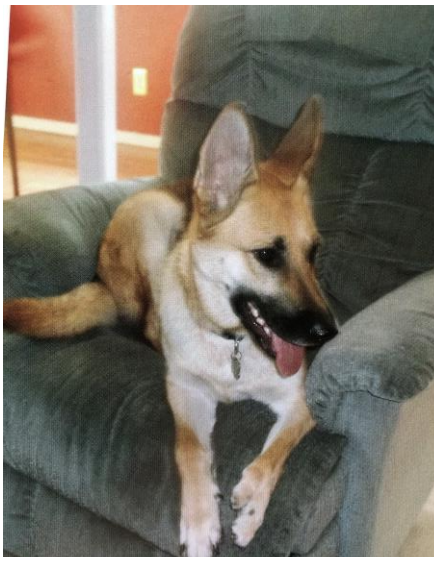
# A PRINCESS STORY

When Princess M. came into our organization, she was a young, energetic girl who was found as a stray, most likely dumped because she was not quite perfect. She was born with a malformed front foot, although it certainly did not slow her down. She was a happy, playful girl, who loved to interact with people. She was comfortable with children and crowds and LOVED the attention. In her initial evaluation, she was alert, interested in her surroundings, and could not stop giving the evaluator kisses.



Princess is a petite little girl at only 65 pounds. GSRNC had a custom orthotic made for her foot, which helped with her mobility issues. It should also be noted that Princess thanked all the staff involved with kisses and even showed off her new shoe to onlookers. Her new boot made her a Rock Star in the neighborhood; many people stopped to talk to her (and her people) about it. Princess was perfectly named as she sits like a princess.

Princess spent over a year in foster homes. When I fostered Princess with my two German Shepherds, she played well and behaved appropriately. She attended doggie daycare with her foster siblings (I owned the business.) She loved to play tug of war with anyone who would take the other end of the rope, whether human or canine.

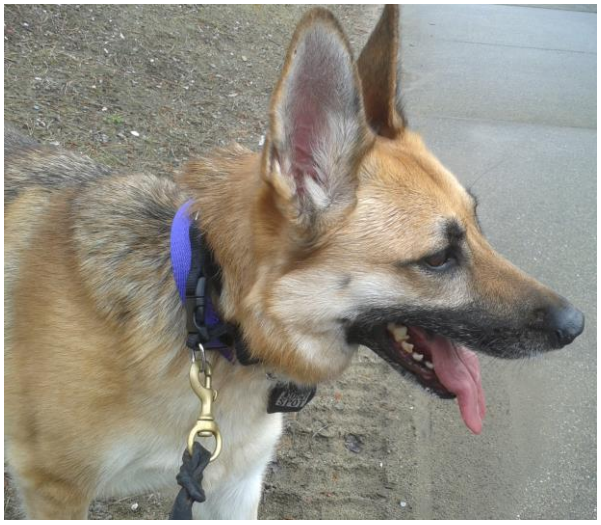


Princess was VERY excited during adoption days, which kept her from finding her home quickly. Her funny paw generated attention from folks who wanted to help a special needs dog, but her energy level was not a good match for many of these homes, which expected her to be sedate (LOL!).

In May of 2016, Diane A. and her husband Andy showed interest in Princess. They met her and decided she belonged with them. Princess moved in and brought a new level of excitement to their lives. Diane hired a dog walker to help, and Princess loved strutting around the neighborhood with him. Diane and I stayed in touch over the years, and I pet-sat Princess when Diane traveled.

Years passed quickly. Andy passed away. Diane and Princess grew even closer. Princess calmed with age, becoming a quiet comfort to Diane. She was still very alert to her surroundings, letting Diane know when the mail or packages arrived. Diane's grown children came to love the silly dog during visits and appreciated that their mom was not alone or unentertained.

In April of 2023, Diane was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer and chose not to take treatment. The phone conversation we had included tears and laughter, knowing the end was coming and that Princess was still there for Diane.



Diane passed quietly at home, surrounded by her children and Princess, who stayed by Diane's side the whole time. During the days that followed, Princess stayed with me off and on as things were settled in Diane's household. The family discussed what was best for Princess, knowing they could return her to GSRNC at any time.

They came to a decision and Princess moved in with one of Diane's daughters, in the foothills, with acreage, and a dog brother. At eight years old, she got a whole new life.

Recently, our hotline received a phone call from Diane's daughter. Princess is ten now and needs a wheelchair for mobility. We provided her with one, and Princess is back to running the foothills, silly paw flapping in the wind, smile on her face, watching out for the mailman, and looking for people to kiss.

Karen Oliver
Foster for Life

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