

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GREETING | 2023

SEASONS GREETINGS



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NEW INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION FOR US

Another year coming to a close and although there were some sad beginnings, the joyous endings keep us going year after year. We hope some of their stories touch your heart and make you smile. Throughout the year, volunteers complete a circle of giving to the displaced German Shorthaired Pointers in our program by providing shelter, health, food, love, life, and most of all a second chance in a loving home and family. Please be their supporter by being part of our journey to help the displaced GSPs in Pennsylvania.



STATUS: ADOPTED

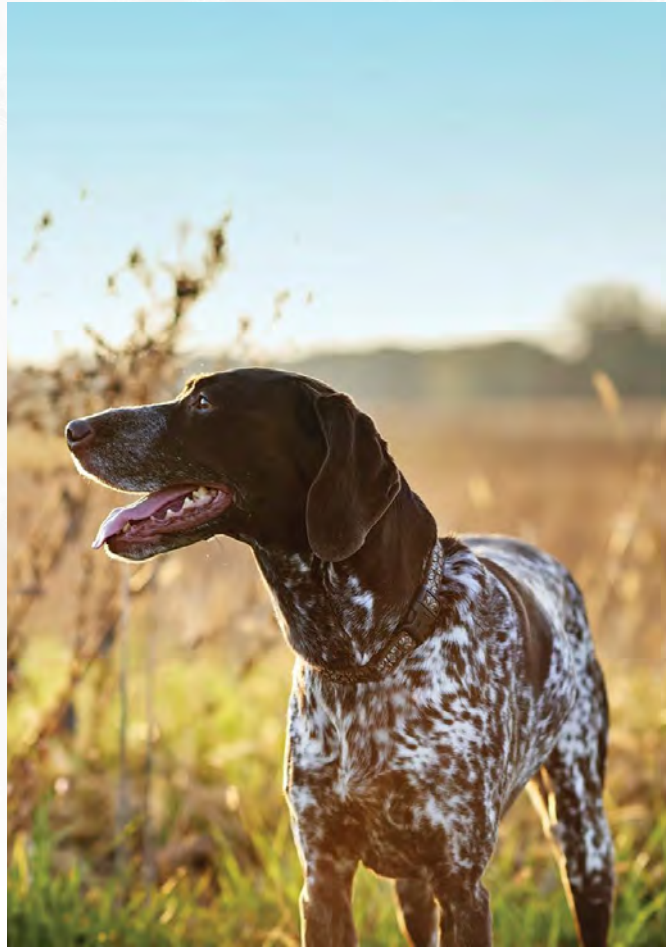


"I don't remember much about it. I was really young. But as I've gotten older, you just sort of know - that it must've been pretty bad. The humans I'm with now are great but sometimes I can't help but think ... what happened to my parents? My brothers and sisters? Did all the dogs of Pond Hill find loving homes? I try not to think about it too much. Staying active helps. For some reason bicyclist and motorized scooters have always triggered me, and I have a vacuum phobia that makes it hard to almost talk about. They say it's from psychological trauma.

But now, there's more good days than bad. I usually go for an hour run every morning and that makes a difference. We visit this big, open field where one of the humans throws a ball for me. Those days end up being pretty anxiety-free for me.

I have three sisters now. We all get along well - and the humans are around most of the time - so my mind stays pretty occupied for the most part.

I had a lump taken off the inside of my leg last year. They said it was fat. I can feel another, small one on the side of my ribs that they also said is fat. But... your mind... it can't help but wander. The doctor said that we should just keep an eye on it for now."



A SUMMARY REVIEW OF THIS YEARS ACTIVITY

GSPS	2023 (YTD)	2022	2021	2020	2019
Handled	44	31	27	31	31
Adopted	31	17	18	18	14
Direct Care Costs	\$29,544	\$35,512	\$9,818	\$19,010	\$15,354

HOW CAN I HELP?

