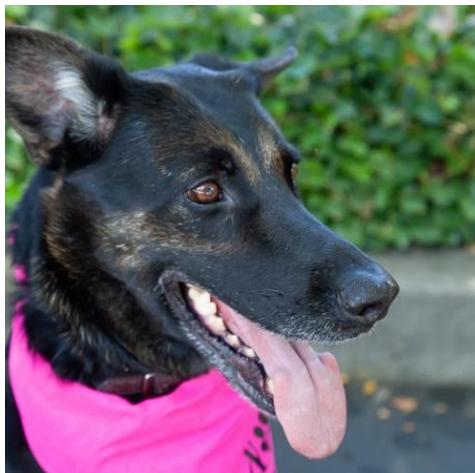


## A Christmas Treat that Shelbie Can't Eat!

By: Allison Kozak

Volunteers Kelsey and Vidhur have fostered several dogs for GSRNC and so it was no surprise when Shelbie arrived at their door in December. They welcomed this pretty black 7-year-old and she settled in quickly. Little did they know she would figure into something big during the holidays!

Shelbie has a long history in our program. She was pulled by evaluators Steve B. and Tracey O. from the San Jose ACC where the staff had determined she had ear infections. They were really painful for her; clearly, this was a chronic condition that had never been treated.



After consulting with many experts and trying many remedies, the vets recommended a procedure called TECA-BO. This surgery involves the complete removal of the ear canal and middle ear, leaving only the ear flap. Obviously, this results in deafness. But when longstanding infection has led to so much scarring and mineralization of the ear canal, this is the only way to stop the pain. The surgery was accomplished successfully, and Shelbie adapted to her deafness without missing a beat.

Shelbie was pulled by GSRNC in June of 2018. Yes, she's been in the program over a year and a half. It is very hard to place an "older" dog with a disability. As a result, she's been in several foster homes; since she's an easy-going dog with great house manners, it's easy to find a new place for her when her foster needs to take on a more challenging dog.

Kelsey echoes this evaluation of Shelbie. "It's a real treat having Shelbie in our home. She enhances our life with cuddles and her permanent smile." Vidhur adds, "You forget she's deaf. I find myself talking to her just like I would any dog. Somehow I think she appreciates it!"

Shelbie's big moment in her new fosters' lives came Christmas Eve. Kelsey describes it: "We were at home putting together Ikea furniture and planning the menu for that night. Suddenly, Vidhur asked me to marry him! I was so excited."



“We immediately wanted to capture the moment and decided to take some photos,” Vidhur explains. “Shelbie was there when I popped the question, so it was natural to include her. She makes every moment feel more special. Plus, she has that very photogenic smile!”

So this was one Christmas “treat” that Shelbie couldn’t nibble on!

Kelsey and Vidhur found their forever match. Now it’s Shelbie’s turn. Disability or not, she is ready and willing to be a part of all the exciting events in her forever family.



*To see Shelbie’s very own video, shot by Kelsey and Vidhur, [click here!](#)*