



Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue

Providing Rescue and Adoption Services in MD, DC and VA



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Rescuing, Rehabilitating, Nurturing, Training, & Healing Abused, Abandoned and Neglected German Shepherds & German Shepherd mixes for Adoption in MD, D.C, NoVA and south-central PA

Rescue since 1999 * Over 2000 adoptions in our first decade * 2285+ adoptions in 2010 * Nov. 2010

Dear Victor,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I think of all that we have to be thankful for in the rescue. This past October was a very good month for MAGSR adoptions; not quite a record month, but I'll be happy with 34 adoptions every month. Lets hope this trend continues, because normally the next few months are slightly slower for us, but you just never know.

The past few months have brought us a lot of new volunteers, which is very exciting. Welcome to all! You are very important to us, so please, if you are not sure what to get involved in call a board member or email us at bod@magsr.org and we'll get back to you right away. As with any business, MAGSR is not a static entity, and we lose members due to a wide variety of reasons, relocation, health, etc., so new members are critical to us and our dogs. It is only with the continued efforts of our current members mentoring the new members, and getting new members involved in all the various facets of MAGSR, that we can continue to grow and help more dogs find their furever homes.

MAGSR started out as a small rescue, probably less than a dozen or so members, but that is not the case any longer and we have an ever growing volunteer group. We have been averaging over 200 adoptions per year, and also have a growing number of dogs we want to help. While we are fortunate to continue to cover our costs, as our number of dogs increase so do our costs. This of course means we have an even greater need for fundraising support, so I'm reaching out to everyone, adopters, volunteers, supporters, friends, to contribute whatever you can---- talent, time, money---to our mission to rehome these wonderful dogs that are so much in need.

If any of our new members have any expertise in fundraising, grant writing, marketing, IT or social media skills, please let us know. Foster homes also are greatly needed because when you open your heart and home to one of our dogs, you not only are keeping that dog out of the kennel, helping the dog with socialization, and giving adopters a better idea of what they can expect from the dog, you are helping MAGSR reduce our costs. So please give serious

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PLEASE DON'T STRAY!

**UPDATE YOUR MAGSR
CONTACT INFO TODAY!**

Did you move, or, has your contact info changed? Stay in touch with MAGSR and update your contact info today! [CLICK HERE TO UPDATE](#) (and send photos-we love photos!)

consideration to fostering until that dog's forever home can be found.

MAGSR has come a long way over the years through consistent, effective effort [lots of effort] and the perseverance of our members through both the good times and the very lean times. I see so much more potential for the good we can do, and we are always striving to be better and do more. I am always proud to say that I am a member of Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue and I welcome everyone new & "old" to get involved in our events and come out to visit and work with our dogs.

Thanks for all you do, and warm Thanksgiving holiday wishes to all,

Sincerely,

Bill
Bill Myers
MAGSR President

MAGSR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ~ A MESSAGE FROM BILLMYERS

*** CELEBRATE RESCUE!**

MAGSR HOLIDAY PHOTO PARTY *

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*Join us for delicious holiday goodies,
photos with the dogs, & good company! **



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P.S. If you ever have questions about your dog's training, food, health, behavior, or anything else, feel free to contact MAGSR at:

help@magsr.org

We can help!

MAGSR Foster Roster

You? Foster a dog?

That's right! So many of our great MAGSR dogs need a foster family to help them prepare for adoption!

... a family like yours!

Just imagine ...

a good dog like Lexi ...



or like Hannah ...

* *

Bring your dog for holiday photos!

**Photos of your pets for holidays
\$6.00 each or 2 for \$10.00**

* * *

MAGSR HOLIDAY PHOTOS * AT RIVERMIST KENNELS

*** Brinklow, MD**

**Saturday, December 11, 2010
(Rain date December 12, 2010)**

* ~Please drive through to the back parking area~

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**Go to www.MAGSR.org
for more information**

Birthday Party Bash!

Masgr Alum and GSD Friend Entertain Partygoers!

MAGSR Alum Dixon and his human, MAGSR volunteer Ashley, and his friend Storm and his human, MAGSR volunteer Rebecca, attended a young girl's birthday party recently at the birthday girl's request. The young girl, who loves German Shepherds, wanted to have a party where all her friends brought donations in lieu of or in addition to presents for her.

The partygoers included about 6 girls who celebrated with a GSD birthday cake and a pinata shaped like a bone. During the party, Dixon's human talked to them about MAGSR and Storm's human talked to them about German Shepherds. Then the dogs performed a basic obedience demonstration - Dixon showed sit, down, stay, come, high five and place. Storm and his human performed a rally demonstration and she retrieved her frisbee. Both dogs executed these exercises flawlessly and made their humans look really good! One parent even asked how Dixon learned to be such a good boy!

