

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Get your own "Got GSP" t-shirt 2

Garage sales aplenty 2

Ticker happy in forever home 2

Stop the pulling: Loose leash training II 3

Spotlight on volunteer 3

Donor listing 4

Calendar of events 4

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Belinda Wants To Fetch Forever Home



Waiting for that perfect dog to adopt? Belinda could be the one. And we're not just saying that. "She is a rare find for your typical rescue dog because she is very well-behaved," says Michele Jonsson, who fostered Belinda for several months.

Her attributes don't stop there. "She knows all of her basic commands. She is well-socialized and gets along well in crowds of people and around

other dogs. She is house-trained. She has lots of energy, but she will also relax and sleep through the whole night. She is a good listener and learns quickly."

What more could you want? Belinda, who is about six to eight years old, loves to play fetch at the dog park, looks forward to every opportunity for cuddling and "aims to please and will do anything to make you happy," Jonsson says. "She's a very loyal and loving dog."

"She aims to please and will do anything to make you happy."

Currently, Belinda goes out for running, trail hiking or dog park fun four times a week, though she would love more. She's great off-leash and responds very well to direction.

With her outgoing personality, Belinda should quickly integrate into a new home and family. While she likes to stick by your side when you're home, she also fares well when you're not.

Belinda, who also responds to the nickname "Bella," shows some interest in cats, but doesn't chase them. Homes with a dog-savvy cat should work. She would probably be most suitable in a home with children who are at least six years of age.



Dance, Dine, Delight At Dog Days Deux

Last year's hugely successful "Dog Days of Summer" returns as "Dog Days Deux" on Friday, July 24 (6 pm to 9 pm). A benefit for the Alameda Animal Shelter and NorCal GSP Rescue and presented by Autobody Fine Art, the event promises plenty of fun with a silent auction of pet-related items and artwork, a raffle, cocktails, catered food and musical entertainment.

Having raised more than \$5,000.00 last year, organizers are aiming higher this year.

"We're trying to double that amount this year," says Jacqueline Cooper, gallery director at Autobody Fine Art. "Public shelters are suffering from underfunding as the economy has



shrunk over the last year, and many more pets are being abandoned as their owners can no longer look after or house them."

Cooper's aspirations go beyond financial. She says that the event is a wonderful opportunity for foster dogs to meet potential adopters, who "can learn more about their personalities and specific requirements and just spend time gazing into those large, brown, languid eyes and falling in love with these guys and gals".

At last year's event, foster dog Kera met her forever family who eventually adopted her. Feel free to bring adopted dogs, too. Their presence just may inspire others to welcome a GSP into their homes.

Flying Monkey Catering of Marin will

(Continued on page 2)

What?
Dog Days Deux

When?
Friday, Jul 24
6 pm to 9 pm

Where?
Autobody Fine Art
1517 Park Street
Alameda

Got GSP???

Get Your T-Shirt

"got german shorthair pointers?"

Purchase the T-shirt that expresses your love for this wonderful breed.



You can advertise your love of GSPs with a "Got German Shorthair Pointers" T-shirt. At the same time, you'll be helping to support the many GSPs who need medical care, not to mention a loving home.

Get yours today. These black cotton T-shirts are available in sizes from small to 2XL.

Simply go to www.norcalgsprescuestore.com and purchase yours for \$20 each.

GARAGE SALE = \$\$\$

NorCal GSP Rescue depends on garage sales to bring in much needed funds for veterinary bills. You can support these efforts by donating anything that you're no longer using. That includes clothes, household items, books, knick-knacks and other items. You'll clear out the clutter in your house and receive a receipt necessary for a tax deduction.

We win. You win. Above all, foster dogs win.

Upcoming Garage Sales

- Jun 6** Ron Zander 154 Vierra Circle, Folsom
- Jul 18** S. Vargas 487 Covellite Ln, Livermore
- Aug 22** C & P Rojas 5671 Meridian Ave, San Jose
- Sep 20** Flea Market 1351 Maple Ave, Santa Rosa

Start preparing now by setting aside items in a box or bag. Add items as you come across them. It's easy!

Take a minute to email your friends and neighbors to ask for their old goodies as well. Set up a collection box at work. Then, you can drop things off at a sale location near you, or contact Paul (gprojas@pacbell.net) or Chrissy Rojas (chrissyrojas@me.com) to arrange a drop-off location.



