



Puppies!

Meet Drake and Easton, Jami's Christmas Puppies

In the history of German Shepherd Safe Haven, we've never rescued a female dog from a shelter who was pregnant. Well, there is a first for everything! At the beginning of December, Tom saw two female German Shepherd sisters while visiting the Devore Animal Shelter, one of whom looked like she had carried puppies recently. They were not yet available, but he returned a few days later when they were. He evaluated them and thought they were friendly, sweet, and very energetic. He filled out the necessary paperwork, loaded them up, and took them home. We named them Jill and Jami, in honor of two of our wonderful volunteers.



During the first day home, Tom noticed that Jami was walking and sitting unusually. His instinct told him that she was pregnant, which was confirmed the next day during a vet appointment. The ultrasound revealed that she was carrying four puppies. If that wasn't enough of a surprise, the vet also determined that she was very pregnant and was due to deliver on Christmas day. Tom had less than two weeks to get everything ready for Jami and the puppies. He created a Facebook page, Jami's Christmas Puppies, to keep everyone updated on her progress. Diana Whelan, a GSSH mom who adopted Bree from us three years ago, went shopping and bought most of the necessary items. Kym Robbins, another GSSH mom who adopted Carson from us almost five years ago, donated her x-pen for Jami's whelping and delivery area. A kiddie pool and other items were donated by GSSH friends.

On Christmas evening, around 8:30pm, Jami went into labor. The first pup was born at 10:45pm, and the second around 2:15am. Concerned that she had not delivered the other two puppies many hours later, Tom rushed her to South County Animal Hospital in the morning. A c-section was performed. Unfortunately, the two other pups did not survive due to an apparent deformed uterus. Tom brought Jami and the puppies home the next day, exhausted.

Jami has been an exceptionally dedicated and attentive mother. The two puppies, Drake and Easton, have grown up fast! At six weeks old, they already weigh 11.5 pounds, and are full of energy and curiosity. These big boys love playing with each other and with Momma Jami. They've also discovered the joy of playing with puppy toys and are having a fun time with those as well. If you would like to donate to their care, please do so on our website or use the self-addressed envelope to mail in a donation. Thank you to all our GSSH families, friends and supporters for your donations and well wishes. This is an exciting time for us and we look forward to sharing more of this adventure with all of you!

Puppy Scrapbook!



Goodbye To A Dear Friend



We lost a very dear friend and family member this past Christmas. Carole "Mo" Roberts was a wonderful person with a big heart for animals. She worked tirelessly and did everything within her power to make a profound, positive difference in the lives of the animals in her community and beyond. We cannot begin to express how grateful we were for her contributions to German Shepherd Safe Haven. With her years of experience in rescue, she became a valuable source of advice and guidance as we continued to build the rescue. But truly, what we will miss the most is her friendship. She was warm and caring with a great sense of humor. We were thrilled when Mo and Vaughan decided to adopt Wrangler because we knew there would not be a better home for him than theirs. They proceeded to train and certify Wrangler as a service dog and as Mo's health declined last year, Wrangler provided comfort and companionship and helped them both through many difficult days. We all still grieve the loss of our dear friend and extend our love and prayers to Vaughan and Wrangler during this difficult time. We honor her memory by continuing the rescue work she was so passionate about.

We all really enjoy the companionship and comfort our dogs provide us, especially after having a bad day. Dogs really have a way with brightening up your day. But the next time you feel like cuddling up with your pup for some much needed comfort, whether on the couch or on the bed, be sure to reinforce their training by inviting them to join you rather than allowing them to jump up on the furniture on their own.

Training Tip:

Foster Family Spotlight: Bill & Carol Miller

Bill & Carol Miller are Ellie Mae's foster parents. They welcomed our senior girl into their home last year and have taken amazing care of her. You can see the love and happiness in Ellie's eyes when she is with her foster family. That is one of the incredible rewards you will receive from fostering. Bill & Carol, like all our foster families, are an integral part of the rescue process. "We feel that we are doing a service and saving their lives," says Carol.

"These dogs are sweet-natured, emotional, loyal, and smart animals. Being foster parents means we are saving one more. It makes the world a better place." Because GSSH is a foster-based rescue, the more foster homes we have, the more dogs we are able to rescue. Join our foster home network and help us save lives! To read more about Bill & Carol's fostering experience as well as our foster program, please visit our website.



Did you know...?

Pumpkin is a superfood for dogs! It is packed with vitamins and nutrients such as vitamins A and C, beta-carotene, potassium and fiber. The most notable health benefit is the fiber in pumpkin helps dogs with upset stomachs as well as dogs suffering from diarrhea. Keep in mind that a trip to the vet may be in order if your dog has prolonged digestion problems.

Canned pumpkin is an easy way to add this superfood to your pup's diet. Be sure the label on the can lists pumpkin as the only ingredient. There should be no added sugars or other ingredients. If you are giving your pup pumpkin for the first time, go easy and just add a tablespoon or so to their kibble. Stomach upset can occur whenever you add anything new to your pup's diet so start small.

If you love baking homemade dog treats, try adding some canned pumpkin to the recipe to add some extra nutrition to the treats!