



1ST QUARTER 2004

# SHEPHERD TALES

Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue  
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410-644-7763

MARSR is dedicated to finding good homes for unwanted or abandoned German Shepherds in the MD, DC and VA region. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## Note From the President

First I would like to say 'thank you' to our many supporters and dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours and endure endless stress working to find homes for these wonderful dogs. Without everyone working as a team it just would not be possible. To our adopters, there are no words to express our heart-felt thanks for opening your hearts and homes to these dogs who have come to mean so much to us.

I would like to address a few concerns about mixed-breeds (mixes) in a GSD rescue. There seems to be some thoughts that a breed rescue should not take mixes. It is the feeling of most of our volunteers that mixes will be brought into this rescue and homes found for them. It is also, based on our statistics, the opinion of our many adopters who have come to us and added to their families by adopting a mix. Because we are a GSD rescue that breed will always have priority, but thankfully we are able to take, and find homes for the mixes as well. It is our opinion that just because a dog is not of a pure blood line that does not mean he/she does not have the right to live, does not have the right to another chance.

Every year 6 million homeless dogs, cats, puppies and kittens are killed in public shelters all across America. That's 16,000 precious lives a day. I am including a web address for a petition to mandate shelters offer free spay/neuter, and no kill, in every state. Please make your voice heard by reading, signing, and passing along this information. Together we can make a difference. Together we can reduce the number of homeless, unwanted pets, both pure-bred and mix. YOUR VOICE IS THEIR ONLY VOICE.

<http://www.petsandanimals.org> Please pass it on.

Sincerely,  
Denise



## The Reunion From a Volunteer's Perspective

By Pat Walraven

4TH ANNUAL ADOPTERS REUNION!

SATURDAY, APRIL 24th, 2004



There is only one word for today's reunion..... AWESOME!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you Sherrie and company for all your hard work that made today possible! A beautiful day and beautiful dogs, who could have asked for more!

I sat up on the hill with Judd and Abby looking down over a lush green meadow FILLED with dog's who at one time.. no one wanted. Dog's who's lives were once in great peril but today those same lives are the source of overflowing pride and joy for their adoring parents. There wasn't one family who wasn't willing to share the sad history of their very special dog but then moved on quickly to tell you how very much loved and spoiled their companions are now.

To all the many MAGSR volunteers, both past and present, everything you have worked so hard for was showcased today.....happy, healthy dogs with the proud families who adore them. Be proud, be very proud for there is not enough money in the world to buy what your volunteer efforts made possible today.

## Available Dogs

Below are just a couple of our available dogs.  
Please visit our website, [www.magsr.org](http://www.magsr.org), to see who else is available for adoption



Lex



Lex (middle) with his two foster siblings.

**DESCRIPTION:** Lex was found as a stray and placed in a shelter. He stayed there until MAGSR was alerted to the situation. Lex has many health problems, most of which were a surprise to us. He had many cysts, Lyme's disease, and painful teeth and hips (but not dysplasia). The veterinarians have said that he probably spent his entire life outdoors because of his health conditions. The cysts were very unsightly and bothersome to Lex so they were removed. A biopsy from one cyst came back as cancerous. Lex has been undergoing chemotherapy from a veterinary oncologist and seems to be doing just fine. Lex is a very sweet and beautiful dog. He gets along well with children and other dogs. He has learned to tolerate the resident cat and does not chase him any longer (thanks to the bloody nose he received when he did). When Lex came to live with his foster family he weighed about 75 pounds and was somewhat withdrawn. He did not seem to know how to play, wouldn't chew a bone or eat a treat, etc. Now, he weighs 96 healthy pounds, plays readily with the two resident dogs and gives a few kisses. He even thinks he is a lap dog on occasion. He especially loves his "mom" and follows her wherever she goes. He doesn't know that he has had cancer, he just knows that life is better than it has ever been for him. He has a warm bed, good food and friends to play with and love. What he is missing is his own family to love!



Lexus



**DESCRIPTION:** Lexus is a really sweet boy who has not had a very good life so far. He was kept outside on a 3 ft lead in all elements. He was confiscated from his owner and spent over a month at the shelter. It is unlikely he is house trained and has had no formal training done with him but he is very eager to learn. Given the necessary time he needs to adjust, this will be one awesome family member.

