



Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue Newsletter

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Echo Dogs White
Shepherd Rescue
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The Famous South Carolina 7!

You may remember the stories about the "SC7." They were owned by the same person, kept in a small kennel, and very under-nourished. There were six adult dogs (four females and two males) and one puppy in the shelter in York, SC. They had very little time left.

All of the dogs had scars on their faces from fighting each other for food, but they were still very socialized with each other and mostly terrified of people.

A rescuer from the Charlotte area went to evaluate them. She pulled the puppy and mom immediately, because she couldn't bear to leave them there. The pup was full of fleas. He ended up going to the vet for anemia and was given fluids. She kept the mom and pup for a day or so and they were then transported to Wilmington.

The mom, Paris, was put into boarding and the pup went into a foster home.

In the meantime, the other five dogs went to temporary boarding. From there, Myrtle and Keeowee went on transport to a foster in Indiana and Caleb, Lobo, and Lee went to the same facility in Wilmington where Paris was being boarded.

During their time in temporary boarding it became clear that Caleb was blind.

Then the pup, called Pee Dee by now, broke with the deadly Parvovirus! As he was fighting for his life, the four at the boarding facility became very ill. The immediate concern was that they had parvo, too, but hospitalization, fluids, and a lot of good care (and money) brought all four of them along.

As they got better they went to foster homes. Caleb, being blind, became very unnerved at the changes in his life. He kept climbing on Lobo on the transport so they had to be muzzled. It was a difficult transport because both were terribly carsick.

It was a very rough start for the "SC7," but the worst was over as they settled into their foster homes somewhat and were finally adopted.

Five of the six adults suffered from severe separation anxiety. Only Lobo seemed to be able to handle being alone. Perhaps he had been the pack leader. Lobo and Myrtle were fostered by mother and daughter and loved each other so much they were adopted together.

Here's a report from Paris' foster home: When we got Paris she was very timid, like the others, and while she was very compliant with things like baths, and grooming, she didn't enjoy physical attention from us. She was also very aggressive towards our dogs at first, and despite fighting tooth and nail every time she had to go into her crate, she was also hyper defensive of it occasionally snapping at and lunging at the other animals if they went anywhere near it. After about a week she had opened up to our dogs for the most part, and shortly after that made a connection with me on one of our walks. After that walk, she started following me everywhere I went like a shadow. Through this, she became more accustomed to physical closeness and being pet by me and my fiancée. She really began to open up after she started meeting other dogs and other people. She'd go out with us to eat dinner and



Note:

Stay tuned to our Facebook Group and Page for information about upcoming events.

Fund Raising is ongoing. You can find information about some of our fund raising opportunities by clicking on "Fundraising" on the front page of the Echo Dogs website.

Also on the front page of the website:

In Loving Memory is a place to donate in memory of a loved one.

In Honor is a place to donate in honor of someone.

SC7 (continued)

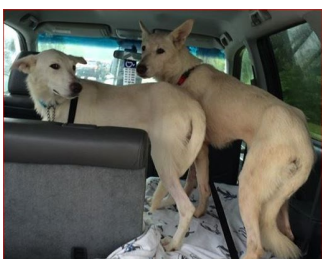
lie under our patio table while virtually ignoring live music and other loud sounds nearby as long as she could rest her head on our feet. She remained very timid right up until she was adopted, which we decided to do with an extended meet up with her new owners in order to ease her transition. Things were a little rocky at first, but ever since moving up north she has really opened up. She is completely spoiled now and, together with her beagle sister, has several acres to explore and enjoy.

-John Vine

From her adopters:

The first night in our home she seemed pretty good, adjusting to her situation. She and the beagle seemed to be friends from the first. Christmas Eve the two had an argument over a bone. That settled, Lea is learning to not try to steal Paris's food; they eat separately now and things have quieted down in that department. Paris and Mary hit it off immediately but she was very shy of me for the first month, she now has warmed up to me, last night she fell asleep with her head on my shoulder. She sleeps with us in our bed along with Lea, with me usually being edged to the very last inch of space. Paris likes to stretch out and it's so cute, who could complain (although I do).

