

**Shepherds Hope Rescue**  
**Brookville Lane**  
**Glen Head, New York**  
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**ShepherdsHope.petfinder.com**



## 2010 HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all,

To say that rescue has been very difficult this year is an understatement. Not in all the years we have been doing rescue has it been so challenging. With the economy being what it is, there have been record numbers of dogs abandoned in shelters. Donations are at an all time low. The calls that we have received from people losing their homes and being forced to give up their beloved pets, has been heart wrenching. We have done our very best to keep in touch with the families, and let them know that their pet is now safe, in a loving home. Although we have done the best we can, we know that this is a small comfort to the families.

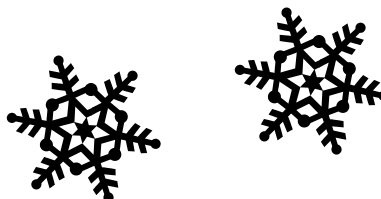
This year Shepherds Hope has helped place over 57 dogs into loving homes. In addition, worked with fellow German Shepherd rescue organizations to network wonderful adopters best matching dogs needing homes. We often take criticism by prospective adopters, who chide us saying, "they could adopt a child faster than they can get a dog from Shepherds Hope". As I have never tried to adopt a child, I cannot comment. We feel that these abandoned, abused and neglected dogs have been through enough, and we work very hard to ensure that they will never be abandoned again. We hold fast to the idea that we can't save them all, but we will save as many dogs as we can, one at a time, until there are no more left to save. Our ultimate goal, as with any rescue, is that we will become obsolete and never needed again.

We have had to temporarily stop taking new dogs into our program, as we are heavily in debt. However, we are still working with owner surrenders that are willing to keep their dogs, while we search for appropriate homes. We will continue, as we have always, to help dogs in shelters by sending qualified people wanting to adopt.

We are grateful to have met so many wonderful people through our adoptions. We love staying in touch with them and getting pictures and updates. When you adopt a dog from Shepherds Hope you not only save a life, but you become a part of our extended family.

Jeannie and I would like to wish our Shepherds Hope family the very Merriest, happiest Holiday Season, and a wonderful new year, filled with peace, love and joy.

All our love,  
Donna J., Jeannie and the Shepherds Hope Pack



## AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER

Being involved in rescue encompasses a vast array of emotions. We see great sadness and pain, but we also are privileged to experience hope, joy and great satisfaction. Every dog comes to us with a sad story. Regardless of how they came to us, the terror and heartbreak of being brought to a shelter is something we can't even fathom. We would like to share with you just a few of the special stories that are very dear to our hearts.



*Harley* and two brothers came to Shepherds Hope when their dad was deployed. He contacted us saying his wife had difficulty handling the dogs. We agreed to take them into our program. Diesel and Corona were adopted fairly quickly to awesome homes. Harley however was a hard case. He was under-socialized and we also discovered he had a painful eye condition called Entropion, where the eyelid is inverted and the eyelashes touch and irritate the eye. Shepherds Hope, through the help of our wonderful donors, raised the funds necessary for his surgery. How sad he lived three years with this condition and it was not diagnosed by his former vet. After a long recuperation and quite a bit of work reintroducing him to the world, Harley was adopted by a fantastic family in Connecticut who adore him. He is very much a part of their family.



*Axel* (formerly JJ) was brought to the shelter in 2009 by his family who stated he would try to prevent people from leaving the house. He was adopted briefly but returned for disrespecting other family members except for the male handler. After a few months at the kennel, a second adopter surfaced, but having just lost his dog, he felt it too soon and returned him. Axel spent 9 long months in boarding. He became very thin and wore his pads and nails down from constant pacing. We knew he was a great dog who just needed a certain type of owner. Lo and behold came an amazing couple who have extensively had German Shepherds for many years and work with the organization that trains therapy dogs. They adopted Axel in August. It has been hard work breaking him of his many bad habits, but their love, dedication and devotion to this dog have warmed our hearts and are turning him into the dog we KNOW he was meant to be.





*Thor* and his parents were brought to the shelter because there was a bite incident involving the parents, who sadly ended up being euthanized. Thor was just under a year old and he was evaluated and found to be a very sweet and loving dog although the shelter deemed him 'aggressive'. He entered our version of the 'witness protection program' to insure he would not meet the same fate. After a few months Thor was adopted by a wonderful couple who swear the sun rises and sets on him.

