

An Angel on Four Legs

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Sue P. lost three dogs in the last year. For 30 years, she's never been without dogs. And their companionship became more important after her husband passed away. By November 2018, she had none.

First was Baron. "Baron was a big boy," Sue says, "a real 'baron' but a total love." She had him 11 years, and he passed in July.

After Baron passed, Sue adopted a Westie from the shelter. He was a real cutie, but she lost him after only three months to a brain disease.

Then there was Serena. She was a Thulani dog, and Thulani's are expected to die within a year or so. Sue used to walk Serena at Cottage Kennels and decided to give her a final home – if Baron would approve. He'd never liked other dogs, so Sue didn't have very high hopes. To her surprise, Baron loved Serena immediately, and they rode home together in Sue's car! To Sue's surprise and delight, Serena lasted three years. Her time finally came last November. Sue was alone.

About the same time, Tracey O. pulled Kendall from the Salinas shelter just before she was going to be put down. She'd been badly hurt – she had extensive damage to her back right leg and belly which had been poorly treated at some point. It looked like maybe she'd gotten caught in a barbed wire fence while roaming abandoned.

The same day GSRNC pulled her, she started hemorrhaging and she was rushed to Bishop Ranch. A whole team of volunteers helped move her from the shelter to the vet – Lorraine K., Kim F. and Joye H. After two surgeries, Joye was hoping to move her into a home for her recovery rather than return her to the kennel. They called Sue.

Sue had been thinking of fostering for a poodle rescue, but on December 3, the same day that she was to speak with them, she received the call from Joye. Could she take in Kendall? Sue immediately answered yes.

Kendall was still recovering from surgery and Sue took care of her. Even after all she'd been through, Kendall was a lovely dog. As the holiday season progressed, Sue grew more and more fond of her. There were some surprises – Kendall went into heat on Christmas day! Sue had never had a dog go into heat, as the only other female she'd had was Serena, who was too old.

Kendall also had her issues. Initially, as with many dogs GSRNC pulls, Kendall was scared of everything – it was all new. She didn't like all people. She was fine outside, but in the house Sue had to gauge Serena's temperament.

Despite this, Sue fell in love. Shortly after she started fostering her, Sue suspected that Kendall might have found her forever home. She was so sweet and lovely. She was younger than Sue wanted at only just over a year, and Sue had been thinking about an older dog to suit her mellow lifestyle. But still...

Another foster failure! Kendall is now Sue's 5th GSD.

Kendall has gained weight, from about 55 pounds when she was found to a healthy 68 pounds! She loves walks, riding in the car, her red ball, and chasing squirrels. She also wants to please, so Sue found it easy to start training Kendall, even before she was fully recovered from her surgery. Aside from work at home, Sue has also trained Kendall with our own Karen O. It took a while, but Kendall is finally used to Sue's cats.

After her two GSDs passed, Sue left their crates in her bedroom. She knew she was going to adopt again and hopes to foster as soon as Kendall is ready. Sue is a woman who needs her dogs!

"She's my angel," says Sue.