Paris' self confidence has grown rapidly since her arrival. She loves, loves the outdoors, hunting squirrels with the beagle, with Paris leaping tirelessly through 3 feet of snow, like a deer, plowing a nice path for her short sister



to run. The dogs are about the same age and have similar stamina and are a real team in the outdoors. Paris has 18 acres to play on with pathways that we keep open with snowshoes and she is never so beautiful as in that environment. She naturally stays close to us

at all times, waiting up the trail for us, tail wagging a mile a minute, always excited to be out there.

Paris is a wonderful, smart, loyal, amazing dog, full of love and innocence. Playful, excited, she seems to love her life here in Vermont. She adjusted immediately to our grandchildren, she is usually timid with strangers but with the children she was not shy from the beginning and lets them pet and hug her and play with them, a relief to us. She knows she is home finally and shows her appreciation daily in so many ways. We consider ourselves extremely lucky and blessed to have such a dog as Paris, may she live a long and happy life.

-John Cassin and Mary Giammarino

Caleb/Finn's adopter reports the following:

About Finn, special needs dog, blind (born without optical nerves)

Finn, the blind member of the SC7, came to us mid-November 2014. In coordination with his wonderful foster family, we decided that a leg transport from Wisconsin to Connecticut would be too traumatic for a blind dog and so we all embarked on a road trip and met up in Pittsburg, PA. Ginny, EDWSR's foster coordinator, welcomed us at her home. We spent a wonderful night and took Finn home to CT, where he was greeted by our two WGSDs, Asha and Mia (Echo Dogs dog from 2010).

It took several weeks for the two girls to fully accept the new pack member but now, three months later, they are fully comfortable with each other. Finn cannot, of course, read the visual cues of his sisters. This had been particularly difficult to understand for our alpha girl Asha and they had a number of run-ins (literally as well as figuratively). But both seemed to know that it was not worth holding a grudge and they came to friendly terms. Mia befriended Finn quicker and they are now seen sharing a dog bed or Mia stands next to him when he licks his bowl, hoping he would overlook a kibble. All three can share the same space chewing their bones and take turns on the longest-lived ones.

Finn charted our house within two days and has no problem whatsoever to inhabit both floors, using the stairs as fluidly as any dog would. We are convinced he memorized the count of the number of steps. Other than counting, he uses his keen sense of smell and sound to navigate, and he is also very adept at feeling things out with his front paws. Mia quickly learned not to lie on Finn's paths. In turn, Finn also has become more aware of where the other dogs might lie and so he does not step onto his sisters much at all anymore – to the relieve of all of us!

Most amazing was his ability to map the large fenced-in garden and forest area. He now runs with confidence through the yard. It seems as if he has a radar to 'see' the trees or other objects standing in his way. He likes to follow his sister Mia around, even runs behind her, but also explores on his own. He runs after a ball and plays fetch with Heike or just with himself on a slope. Watching him steering himself deliberately out of a jamb – be it when he

SC7 (continued)

encounters a blackberry thatch, boulders, or a fallen tree – is most astounding.

He is a real German shepherd: he is protective and barks when he hears someone approaching the yard or at other noises (at times, he hears more than we would like him to), he howls with the emergency vehicles, and he undertakes routine patrols of his backyard. He is very much at home in his yard and hesitates – even refuses – to leave the gates. He enjoys the snow and runs and jumps around like a rabbit. He comes when called from the far reaches of the yard but is smart enough to avoid shortcuts and stays on the paths he knows. Unlike our other dogs, he is hesitant of stepping into the pond (though it has been frozen since the first trials), even though he loves (loves!) to drink. Drinking is his safety blanket but that he needs to use less and less frequently. Because his moving about requires his constant concentration, it is important for him to nap during the day to recharge his brain battery; otherwise he starts bumping into objects he would usually clear.

Finn continues on getting more and more confident. He loves women but is still cautious towards men. We have begun some simple one-on-one training, he sits and follows simple commands. He likes to cuddle and to listen to people talking. His foster mom read stories to him to socialize him. This worked very well; when he gets agitated, it is possible to just talk him down. He then retreats to his dog bed, his lair in which he hordes his toys. And



like all young dogs, he gets sometimes a bit crazy and wildly playful!

In summery, having taken in a blind dog has taught us a lot. You suddenly see your environment with different eyes.

