# A LIFETIME OF LOVE

By Karen O.



Kendall was in the Salinas City Shelter in November 2018 when she met our evaluator, Tracey O. It was pouring rain, and all the outside areas were flooded, so Tracey and Kendall met inside.

Kendall had a leg injury, including a laceration, and was on antibiotics and pain medication. Her leg was poorly cared for. Tracey felt Kendall was dehydrated. During the evaluation, Kendall showed no interest in toys, treats, or food (the good kind!) However, she was sweet and affectionate towards Tracey the whole time, even walking quietly beside her on a leash around the shelter, not reacting to the barking dogs.

Kendall came into our program. She went to Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and had surgery to repair her leg wound. Then she went to Sue Patterson's home to be fostered until she healed and was ready for adoption.



Sue and Kendall built a bond while she recuperated, and Kendall never left. In March 2019, Sue adopted Kendall, and they continued their life together.

Sue crate-trained Kendall, made sure she could use the doggie door in the kitchen, gated her away from the rescue cats that Sue had on a rotating basis, fed her from raised bowls, walked her at least twice every day, and did her best to socialize her with her human friends.



Kendall was never sure about Sue's friends. She would bark and shy away from them, but Sue didn't give up on Kendall. Sue kept Kendall and her human friends safe.

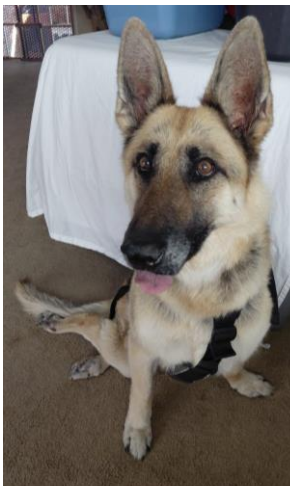
Years went by, and Sue's health started to fail. She was in and out of care while Kendall waited for her return. Sue's Brother-in-law, Jim, came to the house twice a day to feed and visit with Kendall. Sue would come home for a while and then go back to needing more care, and Jim would step back in to help Kendall. Kendall never made friends with Jim, but he was dedicated to her care, knowing that when Sue came home, she would want Kendall there.

When Sue passed in August of 2025, Jim called us. He knew where Kendall had come from and that we would take her back.

Her first foster home had (at least) two other dogs that Kendall enjoyed hanging around with. She would chase the dog who was chasing the ball, hippity hopping along as her leg injury was now arthritic. She attended Adoption Days, letting people pet her and being good around the other dogs.

A new foster home was approved and was interested in Kendall. They had a young son and plenty of German Shepherd Dog experience, so Kendall moved there. We held our breaths a bit, as Kendall had never been around small children.

Kendall loved her new foster home! She played fetch with everyone, well, her version of fetch, which is really keep away. She would join in the family basketball games. She was treated to toys, snacks, and homemade dinners. She and the young boy would share stuffed toys; at least that's what Kendall called it.



Then Kendall began to lose use of her rear legs. She was diagnosed with Degenerative Myopathy.

The foster home stepped up and took care of Kendall in her new state. She was walked twice a day in a doggie wheelchair. She had multiple pairs of booties to keep her feet from getting scraped. She wore a harness so her fosters could aid her walking when needed. They continued with her gourmet meals, and Kendall was still a very happy, goofy dog. Quality of life was not in question; you could still see the joy on Kendall's face when she played with her toys and her people.

Kendall's foster took a month-long vacation, so Kendall returned to her original foster home (the one with the multiple dogs). She played in the backyard with all the toys, chased the other dog when she played 'fetch', and snuggled in her blanket at night, in the bedroom with her foster brother and sister.



One morning, about halfway through her holiday stay, Kendall was a little quiet. She ate her breakfast but wasn't interested in play. Her foster mom let her rest, keeping an eye on her during the day.

Suddenly, that afternoon, Kendall started gasping for air. Her foster mom loaded her into the van and took off for the emergency veterinarian. Kendall did not survive the fifteen-minute trip.

Kendall had quite a life thanks to GSRNC, to foster families, to adopters, and all the people in the background.

Rescue is hard, often it's sad. But the dogs we save... they are worth every moment.