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NorCal German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue Inc.

Board of Directors
Pat Cook
Barbara Gale
Wendy Hilton
Cathy Olson
Michele Pogue

Newsletter Editor
Laura Lane

*"It's hard to
believe that
10 years have
gone by."*

—Wendy
Hilton

Rescue Celebrates 10th Anniversary



A sweet way to celebrate.

Geese weren't exactly invited to the NorCal GSP Rescue's 2nd Annual Get-Together on September 21st. Nevertheless, our GSPs were only too ready to welcome – as any hunting dog could – the lone goose that landed amidst the gathering of nearly 125 donors, volunteers and adopters.

"It was a spectacle to see those dogs in perfect alignment all pointing," says Pat Cook, a board member, who witnessed the occasion.

The "spectacular" incident, as Pat described it, topped off the event that gave GSP enthusiasts and nearly 60 GSPs the opportunity to meet and collectively appreciate the breed.

This year, the Get-Together celebrated the group's 10th Anniversary and recognized founders Wendy Hilton and Brad Beals. They received fitting tribute complete with a "Best In Show" certificate and a dog toy, and a poster of Hunter, the GSP who first inspired the group's founding. (Hunter passed away on August 4, 2008 after a long battle with a neurological disorder.)

"We also continued to build a community of people who truly and deeply care about this fantastic breed," says Katherine Butler, chair of this year's Get-Together. "It just gives

you that warm feeling inside."

Attendees enjoyed a plethora of activities, which included adding
(Continued on page 2)



Wendy Hilton (right), holds up a certificate that honors both her and Brad Beals (left) for founding the rescue. Their GSPs Mackey, Dozer, and Desi help them celebrate.

All Paws Point To...Co-founder Wendy Hilton

Hard luck cases sure have a way of spurring grand ambitions for change. For Wendy Hilton, her quest to rescue GSPs began when she found Hunter at a local shelter, whose suspected medical issues gave him little hope of adoption.

Ten years later, Wendy's inspiration and determination has resulted in the rescue and adoption of more than 500 GSPs, and a roster of nearly 400 volunteers and donors.

Wendy's mission was clear: "We started the rescue group in order to provide opportunities for dogs like Hunter with the intent of not limiting our rescue efforts to the 'easy' dogs and opening it to all ages, medical needs, behavior needs."

For several years, Wendy and co-founder Brad Beals toiled on their own to perform many of the tasks themselves — intake, adoptions, transportation, administrative tasks, training and behavior modification, and fostering — mostly relying on their own bank accounts for funding.



"There were so many things we wanted to accomplish but couldn't with our limited resources," Wendy says.

The success of finding suitable adopters fueled her efforts, which required the commitment of a full-time job. "The most joy I had was finding a GSP a great family to care for him for the rest of his life," she says.

One of those families was Vicki and Bruce Rosenthal, who adopted a GSP six years ago. They can attest to

how the rescue thrived under Wendy's leadership.

"Wendy has a certain charm and warmth about her that makes you just want to spend time in her company," says Vicki. "What impresses me about the GSP group is that it continues to grow, somehow collecting enough money for the medical needs of the dogs, and there is no underlying club supporting the rescue efforts."

Almost three years ago, Wendy took a step back from managing the rescue in order to focus on her dog training business, Just Rewards LLC, which offers group classes and private training in the Bay Area. She continues to serve on the board of directors, as an advisor and behavioral consultant for the rescue's foster and adopted GSPs.

"I am a very hands-on person and it was difficult for me to take a step back," she says. "I am thrilled with how the group has evolved and with those leading the organization today."

Get-Together Brings Smiles and Success

“Most fun, though, was just getting to see all those GSPs in one place and watching people introducing themselves and swapping dog stories.”

—Katherine Butler

(Continued from page 1)

photos of GSPs to a scrapbook, pinning their home location on a state map and helping their GSPs to participate in the many dog-oriented games. Hot dog bobbing was a favorite activity. GSP Frida Kahlo was the first GSP to bob for hotdogs. And she wasn't the only one who wanted to go back for more. Paw print painting gave ready distraction.

Bacon-flavored bubbles also created a popular past-time. Dogs delighted in catching the bubbles. For people, watching “some of the dogs going bonkers over the bubbles,” was probably equally entertaining, Katherine says. “Most fun, though, was just getting to see all those GSPs in one place and watching people introducing themselves and swapping dog stories.”