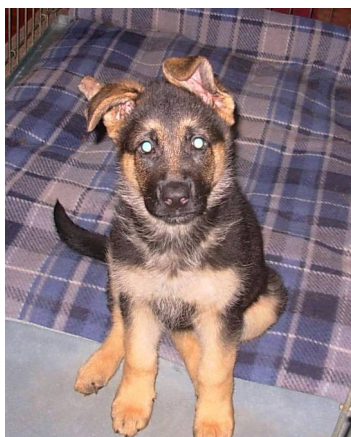


*Thor has completed Canine Good Citizen and therapy dog training and takes great joy in visiting the local nursing home. The residents get some much pleasure out of his visits. His owners are very proud of him and so are we.*



**Holly** came to us from a breeder who determined that she had a heart murmur at 7 weeks old and told the vet to put her down. Luckily there was a vet tech who was a rescue person who begged the vet to let her find a rescue that would take her and help her. So Shepherds Hope got the call and we said we would take her. Holly was a bundle of energy with razor sharp teeth. At times my hands would bleed because she was teething and wanted to play and human skin is not very teeth proof. In stepped Cruz, foster dad. He would sit there for hours and let Holly jump and chew on him, at times he was covered in slime. But he was so patient with Holly. He taught her bite control and respect for the pack. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

At 11 weeks we took her to our vet and after an EKG, the vet said that the murmur was gone and the valves had closed. She was ready for adoption. It took us quite a while but we found Holly the perfect home. So Cali, as she is now called, is the bell of the ball and has play dates and doggie day care every day.



*Her favorite pastime is swimming and stick retrieval*

**Danny** was 7-years old and abandoned at a kill shelter with a bloody and infected leg. Thanks to some wonderful supporters, we were able to provide medical care for Danny, which involved major wound care and antibiotics. He was adopted by an amazing family in Pennsylvania who wanted a buddy for their female Shepherd. The wound took quite some time to heal, as did Danny's spirit. We don't know what he endured before coming to us, but he was timid and afraid. It has taken months for him to warm up to the males in the home. Fortunately his family is loving and patient.



They have made great strides in Danny coming out of his shell. He is now learning how to have some fun and just be a dog!

*Marco & Shadow  
(at the Rainbow Bridge)*

Shadow lived outside for 11 years. His owner dumped him at a shelter covered in ticks and filthy because he was moving. He was adopted by a wonderful gentleman in Connecticut who sadly did not have many years to spend with him. Here's what he had to say about his boy:

*Shadow, the first senior dog I ever adopted, and the second dog I adopted through Shepherds Hope Rescue. He was a gentle giant, a big teddy bear with a heart to match. His size was deceiving, as he was as friendly as he was as friendly as he was large. I still miss that big fuzzy bear of a dog.*



*A photo of Marco, perhaps the friendliest dog you would ever meet. He loved people, other dogs, and cats equally as well. He was also the first dog I adopted through Shepherds Hope Rescue. My five years with him were way too short.*



We know they are running free at the Rainbow Bridge and we are thrilled that they got to spend some years in a home where they were treasured.

*These are just a few of our success stories. There are many, many more. We are blessed to have such wonderful adopters who have opened their hearts and homes to these magnificent dogs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one from the bottom of our hearts for making our rescue dogs part of their families.*

## *From the Foster Pack*

I don't think anyone is born a rescue person. I think that they witness a horrific event against an animal and decide to do something about it. I believe that is how a true rescue person is born.

I didn't start out to do rescue. Seventeen years ago I moved to a home with 2 acres and wanted to have some company, so I adopted my first German Shepherd. Shep was the most amazing dog I have ever had, my constant companion. I believe in the Noah's Ark theory that you should always have two, but I wasn't actively looking. Then one day I got a call from a rescue who told me they had a sweet male Shepherd that had been found wandering the streets of Queens. His collar was embedded in his neck and attached to a chain dragging a post. Would I help? I told her that I wasn't sure that my dog would be good with a male, I was looking for a female. She begged me to go and take a look. We drove the hour with Shep, who was not very happy about the ride. When we arrived, we were told to bring Shep to the back yard. There we saw this emaciated, gangly looking male shepherd with no hair around his neck. His tail was wagging a hundred miles an hour, Shep was smitten. The rescue person told me to let the leash drop, Shep and the dog, soon to be called Hauser, ran and played. It was a great match.

That is the story of how I got hooked into fostering. I saw how this foster mom knew Hauser so well, that she was certain Shep and he would be a good match. I found the whole fostering process amazing.

I got another desperate call from the same rescue person. A feral female shepherd at the shelter was going to be put down because she was showing signs of aggression, could I help? Once again I drove to the shelter and looked at the saddest looking shepherd I had ever seen. To say that she was skinny was an understatement, she was filthy, and covered with ticks as she cowered in the back of the kennel. How could I say no? If I didn't try to help her she would die. After much coaxing and hot dog treats, I got Dutch into the car. Not being told until after I took her, left me unprepared for what happened when I got her home. As it turns out, she had been running with a pack of 'wild' dogs on the golf course and cemetery out east. It had taken months to finally catch her. It was clear she was young and had never been in a house, nor had any training. Trying to walk her on a leash was the equivalent of an hour workout. To make matters worse, she had been hit by golfers on the course for barking at them. Where did I live? Across the street from a golf course. Every time Dutch would see a golfer or golf cart she would shriek, bark and lunge. Needless to say, the golfers were not amused.

