



Shep-O-Gram

MAY-JUNE, 2017

Shep-O-Gram Interim Editors

Sarah Falk
sarahfalk4gsd@gmail.com

Peggy Simerson
simcargsd@frontiernet.net

GSDCMSP Officers

President
Peggy Simerson
715-248-4969
simcargsd@frontiernet.net

Vice President
Sharon Todoroff
todorhaus@aol.com

Secretary
Sarah Falk
sarahfalk4gsd@gmail.com

Treasurer
Laura Meyer
blcmeyer920@msn.com

Board Members
Denise Gilbertson
wndsong500@aol.com

Training Director
Verna Kubik
vmk4gsds@dishup.us
715-549-6365

Web
Bobby Moore
robertamoore2@mac.com

Membership Chair
Cindy Muehlbauer
cjmuehlb@gmail.com

Club website:
<http://gsdcmstp.org/>
On Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/German-Shepherd-Dog-Club-of-Minneapolis-St-Paul/177231829018034?fref=ts>

Our last cover featured our Springtime Cover girls! Now it's time for a...

Summertime Cover Stud!



Summer is here, and it's in full swing. Whether our club members are going up to the cabin, or hitting the links or the lakes (like Manny here), there is no doubt we look forward to the warm summer months all year long. And so are our dogs! We have several club-sponsored events for our members to engage in and support all summer long. Are you looking for ways to get involved? It's easy. We've got monthly outdoor training workshops, an agility trial, a summer Fun Match and the State Fair! So get ready! Grab your dog and let's go!

In This Issue . . .

President's Message -----	2	Rescue Update Saving Shepherds of Minnesota --	6
Storms and Dogs: Keep Calm! -----	2	Rescue Update-FaerieLand Rescue -----	7
June 24-25 Specialty Show -----	3	Calendar/Upcoming Events -----	8
Club Update: We <3 our Juniors! -----	4		
Rhonda's Product Picks -----	5		

President's Message:

Much of the past few months has meant getting ready for our busy summer, including our annual GSDCMSP Specialty Show, that took place June 24-25. We hosted three Conformation Shows, two Obedience Trials and two Rally Obedience Trials at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. This year, some proceeds from our 50/50 Raffle and Raffle Table in the Obedience Trial Building will be going towards starting a program to support Junior Showmanship. We strive to get more young people involved with all activities in our club and we hope to use the funds collected to assist us in encouraging more kids to get involved in our club activities. If you are interested in helping with our Junior's Committee, please contact myself or another Board Member.

Summer is a favorite time to enjoy to travel and enjoy the outdoors with dogs. Here are a few warm weather tips:

- Watch out for too high of temperatures when traveling in cars. Take extra precautions for ventilation and never lock your dog up in your car unattended. Those of us who show dogs, travel with crates and park our cars in the shade with all doors open, bring shade tarps with us.
- Watch for hot pavement when taking walks. Take walks in the morning or evening when temperatures are lower.
- Going from cold air conditioning to hot outdoors can be hard with too much activity.
- Feed less in the morning if planning an active day.
- Be sure to carry your own water and have plenty of it.

Many upcoming activities with our club as well, so check out our website at www.gsdcmsp.com or our Facebook page for more activities!

For the love of the breed,
Peggy Simerson
President, GSDCMSP

Keeping Dogs Calm and Safe through Storms

Spring is a time of rebirth and growth-- but for dogs afraid of storms, this season can be terrifying and perilous. Stop in any pet store just now and you will see "Thundershirts" and other storm phobia products featured front and center. Search the internet and you can find a wealth of information on possible reasons and remedies for storm phobias.

Dogs that become anxious during storms can display any number and variety of symptoms, including hiding, whining, pacing, drooling, scratching, and trying to escape from rooms. It is possible that dogs can sense air pressure changes and may hear low-frequency rumblings that humans cannot. Some vets also believe dogs experience shocks from the buildup of static electricity that accompanies thunderstorms.

