



Update on German Shepherd Safe Haven

This year has been a very busy year thus far. With Tom's expertise, we have placed 13 dogs into their wonderful forever homes this year! After the flurry of activity, Tom took a little break for a couple months to regroup and refocus certain things about the rescue. What remains a consistent need is qualified foster homes! We need more qualified foster families to continue saving more dogs! If you are able to foster a dog, please contact Tom at tom@gssafehaven.org so we can start the process and see if we have a Shepherd that would work with your lifestyle.

Over the past few months, it has come to our attention that the question has been raised as to whether we are still rescuing dogs. The short answer is yes we are! We continue to be a resource in the community for adoption and education of the German Shepherd breed. However we have made changes in our approach. We are working more and more with owners who want to surrender their German Shepherds and analyzing each individual situation to see if it is possible for us to take in the dog or if we can offer alternate solutions such as training so the owners may not have to resort to giving up their dog. German Shepherds are a unique breed which requires owners to be dedicated to their training to ensure the dog becomes and is the best dog he or she can be.

Along those lines, we are really putting a big emphasis on that as we are contacted by prospective adopters, especially first time Shepherd owners. We want to make sure that German Shepherds are the correct breed for their lifestyle and that they know how much work it is on a consistent basis to make the dog a great dog. We have always done that in the past but with the amount of owner surrender requests that we continuously receive, it is apparent that we must put a much greater emphasis on this educational aspect of rescuing.

You may have noticed that we have not had any scheduled Showcase Events lately. It is because we are concentrating on providing personal meet and greets with qualified prospective families and the dog they are interested in adopting. We have found that the dog is in a more comfortable environment and the potential owner/family is able to see the dog's true personality in the more relaxed setting. While we enjoy meeting the community during our Showcase Events and promoting the rescue, our volunteers and our dogs, it can be a stressful environment for the dogs to be in while meeting prospective adopters. We are considering focusing more on activities with our rescue dogs instead, such as pack hikes with our adopters, friends and supporters as we have had a lot of fun with those in the past. As the weather cools down, we may start that in the fall to keep our volunteers busy and as we meet people along the way, hopefully educate the public on the German Shepherd breed.



OCTOBER LUAU!

We are looking forward to our 7th Annual Alumni Event on October 7, 2018! Yes, we are having a Luau in October! We are always looking for ways to make our annual get together even more exciting and fun. We love this event and want everyone that attends to enjoy themselves so we like to find creative ways to mix things up. There will be a couple new games, some old favorites with a twist on the rules and of course, some amazing raffle baskets donated by wonderful people and businesses to raise money for our dogs! We will also have GSSH merchandise available for purchase so you can show your support of our rescue out in the community!

We Love Our Volunteers!

We had our first annual Volunteer Appreciation Day Luncheon in March. It was a great day, filled with a lot of laughs and fun! We had tasty Mexican food, adult beverages, fun games like balloon conga & hot air ping pong, an Easter egg hunt and a lot of fun prizes. We even had a piñata! We are really thankful for our volunteers and wanted to show our appreciation by having a fun party for them. Thank you to Cliff and Marlene Miracle for hosting the event at your beautiful home!



Our 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Status

It has come to our attention that donors who have been trying to donate through services that facilitate donations to charities, as well as their employers who offer matching donations to our rescue, have been hitting a roadblock. The verification process that confirms the legitimacy of the chosen charity is done by consulting a master list of tax-exempt charities compiled by the IRS. Unbeknownst to us, we have been removed from that master list and placed in a different list due to the way we filed our tax return the previous year. We filed a Form 990-N as allowed by the IRS for small tax-exempt organizations with less than \$50,000 in donations. That put us on a different IRS list of legitimate tax-exempt organizations. Unfortunately, we have recently found out that the original master list which we were removed from is the only list that is used to verify a charity's tax exempt status so donor requests to our organizations have been getting denied because we were no longer on that list even though our status is indeed valid. We wanted to make sure our donors are aware that we still do have our tax exempt status and all donations to our rescue are still tax deductible as allowed by law. We are rectifying the situation by filing a long form of our tax return for 2017 and that ensures that we are placed back on the IRS's master list of tax-exempt charities. Please contact us if you have any questions! To make a direct donation to our rescue, please use the enclosed donation form & envelope or visit our website at www.gssafehaven.org. Thank you for your continued support of German Shepherd Safe Haven!

Drake and Easton - Our Christmas Puppies

We are beyond thrilled to announce that both our Christmas puppies, Drake and Easton, have been adopted!! They both have waited a long time but have finally found the forever homes perfect for each of them.

