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Nutmeg Brings Spark And Smiles To Home



Nutmeg now seems very unlike the undernourished and sickly dog that we first met at the shelter. Abandoned, Meg, as she is affectionately called, had apparently been used to give birth to several litters of puppies and then deserted. Today, she is gaining weight in her foster home with good food and TLC.

Despite her rough past, Meg is a

happy and affectionate girl who loves everyone she meets. Meg is approximately six to seven years old and has lots and lots of energy and loves to share. In fact, her foster home wonders if she might be younger.

She likes all dogs, especially those that like to play back, but she's not pushy with those who don't want to play. She has a very strong prey drive and would probably not be good with smaller pets, such as birds or rodents.

Thanks to Nutmeg's many sponsors. She has fully recovered and is ready for a family!

Meg is housebroken and has good house manners. She is still learning leash manners but does know how to sit and is a very fast learner! Meg
(Continued on page 2)



Get-Together Draws A Crowd, Funds, Fun



More than 100 adopters, donors and volunteers attended NorCal GSP Rescue's third annual Get-Together. The September event was filled with playing games, eating and drinking and meeting new GSPs and their owners.

Most importantly in these tough economic times, the group raised sorely needed funds by offering fantastic prizes for the raffle and selling unique GSP-themed merchandise. Special thanks go to the

raffle prize donors: Pet Food Express, Jen & Raymond Mo and Barbara Gale.

As with every year, bobbing for hot dogs drew the most attention from canine attendees, who eagerly fished out hot dogs from a pool of water. Other activities included musical hoops, water relay, Wendy Says and pin-the-nub on the GSP.

Wendy Hilton performed a special demonstration of fitting the Easy

Walk no-pull harness – a great tool for teaching dogs to walk nicely on leash during walks.

NorCal GSP Rescue also extends its gratitude to Jen Mo, who served as this year's chairperson. She coordinated and organized the event and oversaw every detail.

The next Get-Together is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 26. If you'd like to help, contact Jen (jen.mo@me.com).

Nutmeg Recovering And Ready for Adoption

(Continued from page 1)

has the sweetest face, the kindest eyes and mushy lips which she likes to smack together in a silly manner. She would be a wonderful addition to any home. Perhaps your home?

In January, Nutmeg underwent emergency surgery because of a twisted stomach leading to bloat. She was fortunate to have an observant foster mom who noticed that she was in pain and acting abnormally. The foster mom's quick action and subsequent surgery saved Nutmeg's life. She's now on the mend and more ready than ever for a forever home.



Miles Flourishing, Frolicking In Forever Home



Phil and Priscilla Pursel adopted Miles (formerly Andretti) in October 2007. Here, Priscilla writes about life with Miles, which she describes as a "fun, lovable, charming dude."

"Miles settled in after a couple of months. He is the happiest, goofiest dog. Miles loves his daily fetch sessions, wrestling with his lab friend, playing tug-of-war or keep away. He also loves hunting for squirrels and traveling to Tahoe for hiking and snow-

shoeing. Playing in the snow is the one activity that truly tires him out.

He likes to hang out wherever we are. Since coming here, he's become more relaxed, happy and confident. Some of the ways he shows us love and gratitude is by leaning against us, tilts his head up against us and makes little grunting noises.

He also loves to snuggle with us on the couch or in bed. He plays all the

time with his dog sister, a beagle/ Queensland heeler mix. Miles loves attention. He loves to sleep with his head resting on one of us and being petted. He'll fetch something that he knows he shouldn't have, such as socks. Then, he comes trotting out to show us. He gives it up willingly. All he wants is attention.

You can't pet him too much! He is the best dog. I can't imagine our lives without him."

Training Tip by Wendy Hilton: Short & Sweet

Part 1 of a 3 part series on fun training tips.

We all know that GSPs are a very smart and active breed. We need to help them direct their energy and intelligence. Or else, they'll find less than desirable ways to exert such vim and vigor.

Daily training sessions are a perfect

outlet. Not only will you have fun teaching new behaviors and keeping his/her mind challenged, you also be creating a stronger bond with your GSP. As a bonus, your dog will become a well-mannered family member!

Keep training sessions short. Five to 10 minutes, 2 or 3 times per day should suffice.

Give your dog your full attention while training.

Train with your GSP daily and make it a part of your life. Ask for various behaviors while watching TV or during a walk. For example, ask your GSP to sit before letting your dog outside or before every throw of the ball. Every interaction is a training moment - take advantage of it!

