

HOLDIN' ON TO HOLDAN

By Trish K. & Deb B.

German Shepherd Rescue of Northern California has a policy to welcome back any of our dogs regardless of age. We are committed to providing a safe place to every one of our dogs. We know how life can pull the rug out from under a dog's paws...which is exactly what happened to Holdan.



Holdan was a young pup who started his rescue journey when he was surrendered to San Francisco Animal Care & Control when he was just eight or nine months old. One of our GSRNC volunteers evaluated the gorgeous plush-coated tan and liver GSD at the shelter and found him to be a bit shy but very sweet. He was brought into our program to continue his journey.



When he was around ten months old he was adopted into what should have been his forever home. Unfortunately, life doesn't always work out the way it should. Fast forward eight years and a change in the family dynamic caused Holdan to be returned to GSRNC.

Holdan didn't really understand what was happening. He didn't know that he was safe; he was just heartbroken at losing his family. His despair was palpable to all who saw him. A special foster home was

needed ASAP to help him adjust to his new situation.

Enter Mike and Deb, three-time GSRNC adopters. The couple was still heartbroken at having lost Ari, their most recent rescue. Not quite ready to adopt, they dropped by the Danville adoption day just to take a look and get a quick dog fix. They met Holdan, nervous, sad and a bit disoriented. After spending 30 minutes with him they knew they needed to help him. The following week he hopped into a car and made the trip to his foster home. There he celebrated the holidays and was showered with lots of TLC.



The fosters could tell right away that Holdan had come from a home that cared for him. He was accepting of touch and hugs, walked pretty well on a leash and even understood basic commands. It took him almost three weeks before he loosened up enough to show his playful side. Holdan is a good house guest who doesn't like to make a fuss. When he goes outside he quietly waits on the back deck, taking in the sites of the yard, until

someone notices that he's ready to come in; a true gentleman.

Deb wants to encourage people to consider fostering. Stressing that there is nothing to be afraid of and there's so much to be gained for human and dog alike. Fostering is an important step in giving a dog exposure to a home environment and getting him ready for adoption. It's gratifying for the fosters to help a dog in need and (for those not ready for a permanent dog) it also satisfies the longing to be in the company of a dog.

If you'd like to explore fostering, please fill out our [Volunteer Questionnaire](#) to get started!