**Update:** Lexus is a lot of dog so not the right dog for those of you looking for your first dog or who don't have much experience with the breed. He needs to go to an experienced owner who knows the breed and can give him the kind of discipline needed in high drive dogs.

## The True Meaning of Rescue

Written By: A MAGSR Volunteer

MAGSR rescues dogs all year round, but every once in a while we get one that requires a little more than the others do. Read the story below to learn how a team of volunteers dedicated to their canine companions, made a difference in one special dog's life.

In December 2003, MAGSR received an email from an employee working for the Social Security Administration (SSA) in Woodlawn, MD concerning a stray German Shepherd who she and her co-workers had been feeding. Although they had been feeding the stray dog for a couple of weeks, no one was able to put a leash on him – he was incredibly quick and remarkably smart. MAGSR immediately recognized this plea for help and many volunteers came forward to lend a hand. The first night at SSA the volunteers tried befriending the stray and luring him with toys, treats, and even other dogs. Although the stray dog was attracted to these things, he did not trust anyone enough to put a leash around his neck. It was obvious that he was underweight, there were icicles sticking to his fur, and his puppy collar was extremely tight and strangling his neck. We could tell that he was a young dog (less than a year of age) and the fear in his eyes did not seem fair. What could possibly have happened to this poor dog in less than a year to make him so afraid of people?

The first night was unsuccessful, as would be the following eight nights. MAGSR set two humane, Hav-a-hart dog traps that were borrowed from local humane societies. Unfortunately, the stray had already been exposed to a smaller version of these traps. Previously to MAGSR's involvement, one of the SSA employees had attempted to lure him into a small-dog Hav-A-Hart trap and due to his size, it tripped while he was attempting to enter it. Still, there were no other choices to catch the stray, but to hope and pray that he became hungry enough to go into one of the large-dog Hav-A-Hart traps. The traps were checked throughout the night so that if any animal were to become caught in the trap, he/she would not freeze to death while temperatures dropped below freezing. The traps also had to be refreshed every couple of hours with fresh food in order to attract the attention of the stray dog. With lots of help, the group of volunteers was able to have the trap monitored and refreshed as necessary and each night the team reunited to try and befriend the stray.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day at SSA, one very special MAGSR volunteer got up early that Saturday morning and drove down from Pennsylvania in another attempt to befriend the stray dog. He got there at eleven 'o clock in the morning with a pack of hotdogs, a knife, and a determination beyond all others. He patiently cut the hotdogs into little pieces and fed them one by one to the stray dog in attempt to earn his trust. Twelve 'o clock came and went, so did two 'o clock and four 'o clock. It was a very cold day, but it was clear that the stray had learned from his experience with the small-dog trap and befriending him was the only choice. As the day went on the volunteer did not give up, his patience was truly amazing. But as it started to get dark, the stray became comfortable enough with the volunteer that he rested his head on the volunteer's boot and fell peacefully asleep with a belly full of hotdogs. At that point, the volunteer slipped a leash around the stray's neck and what had once seemed impossible, was now a reality – the stray was caught!

And so began the first day of the rest of Mitchell's new life. Every MAGSR volunteer who had been involved in the mission to save Mitchell was contacted and one by one we showed up at SSA. Mitchell was afraid of every single one of us and was not interested in the toys or treats that we brought for him. He also refused to climb into the truck to go to the vet's office for a checkup and his shots. Finally, after persuading him into a Vari-kennel, Mitchell was taken to the vet's office to be thoroughly checked out and given the treatment that every MAGSR dog gets. After his stay there, he joined many of the other MAGSR dogs at the kennel and waited patiently for his ticket home. Surely, we were all concerned that the family who adopted Mitchell would have to ensure that he never got the opportunity to escape and was kept on a leash at all times. After spending so



The True Meaning of Rescue, Continued on Page 4

much time in the wild, who could say he would not try to return? It did not take long before his forever family did come for him. Although Mitchell was not the perfect dog from day one, he has proved to be extremely special to everyone who has had the opportunity to meet him. Read the letter below from Mitch's mom and dad and learn what a little bit of TLC and training with Wesley Jensen can do for a dog who on day one, would not even let a human get close enough to touch him...

