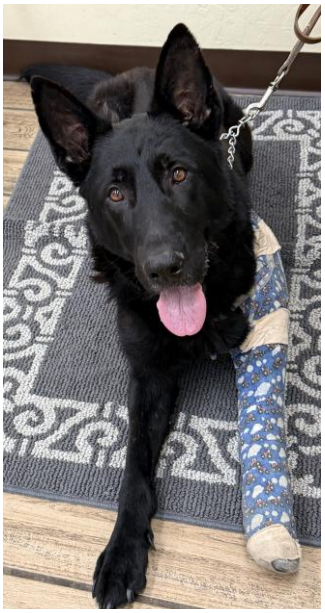
BROKEN BUT RESILIENT



Barkley is one of those dogs who reaches out and grabs you by the heart. When he was around three years old, he had been taken to Stockton Animal Control with a broken front leg after having been hit by a car. Barkley quickly became a shelter favorite. Knowing they needed to save this boy, the shelter reached out to GSRNC. There was no way we could turn our backs on this special guy even though it was going to be a long road ahead for Barkley.



It was a bit touch-and-go on whether Barkley would lose his leg. We were hoping for the best and doing all we could to make sure he got to keep it. A cast was applied to his leg, which ended up being changed three times before he had his surgery. After a host of X-rays, Barkley was scheduled for surgery with a specialist at Pacific Veterinary where he quickly became a hospital favorite. The report from the vet tech team was that "Even our non-Shepherd-loving techs love him!" The surgery was a great success allowing him to lose the cast…although he gained 14 staples spanning the length of his leg.



Barkley was sentenced to an 8-week recovery period confined to a small area with on-leash potty breaks. That translated to spending his recovery time in an X-pen in his foster mom's kitchen (at least when he wasn't breaking out of it). 😉 Six weeks into his recuperation period, Barkley went to live with some folks who wanted to adopt him. They agreed to foster him until he was well enough to be released. Rhiannon and Derek had recently lost their two senior German Shepherds and were ready to bring another dog into their family. Since they had a cat, they needed a special dog who could cohabitate with a feline. Barkley turned out to be the perfect fit!



Derek and Rhiannon renamed him Echo and took over his care. They worked patiently to build up his activity level until he was free of all restrictions. The vet had them start with 10-minute walks every day and then double it every week.



Echo is now walking more than an hour a day and loving every minute of it! As soon as his folks put on their walking shoes, he's ready to go! He bounces around between them and the door until they head out; he's eager to get out and sniff his way through the neighborhood.

Although he isn't very interested in toys, Echo will always eagerly accept a treat or a chew. He never lets his people forget that after dinner it's chewy time; he loves to settle down with a well-earned treat after a long day. Echo also loves training time because he knows he'll get plenty of treats for tricks! His cutest trick is resting his chin on a person or an object near them.

Echo is an absolute cuddle bug. When the family settles down to watch TV, he climbs on top of them and settles down for a nice nap.

In October Echo made his debut as an Ambassadog at Wags to Riches aboard the USS Hornet! He delighted the crowds by pressing a button to "talk" with them, while raising donations. He also had a special display which detailed his injury and recovery journey!