The group was also able to raise money by holding a raffle with fantastic

Purchase Group Photo



Seems like an impossible concept to get so many dogs – and their people – together for a still photo. You can now purchase evidence of such an achievement by going to the following link: http://smjphoto.smugmug.com/gallery/6021909_ReHET#383624611_cu2Wh

gifts and selling hard-to-find GSP merchandise and T-shirts commemorating the 10th anniversary.

Special thanks to Pet Food Express, Nolo Press, Pomegranate Communications for very generously donating items for the raffle. The following members also provided wonderful gifts

to ensure the raffle's success: Carolyn McBride, Pat Cook, Cathy and Peter Olson, Jen Mo and Katherine Butler.

Lost and Found: Suede jacket and anniversary t-shirt left at Get-Together. Yours? Email pat-cook1001@yahoo.com

Best Trick Contest Winner: Gemma



Gemma poses victorious with owner Rob Vogt after performing pirouettes. Danielle Vogt, Rob's wife, explains that “Gemma naturally jumps up for treats so we just went with it and circled the treat above her head so she dances like a ballerina.”



GSP Frida Kahlo chasing bubbles at left and a puppy relishing its first try at hot dog bobbing at right. To view more photos of the event, proceed to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/norcalgsprescue/sets/72157607597874383/show/>. For video, click on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKi2itZYjC>.

Ollie Ready For Family, Fun And Frolicking



Adopt Ollie and you'll get a handsome companion who is ready to run, climb or explore. Like the typical GSP, this sweet 8-year old has lots of energy and loves to run.

Ollie has truly benefited from his time in foster care. He has learned to play with other dogs and become house- and crate-

trained. His once faded and scruffy coat has grown into a rich solid liver color.

And, his personality is coming out. He's much more sociable and will even approach you to ask for attention. He likes affection and will cuddle with you on the floor if you want.

Ollie used to have seizures, but they are now controlled with medication that costs only \$5 per month! Would do best with an active family and no cats.

Don't let his looks fool you. Ollie is a vivacious GSP who is ready for action and adventure.

Thanks For Keeping Us Healthy!

The following veterinarians and animal hospitals have provided veterinary care at a discount for our rescued GSPs. We simply couldn't do it without you.

- Adobe Animal Hospital, Los Altos
- All Tails Wagging Veterinary Clinic, Santa Rosa
- Benicia Animal Hospital, Benicia
- Blue Cross Pet Hospital, Carmichael
- Bradshaw Vet Clinic, Elk Grove
- Greenhaven Veterinary Hospital, Sacramento
- Lafayette Animal Hospital, Lafayette
- Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic, Loomis
- Veterinary Surgical Associates, Campbell, Concord, San Mateo

Fosters Find Homes at Adoptathon

Our volunteers and foster dogs helped to spread the word about the NorCal German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue at the 3rd Annual Bay Area Pet Fair & Adoptathon on September 6 - 7.

Braving the Indian summer heat, the group joined more than 40 agencies and rescues at Marin Civic Center Fairgrounds in San Rafael, making the event the largest of its type in the state.

"We generated lots of interest about GSPs," says Danielle Vogt, who along with husband Rob, served as chairpersons for the event.

Case in point: Two of our foster dogs found forever homes through exposure at the fair. The group also received three



Event organizers Rob and Danielle Vogt man the booth, which featured a unique flower display to showcase each of our adoptable foster dogs.

adoption applications during the event.

"Our booth bustled with activity on both days," Danielle says. "It was a huge success."

Adopters Thrilled With Puppy Energy and Love



Kelly Ball with GSP puppy Betty (left) and his 4-year old dog, Ida (right), who "keeps Betty in line," Kelly says.

One year ago, a baby – er, puppy – boom descended upon the NorCal GSP Rescue. During the course of six months, the group nurtured 21 puppies from three separate litters and found forever homes for each one.

The group's volunteers mobilized to undertake this very overwhelming task of caring for new-

born puppies and their mothers. Many thanks to Brad Beals, Barbara Gale, Cathy and Peter Olson, Wendy Hilton, Jen Mo, Wendy Jacobson, Erin Dwyer, Jon Houde, Tracy Dawson and everyone else who helped and scrambled to meet the very many needs – transporting, feeding, cleaning, and fostering – of this ambitious puppy project.

Today, the puppies have grown and are giving back with their invigorating energy and limitless amounts of love and joy.

"Dhani exudes total joy of life with her whole

heart and soul and one can't help but laugh and smile when you encounter her," says Kristina Buchanan, who adopted one of the puppies. She is one of the brightest spots in my life – she gives me hope and loves me unconditionally as I do her."