In many respects, it is easier than anticipated and many of the accommodations that need to be made are easy – just think of closing the cabinet doors and do not leave the chairs at unusual locations! Finn's lovely gentle disposition, his beautiful warm eyes with which he 'looks' at you, and his ability to navigate, adapt, play and explore make us easily forget that he is blind.

Heike & Christian Brueckner, CT

Myrtle and Lobo

We have had Myrtle and Lobo for just over two months now and they are doing wonderfully. I would have to say, better than we anticipated. There is a lot of fear with all the newness, which we anticipated. Lobo is already falling for his Daddy. It was a lot faster than we expected. Myrtle is still afraid of him but just recently had a major breakthrough. She is no longer running from him and hiding behind furniture. She is just sitting beside me and watching him. She will also walk by him now. They have gained weight. Lobo has gained 8lbs and Myrtle 6.5 lbs.

They are wary outside. New place new noises. I have been starting slowly with them. We work with going out the front door. Its a big scary world for them. So we take 5 min 3 times a day going on the porch. Myrtle will now go down the stairs and Lobo will sit behind me and peek around my legs to look at the scenery. They go outside in the back fenced in yard and play several times a day depending on weather. They ADORE the snow. They can't seem to get enough of it. Lobo's favorite thing is playing catch and keep-a-way with his dad. Myrtle is a free spirit diving head first into snow piles (occasionally getting stuck!).

They love toys, they love to play, and mostly they love to cuddle.

It is a slow process, they are jumpy and scared of most everything. I find they help each other and where one is scared the other is actually strong. We call Lobo the supervisor, and Myrtle is Ms Mayham. Lobo will sit back and watch everything where Myrtle will get into everything!!



SC7 (continued)

The other day I kept telling my husband I couldn't find the sponge for the dishes. We looked high and low. The next morning Lobo came prancing down the hallway with it in his mouth. Myrtle was charging behind him. It was adorable, and funny. I thanked him for his great detective work! I am forever chasing them both down the hallway and through the house trying to get our socks back. DON'T leave a drawer open. Myrtle will pull out something! Toys... well I have a hundred and Myrtle hoards them in a corner.

They both are very nervous meeting people. So we are introducing one person at a time. We are in love with them. Its going to take a while with them but I see changes everyday. Laurie and Ariel did an amazing job with them. I can say we wouldn't have such progress if it wasn't for the work they did.

Christine and C. Jay Martin



Bumble

By Mindy Shepler

On March 1st, 2013, I met Gretchen Knittel at a rest stop along the PA turnpike to get Bumble home to me and Blanca. He'd been part of a hoarding case in which a "rescue" held him for seven years. He had worms, Ehrlichia, ear infections in both ears, was malnourished, and he knuckled his rear feet and crossed over. He was old, nearly 13, and he was stained and smelled to high heaven from lying in feces and urine.

I didn't take him straight home. We went right to the Canine Spa, where I gave him a bath. Once I got him wet, the stench was so bad my eyes and throat burned.

Through swim sessions and more baths, his coat eventually turned sparkling white and he very much enjoyed getting out to meet people and other dogs. He was an instant hit at the dog park and Blanca took it upon herself to watch over him.

She fell head over heels for her old man! She was a star-struck teenager.

Bumble spent nine months with us before a fibrosarcoma and a hard-hitting UTI made him throw in that towel and tell me he was ready to get his wings. I'll never forget him. He was my very first foster dog and it was a "foster failure." I ended up adopting him just two months before he passed.

Bumble's name will grace the PA State Pet Memorial Wall at the grounds of Peaceful Pet Passage, who took care of his crossing here in my home and so lovingly transported him to their crematory. The next evening, Blanca and I were able to pay our last visit before we watched him go into the cremation chamber and then come home forever a few hours later.

I will never forget my Old Man. I miss him, but am blessed to have been the one to give him the last nine months of his life, the life that had been denied to him for seven years.



From the President

By Terry Demag

Echo Dogs had another very successful year in 2014. We had 141 adoptions in 2014 – which is a record for the years I've been keeping statistics. It shows the continued growth of Echo Dogs due to everyone's efforts.

Here are some of the adoption statistics that show how far our organization reaches. I wish there was a way to track the number of hours our volunteers put in to place that number of dogs, between the phone calls, the emails, the applications, the transports, the care, the vet trips and the finances (not to mention the worrying). I do know, we couldn't do it without all the help and support from our fosters, volunteers, and adopters.