Drake and Easton were born into our rescue two years ago on Christmas Day. We've watched them grow up into handsome, mature young dogs, who each now have a family to call their very own.



Easton's Forever Family



Drake's Forever Family



A Special Story on Easton's Journey to his Forever Home

- written by GSSH volunteer and foster mom, Meaghan Doering

I started volunteering for German Shepherd Safe Haven in the Spring of 2016. I met Easton shortly after my orientation, when he was just shy of 6 months. Easton was an extremely shy puppy, and no matter how much I tried, he never paid me much interest. During the Family Picnic in the Fall of 2016, I had the opportunity to spend time with him. We walked around the park together, and while he was still very much tuned into Tom and his whereabouts, he warmed up to me. A few weeks later, I met Tom and Easton at a nearby park with my German Shepherd Chloe, and they got along surprisingly well! Tom and I talked about fostering, but nothing really came of it until April of 2017. Tom called me and needed a foster for Easton as soon as possible. I told Tom to bring Easton to my house the next evening, and we would see how he and my dogs got along. Needless to say, they weren't friends right away but got along well enough that we decided to go for it. Overtime, Easton slowly became my shadow and followed me everywhere. And when I say everywhere, I mean it! I had to hurry and shut the bathroom door to take a shower so he wouldn't join me! I learned quickly Easton is an extremely loving and happy-go-lucky guy who just wants to please. Chloe and Easton got along wonderfully, and when they weren't eating or sleeping, they were playing! Easton's presence was definitely a positive impact on Chloe, and helped her get over her fear of unknown dogs. Over the next several months, Easton became a part of our family...



Read the rest of Meaghan's special story on our website www.gssafehaven.org

Remembering Arentine Jon



We lost another very dear friend and family member this summer. Arentine Jon was an essential part of the founding of German Shepherd Safe Haven. She was there from the very beginning, providing advice, support and encouragement that we CAN create an organization that will always puts the dog's needs first. We knew it would be a challenge but she was there with us every step of the way. Arie and her family continued their involvement with the rescue by being a wonderful foster family for our rescue Shepherds and Arie continued to be one of the biggest cheerleaders of German Shepherd Safe Haven. We will always remember her love of all animals and her contributions to the rescue. We will miss her greatly.



A Personal Story About Arentine

~ written by GSSH Founder, Tom Williamson

Where do I start to describe Arentine Jon, her infectious laugh, her beautiful smile or her huge, wonderful heart? It gives me great sadness to even have to write this but we lost Arie to cancer on July 18. Arie had a heart of gold. I met Arie back in October of 2009 at a Chino Hills adoption event that we were both attending for the same organization that we volunteered for. I was fostering 5 puppies at the time and brought them to the event. Arie came over and we starting talking. It was like I had been friends with her all of my life, she was so genuine and sincere. I was really hungry so her husband Carlos went and bought me food. They were both such kind people to me that day, I was very happy that I met them. We exchanged numbers and chatted a couple more times a few weeks later.

I had talked to Arie about possibly starting a rescue on my own and wanted to know if she could be part of it. As was her welcoming nature, Arie invited everyone involved over to her home for a wonderful home cooked dinner and to have a round table discussion about starting a rescue. It was one of the most beautiful meetings ever, she and Carlos were so welcoming, it was like we had been long time friends. A wonderful friendship started and it continued.

Arie ended up being an integral part of the startup of German Shepherd Safe Haven. She was one of the original members of the Board of Directors. She helped with everything, from fostering to volunteering to having long winded phone conversations on how we rescue the dogs. Arie rescued a lot animals on her own before we met, she and her daughter Kelsey were the rescue team. They did some pretty exciting rescues, from stopping traffic on a busy four lane road to saving the neighbors' dog from being outside in the hot sun - no rescue was too big for those two. She was known in her neighborhood as the go to lady because no matter if it was stray animal or if you got into an argument with a family member, she always had great advice for anything that was thrown at her.

Arie was such a kind hearted soul, she would never judge anyone, and always saw the good in animals and people. She kept a lot of the animals she rescued, some would have never found a home if it wasn't for her kind heart. She was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone. Her laugh warmed your heart, because it was always so genuine and funny when she would laugh so hard she would snort. That in turn would make you laugh even harder because she never meant to do but it just came out. Then that smile of hers would just light up a room because she was so sincere and you knew when she was truly happy with everything going on at the time. She was always there with her sincere and honest advice, always very truthful and you knew you would get nothing but the truth from her. She died way too young at 59. I am going to miss you, my sweet dear friend. Rest in Peace!