Our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home displaced German Shorthaired Pointers. As a non-compensated, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we appreciate any assistance a volunteer can offer to help make a difference. There are many ways to contribute towards our mission. Here are some areas to consider:



Follow us on social and interact with our posts



Evaluate a GSP in a shelter or surrender



Perform home visits



Transport/relay



Start a fundraiser



Design



Foster



Donate



APPLICATIONS



VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Interested in volunteering to become a part of our German Shorthaired Pointer Pennsylvania organization? We would greatly appreciate all your help. Sign up today!

[VOLUNTEER](#)



ADOPTION APPLICATION

Interested in adopting a German Shorthaired Pointer? We have plenty of dogs waiting for your love and expertise.

[ADOPT](#)



SURRENDER APPLICATION

Surrender a dog to the German Shorthaired Pointer Pennsylvania organization. We understand the needs of this breed and will find them the perfect home!

[SURRENDER](#)

DAILY DOSES OF DUKE

Our Duke has quite the story of love, survival and strength.

It begins when he was only a few weeks old and was surrendered to a vet with a massive injury on his side. The vet fell in love with him and immediately reached out to German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue of PA. The vet was not sure he would pull through as our tiny puppy had a large injury but if he survived, GSP Rescue was ready and willing to bring him into our program. The vet performed special healing treatments, changed his bandages and Duke became a favorite at the hospital. He showed and shared so much affection with everyone. He is a survivor for sure!

Once in Rescue, he became the fan favorite on our Facebook page. He had so many followers rooting for him and interacting with "Daily Doses of Duke." The Facebook community fully supported our courageous little guy who warmed everyone's hearts.

Duke has healed well and found his lucky forever family. Adopting Duke has definitely impacted everyone in their family. He is wild, goofy, and a bundle of energy which fits the family well. The favorite part of the day is seeing the excitement he has when he hears the kid's bus coming down the road. He runs back and forth several times between the window and the door and jumps for joy when they step off the bus. You can see the love he has for his kids. While we all have something we love about our Duke, it's the love he gives us and the love he created in the GSP community that is really special. Duke is absolutely adored by many. We continue to share updates of Duke on Facebook. You won't want to miss this sweet face!



“ The Facebook community was full of support for our courageous little guy who warmed everyone’s hearts.



MAX, ASSISTANT GROUNDSKEEPER!

By Gabe Wochley

Max was surrendered to GSP Rescue PA when his original owner was being deployed. His owner loved him dearly but his wife didn't care much for Max and relegated him to an outdoor life. Max would sometimes run away to explore the world and his owner worried about Max's well being while he was away. On the surrender form, he wrote that he wanted us to find a home for Max that would love him as much as he did.

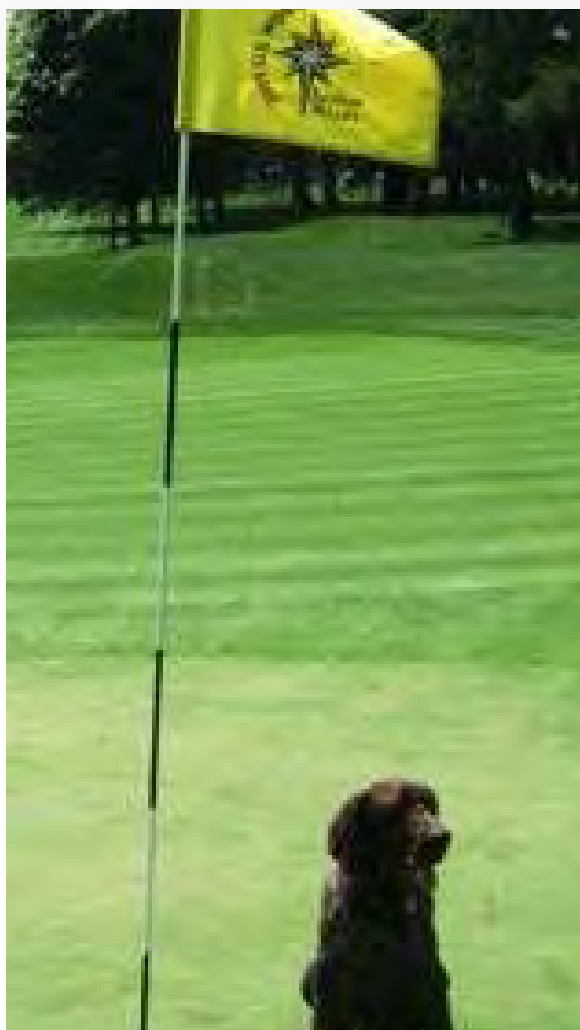
Max was first fostered by Deb Orpen and then went to Jamie Benton at Dog Logic for training. When Gabe, who was then an assistant grounds supervisor at an eastern PA golf course, indicated that he was interested in Max, off Max went to Ron Burda for training to chase geese without hurting them. With Gabe's permission, this is his story of what happened next:

