



We Are Family

German Shepherd Safe Haven Family Picnic 2015

We held our 4th Annual Family Picnic on June 28th in Laguna Niguel. Forever Families from as far as San Diego, Temecula, Pasadena, Burbank, Chino, Lake Elsinore, and as nearby as the venue's backyard, braved the hot, humid day to celebrate the one thing that brought them all together: the GSSH dogs.

Tom commented that one aspect of the picnic he enjoys most is recognizing the impact that the organization has had on the dogs and people. "The dogs have brought people, who otherwise would not meet each other on a daily basis, come together."

There were many reunions happening at the picnic between the dogs, forever families, and volunteers. It's always a very emotional and fun day for everyone.

Also new was the film crew. The videographer, Warren, interviewed the Forever Families and volunteers, while his film crew captured the rest of the event. Volunteers Angela and Taryn were the day's photographers; they took family photos, and covered the event until the very end. GSSH would like to thank them all for their hard work. We will be sharing the video and photographs with our GSSH family as soon as they are available.

A variety of auction items (which were donated by the volunteers) were raffled off: Family Movie Night bucket, beach basket, GSSH tote and goodies, a wine basket, and much more. GSSH would like to thank everyone who participated in the raffle, as well as the donations placed in the donation box.

Jan noted that the event could not happen were it not for the volunteers. "They worked hard to make the picnic memorable for all the guests, and we definitely wouldn't be able to do it without them. I'm proud of our team of volunteers, to see them working so well together throughout the day, and even at the end of the day during breakdown. They were still smiling and laughing and having a good time. That was really cool to see."

Have a great rest of the summer, and we'll see you next year.



Meet Fern and Ginger

In April we received a call from Lisa Arturo from Hope for Paws regarding two dogs that they had trapped and rescued in late February. They were both strays that had been living on the streets for months. There were initially three dogs, but the male dog was struck and killed by a vehicle. Fern, who is five years old, is the mother to Ginger, who is one-and-a-half years old.

We discussed with Lisa that, due to foster home availability, we could not take both dogs at the same time. In the meantime, they both would be working with a trainer while in boarding to work on their socialization skills to be better behaved around other foster dogs. We picked up Fern first and got her spayed. Her recovery took more time than we had expected; therefore we waited an extra week to take Ginger. Fern had no clue about how to live in a home, and though she had never been crate trained, she adjusted quickly. Fern had a really rough life before GSSH: her skin and fur were in really bad shape, and her ears had been eaten away by flies, which was a result of being an outdoor dog. She learned house manners and acclimated quickly.



Weeks later, Ginger came along. Proving to be more of a challenge than Fern, she was very uncomfortable living indoors, and had no house manners. She needed a lot of training to become a balanced girl in a home environment. She was not socialized with humans, but did really well with the other dogs in the home. The two girls just needed a little work to get them on the right track. Ginger needed a little extra care because of her hesitation interacting with humans; she has grown tremendously since being in a foster home, and is much more comfortable being approached by people.

Both Fern and Ginger need continued training in a safe and loving home that is committed to them for life. They do not need to be adopted together. In the right environment, they will each develop into a balanced, whole dog.

Training Tip:

Teaching your dog to shake is a really neat trick. But allowing your dog to raise his paw when he is not asked is considered dominant behavior and should not be allowed. For example, if you tell your dog to sit but you have to make him sit and he then raises his paw, you need to correct his behavior so he doesn't control the situation.

Did you know...?

There are natural alternatives to flea & tick prevention. Here are some ideas.

- 🐾 **Apple Cider Vinegar:** For every 40 pound dog, add 1 teaspoon of apple cider vinegar to 1 quart of their drinking water. Or make a spray of 50% apple cider vinegar and 50% water and spray onto your dog's coat, making sure you don't spray in his/her eyes.
- 🐾 **Essential Oils:** Pure Rose Geranium Essential Oil and Lavender Oil can help ward off fleas & ticks. Add 2-3 drops of each oil onto a bandana, rub the sides of the fabric together and tie it around your dog's neck for a fashionable yet natural flea collar. If your dog is sensitive to the scent, you can dilute the oils with a small amount of water.
- 🐾 **Citrus:** Fleas are known to be repelled by citrus. The juice from a freshly squeezed orange or lemon can be lightly rubbed onto your pet's fur.



How You Can Help!

Even though fostering a GSSH dog and directly donating funds or supplies to the organization is always welcome, there are other ways to easily contribute.



- 🐾 Have you had a great experience with German Shepherd Safe Haven and want to tell the world about it? Write a review on GreatNonprofits.org! If you write your review by October 31, 2015, you'll help us achieve the Top-Rated Nonprofit status for 2015!
- 🐾 By visiting smile.amazon.com when shopping at Amazon, and selecting German Shepherd Safe Haven as your contribution recipient, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to GSSH.
- 🐾 iGive is a coupon-based donation website. Visit iGive.com/gssafehaven and choose German Shepherd Safe Haven as the cause you would like to support and start saving with their coupons and coupon codes while helping our rescue!