The good news for owners of dogs who exhibit storm fear is that there are many ideas available to help interrupt these fearful reactions and even desensitize dogs to storms. The Thundershirt and other types of jackets apply pressure that calms some dogs--much as swaddling does babies. Other things that could work include providing the dog with a safe and somewhat soundproof area such as a crate draped with cloth, distracting the dog with treats or games, playing soothing music, and, most importantly, staying with the dog. Owners of fearful pets are advised not to punish the dog, not to leave the dog in an outside area, and not to coddle and fret over the dog.

For more information on strategies to help a storm-fearful dog, please see the links below. Although some of the resources are older, they provide a good mix of ideas and research-based theory.

Thunderstorm Phobia in Dogs--An update. By Dr. Dodman, professor at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and founder and director of Tufts' Animal Behavior Clinic. <http://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/August-2011/Thunderstorm-Phobia-In-Dogs-An-Update/>

A Quality Dog-Owner Relationship No Help To Storm-phobic Canines. A study supported in part by the Penn State Behavioral and Endocrinology Laboratory. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/12/051217005852.htm>

Calming Your Dog During a Thunderstorm. Purina website: <https://www.purina.com/dogs/behavior-and-training/calming-your-dog->

June 24-25 Specialty Show

Dakota County Fairgrounds, Farmington



Trophy Donors & Show Sponsors

Diamond - \$100 & Up

Sue and Kay Bloom
Virginia Bailey
Ron & Ann Halling
Verna Kubik
Roger and Linda Salava
Sharon Todoroff
Bob Voeiz
Jay & Ella Warrington

Platinum - \$50 to \$100

Terry and Laurie Berg
Nick & Sandy Dinchart
Christina & Bill Duffy
Kathy Fuchl
Paul Johnson
Mike and Sheila Metz
Liz Oster
Zoe Rockenstein

Gold - \$25 to \$50

Mary Beme
David & Connie Bissonette
Walter Brogren
Diane Blanton-Brown
Tom Day
Betty Dodge
Kathy DeVall
Karen Friedman
Jim and Monika Frenth
Clint and Christy Heiman
Kelly & Joe Knight
Lisa Lund & Family
Pam Magalane
Christina McColl
Laura & Robert Meyer

Gold - \$25 to \$50 (continued)

Craig Carson & Peggy Simeron
David Mielke
Lori Neengren
Carol Oehl
Carol Przybilla
Connie Sokolowski
Eileen Verhalla
Bo Vojovich
Gary Wochler
Nancy Westland & Mike Cushman

Silver - \$5 to \$25

Jan & Nils Anderson
Joan Berg
Sheryl & Tom Carlson
Sarah Falk
Denise Gilbertson & Greg Biskey
Sandy Heinz
Ann & Ken Jeddeth
Kristine Lower
Barbara McDonald
Bobby Moore
Jody Meier
Heidi Murphy
Eileen Nelson
Betty Pappanias
Cathy & Michael Pinkosky
Lindsay Reidt
Kristin Salava
Laurie & Volker Schrey
Carla & Greg Scott
Donna Sencstad
Bobbi Smith
Stephanie Steigerwald
Julie Swinland
Margaret & Rick Tozier

*Thank you Sponsors and Donors
for all your support!*



L-R, from top: Sue Smith and Dharma, Maria Oster and IceMan, Ron Halling and Riley, Tiffany King and Joy, and the line-up for Best of Breed, Saturday afternoon show.

Club Update: We <3 our Juniors!

Our Club has a unique opportunity as one of the largest breed clubs in the Twin Cities area which has a healthy junior handling community. Junior handlers are the future of the sport. And let's face it, in conformation; due to their strength, speed and our preference for a larger ring size which showcases the breed's spectacular flying trot, GSDs are by and large, a professional-handler's breed. Being a successful owner handler isn't impossible, but it is difficult and therefore, rare. So having good handlers to present our breed is critical.



Handlers Competing in Junior Showmanship at RiverCenter in St. Paul, January 2015

Junior handlers compete in classes like Junior, Intermediate and Senior. In the Juniors' ring, you'll see kids of the relative same ages competing against each other, and at all breed shows, with different dogs in the ring! One junior might have a sporty looking Beagle, while the junior ahead of them has a flashy looking Dalmatian. And of course, you will also see a regal looking Shepherd!