"We went to the kennel with the hopes of bringing home a friend, a dog that would love us and be content to spend his days lazily lounging in front of our fireplace. Instead we were introduced to Mitch. Happy to be out of his kennel crate and get attention from anything and anyone, Mitchell proudly bounded around greeting everyone in his path. My wife opened her arms and was instantly rewarded with a squirming pile of German Shepherd Dog. This boy needed love; he needed it as much as he needed food to fill out his malnourished body. Not wanting to influence my decision she stood up and pretended to ignore the gorgeous Shepherd that had made my lap his new home. It did not matter, this boy did not deserve to spend another minute in that noisy kennel run and within the hour Mitch was on his way to a life that we strive to make better everyday.

Warned to never let him off leash, he was a stray and they are prone to roam, we purchased a 30-foot lead to tether him whenever he was in the back yard. New Year's Day, three days after we had brought him home, my wife and I decided to spend some time out on the deck to share a drink and reflect. As Mitch sat next to us in the brisk January air, his eyes seemed huge with worry. Treats, toys, and praise did nothing to alleviate the obvious stress. After a few minutes we realized what was wrong. The cold. This poor abandoned dog never wanted to be cold again. We went inside and lit a fire, and as the flames ate away at the wood you could see the worry melt away in his face. He was home, and he knew it.

It has been three months now. Mitch eats well, goes for walks in the park everyday, and gets plenty of play with tennis balls and soft squeaky toys. Most importantly he goes to training every weekend. The importance of obedience training was stressed to us from the beginning of the adoption process, and wanting to do right by our new pal we attended classed the very first weekend. Mitch took to training like a fish to water. His capacity to learn is astounding, and in three short months Mitch has already been admitted into the Champion class where he is able to be off leash and under complete control. The dog whose previous caretakers neglected to even properly fit his collar has become one of the most obedient dogs we have ever met, he earns himself a compliment on nearly every outing. Mitch needs to please, he needs to know he is doing right, he needs us and we promise to never disappoint. We just wanted a dog, but instead we got Mitch."



### **Life is good for DC's dogs!**



Barely a decade after the crack epidemic devastated many inner cities around the U.S., Washington, DC has undergone a renaissance. Housing values are soaring and new units cannot be built fast enough. There is an influx of new residents, both human and canine, and a corresponding increase in new retail that is sprouting up all around the city. Many of these new businesses cater to our non-human companions, and make it easier to balance busy schedules and the needs of our best friends. Nearly all of these new pet-oriented stores are locally owned and operated small businesses.

Dog daycare has sprouted up in neighborhoods across the city, from Adams Morgan and Capitol Hill to Logan and Dupont Circles. New pet stores have also opened, as well as upstart veterinary clinics. DC's only dog bakery opened not too long ago in Dupont Circle, only a few blocks from an ice cream and hot soup parlor that makes doggie ice cream from scratch. With DC's increasingly congested and carless lifestyle, city living for dogs has improved markedly. These many new doggie amenities make it easier for carless residents to own pets. Being walking distance from the vet and pet food store are necessities for the majority of DC residents who don't own cars. But when a car is needed to take our four-legged friends on a short errand, new neighborhood-based hourly car rental services such as Zipcar and Flexcar, make shorter term rentals

simpler and cheaper. And of course the innumerable dog walkers in DC also help when work hours get a bit late.

A recent \$40 million donation to the city will also make our daily walks much more pleasant. The Casey Foundation recently created a DC-specific tree foundation to replant and maintain thousands of trees on DC's streets, and the results have been immediate. Empty tree boxes are quickly becoming a thing of the past.

But the best news coming out of Washington is the construction of the city's first official public dog-park. While it's still technically illegal for any dog to be off-leash in Washington, DC, the city is planning its first off-leash dog park on the edge of Rock Creek park in the Adams Morgan neighborhood. Walter Pierce park, located at the intersection of Adams Mill Road and Calvert Street, is already being renovated. This mixed-use park has a playground, basketball courts, a soccer field, bike trail, victory garden, a picnic area, and soon, it will have a fenced-in, shaded dog park, with views of the National Cathedral. While the dogs may not appreciate the views, their human companions surely will. Although construction is underway, city laws still must be amended to allow dogs to be off-leash on public space.

Sometimes it feels like this city is going to the dogs!

## **What Do YOU Know About BLOAT?**

by Jennifer Baugher

Bloat, the common name for Gastric Torsion, is an acute and serious disease that strikes quickly and often proves to be fatal. Bloat is the "swelling of the stomach resulting from a build-up of liquid and gases that cannot be expelled naturally". This swelling can be further complicated by an accompanying *torsion*, or twisting, of the stomach. Torsion can rapidly cut off blood supply to major organs, resulting in shock and death, if not treated immediately!