Being feral, Dutch was always on alert. Nothing escaped her eyes or ears. It took months to be able to handle her with affection, and many more months to get her to semi-relax around people. With other animals she was wonderful. I had been called and asked to take care of a litter of kittens whose mother had been hit by a car. Of course I could not say no. I brought the kittens home, placed them in a small room with their food and box, going in and out of the room many times a day. One day I heard a scratch at the door, I opened it and there was Dutch whimpering. At first, I thought she was sick, but she extended her nose gently towards the kittens, seeming very interested in them. I gently put one to her nose, and she licked the small kitten. I allowed her into the room, and she began to sniff and lick each kitten. That was the day I knew Dutch was a very special dog. The kittens got an amazing home with dogs, because Dutch allowed them to follow her around, as if she were their mother.

I tried to adopt Dutch out, but the adopters who came to meet her were looking for an easy pet. Dutch was anything but easy. After several failed attempts to introduce her to adopters, I realized that she would have to say with me. Although she was great with me, it was apparent that she would not do well with most





environments. She was way too sensitive and smart and would carry her puppyhood experiences for life. So I began to train her as a working dog, to build her confidence and burn some of her constant energy. She could have been a championship agility dog or a SAR (search and rescue). I trained her for sport, not competitively. Dutch had a very keen sense of people, if she was not comfortable with them, I knew that I had to be careful. Because of this keen sense, Dutch became my buddy and accompanied me when I did home visits.

Dutch also opened my world to pack behavior. At the time there was no Cesar Milan, but I had Dutch. By watching her movements and postures she would tell me things about the foster dogs I brought home. I began to take her to the shelters when I would temperament test dogs. If Dutch wasn't comfortable with the dog I knew I had to be particularly aware of that dog.

People ask me all the time how I can foster dogs when I have so many of my own. And I say it's exactly because I have my pack that I can foster. My pack takes each dog into their fold and teaches them what a loving, social and well mannered dog should be. After all, dogs really are pack animals and have a very complex social relationship. My dogs actually teach dogs how to be dogs. Well behaved social ones that is.

Being a foster parent also has its down side. I always used to say, 'Never take a foster that you are not prepared to keep.' Meaning, if the dog is not able to live in a home with people and enjoy life, then you will need to keep them. As for my pack, I have three dogs that were foster failures, and three that I could not adopt out. They required a very special and qualified home, which I was unable to find at the time, so they remained with me. They are now wonderful dogs despite the amount of time and work it took to get them that way. Yet, they still have moments that if not watched, they can revert back to the bad behavior. I guess my pack is like every human family, filled with love and care but dysfunctional at times.

I think fostering dogs is the most rewarding and wonderful job I have ever had. To see these sad, abused, frightened, broken dogs begin to transform into happy, confident dogs makes my heart fill with happiness. I have given them so much and they have taught me so much. Yes, I cry every time one of them leaves. Then again, I only adopt my pups to the most loving and wonderful families. And they in turn become part of the Shepherds Hope family. Then low and behold, before I wipe that last tear away there is another yearning dog in need of help.

And the circle of life continues ...

We would like to invite you to look at our videos of dogs we have saved these past years.

Although it's not all the dogs, it's a good start. This project was a true labor of love.

Being rescue people, we don't always remember the number of dogs we have saved, but we do remember their beautiful faces.

We hope you will go to our web site and see all the amazing dogs that Shepherds Hope has touched these past years.

Get a hanky though, it can be deeply emotional.

***Please join us in our journey to save German Shepherds and shepherd mixes.***

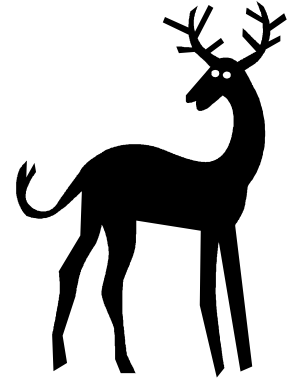
***We look forward to continuing our journey and hope that you will join us.***



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

## ***BENEFACTORS***

We also would like to thank those who have so generously donated to Shepherds Hope Rescue. Economic trends have made rescue a daunting task. Without your kindness we could not keep saving the beautiful dogs that we love so.



### ***2010 Benefactors***

***\*We apologize if we inadvertently omitted your name***

Alison Hansen  
Amanda Velozo  
Amanda Walker  
Angelo Moratti  
Ann & Tim Parrett  
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Barry & Mary Gelinis  
Bruce & Marjorie Thompson  
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Suzy Barbee  
Theresa Gerlich  
Vanessa Bateli  
Virginia Bast  
Zubin Dastur

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Glenn Raciti at Aberdeen Kennels  
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Paul Garjian - Owner of Shelley "Dahina" (*now at the Rainbow Bridge*)  
for his legal advice  
Cathy Flanagan for amazing videos  
Mark Kondracki - Webmaster  
Jane Doyle for a wonderful newsletter

#### ***Our foster parents:***

Chris Arena (Uncle Chris) - Tara & Hobbes  
Andrea Rachel Friedman - Rocky (*now at the Rainbow Bridge*)  
Karla Tribley - Delilah/Mitzi  
Ray Pacheco of T-Trainers for his training help