GSP Credit Cards Up The Ante For NorCal GSP Rescue



Choose from one of three card designs or upload a photo of your own GSP.

Our new VISA card program is off to a great start, having raised \$345 since its inception in the fall.

Now, the deal is even sweeter. Capital One will give NorCal GSP Rescue \$50 after each new cardholder makes their first purchase. Instead of giving 1 percent of all card purchases, Capital One will give us:

- 2 percent of gas station and grocery purchases

- 1 percent of other purchases
- Up to 10 percent of purchases made at select merchants*

All existing cardholders will be upgraded automatically to these new benefits.

The card comes with a competitive rate and no annual fee, so sharing your passion—and your support—is easy and automatic. Apply today!

*Offers vary. To view a list of select merchants and current offers, log into your account at capitalone.com and click on "Rewards Summary." Then, click on the "Earn More Rewards" tab.

Apply today!

www.CardLabConnect.com/supportnorcalgsprescue

Pointerific Volunteers: Rojas & Rojas Support Garage Sales



You can spot dedication when you see someone pour hours into garage sales without asking for a share of the profits. That's Paul and Chrissy Rojas, our garage sale coordinators, who managed five garage sales last year and raised \$930. What keeps them spending hours sorting through donations, delivering them all over the Bay Area and appealing for volunteers?

"We both love our GSPs, and the breed has had a special place in our hearts for many, many years," Chrissy Rojas says. "German Shorthairs don't ask much from us but will

give everything for you."

With veterinarian bills always looming, the two would like to up the ante this year with more garage sales – and are looking for homes to host these important fundraisers.

"We want to do even more this year," Chrissy says. "Please help us achieve that goal by volunteering to host a garage sale or donating items for sale."

In addition to the traditional garages sales, Paul and Chrissy would like to pioneer individual do-it-yourself sales. It's quick and easy. You commit one month during which you sell one or more items (on Craigslist, Ebay, or the venue of your choosing) – and then donate the proceeds. You can sell your own items or items that

you've collected from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

Another way to boost the garage sale effort is to encourage high school students to organize a garage sale for NorCal GSP Rescue to fulfill their volunteer requirement. Or, Chrissy says, you can post flyers at your local veterinary clinic, pet store and dog park.

It's easy to do and costs nothing," she says. "You never know when you might recruit a new volunteer or attract a donor."

Paul and Chrissy stay focused on the goal: raising valuable funds for the dogs and "repaying the joy [the dogs] supply by volunteering."

"German Shorthairs don't ask much from us but will give everything for you."



Food Fund For Foster Fidos

Our foster families normally donate the cost of feeding their foster dog(s). But in these trying economic times we have foster families who are out of work and money is tight, or are just having trouble making ends meet. They are happy to continue to provide a loving foster



home for one or more foster dogs but are struggling with the cost of dog food.



Can you help? Our Foster Food Fund is accepting donations of cash, pet store gift cards, and Costco gift cards. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Donate via our web site, or contact donate@norcalgsprescue.com. The doggies thank you.

Donate Food Funds Now

<http://www.norcalgsprescue.com/adopt.shtml#foodfund>

Calendar of Events

Check the website for details.

-  Sat, Jul 24 1 pm - 9 pm 3rd Annual Dog Days (Alameda)
-  Sun, Sept 26 1 pm - 4 pm Annual Get-Together (Redwood Shores)

Donors Keep Our Engine Running

Thank you to all of our generous donors in 2009! Despite a difficult economic year, our supporters continue to come through for us! If we inadvertently left your name off this list, please let us know and we'll be sure to make a correction in our next newsletter. In addition to the donors listed below, the following companies also contributed through matching donations: Altria Group (PhilipMorrisUSA), Blue Shield Cares, Dodge & Cox.

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Small Donations

BIG Difference

You've all heard about tough economic times. Are we feeling them? Yes, as a small non-profit, we sure are: Our income, primarily donations, was down 38 percent in 2009 from 2008. The veterinary bills certainly haven't decreased. They continue to roll in. And, we continue to provide care for the dogs in our foster program as well as accept new dogs from shelters.

Even so, we're heartened by our donors' generosity. While holiday and year-end giving, when we receive the majority of donations, decreased by 17 percent in 2009, the number of donors actually increased by 19 percent.

This proves that we have wonderful donors that stick with us in difficult times. These donors understand that we can't save the dogs without their financial support. These donors still open their wallets!

We appreciate every donation, regardless of size, and yes, your donation does make a difference!

**We thank you.
We truly couldn't do it without you.**