



GERMAN SHEPHERD
SAFE HAVEN

PROVIDING GERMAN SHEPHERDS A NEW BEGINNING

paw print

Fall / Winter 2016



2016 GSSH Family Harvest Picnic

We had our annual Family Picnic in October this year complete with a harvest theme, and what a fun day it was for all that attended! We had great weather, delicious food and desserts, fun games and wonderful raffle baskets. This year, we had some really great raffles baskets that were donated by forever families and local businesses. The food was donated by Bad to the Bone BBQ, and the desserts were donated by The Cookie Curator and SusieCakes. We are very thankful and grateful for those generous donors who helped make the picnic a success. We would like to also recognize Marlene Miracle, the mom of GSSH alumna Jenna, who provided countless ideas and feedback. Her tremendous decorating and organizational skills helped pull everything together to truly make this a spectacular event. The unique Harvest themed photo area was another one of Marlene's contributions and it was a hit! Everyone loved the scarecrow decorations, bales of hay, flowers and pumpkins. Last but not least, we need to recognize our dedicated volunteers who worked hard to ensure everyone had a great time. From getting to the park in the early morning hours to start set up till staying through breakdown, our teams of volunteers did an awesome job! We could not have this event without their help! We are already looking forward to next year!



We need **QUALIFIED FOSTER HOMES!**

This is a very URGENT matter. We have unfortunately lost a couple of our foster homes due to people moving out of the area. Being a foster based rescue requires us to have good foster homes so we can save more lives from high kill shelters. If you, or someone you know, would like to foster one of our German Shepherds, please contact us and let us know. Please spread the word amongst friends, family, neighbors and your community! Our foster program is very unique and requires dedication but it is well worth it to know you saved a dog from their own death. We will match a dog to your lifestyle and home environment to ensure it will be an easier transition. Saving one dog might not seem like much but to that one dog, it means having a life. It means LIVING and enjoying life and knowing what it feels like to be loved. Most of these dogs have never felt the love of someone who truly cares for them until they come into our rescue. Make a difference, be a part of a dog's journey to the happiness of a loving, forever home! Fostering is not a Life Long Commitment, it is a Commitment to Saving a Dog's Life! We are all ears if you are able to help us!

The Puppy Update!



We can't have another few months go by without updating you on the puppies! Drake and Easton have sure taken a leap in growth the past couple of months! Drake is 88 pounds and Easton is not far behind him at 83 pounds. We will not be placing them up for adoption until they are neutered. Tom has consulted with several knowledgeable people in the veterinarian field regarding the best time to do that and based on those discussions, we have decided to wait until they are a little older and bigger. They are such big boys already and still have more growing to do and neutering a large puppy can stunt their growth and cause joint and other related health issues.

In the meantime, we are working with them both to build their confidence by attending training classes and working on training exercises. Easton has progressed a little quicker than his brother. He is the

more confident one of the two and just wants to please his handler. He loves to play and is very social when he's out in the world. He loves meeting new dogs and people and loves getting love. Drake is a bit more reserved and cautious about the world around him. He is confident when he's in familiar surroundings. His training is improving with each session and the exercises do so much in helping him become a more confident dog. Like Easton, he also loves to play especially with his foster brothers and sisters.

They both are maturing well and are already very handsome boys. Once both their ears stand up, they will be very striking German Shepherds. Drake has more of a straight back and Easton has more of a slant to his backend but both have good builds and once full grown, they will be stout dogs with a very stable frame.

Watching Drake and Easton grow and experience the world around them has been an amazing experience. But it is time for them to move on to the next stage in their lives so if you are interested in fostering or possibly adopting one of them, email us for more information!



Dedication to Their Dogs

Editorial by Tom, Founder of GSSH

I am finding it very hard to understand why it is so difficult for people to be dedicated to their animals. It is becoming increasingly hard to find people that want to keep their dogs for their entire lifespan which can be from 10-14 years. People are giving up their dogs for ridiculous reasons such as "We are moving" or "The dog is not fun anymore" or "It has become an inconvenience in my life." One of the biggest issues we face as a rescue are the programs that shelters have from time to time, called clear the shelters where they lower the adoption fee or offer free adoptions. This does not establish any value in the animal and people tend to feel less guilt when giving up the animal because they got him or her for free. Our organization has never swayed from charging an adoption fee, we have some of the highest adoption fees among local rescues. We are not here to just rescue and place dogs as fast as we can. It is and has always been about the quality of placement over quantity of dogs placed. If you have a good placement then the chances of that dog returning to our rescue is very low. We established from the beginning that the dogs we place for adoption have an intrinsic value and we specifically look for adopters that recognize that and are not just concerned about "How much to buy your dog". That's not to say we have not had dogs returned to us for reasons similar to the ones noted above but due to processes we have in place, the likelihood is much lower. The majority of our adopters are committed to the dog's well being for the life of the dog and we are grateful to them for providing a loving, caring home and family to our dogs.

End of Year Donations

We cannot believe how the year has just passed us by!! Yes, it is almost the end of year so please consider us for your year-end donations. We are an all volunteer, 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your year-end contributions are tax deductible so if you can even donate just a little to us, it will go a long way! No amount is ever too small and every little bit helps our dogs. We are never too proud to beg for donations. Please use the supplied envelope or visit our website at www.gssafehaven.org to make your donation today! Have a safe and wonderful holiday season and thank you for your support from all of us at German Shepherd Safe Haven!

