




**GERMAN SHEPHERD  
SAFE HAVEN**  
 PROVIDING GERMAN SHEPHERDS A NEW BEGINNING

**paw print**  
 Fall/Winter 2017

## Fall Fun with Our Family!

We had our 6th annual German Shepherd Safe Haven Family Cookout in October. We had a great turn out with delicious food, wonderful desserts and lots of raffle prizes. Everyone had fun playing the musical hula hoops and the ping pong race games and socializing with other GSSH families. The fall weather made it a perfect day to relax and enjoy the festivities and it was wonderful to see our alumni dogs again! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made this event a success! We could not have done it without you!



We did it again! This is our 6th year of being a top rated non-profit with Great Non-Profits! Thanks again to all that have made us the best German Shepherd Rescue in Orange County!

## Forever Family Spotlight: Cliff & Marlene Miracle

We can't mention our annual GSSH Family Cookout without thanking Cliff and Marlene Miracle! Cliff and Marlene adopted Jenna from our rescue 4 years ago. They were declined by a couple of other rescues because they were not considered quite the right fit for a German Shepherd. We pride ourselves on really getting to know the families that are interested in adopting one of our dogs. In the Miracles, we saw a loving family, truly wanting to provide a wonderful home for a dog. We were thrilled when they welcomed Jenna into their family.

In 2016, Marlene and Cliff became very involved with the rescue by lending their event planning expertise & creativity to the planning of our annual alumni family picnic. Not only were they integral in the planning process, they were hands on the day of the picnic too. They were also one of the corporate sponsors of the picnic. The 2016 picnic was one of the best, if not the best, picnic we've ever had! This year, they were back, from the very beginning of the planning process, with new ideas on how to make the 2017 picnic even better! They helped us in every step of the planning process and again, volunteered on the day of the picnic, keeping everything running smoothly. In addition, they were the main sponsor of this year's event! We could not have done it without their fun, positive attitude, creativity, professionalism, and financial assistance. Words cannot describe how thankful we are to have Marlene and Cliff as a part of our Safe Haven family! Thank you Marlene and Cliff ~ you truly are "A Miracle" to our organization!!



## Gastric Dilatation Volvulus (GDV) Diagnosis

A common ailment among German Shepherds is bloat, or gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV). This is a life threatening condition where the stomach rotates on its axis, cutting off the passage of food and water, and inhibiting circulation to the stomach and intestines. Bloat generally occurs in large, deep-chested dogs such as Great Danes, German Shepherds, Standard Poodles, Weimaraners, Saint Bernards, and Newfoundlands but has been seen in small dogs on rare occasions.

Dogs typically present with non-productive retching, restlessness and abdominal discomfort. The first signs of bloat may include a distended stomach, retching, or dry heaving. A distended abdomen may not always be noticeable due to the dog's conformation. If these symptoms are seen, immediate medical attention must be sought! The cause of the GDV is unknown, it is thought to have multiple contributing factors.

### Factors Suspected to Increase the Risk of Bloat

- Feeding one meal per day
- Breed of dog
- Eating rapidly
- Feeding a dry diet
- Sex of dog: Male dogs seem to be at a higher risk
- Age: Older dogs, between the ages of 7-12 years, seem to be at a higher risk
- Exercising immediately after a meal or drinking a lot of water

### Factors Suspected to Decrease the Risk of Bloat

- Feeding canned dog food and adding water to dry food
- Feeding two or more meals per day
- No exercise for several hours after a meal or drinking excess of water

### Treatment

Emergency veterinary medical attention must be sought for treatment of bloat.

Abdominal x-rays are the most reliable way to assess stomach position and diagnose bloat. Stabilization of the dog and diagnostics must be performed immediately. Surgical intervention is a necessary step in the treatment of bloat and should be done as soon as the dog is stable enough to undergo anesthesia and surgery.