"After the day when we picked Max up, I immediately had regrets about my decision. This dog scratched and tried to jump through the window of the truck the entire way home. After 10 minutes outside the truck at home, he ran off, sauntering down the road without a care in the world. His first day on the golf course on a chilly April morning, he almost drowned in the pond, not relenting on trying to chase a goose. Bobbing up and down like a top. I shed my cell phone, radio and keys to drag him out of chest deep water, half dead he jumped right back in. He was run over by a golf cart twice, ate a pile of grass clippings that sent him to the hospital, ate an entire pack of bagels plastic and all, destroyed an entire house's mini blinds, uncrateable, he repeatedly ran off. My wife coined the phrase "chase after Max day". He once ate an entire kielbasa, knocked down and ate an entire cake, ran off and cost me \$85 to bail him out of the Bloomfield Animal Shelter. He stole muffins from the ladies golf carts, he peed on golf bags at the first tee, absconded in the back of a linen rental truck, head buried in a bag of marinara soaked towels and cost me thousands of dollars over the years due to various calamities.

He was also there the day I was married. And he helped us raise three children, never once growling as they treated him like a jungle gym. In the end, he taught us patience and love. He lived life on his terms and the only solace as we spent our

last days together was that he truly lived the life most dogs only dream about. He was bleached light from the sun. He was worn out, but worn from years of doing what he wanted to do. He ran, he ate poop, he drank from creeks, he got lost, he somehow almost always came back. He chased cows on the farm and seagulls at the ocean. Out last month we spent each night dragging the mattress out and sleeping on the floor, trying to make it through one more Christmas. Ultimately, it was time and we both knew it. He passed quietly at home with us and like always, on his terms.

There will never be another Max.





ADOPTING A DOG WITH SEPARATION ANXIETY

By Joyce Harrison

Occasionally rescue receives a surrender form from an owner or from a shelter where the dog has separation anxiety. This can range from crying when their owners leave to destroying the house. Separation anxiety describes a condition in which a dog exhibits distress and behavior problems when separated from its owner. There is no conclusive evidence showing exactly why dogs develop separation anxiety although many theories do exist. It can include symptoms like whining, barking, howling, drooling, agitation, elimination issues, vomiting, chewing, digging, destruction, pacing, escaping crates/rooms/house, self injury, etc.

“Rescue has to do the best they can to evaluate and assess the dogs level to formulate a care plan . . .

Rescue has to do the best they can to evaluate and assess the dogs level to formulate a care plan for fostering and possible adoption of the dog. We try to work with the owners first to see if there is anything we can do to turn the situation around, see what they have tried and try different things when in rescue. They can include speaking with a behaviorist, desensitization, doggie day care/pet-sitter, pheromones, scents, TV, music, different crates/rooms, homeopathic meds, toys to keep dog busy(i.e. frozen peanut butter kong), bones, educational toys they have to figure out to get treats, bark collars, lighting changes, increased exercise, presence of other no anxiety dogs, etc. Medication is usually a last resort.