The partygoers then took turns "training" Dixon - one would be yelling sit, while the other "up" and another "down." Poor Dixon took it all in stride and tried to do as he was told. But the best part were the pets and belly rubs afterwards. It is reported that one of the parents attending the party took a shot of Dixon on his back, all four paws up in the air, with about 6 tiny hands going to town on his belly.

When the party ended, the dogs and MAGSR volunteers left the party with a case of canned dog food, three boxes of treats and a bag containing some towels, collars & a toy -- all destined for the use and enjoyment of MASGR's dogs who are awaiting adoption into their furever homes. MAGSR is also receiving some gift cards and a generous money donation in honor of the birthday party visit.

As for Dixon and Storm, on the ride home, they curled up in the backseat and fell fast asleep. Good work everyone!



**So, please . . . don't delay,
Ask about fostering today!
Go to www.magsr.org
for more information**

MAGSR NEWS' November's Dog



Kaden

Kaden is a housebroken, two year old, adolescent dog, who has been living in a great foster home with 3 MAGSR rescues and their parents. Kaden has been learning skills like fetch and return, and trying out all kinds of shenanigans. His mom reports that Kaden has a nice, moderate drive and energy that helps with training & exercise. Kaden is working on recalls, sit stays and down stays and has excellent leash manners. Kaden does not like bikes, or shopping carts, strollers or any small wheels, but is working on that issue. He is unlikely to do well with small children, who scare Kaden, and he needs an experienced handler. If you like exercise and are ready to practice tough love, Kaden may be the

Training at the Kennel

(Excerpts from MAGSR weekly training updates)

MAGSR is fortunate to be working with expert obedience trainer Karen Decker, owner of P.U.P.S. Dog Obedience Training, <http://www.pupsdogobediencetraining.com/> who has been coming out to work with MAGSR volunteers and many of the dogs residing in our kennel while they are awaiting adoption. What a terrific opportunity for these dogs and our volunteers!

Volunteers meet weekly with Karen in a class that gives the dogs an opportunity to practice basic obedience commands and to work with handlers in a class setting with other dogs and handlers. This is a first-time exposure to obedience training for many of our dogs, a good number of whom have never been to training before and may have lived their lives tied out on a chain.

Karen has modified her training to meet the needs of the MAGSR dogs residing in the kennel, taking into account the backgrounds, and all the change and turn-over experienced by these dogs. She has placed her emphasis on 4 basics: automatic sit after molding, heeling, standing, and sit-stay at the end of a 6 foot leash. Once these tasks are ingrained in the dogs through their training, they will be more adoptable and will more readily adapt to living as part of a canine-human family.

Volunteers are working with the dogs' socialization and comfort around people and other dogs by bringing them closer together and correcting any aggression that may arise. One exercise involves making concentric circles of heeling and then pairing dogs up across from one another; one dog then is released and played with to see how the other dog in the pair reacts.

These and other exercises are repeated when volunteers come to the kennel on weekends to walk and interact with the dogs. As the dogs gain more skills and their confidence grows, new commands and exercises are added, and many of the dogs now are achieving impressive levels of obedience. Karen's techniques do create measureable changes that transfer from handler to handler. If a handler has the passion to help the dogs and is prepared to listen to the dogs and the trainer, that makes all the difference!

The pre-adoption training we are able to provide the dogs does not substitute for MAGSR's requirement that all adopters take their dog to training within the first 6 months of adoption. This mandatory training requirement has always been part of our contract and will continue to be required because it plays such an important part in building the bond between adopter and dog. Formal obedience training is an excellent way for each adopter and their new dog to clearly establish and strengthen their relationship.

Training also provides a further opportunity for socializing the new dog with other dogs, and helps an owner feel comfortable handling the dog in all types of circumstances. Too often, when an adopter calls us with a post-adoption problem it turns out that they have not taken their dog to obedience training as our contract requires. We encourage all adopters to take advantage of obedience training to really get to know your new dog, learn how to effectively communicate with your new family member, become the leader your dog needs, and help your dog become the dog you want him or her to be.

dog for you! To see more of Kaden, go to:

www.magsr.org

Thank you for giving!
**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!

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Please go to www.magsr.org
and

Sponsor one of our dogs!
View dogs to foster or adopt!
Donate to our Medical Fund!



"As my friend Karl said last month, I think I speak for all the MAGSR dogs when I say you have our deepest thanks"
~ Carlisle (needed back surgery for prior untreated injury and complications).

GSD Parenting: Planning for the Unexpected **by Sue Downs (Sierra's Mom)**

(MAGSR member and GSD parent Sue Downs offers some thoughtful tips on providing for your dog's care)

I am a single pet parent. Sierra and I are a "pack of two" and I feel a tremendous responsibility for having a plan for her should an emergency arise.

