

## HARVEST TIME

By Patty L.

When Harvest came to us for fostering in November 2021 she had some destructive behaviors and bad habits. This beautiful, personable dog was found in a field with a pack of dogs and a 3-month old puppy that was thought to be hers. She was so thin that I could forgive the counter surfing (thank you, Replacements, Inc.). But Harvest was the sweetest

GSD with the gentlest mouth you have ever seen and just wanted to be with one person and be loved.



Harvest soon became Harvey-Girl and wasted no time in deciding that I was her person. Since I am working from home this has been a great opportunity for changing her not-good behaviors. Harvey has a bed right by me in my office so she gets lots of attention and treats during the day. After dinner we go for a long walk of Harvey's choosing. She has a set path that takes her past all the most interesting houses and then when we get home it is play time with squeaky toys and balls. Each toy is brought out in order (must be the German 😊). I love how playful she is. On her walks, Harvey-G is personable and loves to meet people and might call 'Shotgun!' just before she jumps into an open car. When asked how old Harvey is, people are always amazed that she is 10+ years old. Harvey doesn't walk so much as skips, prances, and dances and she keeps such a pace in the walks/jogs that I get a good work-out myself!

Harvey-G has come such a long way in the short time she has been with us. She no longer madly claws at the doors to get in or goes thru fences to find me, so she is no longer kept in crate (which she would lock herself in). Harvey will finally go outside on her own and will stay out for a bit. At night, though, she will sit in the dark on the patio watching for, and ready to protect us from, 'The Opossum' that runs along the back fence. Harvey rarely barks, but knows this is her home and has started guard barking. The counter surfing stopped with

training and she has filled out but still has the gentlest mouth taking treats. The one thing I haven't tried to stop her from doing is sitting on the furniture. She won't get up on the bed, but the couch and easy chairs are fair game. I figure it is easier to just toss sheets on the furniture than break this habit and it works just fine. And she is so happy to bury her head in her pillow and play peek-a-boo.



Every Sunday we go to visit an elderly friend. Harvey has such good visiting manners and is so dainty when taking treats. Our friend, Margaret, just loves the visits, and looks forward to seeing us both.

I was planning on a foster fail (can you plan that?) at the end of summer, but you know how plans go. Harvey-Girl informed me that she had adopted me. So on Feb 11, she officially joined the family. I hate to drive to Danville so my joke is that in order to avoid driving to the GSRNC Adoption Day to show her as an adoptable dog, I'll just adopt the darn dog and then I don't have to go. And we are all so glad of it.