There are quite a few theories surrounding the cause of bloat. Some of these include: too much swelling of dry kibble food once ingested; exercising within one hour before or after a meal; drinking of excess water after eating; and laxity in the ligaments holding the stomach.

Deep chested dogs, including the German Shepherd, seem to be more prone to Bloat than other breeds. As an owner of a GSD, you need to be aware of the symptoms so you can act quickly if your beloved friend appears to be suffering from this treacherous disease. Your quick response could be the determining factor between life and death. Symptoms to be on the look out for include: extreme restlessness, drooling, depressed state, failed attempts to vomit and a swollen, distended abdomen. If you notice any of these signs in your dog, especially within hours of eating a meal, you must seek veterinary care at once! It is crucial that the pressure in the dog's stomach be relieved immediately! Possible veterinary procedures to combat Bloat may include treatment for shock and surgery.

There are some things you can do to reduce the chances that your companion will develop Bloat. Soaking dry food in water before feeding will allow for the food to swell in the bowl and not in your dog's stomach. Also, do not allow your GSD to drink water or exercise until an hour before or after eating a meal. Finally, try feeding 2-3 smaller meals throughout the day, rather than larger meals. This will reduce the risk of overloading the stomach.

Although it appears that dogs who are 7 years of age and older are the most prone to suffer from Bloat, it can happen to dogs of any age. Educate yourself! Know the signs and symptoms! It could mean the difference between life and death!

*Information in this article obtained from "Watch Out for Bloat" by Christina Cox-Evick, German Shepherd Magazine, Volume 3.*

## Canine Peanut Butter Biscuits

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups (375ml) whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) baking powder
- 1 cup (250 ml) peanut butter (smooth or chunky)
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) milk



Dough is a little tricky to work with at first, but makes a perfectly formed, golden doggie shortbread. Makes about 55 (using K-9 Cutter).

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour and baking powder.
2. In a small bowl, whisk peanut butter and milk until smooth.
3. Make a well in the flour mixture and gradually stir in peanut butter mixture until well blended.
4. Use hands to work dough into 2 pliable balls. The warmth from your hands will help make the dough more workable.
5. Knead each dough ball on a floured surface, about 2 minutes.
6. With a rolling pin, roll dough between 1/4" and 1/2" thickness.
7. Cut with K-9 Biscuit Cutter and place on a baking sheet, lined with foil.
8. Bake 15 minutes at 400°F (200°C).
9. Cool on a rack and store in sealed plastic bags in the refrigerator.

## Our Commitments

These dogs' are examples of our commitment to rescue. It illustrates how we fight for each and every dog we get in, and how it is often a road filled with obstacles, both emotional and monetary. Some of these beautiful dogs will be available for adoption after some love and rehabilitation. We've taken in dogs and given over two years of care in some cases before allowing them to be adopted.

Despite not being available for adoption, these loving dogs still deserve a good life and MAGSR is committed to giving it to them. In all cases, they were neglected and abandoned and often times seriously abused, all of which has caused considerable emotional and sometimes physical trauma. With the help of caring trainers, and probably more importantly loving and patient fosters, we have been able to rehabilitate many dogs in similar conditions. With the help of generous sponsors, dedicated fosters, and lifesaving financial grants, MAGSR has been fortunate enough to care for even the most desperate of dogs.



Ace



Brianna



Britta



Taggart

## Memorials



Mildred Berger - In Memory of Jezabel and Cindy Berger  
Cynthia Jones - In Memory of Dakota  
Judith Whelan - In memory of Katie  
Lori Palen - In memory of Shane  
Megan Connell - In memory of "Duke" Maninger our neighbors dog  
Tina Mattingly - In memory of Ziggy  
Charlie & Michele Reese - In Memory of Haggaris  
Doris Norris - In memory of Thorn  
Jonni Ryan - In Memory of Baron  
Lisa Schreffler - In Memory of Ace  
Jennifer Stingl - In Loving Memory of Toby Beal  
Joanne & Michael Saukas - In memory of Josephine M. Clark,  
A true animal lover  
Mosebach, Funt, Dayton & Duckworth - In memory of Dorothy Hatch  
Cindy & Frederick Zugay - In Memory of Rameses & Heidi  
Anna Smith - In memory of Niko  
Saint Paul's School - In Memory of Jean Bendis

## A Prayer for Animals

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow;  
I am the diamond glints on snow;  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;  
I am the gentle autumn rain.*

*When you awaken in the autumn  
in the morning hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft star that shines at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die.*

## Newsletter Memorial Page

Your donation of \$10 in memory of your pet or loved one will be used to help a GSD in need.

