



Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue

Providing Rescue and Adoption Services in MD, DC and VA



MAGSR NEWS!

June, 2009



Dear Victor,

When I adopted my Senior Golden Girl Sierra, she was 7 years old and had been brought into MAGSR twice, once as a stray from WV and once as an owner surrender when her adopters decided they didn't want her anymore. She had been living in the kennel for almost two years. She had been put in foster about 3 months before I adopted her.

When I told my friends what I was thinking of doing, their reactions in most cases were not positive. The main concerns were 1. it wouldn't be long before I would have to "put her down" from old age, and 2. she would never love me because she had had other families to love.

I was well aware of the first concern - I had thought of that myself. I had been devastated when I held my previous GSD in my arms as her earthly body died. But I thought, why should a beautiful dog like Sierra be denied a home because she was 7 years old? She seemed to be everything I wanted. She was house broken, she knew her basic obedience commands, she seemed to be in good health, and she was looking for a home and someone to love. I was looking for a GSD to fill that empty space in my heart and home, and to love me. We seemed to be a perfect [match](#).

When I met Sierra in Reisterstown, where MAGSR had brought her to a "dog event" in Baltimore County, it seemed to be love at first sight. The minute I saw her I knew she was meant to be with me, and she seemed to feel the same way. She hopped in my car (which I am sure smelled of dog) and rode for almost two hours to get home. She hopped out, went in the yard with me, smelled around, then came into the house. She smelled everything, went over to a dog bed in the living room, laid down on it and seemed right at home. That night I coaxed her into bed with me, and that is where she has been every night since.

Don't get me wrong, she had some issues. She was uneasy about playing with toys when someone was there to watch. She would drop the toy and run and hide. When she went to

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Dog of the Month

[Chloe](#)



Chloe is a very endearing dog who loves to learn tricks. She knows how to sit, down, shake hands, perch (on an arm), target a hand, go to her bed, and jump through a hula hoop. She is really good at shaping. She does well with most dogs once she gets to know them. She needs a patient home and

sleep during the day, she chose places that were behind chairs and couches. It took her almost a year to act like she felt comfortable sprawled in the middle of the floor with her toys. Now she brings me her Wubby and I can almost hear her saying "Throw it Mommy".

She thrived when I took her to obedience, because she was the star of the class. Most of the other dogs were just beginning, so she received praise upon praise. You could just see her level of confidence going up.

In the beginning, Sierra seemed to be very leery of HANDS. I spent a great deal of time just stroking her, and rubbing her, and explaining that hands were for loving and good feelings. Now she comes to me and puts her face in my lap, waiting for me to talk to her and pet her. She was also afraid of sudden movements. If I grabbed at something that was falling she would "shrink back" away from me. She still doesn't like sudden movements. I discovered that when she was asleep, if I got up she would leap up in her sleep to follow. Now I always speak to her and tell her where I am going and that I will be right back, and she stays laying down. After all, I brought an adult dog into my home and expected her to fit in. I kept thinking - how would I feel if I were suddenly moved to a complete stranger's home to live. So I treated her the same way I would have wanted to be treated, talking and explaining things to her. I know she doesn't understand all of my words, but she does understand the tone, and knows that things will be OK.



Through all of this there was one thing that surprised me the most. That was her attitude. From day one, she was willing to give me a chance to show her that people are OK. After all, all of her experiences with people had not been wonderful. But she never gave up on people, and I admire that about her so very much.

And the second thing I was worried about - her ability to love. She has tons of love in her that she is willing to give. She loves me - of this I have absolutely no doubt. She knows that I love her - no doubt there either. She loves the people she comes in contact with at her doggie day care and at my vet's. They all know her story and go out of their way to touch her, talk to her, and show her that she is a wonderful girl. She also has come into contact with many good people through MAGSR. She has done "meet and greets" at

hopes to meet you soon!

Update Your Info!



Do you have a MAGSR dog? Have you moved or changed your information?