During a bloat circulation can be compromised and other abdominal organs, such as the spleen or intestines, may be affected, as a result the spleen may also need to be removed in some cases. Bloat, requires a multiple day stay in the hospital for post-operative care and recovery. If not treated by a veterinarian immediately, bloat can be fatal. Most dogs who are diagnosed and treated early in the development of bloat recover from surgery and can lead a normal life.

## Year End Donations!



The holiday season is here which means that the end of the year is coming soon and it's time to consider an end of the year donation! How about making a donation in someone's name for their birthday, anniversary or holiday gift? Visit our website and click on the donation tab for the different ways you can donate and from there, you can easily make a donation online. You can also send a check using the enclosed envelope. Another easy way to donate is by starting your Amazon shopping by going to our link first: [smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2643983](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-2643983). They will donate a percentage of your purchase amount directly to us! We're never too proud to beg especially during the holidays because it's always paws up for all the dogs in our care!



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this holiday season!

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## Did You Know. . .

Bathing a German Shepherd should only be done if your dog is hiking on a dirt or muddy trail or when he or she is playing a lot with other dogs. SLOBBER!! Overbathing your dog can cause a lot of different hair and skin issues. It may sound counter-intuitive but too many baths can make an itchy dog an even itchier one! An exception would be medicated baths prescribed by your veterinarian for an allergy-prone dog. While baths should only be done on an as-needed basis, we do recommend getting your dog's nails trimmed at least every 4 weeks, ears wiped out and anal glands expressed. Some dogs express their anal glands when going potty but some don't so have your vet check to see if it's necessary. Also, regularly brushing your dog's coat will help keep shedding, especially from our beloved German "Shedders", under control. Brushing will also stimulate the skin's natural oils and help keep the skin balanced. The best benefit to brushing your dog? The bonding experience it creates between you and your dog!



## Get Involved!

We are looking for qualified foster homes and volunteers! We need people dedicated to our cause of saving more German Shepherds. We require at least a 6 month commitment for fostering and/or volunteering. We have three types of foster homes. The first is short term where you may just take care of the dog for a defined, shorter period of time. The next is a traditional long term foster home where you care for the dog until we find the dog his or her forever home. Lastly, we have emergency fosters where you're 'on call' and may just step in for a day or two and care for the dog when the dog's regular foster home has an emergency and is unable to. We really need dedicated people who want to help, who are in it for the long haul with us, who we can depend on when a dog is depending on us. Beautiful German Shepherds are dying every day in the shelters because they have no one where to go, no one to rescue them. We can rescue those dogs and save more lives if we have more foster homes! If you become a GSSH foster family, we will be with you every step of the way because we want it to be a fun, rewarding experience for you. Why not try it and see for yourself??

If you can't foster, think about volunteering with us! We do require at least a 6 month commitment which would demonstrate your commitment and dedication to the dogs that we save. Not only do we depend on you, the dogs do too! We need regular volunteers to attend our monthly Showcase Events to handle dogs and promote our rescue. At the same time, you can get a major dose of Shepherd love from our amazing dogs! What could be better than that??

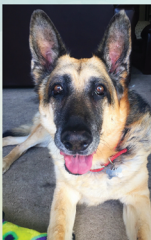
Interested in getting involved? Visit our website and fill out a foster or volunteer application!

## ♥ In Remembrance ♥

This is always difficult to talk about but this year was a tough year for the rescue because we lost some of our beloved furry family members. We are comforted knowing that they were all in wonderful forever homes with families that loved them until the very end. Our hearts are broken for the families that have lost their furbabies but we know that they are all running around playing with one another now. Rest in peace Leo, Olivia, Ellie Mae, Noah and Carson.



**LEO**  
7 YEARS YOUNG



**OLIVIA**  
9 YEARS YOUNG



**ELLIE MAE**  
11 YEARS YOUNG



**NOAH**  
6 YEARS YOUNG



**CARSON**  
10 YEARS YOUNG