And the 141 adoptions only tell part of the story—because having a high number of adoptions is only part of the goal. It would be easy to place a much larger number of dogs if we didn't take the care we did to make sure the homes are good homes who will care for these dogs like they deserve to be cared for and that the dogs are as healthy and understood as we are able prior to adoption.

Things don't show any sign of slowing down in 2015. There are always more ways to improve, increase our adoptions, help our fosters. Our true bottleneck is time and volunteers. If you have ever considered getting involved, there is no time like the present. We can always use people to help with fundraisers, transporting, events, IT support, and of course, most of all, fostering. Please let us know if you would like to be more involved with helping Echo Dogs save even more of this beautiful breed – it's not always easy, but it is rewarding.

2014 Statistics

141 adoptions (70 females/71 males)

Adopted dogs to 25 states plus Canada.

Top six states:

PA – 16 (thanks to Ginny Hays trips to Starbucks J)

MA – 14

IL – 13

IN – 12

NH – 12

VA - 11

Adopted dogs were from 23 different states. The top states were:

NC – 23 (thanks to all the hard work from Lori Overton and our NC volunteers)

IN – 17

GA – 13

KY – 10

TN, AR, LA, SC – 7

Other facts

39 of our adopted dogs were puppies

Top foster – Laura Cox had 28 fosters

We had 20 repeat adopters

13 foster-to-adopt

15 fosters adopted their dog (most of these were also repeat adopters)

Ask Your Vet

Echo Dogs White Shepherd Rescue
www.echodogs.org
info@echodogs.org
donations@echodogs.org

New Drug for Allergies (Atopic Dermatitis)

Officers:

Terry Demag, President (terrydemag@comcast.net)

Laura Cox, Vice President (cox1250@sbcglobal.net)

Terri Lamb & Yvonne Garland, Treasurer
(sleepyshepherds@gmail.com)

Mary Gleason, Secretary (myrescuedogsrule@gmail.com)

Please have "Echo Dogs" in your subject line.

Agility, Anyone?

Everyone knows that GSDs like to have a job. For some, it's carrying a backpack, for others it may be keeping their owners safe. Several WGSD adopters are training their dogs for agility.

Kadin had been taken by police during a drug bust and was deemed "non-adoptable" by the Indianapolis ACC because of "resource guarding." Rescued by Echo Dogs, his full name is now ECHO's Mi Amigote CPE CL1, CL2, CL3; AKC NPF, NPJ, NPS.

Kadin and adopter Melanie Hoover are halfway to their CPE CT-ACH (CPE Preferred Agility Trial Champion). Melanie hopes they can qualify for Level 4 CPE Nationals to be held in Springfield,



OH in June, 2016. Her goal is to attend the AKC German Shepherd Specialty Agility Trial held at Purina Farms in St. Louis, MO in 2017 in the Excellent/Masters class.

Sadie came to Echo Dogs with her mother, Alexis. Both were pregnant and they gave birth within 24 hours of each other. Once her pups were on their way to their new homes, Sadie was on her way to her new forever home with the Rutz family.

At first they took Family Dog 1 and Family Dog 2 obedience classes, then moved on to a class called cross training where they worked on learning some different behaviors and tricks. As part of that class they also got to try out a few pieces of agility equipment



Ginny Rutz says it was never their intention to compete, but after a while the instructor suggested they should go to an agility trial where Sadie did a great job on her first run. She has since received the titles AXP and AJP, which means that she has moved up to the masters level in both Standard and JWW agility.

Maya was picked up as a stray on the streets of Miami, Florida, with her four six-week-old puppies. She weighed only 35 pounds! She was rescued by White Paws Rescue and adopted by Jody Hergert-Andresen. Maya has titles in AKC and NADAC agility, she has her CGC and she also passed the ORT for Birch in K9 Nosework so the plans are in the works to compete in that in the future.



There are two basic types of agility courses, "Standard" which has all of the types of jumps, the table, the A frame, the dog walk, the weave poles, tunnels, and "JWW" which has only jumps, weave poles and tunnels. There are four skill levels, Novice, Open, Excellent and Masters. In order to move up from each level you have to complete 3 qualifying runs in that level, qualified meaning with no more than the allowed number of errors and within the standard time the judge has set for the height group. There is a title earned with each move up.

