



# Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue

Providing Rescue and Adoption Services in MD, DC and VA



Newsletter

**Rescuing, Rehabilitating, Nurturing, Training, & Healing Abused, Abandoned and Neglected German Shepherds & German Shepherd mixes for Adoption in MD, D.C, Northern VA and south-central PA Over 2,700 since 1999**

Greetings!

MAGSR has been very busy saving the lives of many dogs. Since January we have already taken 49 Shepherds and Shepherd mixes into our care. Is this a sign of the economy or is it because people get a dog without truly thinking it through and how much of a commitment it is to care for a pet? Whatever the reason, it is sad to see so many animals in need, ones being dropped off at shelters, owner surrenders or others just being left on the streets to fend for themselves.

Part of our mission is to teach responsible pet ownership which includes the necessity to spay and neuter pets. This is one of the most important ways to control the pet population and the needless killing of so many animals each year. Thankfully there are so many rescue's such as ours that work diligently at saving life's and educating the public. This is all made possible by the dedicated volunteers who so willingly give of their time and resources, the donors who so generously donate and to the adopters who chose to adopt instead of purchasing from a breeder.

Since January 2012 we have adopted out 52 wonderful and deserving dogs. You can help us and the many animals in need by spreading the word about rescue's and the importance of spay/neutering pets.

Caroline Mandel  
MAGSR President

## Heartworm Disease

What is heartworm disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms living in the arteries of the lungs and occasionally in the right side of the heart of dogs. Heartworms are classified as nematodes (roundworms) and are filarids, one of many species of roundworms. Dogs of any age or breed are susceptible to infection.

### THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:

- [Heartworm Disease](#)
- [Featured Dog: Bridgette](#)
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**YOUR INVITED!!!!**

## 2012 Annual Adopters Reunion

**April 28, 2012**

**That's right! It is that time again. Please join us for our annual adopters reunion at Oregon Ridge Park. We can't wait to see you, your family along with your MAGSR dog. Bring the whole family for fun, socializing and great food. We have a wonderful time every year. It's great fun for the entire family. Tickets go on sale March 24th. The last day to purchase tickets is April 14th. Get your tickets early! The location is Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville from 12pm to 5pm.**

**\*\*Last day to purchase tickets is April 21, 2012.**

[Click here for tickets](#)

Heartworm disease is transmitted to dogs by mosquitoes that become infected with microfilariae while taking blood meal from another infected animal. During the next 10 to 14 days, the microfilariae mature to the infective larval stage within the mosquito. After that, the mosquito bites another dog, cat or other susceptible animal, and the infective larvae enter through the bite wound. It then takes a little over 6 months for the infective larvae to mature into adult worms. In dogs, the worms may live for up to 7 years. Microfilariae cannot mature into adult heartworms without first passing through a mosquito.

For dogs, clinical signs of heartworm disease may not be recognized in the early stages, as the number of heartworms in an animal tends to accumulate gradually over a period of months and sometimes years and after repeated mosquito bites.

Recently infected dogs may exhibit no signs of the disease, while heavily infected dogs may eventually show clinical signs, including a mild, persistent cough, reluctance to move or exercise, fatigue after only moderate exercise, reduced appetite and weight loss.

Heartworm infection in apparently healthy animals is usually detected with blood tests for a heartworm substance called an "antigen" or microfilariae, although neither test is consistently positive until about seven months after infection has occurred.

Heartworm infection may also occasionally be detected through ultrasound and/or x-ray images of the heart and lungs, although these tests are usually used in animals already known to be infected.

Because heartworm disease is preventable, the AHS recommends that pet owners take steps now to talk to their veterinarian about how to best protect their pets from this dangerous disease. Heartworm prevention is safe, easy and inexpensive. While treatment for heartworm disease in dogs is possible, it is a complicated and expensive process, taking weeks for infected animals to recover.

There are a variety of options for preventing heartworm infection in dogs, including daily and monthly tablets and chewables, monthly topicals and a six-month injectable product available only for dogs. All of these methods are extremely effective, and when administered properly on a timely schedule, heartworm infection can be completely prevented. These medications interrupt heartworm development before adult worms reach the lungs and cause disease. Usually, all but the most advanced cases of heartworm disease can be successfully treated in dogs.

Adult heartworms in dogs are killed using a drug called an adulticide that is injected into the muscle through a series of treatments. Treatment may be administered on an outpatient basis, but hospitalization is usually recommended. When the dog is sent home, exercise should be limited to leash walking for the duration of the recovery period, which can last from one to two months. This decreases the risk of partial or complete blockage of blood flow through the lungs by dead worms.

Re-infection during treatment is prevented by administration of a heartworm preventive. These preventives may also eliminate microfilariae if they are present.

Remember - It is your responsibility to faithfully maintain the prevention program you have selected in consultation with your veterinarian.

**PLEASE REMEMBER!**

## **UPDATE YOUR MAGSR CONTACT INFO TODAY!**

Did you move, or, has your contact info changed? Please be sure to update your contact information with MAGSR today to insure our records are updated should your dog go missing. Please be sure to have your personal contact tag on your dog along with the MAGSR tag.

[UPDATE CONTACT INFO HERE](#)

PS: If you ever have questions about our dogs training, food, health, behavior, feel free to contact MAGSR at:

[Help@magsr.org](mailto:Help@magsr.org)

## **WAYS TO HELP**

There is still time to donate to support the dogs. The dogs are counting on you for your support!