Kristina can also attest to what many GSP owners know all too well: "Be prepared for boundless amounts of energy and lots and lots of walks. These dogs really need daily exercise, and not just a quick walk around the block."

For Kristina, that has meant games for mental stimulation, tossing balls, tug of war, daily visits to the local dog park, weekly runs at the beach and daily walks on the coastal trail near her home in Half Moon Bay.

GSP Betty, another member of the puppy boom generation, is also enjoying the beach with dad, Kelly Ball. He takes Betty to the beach every two weeks, while making daily visits to a local park to socialize with other dogs.

What does Kelly think of GSPs? "Very very very high energy," he says. "Be ready to either take up running, biking, swimming, camping or all of the above. They need lots of attention and exercise."

Kelly describes Betty as "extremely obedient, trustworthy. I don't have to worry about her in any situation." She also protects the house from strangers: "As soon as we give her permission to let someone on the property she is immediately their new best friend."



Some members of the puppies attended the Get-Together and posed for a commemorative photo. From left to right: Kristina Buchanan with Dhani and Cathy Olson, Kate Olson, Peter Olson with Hot Spot, Brad Beals with Dozer, Wendy Hilton with Desi, Mary LaFrentz with Wilma, Linda Graham with Dalli

Toy Warning



Beware the Pimple Ball toy by Four Paws Inc. The company has recalled this toy after it caused severe injuries to dogs.

Volunteer Establishes Memorial Fund

Kim and Fred Gillilan loved GSPs. Not only did they foster for us, but they adopted from us. When Fred passed away recently, Kim contacted us to set up a memorial fund in Fred's honor, so that those wishing to contribute in his memory could contribute to a cause near and dear to them both – the NorCal GSP Rescue.

([giving.shtml](#)) in the funeral announcement and the newspaper obituary. So far, the fund has raised more than \$600, which will be used to provide veterinary care for GSPs in our foster program. Thank you, Kim. We all miss Fred!

By setting up the fund, she was able to post a link (<http://www.norcalgsprescue.com/>

If you'd like to establish a customized tribute or memorial fund to commemorate a loved one, please email donate@norcalgsprescue.com

Calendar Of Events

Check the website for more details.

🐾 Fri, Jan 1	All day	America's Pet Faire (Pleasanton)
🐾 Sat, Mar 7 - Sun, Mar 8	7:00 am	Rummage Sale (Placerville)

Save While You Give

NorCal GSP Rescue is now offering the **2009 Entertainment Book**, which contains discounts for just about every entertainment need: restaurants, movies, hotels, travel and more. You'll even find coupons for dry cleaning and other useful services and products.

The book pays for itself after just a few uses. Most importantly, you'll be supporting us because we receive 50 percent of the proceeds.

Choose from several editions, including San Jose/Santa Clara, San Mateo/San Francisco, East Bay, Sonoma/Marin, and Sacramento. All editions cost \$25, except the Sacramento edition that costs \$40.



Get One, Gift One

Go to www.NorCalGSPRescuestore.com or send an email to buy@norcalgsprescue.com to purchase. Shipping is free.

Halloween Safety Tips



Halloween can be both exciting and scary for your dog. With oddly dressed children and adults, weird decorations, constant doorbell rings and noisy groups of people milling about in the dark, even the most social canine can get overwhelmed. Keep your GSP safe this Halloween with the following tips:

- Keep your GSP in a quiet part of the house if he/she finds the noise and costumes frightening. Use the radio or television or a Kong stuffed with yummy treats as a soothing distraction.
- Prevent accidental door dashing – amidst the uninterrupted flow of trick-or-treaters – by keeping your GSP behind a baby gate, in a crate or on leash.
- Keep chocolate and other candy, much of which contains ingredients that are toxic to dogs, out of reach.
- Give your GSP the time and space to investigate your costumes, and reward the bravery with treats. If your dog remains wary and just can't recognize you and your children, take off your mask or wig. Your GSP will be happy to see you!

10th Anniversary T-shirts Available



Get one for yourself, your kids, friends and relatives. Choose from white (small to 2XL), grey, navy (medium to 2XL). Purchase one for \$20 or two for \$35. Or, stay warm with a long-sleeved white T-shirt (small to 2XL) for just \$25.

Simply send an email to buy@norcalgsprescue.com

Specify color, size and method of payment (cash, check, VISA/Mastercard, or Paypal) and we'll reply with payment instructions.