Lost Dog Action Plan

Ed note: Much of the following information was taken from the Granite State Dog Recovery flier.

If your dog is lost...

Begin search immediately. Don't wait for the dog to come home. The sooner you start the greater the chance that your dog will be returned uninjured.

Never assume your dog was stolen.

Call animal control, police department, veterinarians, and animal shelters within a 20-mile radius.

If your pet has a microchip, **contact the microchip** company, making sure your information is current.

Look everywhere in and around your house, including basement, garage, and closets. Check under bushes and vehicles. A frightened dog may be hiding.

Ask your neighbors to check their yards, garages, and sheds.

If you have an electric fence, **turn it off.**

Carry a leash with you when you go looking.

Place a **blanket or crate** where your dog was last seen. Bait it with smelly dog or human food. If you have a hunting trail camera, set it up nearby. Add an article of your clothing.

Create flyers with your dog's picture and two telephone numbers. Hang flyers heavily in a one- or two-mile radius of where the dog was last seen. Use large type and print 250 copies to start. Use colored paper and put in plastic sheet protectors. Staple in all four corners and place facing the direction of travel. Man telephones 24 hours.

Pass out flyers to police, kennels, shelters, veterinarian hospitals, groomers, pet stores, even businesses.

Send flyers to shelters within a 60-mile radius of where the dog was last seen.

Call your local highway department to contact you if your dog is found dead.

Post to all internet sites dealing with lost pets.

Put an ad in the paper.

Check "found" ads in local papers.

Consider using <http://www.findtoto.com>.

If it makes sense in your neighborhood, print some flyers in other languages: i.e., **Spanish**.

Enlist friends and family to pass out flyers. Instruct them not to call to or chase the dog if they spot it.

LOST DOG



212-555-1212

212-555-1234

PLEASE DO NOT CHASE!

What NOT to do:

DON'T WAIT

Don't PANIC

Don't call your dog or chase. If the dog has become scared he may either run or hide.

Do NOT place flyers in mailboxes. That is a federal offense.

PREVENTION is also key:

Make sure your dog is microchipped and that the information on file with the registry company is current.

Make sure your dog wears a license tag that is registered with your local animal control.

Make sure your dog wears a tag that includes your phone numbers.

If your dog is an escape artist, consider the purchase of a pet locator that attaches to your dog's collar and either provides GPS information of your dog's position or a directional signal. Below are a couple of possibilities. You can use your favorite search engine to find others. Pet trackers are becoming popular. Some even provide activity tracking and other benefits.

Tagg Pet Tracker

Roameo Pet Tracker

Garmin GTU-10

In Loving Memory

*"We cherish memory as the only certain immortality,
never fully understanding the necessary plan."*

...Irving Townsend

Lacey—Betsi DeVries

Stormy—Joshua Rubinsky

Jaci —Trish Brooks

Alex—Michael and Laurie Bianco

Thurman—Paulette Penzes

Coby—Alane Gordon

Echo—Sue Keller

Baron —David and Cathy Redemske

Tyson — Lisa Horton

Rocky—Matt Doolin

Scooby—Peggy Keesey

Deeohgee—Jennifer Banachowicz

Luke—Pam and Peter Burghardt

Madison —Brett and Christine Astin

Joe—John Cassin and Mary Giammarino

Zeus—Nancy Sarcevicz

Jolie—Micki Benedict

Angel—Bill Hanley

Abby—Sandra McClain

Fancy—Bob Hartman

Misha—Karen Wilderman

Boone —Debra Perricone

Alexis—Jenn Danks and Lynn Santosuosso

Finn—Alice Klingener

Liesel—Veronica Stauffer

Daisy—Brenda MacGrath

Spirit—Jack and Lisa Drouin

Bowie—John Cassin and Mary Giammarino

Belle—John Wright

Cyrus—Liz and Tom Shepherd

Cloud—Foster John Wenerowicz

Avalanche—Foster John Wenerowicz

Bear—Foster Carolyn Wineinger

Glory—Foster Alicia App

Ghost—Foster Corette Stahley