Please [Click Here](#) to update your information! Send us some updates on your dog!

Foster a Dog!



Have you ever thought of fostering a dog? If so, now is the time! MAGSR is in need of foster families. Fostering brings a dog out of the kennel and into a home. This helps prepare them for their future families.

[Mugsy](#) was born outside and didn't know what inside was

Petsmart, and has made several home visits with me. Her manners are always impeccable. Looking back over the dogs in my life (and I have had some wonderful dogs) Sierra stands out as the most mannerly. Just her instinct I guess.

Sierra and I have been together for 3 1/2 years so far. I know that our time together will not be 10 - 14 years like it was with my other dogs. But should LOVE and COMPANIONSHIP always be measured in time. Isn't quality better than quantity?

I am a senior citizen, so a senior dog was the exact fit that I was looking for. Sierra and I are enjoying retirement now. Patience, kindness, and most of all love and understanding, were all Sierra needed to become a perfect fit into my life. Thank you, thank you, thank you MAGSR, for helping me find my GOLDEN GIRL.

Please consider helping MAGSR save a life. Please [Click Here](#) to send your donation in today! You can help make a difference!

Suzanne Downs aka Sierra's

Mom

Adopter's Reunion

If you attended the 9th annual MAGSR Adopter's Reunion you are probably still muttering to yourself, "What a perfect day!" It was probably the most beautiful day of the year so far and it hosted some of the most gorgeous attendees you've ever seen! Close to 200 adopters with approximately 142 dogs made their way to Oregon Ridge Park on Saturday April 18, 2009, to celebrate their new, and some not-so-new arrivals into their families.



I was one of the few people who did not have a dog by my side, but there was no shortage of GSD love at the park that day. Owners and fosters would happen by and I would wind up with a dog in my lap, or a leash in my hand. I called my husband when I arrived and told him it was exactly what I envisioned heaven would

all about! Now, in his foster home, he is learning indoor manners and how comfy a couch can feel!

MAGSR will cover medical costs and we will help you every step of the way. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to apply. There is a dog waiting for you!



Filled Longaberger Basket and Gift Card Bingo to Benefit Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue

Come [HELP](#) make a difference in a dog's life and have a fun filled evening of Bingo and good food.



Friday, June 26, 2009,

6:00-10:00 pm

American Legion Post #40
500 5th Ave SE
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

look like!! Every size, shape and color variation of



German Shepherd was represented. When I got home around 5pm, I must have smelled like canine potpourri because of the amount of sniffing my own

two dogs were doing.

Since this was my first time attending the annual reunion, I wanted to take everything in. Right behind the check in table, there was a table full of MAGSR merchandise from shirts to key chains to magnets for your car. Volunteer Sherry Moore was running the sale of the merchandise, and she stated that each year they make over \$1000.00 in merchandise. I especially liked the deep purple t-shirt to show your Ravens spirit as well as support of MAGSR. On the opposite side of the table were the prize baskets and gift certificates which would be raffled off at the end of the day. The donations were really incredible this year. Prizes ranged from dog treats to dog training sessions at PetSmart; and restaurant gift cards to Orioles game tickets.



The vendors were all set up adjacent to the check in table. The first one was Dog Bones Direct. Rather than a storefront, this vendor prefers to ship its merchandise direct. Their prices are very competitive and they offered a promotional code to the patrons on Saturday which allowed an

(410) 761-9869

\$15 reserved tickets, \$17 at the door

Please call Tammy to reserve tickets, 410-544-8817 voice mailbox #3

or email:

tohelpmagsr@aol.com

SUMMER PATRIOTIC SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



In honor of those who have served our country, and in celebration of the summer holidays to commemorate all that has been sacrificed for our freedom, [sponsor](#) a MAGSR dog with a flag ribbon this summer.

Please take this opportunity to honor your soldier/veteran and help a MAGSR dog needing a home! [Click here](#) for details.

