -- she can see it in their eyes. Sam has learned a lot about the breed since volunteering. "They need a strong owner. They can be a stubborn breed and need a strong personality to match." But she recognizes that the dogs genuinely like being with people. She often likes to sit with the dogs, who lay down next to her for attention.

"I don't think I will ever stop volunteering," Sam commented on her commitment to GSSH. "One single person can do a lot. Volunteering has opened up my eyes what I can do just as one person."