Ticker Thriving in Forever Home

Ticker, who was adopted in 2007, has been living in the South Bay at his forever home. His new family reports that he's settled in and is enjoying his new environment.

He loves to chase birds and squirrels around the yard and play fetch with the kids. He seizes every opportunity to jump into the car, especially when it's

time to pick up the kids from school.

He greets visitors and guests by enthusiastically wagging his tail.

As with many GSPs, he stays close to those he loves. That means he likes to follow the children around the yard or lay under the desk while mom and dad are working in the home office.

Dog Days Deux For Fun and Fundraising

(Continued from page 1)
again cater the event, possibly with crowd – and dog – favorites of skewered satay chicken and hoisin beef rolls.

Along with your appetite, don't forget to bring cash (checks and credit cards, too) for the silent auction. Last year's items included antique turquoise dog collars, doggie snacks, clothing, the

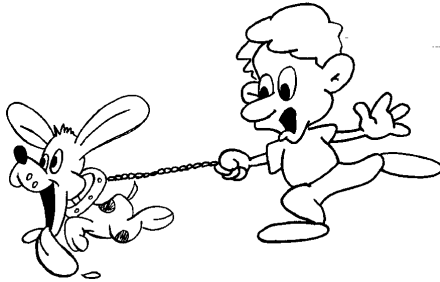
services of renowned pet photographer Lori Cheung, dog walking services and dog spa services. The efforts of Amy George, the gallery's special events coordinator, have resulted in triple the number of items for this year's auction.

Send an email to Cooper or George (info@autobodyfineart.com) or call 510-865-2608) to donate an item for the silent auction or to purchase tickets in

advance. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under age 10 and retired persons. All proceeds go to the Alameda Animal Shelter and NorCal GSP Rescue.

For more information on sponsors and raffle prizes, check out the website (www.autobodyfineart.com). Check in regularly for updates.

Training Tip by Wendy Hilton: Loose Leash Walking II



Loose leash walking. Sound like an oxymoron? It doesn't have to be. Your walks can be free of the frustrating pulling and yanking. The key? Consistently rewarding your dog for being in the correct position.

At first, you'll have more success if you choose one side on which your dog will always walk. Don't let your dog meander, weaving back and forth from left to right. And, if your dog is a strong puller, consider using a no-pull device, such as the Easy Walk or Sensation harnesses. These front clip harnesses work by gently redirecting the dog back toward you if he pulls.

For best results, begin by practicing these exercises inside the house or backyard, or wherever distractions are limited.

• **Red Light/Green Light** — A very basic loose leash walking exercise. Start walk-

ing, if your dog pulls, the light turns red, stop walking and remain still. When the dog puts slack in the leash or he looks back at you the light turns green and you can begin walking again. The reward for this exercise is to continue the walk. The goal of this exercise is to teach your dog that pulling does not get him any forward movement. Only a loose leash will keep the walk going.

• **Walk With Me** — There are many more exciting things out on a walk than the person at the other end of the leash. You have to give your dog a reason to walk with you and keep the leash slack. Before you take the first step, make sure you have your dog's attention. Say his name and when he looks at you, mark the correct behavior with a word like "yes" and give a treat, then as an additional reward continue moving forward. In order to keep your dog with you on a loose leash, you will need to deliver treats quickly and frequently and use super yummy rewards. In order to do this, put several treats in your hand and say "yes" and treat after every step or two of loose leash walking. This will not only reward your dog for walking with you on a loose leash, but also give him a reason to keep doing so. Once you have your dog's attention and he is walking nicely, you can increase the number of

steps and say "yes" and treat after every three to four steps of loose leash walking.

These two exercises can be combined on your walks. Using treats will help your dog learn that walking near you is the best place to be. If he does put tension on the leash, immediately stop walking. Continue

Reward every step or two at first. Then, reward every three or four steps as your dog catches on. Be consistent!

only if he puts slack in the leash or looks at you. He gets rewarded for the right thing and the walk stops if he does the wrong thing. You may want to throw in the towel at first. But, with a little work – and a lot of consistency – loose leash walking is very possible.

Wendy Hilton, the founder of NorCal GSP Rescue, is the owner and head instructor of Just Rewards, LLC, a dog training and behavior counseling business in the Bay Area. She attended the renowned San Francisco SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers where she received her Certificate in Training and Counseling with honors.