Sierra is often with me in the car, especially when we are on a long drive to do a home visit, which is part of the MAGSR adoption process. I carry in my car a letter, fastened to the sun visor, that gives emergency contact information should something happen while we are driving. It contains my son's name and phone numbers, my veterinarian's name and hospital phone number, and also the name of the boarding facility where Sierra went to doggie day care. I have spoken with both of these places and have been assured that should an emergency arise, either one would gladly send someone out to get Sierra and bring her safely to their facility.

I also have a home plan, should Sierra be home when I have an emergency. I have posted in my kitchen on a cabinet door Sierra's feeding schedule, how to prepare her meals, including her two important medications for kidney failure, and her special food. I have included phone numbers of my son, and the woman who cleans for me, who knows and loves Sierra. I have included the numbers of the doggie day care and boarding resort we use, and my vet hospital, should they be needed. I've given copies of this plan to both my son and the woman who cleans for me.

This information and planning came in handy when a few weeks ago I went to the hospital for a test, and after seeing the results, the medical personnel wouldn't let me leave. I was there at the hospital, and Sierra was at home.

Of course, I contacted my son who contacted the woman who cleans for me and asked her to go in at noon to let Sierra out and feed her. My son then took care of her dinner, evening exercise, and the next morning's breakfast. But the fact remained that Sierra was alone at home all night, and was facing a day of being alone. By then I knew I was going to be stuck at the hospital for several days. I called our day care and boarding resort and explained the situation and they took over the rest. They agreed to send their Petmobile to pick up Sierra and bring her back to the resort. The woman who cleans for us met them at my house, with Sierra's bag all packed with her food and meds.

Sierra ended up boarding at the resort for 6 days, until I could get back to her. Although friends and other MAGSR volunteers have generously offered to help with Sierra in situations like this one, I know that they have many other responsibilities, not to mention multiple dog households. While she was at the resort, Sierra was so occupied with playtimes, nature walks, and bizzzy bones (stuffed kongs), and with the staff stopping by her suite to say hello, that she really didn't have time to get lonely. And I was fine knowing she was there, because I knew she was OK.

I also have a plan for Sierra, should she outlive me. I have included a section in my Will that covers that possibility. I know, according to my MAGSR contract, that Sierra must be returned to the rescue



"Thanks to you and my wonderful foster mom, I am healthy and able to enjoy life."
~ Karl (treated for starvation and needing spinal surgery for crippling injury).

During this season of giving thanks for all that we have, won't you show the dogs you care with a generous donation to MAGSR's Medical Fund for our rescue dogs in need of care?



"Many thanks from me, too!" ~ Thain
(treated for a broken leg after former owner brought him to a shelter to be euthanized).

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

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

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

Tips and Tales

Stop by and see us at Persmart

should I not be around. Hopefully, she would return to someone as a foster, with a monthly stipend and the assurance that my son would be responsible for covering the cost of any and all medications she would need for the rest of her life.

It gives me a feeling of well being and ease, knowing that I have plans for Sierra in case of emergency circumstances, and that in at least one case, it worked. After all, that's my responsibility as her mom!

Leadership and Behavior

Dog whispering is about communicating with dogs in a way that they understand, using energy, body language, and touch. It's about teaching dogs to have trust and respect for the "leaders," the humans in their families.

-- Susie Homire, Maryland's Dog Whisperer

www.leadyourpack.com

What I do is not "training" in the traditional sense, as what I care most about is "balance." That means fulfilling the instinctual needs of the dog. And when a dog is balanced, training is much easier to perform.

-- Cesar Millan, "Cesar's Way, Achieving Balance Between People and Dogs"

<http://www.cesarway.com/news/cesarspeaks/Rules-Training-vs-Balance>

and Petco stores Saturdays and Sundays, December 4th and 5th, 11th and 12th, and 18th and 19th!

**Get your dog's 2010
MAGSR Santa photos!**



**Check
for**

**store locations and
photo dates at www.magsr.com**

See you there!

**NEW! Visit MAGSR at
bark !**

**Pawsitive Petfood
16822 Georgia Avenue
Olney, MD. 20832**

**Please check www.magsr.com
for December dates in Olney.**

ARTICLES FOR MAGSR NEWS

Member articles welcome! Please submit article ideas via email to Lory Rosenberg before the 15th of each month for publication in the next MAGSR NEWS. MAGSR reserves the right to reject copy found by the BOD not acceptable or appropriate. The views expressed in copy written for the MAGSR NEWS reflects the opinion of the author and does not constitute a policy or position of MAGSR.

Editors: Lory Rosenberg, MAGSR member and Board of Directors; Victor Martinez, MAGSR Web Team and former Board of Directors.
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