Why is this? Because the juniors are judged against each other, rather than judging the dog to the breed standard. In the Juniors' ring, the Judge is evaluating the handler's ability to present their dog best. A handler who wins Best Junior Handler at a show may not have the best dog; but to the judge on that day, the Junior Handler handled their dog best that day! See the difference?

Our Club recognizes the importance of having active junior handlers in our breed, and recently at the June Membership Meeting, the membership voted to donate half of the raffle fundraising efforts from the June 24-25 Specialty Show to fund a new junior's program. And this program isn't restricted to conformation. We will work to support juniors in all of their interests. A committee is to be formed to discuss how to allocate and support our local juniors. Interested? Let President Peggy Simerson know of your interest.



Rhonda's Product Picks

By Rhonda Meath



Tis the season ... those ugly brown and yellow burn spots are starting to appear in your perfectly green lawn. What to do? How about trying these two products: Dog Rocks or NaturVet Grass Saver. Both have similar claims that there will be no more urine burn yellow spots on your lawn. Sounds good to me!

Dog Rocks are made from a naturally occurring paramagnetic igneous rock. When placed in your dog's water bowl, these rocks remove the nitrates and tin that are found naturally in water. Dog Rocks do NOT alter the pH urine balance in any way, and there are no known harmful effects on dogs through the use of Dog Rocks.

We replaced a huge potty area in our yard with new sod this past spring. This product came highly recommended, so I picked some up at Chuck & Don's pet store. We are currently going on our second month of using Dog Rocks. So far, it's working great.

Dog Rocks are an all-natural product of Australia. Check out their website at www.dogrocks.net.

NaturVet Grass Saver is a chewable wafer that is fed to dogs. The daily dose depends on the dog's weight. GSDs weighing 50-80 lbs would consume four to five wafers per day.

After your dog has been fed GrassSaver wafers for about two weeks, the yellow spots should diminish. I used this product last year after I had fixed all the burn yellow spots, and I felt it worked great.

I also purchased this product at Chuck & Don's. Check out their website at www.naturalvet.com.

RESCUE UPDATE: Saving Shepherds of Minnesota

We have been flooded with incoming dogs lately. We get requests daily to take in dogs from owners, shelters and other rescue groups. Unfortunately, we cannot take them all. We did, however, take in some wonderful medical case dogs over the last few months!

Duke is a senior who was surrendered to us after his owner moved to an assisted living facility. Duke has Anal Fistulas and requires expensive daily medication to keep him comfortable. Duke has bonded to his foster family and we decided it was best for him to stay in rescue and live out his life with us. That way, he doesn't have to experience anymore loss and we know he will continue to get the best care.

We were made aware of Dutchess, who was sitting in a shelter with an old leg injury. We pulled her and took her to the vet for x-rays. After several weeks of rehab efforts, the decision was made to amputate the leg. Dutchess got around just fine and was recently adopted to a family that adopted one of our senior dogs last year.

We also took in two heartworm positive dogs, Nero and Jaylo. Nero was lucky enough to go to a wonderful foster home where he learned many manners and received lots of socialization. He was treated for his heartworms and was recently adopted. Jaylo is a Dutch Shepherd mix and she received her heartworm treatment out of state. She is finally ready to make the journey to Minnesota and will be arriving next week.

Dice found himself in a shelter and was having a difficult time there. We pulled him and soon discovered he has a heart murmur. He arrived this week and we will make sure he gets the medical attention he needs.

We were informed of two Malinois/German Shepherd mix puppies that wound up in a shelter with road rash and other injuries. How could we say no? Once we had them pulled, we were told that a third puppy from the same litter was found, along with the dad. A fourth puppy was also found deceased after being hit by a car. We couldn't leave the dad and brother, so they will be joining us in the near future. The mom ended up in the same shelter, however, she is already spoken for by another rescue group, which means she is also safe.

We are always thrilled to see our dogs get adopted into wonderful, loving homes. That is what keeps us going! We are only able to continue with our saving efforts because of dedicated fosters and donors. We are always in need of qualified foster homes! If interested, fill out an application on our website at www.savingshepherdsofminn.org.