We had an 8yr old GSP named Gus who was surrendered to the rescue due to his SA. The foster home had great concerns how he would react to this change with his age. He had been crated while the owners were away and medicated with 6 Trazadone {sedatives} per day to keep him calm. This is a high dose for trazadone and the foster home weaned him down to 1-2 pills per day. His exercise was significantly increased. He improved with a bark collar on, as his barking seemed to set him off drooling and pacing, but when on, he would be calmer and wouldn't try to escape from his crate. Some of the tips above were instituted also but it was obvious to the foster home that he seemed better with the company of other dogs who showed no anxiety when owners left. So the search began for the perfect home for Gus. The fates intervened and we found a wonderful family with 2 female GSPs, 4 children and lots of land. After the adoption, we slowly integrated Gus into the family's routine. Mom and Dad were gone during the day so we tried the low dose of meds, bark collar, kennel with the 2 other dogs. Much to the foster homes surprise/delight with a few weeks, Gus was off all meds, no bark collar and he was actually staying in the house with the other 2 dogs during the day with no issues! Gus has a wonderful life now thanks to the patience, experience and love that our adoptive family's give to these dogs to have a new, happy life. Here is a picture of Gus relaxing with one of his sisters and his Daddy.

SOMETIMES IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING AND LUCK

By Judy Richards

Our last Shorthair crossed the bridge about 2 years ago. At the time, we had (and still have) 3 non-GSP dogs (1 LLevellin Setter and 2 Greyhounds). We've had many dogs over the past 40+ years, and always at least one German Shorthair in the group.

We first heard about GSP Rescue PA when I attended a dog show near our home. Even though we're retired and had agreed not to add another dog - of any kind - to our 3-pack, I couldn't help stopping at the GSP Rescue booth. I chatted briefly with a volunteer about the rescue program and Shorthairs in general, and came away with a brochure and card with her and her husband's local address and phone number, and a little tickle at the back of my mind - maybe???

After a few months of waffling back and forth, determined to keep our vow of no more dogs, we decided that IF the right GSP came our way. . . So I called the volunteers I'd met at the GSP Rescue booth. Frank was happy to hear from us and very supportive right from the beginning. He explained more about GSP Rescue, patiently answered my questions and listened to my concerns, eager to help us find the "perfect" Shorthair. Next, we completed the online application and submitted it. A few days later, Frank came to do the home visit and told us we were approved as adopters.

Because we're retired, the "perfect" Shorthair for us would be of middle-age, get along with our other dogs, and preferably have good hunting instincts, as my husband still hunts pheasants with our Setter (now 11 yrs old). We knew we were asking for a rare dog to be taken into the program, but as Frank said, it does happen. Still, after a few months, we were feeling pretty discouraged.

I called Frank to see if there was any inkling of a dog for us. He had recently heard about a dog being surrendered that was exactly what we were looking for! Unfortunately for us, another couple was looking for the same kind of Shorthair and had agreed to foster to adopt, and this new guy needed a home quick. Thinking we'd missed the boat on this one, and

with Frank's suggestion, we signed up to volunteer, thinking we could foster and then perhaps adopt. It's a good way to get to know the dog before committing to adopt, and GSP Rescue always needs more foster homes.

Sometimes it's all about timing and luck. A couple days later, Frank called to say the other couple decided not to foster or adopt the new dog, and asked if we would like to try. YES! The next day Frank brought Clancy to our back yard. He was a bit wild at first, needing constant discipline and training, but a good natured dog with energy to spare.

As I'm writing this, Clancy has been here about 5 weeks and you wouldn't believe the change. He still needs to be reminded of the rules, but continues to improve. By the time you read this, hopefully Clancy will be an officially adopted member of our family. We would never have found him if it hadn't been for the dedicated and diligent volunteers of GSP Rescue PA.

Special appreciation to Frank, our local volunteer. He never forgot us or stopped searching for our "perfect" Shorthair. To everybody involved.....from evaluating and taking in the dog, transporting, final placement - and all the communication it took in between - THANK YOU!





EXCLUSIVE MERCHANDISE THAT BENEFITS THE DOGS IN OUR PROGRAM

Check out our NEW product for the holidays!
A gorgeous etched glass ornament that can be
personalized with one or two names.

\$28.50 includes shipping.

[SHOP NOW](#)

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