All Paws Point To...Intake Volunteer Robin Farley



NorCal GSP Rescue would like to recognize Robin Farley, our intake coordinator. She functions at the forefront of our mission. She checks in daily with shelters, tracks each GSP in Northern California shelters, prioritizes which dogs are in greatest need and puts together a plan to get the most urgent dog out of the shelter.

"Robin is the data queen, organizing the tracking information and always happy to produce a report on request," says board member Barbara Gale. "This is a very emotional and draining position, and Robin brings the right balance of compassion and practicality to the job."

The *Rescue Rag* spoke to Robin about what keeps her going despite all the challenges of rescuing GSPs.

How did you first become involved with NorCal GSP Rescue?

"[Volunteering] feels good and it is flexible. You can do as little or as much as you want."

I wanted to foster a dog to keep my dog company when I was pregnant and was unable to give her sufficient exercise and attention. I knew it was only a short-term issue so fostering seemed the perfect solution. After a difficult three months, he turned into a great dog. My philosophy was that the dog should go to a new home that is better than ours. So, DJ went to a really great guy and I see him around town all the time. We did not foster often because of my kids, cats and husband. When Barbara asked if I would consider serving as the intake

coordinator, I thought I could do something for the group without fostering.

What's the most difficult part of your job?

Seeing all the dogs in shelters who we can't help. We need more foster homes.

What keeps you motivated?

The dogs. Plus, I have the ability and time right now. However, things will change when I go back to work when both my kids are in school and become engaged with sports and other activities. Until then, I hope to do as much as my family life will allow.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

Finding out that a dog in the shelter is indeed a

(Continued on page 4)

Donors Keep Our Engine Running

Thank you to all of our generous donors in 2008! We appreciate each and every donor. If we inadvertently left your name off this list, please let us know and we'll be certain to make a correction in our next newsletter.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Anonymous (multiple) | Tiana Heckert | Margaret Segale |
| Stacey Allmandinger | Wendy Hilton | Russell Sell |
| Cheryl Anderson | Catherine Hodges | Jonathan Simon |
| Susan Andre | Randy Howard | Paul Solorzano |
| Kelly Andreine | J Harkins Co | Karen Sommer |
| Brian & Sandra Arvin | Gene Jacobson | Penny Sprague |
| Lynn Bacon | Wendy Jacobson | Kumar & Sharada Sripadam |
| Brad Beals | Robert Kirkland | Luke Steen |
| Maurice Beard | Tami Koran | Michael & Ranell Stephens |
| Jackie Berryessa | Caroyl LaBarge | Miriam Stickler |
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| Philip Cavanaugh | Lisa McGowan | Steve Ulrich |
| Cynthia Collier | Jen Mo | Raymon & Jeanene Upton |
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*Matching gifts

Save The Date: Annual Get- Together, Sep 27



Get ready for our 3rd Annual Get-Together on the afternoon of Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Like last year, we'll be celebrating the year's success at Marlin Park in Redwood Shores, which has easy freeway access.





Come meet and commune with your fellow GSP enthusiasts -- adopters, foster parents, volunteers and donors.



Got GSP? Get the T-shirt and support NorCal GSP Rescue. See page 2 for details

Calendar Of Events

Check the website for more details.

-  Sat, Jun 6 7 am to 1 pm Garage Sale (Folsom)
-  Fri, Jul 24 6 pm to 9 pm Dog Days Deux (Alameda)
-  Sun, Jul 19 10 am to 3 pm East Bay SPCA Adoptathon (Oakland)
-  Sun, Sept 27 1:00 pm Annual Get-Together (Redwood Shores)

Please see page 2 for other garage sales scheduled for this summer.

Volunteer Robin Farley Relishes Time to Contribute

(Continued from page 3)

GSP, and they say, "how could anyone dump dog like this?" Then, I realize that we can offer that dog a chance at a good life.

Can you recount any success stories?

Thankfully, there have only been a couple of non-success stories from an intake point of view. I see it as a success every time we bring a dog into our program. Most recently, I lost track of a dog at least six times in the process of getting it from the shelter to a foster home. In the end, Polly finally made it to her foster

home and found her forever home soon after.

What would you like everyone to know about volunteering?

It feels good and it is flexible. You can do as little or as much as you want.