SECRET SANTA IS BACK!

additional percentage off. Their varied selection of smoked and sterile bones, bully sticks and cows ears were impressive. The owner, Robert Strickler, wants all MAGSR volunteers, not just the ones present on Saturday, to be able to take advantage of his promotional offer. If you order from him online at www.dogbonesdirect.com , just type MAGSR09 in the promo code section to get your additional percentage discount.



Moving down Vendor's Row, I came across Simply Pawsome. The owner, Patricia Morgan, was handing out samples of her hypoallergenic organic dog treats. These treats are especially great for the temperamental tummies of some of our gsd's who cannot tolerate wheat, soy, and corn. To find out where to purchase her items locally, check out www.simplypawsome.com.

The next vendor was Sherry B. True, from Spirit Paws. Sherry is a Holistic Animal Care Specialist, and was giving readings and consultations to interested owners.



Paw Posies was probably the most original vendors I saw. Patsy Helmetag and Rosemary Freitas Williams have joined forces to

create original works of art using nothing more than your pet's paw print. Contact them at www.pawposies.com and they will send you a home kit that you send back and they'll create the most unique floral designs on everything from frameable art to coffee mugs.

Secret Santa will match your donations dollar for dollar! Now is the time to make your donation double! We don't know how long this will last, so don't wait! You can make a difference! You can save a life!

[Miss Charm](#) promises you lots of kisses and snuggles! Please [Click Here](#) to send your donation today!

What would shopping be without jewelry? The

Twisted Pearl had some lovely gold and sterling pieces that you could select from. Rounding out Vendor's Row was Paws and Claws Mobile Photography taking professional photographs of pets with and without their people. They serve the Northern Virginia and greater Washington metro area. You can reach them at 571-641-1044 to schedule a session in the convenience of your own home.

Professional dog trainer, Wesley Jenson of [Arrowwood Shepherds](#), and his beautiful dog Clancy, gave a Schutzen demonstration in the center of the field. Wesley explained that Schutzen is an activity created specifically for our beloved German

Shepherds, and his intent was to remove the fear that many have about bite training, and show that if dogs are trained when it's ok and not ok to



bite, they are actually safer than dogs that never have that training at all. Clancy, being a rescued MAGSR dog himself, certainly made a believer out of me. It was a very inspiring exhibition.

I was pleasantly surprised that the modest \$20 admission fee not only gained you entrance to enjoy a beautiful day surrounded by great people and for the most part, their very well behaved companions, but some really delicious food as well. There was pit beef and turkey, all the fixins like cole slaw and potato salad and lots and lots of cake! There was mingling and mixing and getting acquainted all afternoon between people that primarily communicated with one another via email. For me, this was the highlight of my afternoon. For me,

MAGSR is not only a wonderful dog rescue; it's a network of individuals that are there for you when you have any kind of issue relating to animals.

Once everyone had a chance to finish lunch, it was time for the Adopter's Parade. Each adopter stepped up to the microphone and spoke about their adopted dog(s) from MAGSR. It was really uplifting to hear each story of despair turning to hope and ending in love. There was one story in particular, however, that left me speechless. Many of you already know the story of Nina, the Rottweiler that



was rescued from Dead Dog Beach. I had never heard the story, and it was particularly hard to listen to. After the owner finished speaking, I asked a few more detailed questions, and she

explained the extent of Nina's medical condition to me in vivid detail. To look at this perfect representation of the breed, it was inconceivable to imagine what might have been if no one had intervened. My point is that the MAGSR volunteers, fosters and adopters are doing miraculous work each and every day for dogs like Nina and many others out of sheer love for the dogs. The reunion was a beautiful reminder to everyone in attendance that happy endings can and do occur when good people unite to nurture, rehabilitate and place great dogs in loving forever homes.

Although this was my first reunion, it will by no means be my last. I urge anyone that missed this year's event to make a point to



be there next year. In addition to supporting the rescue, it strengthens the camaraderie between volunteers. I look forward to seeing you in 2010!

Dana Esposito