We will have booths at the Agility Trials at the Soccer Blast on July 21-23 and GSD Fun Day Sept. 16. We are having our annual fundraising event "Rally for Rescue" on Sept. 23 at Hansen Kennels. We look forward to seeing you!



RESCUE UPDATE: FaerieLand Rescue

Hello from FaerieLand Rescue. In this issue, we would like to introduce a few of our young volunteers.

Our first volunteer is 14 year-old Rebekka, who often is assisted by her father, Matthew. Rebekka reached out on her own to volunteer to work with our German Shepherds. Thank you Rebekka, for spending time walking, playing, brushing and lovin' on our rescues. They love you and so do we.



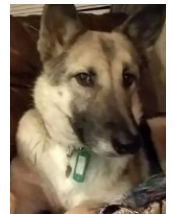
Our youngest volunteer is five year-old Ian Weeks! His family adopted a German Shepherd named Farrah two years ago, and recently adopted Opie, a 10 month shepherd mix. Ian comes out once a week with his mom Jen to assist with the dog and receive his reward: an ice cream bar. We love our young volunteers. Ian is shown with Charger.



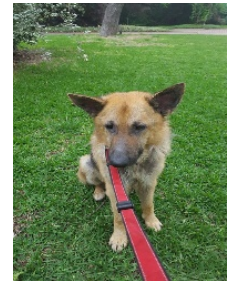
This past couple of months, we have been asked to take in dogs from Kentucky and Texas. Bella came to FaerieLand from a high kill shelter in Kentucky. We pulled her from the shelter and placed her with a foster in Kentucky before moving her to Minnesota. The two pictures are the before and after. She is a very sweet four year-old stray, that now has a second chance at life. Bella weighed only 37 lbs when we took her from the shelter.



Bella

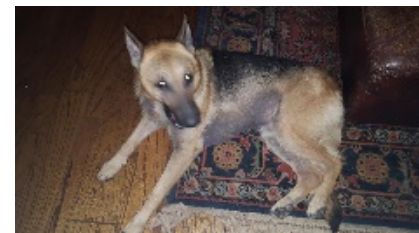


Freedom was in the Dallas Area Services shelter with a 24-hour hold that was up. We are approved to pull from them and save dogs. Freedom has been in foster care in TX and coming to Minnesota. He weighed just 47 lbs when we saved him. He is heartworm positive and has a growth on his throat. Freedom has been given treatment for the heartworms and the growth on his throat will be treated as well. Freedom is friendly and sweet. He gained weight and his skin is clearing up.



We had a great time at Pet-A-Palooza June 17 and at the German Shepherd Specialty Show June 24 -25 in Farmington at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. It has been a very busy time.

We are looking for experienced foster homes so we can assist more German Shepherds, interested individuals can contact Kathy at FaerieLandrescue@gmail.com.



CLUB TRAINING ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

Please see the GSDCMSP website for detailed descriptions of classes and prerequisites. Regular classes are scheduled for the following times unless otherwise noted. Classes are sold in blocks of 10, \$90 for members and \$110 for non-members. Please remember that the calendar is subject to change, and the most current information can be found on our website. Classes are held at Animal Inn in Lake Elmo.

- 6:00-6:45 Puppy 1 and 2 (For puppies up to 6 months old, 10 classes)
- 6:00-7:30 Rally Obedience (Classes are ongoing)
- 7:00-8:00 Basic Obedience
- 8:00-9:00 Intermediate Obedience
- 9:00-10:00 Novice Obedience
- 7:30-9:00 Conformation- All Ages

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 15: Socialization and Obedience Workshop at Veteran's Park in Apple Valley
- July 21-23: All-Breed Agility Trial at Soccer Blast in Burnsville
- Aug. 5: Summer Match at Kubistraum German Shepherds in Houlton, WI
- Aug. 24 – Sept. 4: Daily Benching in Pet Expo Building at Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul
- Aug. 26: Socialization and Obedience Workshop at Veteran's Park in Apple Valley
- Sept. 3: GSD Demo Day at the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul

SHEP-O-GRAM

Shep-O-Gram
316 Adams Ave S
Edina, MN 55343