In memory of:

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Dedicated to:

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Please send your tax-deductible donation to: MAGSR, P.O. Box 5, Laurel, MD 20725-0005  
Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Many thanks to those who are participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and have selected MAGSR to be the recipient of their payroll deductions. The dogs thank you for your continued financial support!

Patricia Adams  
Kristina Ament  
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Alan Graeff  
Alan Hadley III

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Sharon Hays  
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Barbara Jacobson  
Tacklyn Jonas  
Jacklyn Jones  
Joanne Jones-Meehan  
Katherine Kane  
Rosalind Kane

Rosalind King  
Dawn & John Konrad  
Teresa Lake  
Cathleen Lewis  
Meagan Magaw  
Nadine McCoy  
Kimberly Nelson  
John Nolting  
Peter Puglisi  
Debbie Ruskiewicz  
Jerry Sharp

Shannon Simpson  
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Rodney Tyler  
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Kimberly Williams  
Darin Wipperman



THANK YOU to our generous donors -- your financial support and other donations  
enable us to continue saving German Shepherds.



Our Gold Leash Donors

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**MAGSR MEMORIAL FUND  
IN MEMORY OF YEAGER & DYLAN**

If you have lost a beloved companion or know someone who did and would like to make a contribution in their name, the dogs, whose lives you are helping to save, will be forever grateful. We recently formed the MAGSR Memorial Fund in memory of Yaeger & Dylan. Donations which are made in memory of a lost friend will go to this fund, enabling us to have the financial resources to pay for treatment or surgery of a dog with special needs. In the past we have mended broken legs and treated heartworm and just hoped the money to cover all those bills would follow. Luckily it has. We wanted to make certain, though, that we wouldn't have to turn away a dog who is in desperate need of expensive medical care, due to lack of funds. Any donation – large or small – that you make in memory of a friend who has passed will help to ensure that another dog will get the medical attention it needs and a chance at a whole new happy and healthy life. Thank you.

Please send your tax-deductible donation to:  
MAGSR, P.O. Box 5, Laurel, MD 20725-0005

Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



**Gone but never forgotten....**

Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends and adopters who have lost their beloved companions:

- Cleo - adopted May 2002
- Lily - adopted October 2001
- Lil' Bear - adopted February 2002
- Mia - adopted September 2001
- Niko - adopted June 2002
- Pepper - adopted June 2000
- Shasta - adopted July 2001
- Samson - adopted December 1999

Abe – companion of volunteer Mike  
Hondo - companion of former volunteer Candy

We also mourn the passing of MAGSR dogs who passed away while with us:

- Haggaris
- Honey
- Sunny

**Have You a Dog in Heaven?**

Have You a dog in Heaven, Lord?  
And do you pat its head?  
Does he sit up and beg each night  
Before he goes to bed?

Does he look up with shining eyes?  
When he sees Your smiling face?  
Does he wag his stubby little tail?  
When he wants to run a race?

Have You a dog in Heaven, Lord?  
Is there room for just one more?  
'Cause my little dog died today;  
He'll be waiting at Your door.

Please take him into Heaven, Lord,  
And keep him there for me  
Just feed him, pet him, love him, Lord,  
That's all he'll ask of Thee.

MAGSR  
P.O. Box 5  
Laurel, MD 20725-0005

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Enclosed is my donation of:    \$10 ( )    \$25 ( )    \$50 ( )    \$100 ( )    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_ ( )

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Please make your donation payable to MAGSR and mail to:

MAGSR  
P.O. Box 5  
Laurel, MD 20725-0005



**THANK YOU!!**

If your employer matches charitable contributions, please inform him or her that you have donated to the Mid-Atlantic German Shepherd Rescue, Inc. and would like to have our name added to their list of approved charities. In many cases, this simple step doubles the impact of your donation. Contributions are tax-deductible under 501(c)(3) regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. Appropriate receipts will be mailed for your records.