MAGSR volunteers and all our dogs value your ongoing support. We're counting on your generosity to assist us in making our dogs whole so we can accomplish our mission to provide much needed rescue, rehabilitation and adoption into permanent homes!

Your support can help dogs like Harper, who is a long haired GSD that was saved by a good samaritan who found her wandering in a park. Harper had not been well cared for as she was losing her hair due to a fungal infection on her torso and face. Harper was taken to a local animal control where no one came to claim her. Harper is currently being treated for her skin infection and settling in at the kennel. She could use a foster home or better yet a family of her own. Harper does get along with other dogs

**FEATURED DOG: BRIDGETTE**



Meet Bridgette- Bridgie or the circus monkey as she is known to all of her friends is a pocket shepherd. She enjoys running, chasing her jolly ball and long walks in the country side. Little Bridgie would love to have a family of her own. Her ideal family would be one that will take her to training as Bridgie can be a little diva and she feels it her way or the highway. Bridgie is crate trained, housebroke and gets along with other dogs. She would prefer to live in a cat free environment. If you are interested in finding out more about Bridgie, contact [adoptions@magsr.org](mailto:adoptions@magsr.org).

but is unknown for cats. For more information about Harper, please contact [adoptions@magsr.org](mailto:adoptions@magsr.org).



Please go to [www.magsr.org](http://www.magsr.org)  
\* Sponsor one of our dogs!  
\* View dogs to foster or adopt!  
\* Donate to our Medical Fund!  
**Donate Now!**

Won't you show our older, previously neglected, our "dental dogs" or a medical dog such as Harper how much you care?

With your help, we can continue to care for dogs of all ages who are facing medical issues, starvation, broken bones resulting from an accident or human abuse, hip dysphasia, epilepsy, mange, heartworm, skin infections, mega-esophagus, pneumonia and more.

Won't you give to the dogs, now?  
Click here: [MAGSR MEDICAL FUND](#)

**Thank You for your support!**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAGSR's Adopters' Reunion!!!!!!**  
Oregon Ridge Park  
13401 Beaver Dam Road  
Cockeysville, MD. 21030  
**April 28, 2012, 12:00pm- 5:00pm**  
**Saturday.**

**Purchase tickets by April 21, 2012**  
[Click here for tickets](#)

**SPCA-Walk for the Animals**



## How to keep your pet safe

### Dangerous Foods

The following can be toxic to pets: chocolate, raisins, grapes, macadamia nuts, garlic, onion, alcohol, caffeinated beverages, bread dough, and sugar-free candy and gum containing the artificial sweetener xylitol.

**Regular Foods** Despite tradition, bones should never be given to pets. Even beef, ham, and other "regular" foods that are not considered toxic can cause illness in pets. If your pet is a moocher, keep a saucer of his regular treats on the table to offer when he asks. He probably won't know the difference!

**New Treats and Toys** Even a pet-safe treat can cause stomach upset if it is new to your pet. Offer only one of these at a time (ideally, separated by a few days). If your pet becomes ill after eating a holiday treat, it will be easier to trace the source and discontinue it. Also, check new toys for sharp edges, pieces that can be chewed off, or other potential hazards.

### Plants

Hazardous plants include mistletoe, some evergreens (including some types of pine), and holly bushes and berries. Try to keep these plants away from pets, or at least supervise pets when dangerous plants are nearby.

### Fire and Carbon Monoxide

Monitor pets near fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, candles, and portable heaters. Also, don't forget to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are functioning properly. Space heaters, furnaces, and idling cars (in a garage) can increase the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning in pets and humans.

In many cases, if your pet has eaten or drunk something toxic, warning signs will include gastrointestinal problems, such as vomiting and diarrhea. Other signs may include tiredness and lack of appetite, especially in cats that have eaten lilies. If your pet shows any of these signs, or if you think he or she has eaten something dangerous but is not showing any signs yet, please contact your veterinarian immediately. Treating your pet as soon as possible is essential!

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Quiet Waters Park  
600 Quiet Waters Park Rd  
Annapolis, MD  
**April 29, 2012, 8:00am-12:00pm**

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## Message from the Board of Directors

The Mid Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue (MAGSR) is a lifeline for abused, abandoned and neglected German shepherd and German Shepherd mixes. - Not just when they are initially rescued by MAGSR but throughout their lifetime.

But you already know what MAGSR offers and you know the importance of MAGSR's work - which is saving the lives of German Shepherd's and GSD mixes.

Today, we invite you to help us save even more lives. We strongly believe in our mission and your gift today will help us save a life tomorrow.

Why should you consider giving your support to MAGSR today?

Without support of the community, MAGSR would not be able to save GSD's from shelters, provide medical care, provide temporary housing, or training. Your gift will help ensure that we will be able to continue to carry out our mission and provide the best care while the dogs wait to find their forever homes.

There are two ways to give: Paypal or send a check to MAGSR PO Box 353 Mt. Airy MD 21771. Your [donation](#) is tax deductible.

Contributions like yours will make all the difference in the life of a German Shepherd. However you choose to give today, we thank you for your gift of hope!

Sincerely yours,

Caroline, Lisa, Eva, Tammy and Paul  
The Mid Atlantic German Shepherd  
Rescue Board of Directors

### Articles for MAGSR News

Member articles welcome! Please submit article ideas via email to Lisa Jarvis for publication in the next MAGSR

# About Mid Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue

Mid Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue  
PO Box 353  
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[www.magsr.org](http://www.magsr.org)

MAGSR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
Your [contributions](#) are tax deductible

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Victor Martinez, MAGSR Web Team and former Board of Directors.  
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