# ACE'S BIG ADVENTURE

Adoption days are always exciting. Our GSRNC volunteers head into the day full of optimism that one or more of our dogs will go home with a new family. Once the Adoption Agreement is signed, we take a picture of the new family and they go home to start their life together. It doesn't get better than that!



At least that's how it's supposed to go…

December was a big day for adoptions at our Danville event. Three dogs went home with their new families just in time for Christmas! A few of us headed out for lunch to celebrate. Just as the pizza arrived our Dog Manager, Karen, got a call that newly-adopted Ace had escaped from his family before they had gotten him into their home in Pleasanton. Hearts sank, appetites gone.

After dropping Kendall off at her foster home in Union City, Karen joined the search. She found volunteers Suzanne and Tom at the location of the most recent sighting of Ace. Suzanne had posted about Ace on Nextdoor, and was asking people to check their Ring cameras.

As the volunteers drove through the area of the last sighting, neighbors arrived to join the search. One man named Joe brought cold cuts for Ace and someone else brought their dogs, in case that would help.

The team of neighbors and GSRNC volunteers searched for about two hours with no success. A decision was made to stop for the night. It was dark and wet, and no one knew where Ace was. The discouraged volunteers went home but no one slept well. Suzanne got a late-night message of an Ace sighting but agreed with her husband when he suggested that he'd be gone before she could get there.

Before the light of the next day Karen and Debbie (who had pulled Ace from the shelter) were on the road back to Pleasanton to meet up with Suzanne. There had been several sightings reported and someone had eaten the food his adopters had left on their porch! It felt like he was close, so everyone set off on foot to search. Anyone the search team ran into was asked about Ace. It was apparent that most of the neighbors were aware of the situation because of the posting on Nextdoor.



Another lead came in from a man who said he'd just seen Ace so Debbie jumped in a car to check it out. No luck again. Another tip came in that he'd been spotted by a playground. As the team was searching there, a police officer arrived and reported that he had recently seen Ace and he was dragging his leash. Everyone got back into their cars to continue searching. Joe and the officer joined in on the search. Soon, Karen got a call from the officer reporting that he'd just spotted Ace. Everyone headed back down the hill and there he was!

Karen spotted him first and yelled, "There he is!" while practically pushing Debbie out of the car before it was parked. Debbie jumped out of the car, leaving it in the middle of the street, and Ace rushed to her. He jumped right into the crate in her truck. The officer and Joe got out of their cars so they could meet Ace. There was a party in the middle of the street. Then tears came, of joy and relief. Ace's new adopters were there, relieved and happy,

but ultimately making the decision not to keep Ace after all.

Ace returned home with Debbie for a snack and some down time.  He was a little stiff and ***very*** tired.  After a four-hour nap he was reported to be “relaxed, smiling, wagging his tail, and playing with his toys.”

GSRNC would like to extend a big “Thank You!” to The Preserve neighborhood in Pleasanton for caring SO much about someone's lost dog.

