

# Aging Gracefully

## Surprise retirement for lucky senior GSD

By Nancy Kvorka

Sasha W. came to us in July when we were contacted by a woman in Sacramento. Sasha had been a beloved companion to this woman's father for 10 years, but his health was declining and he was losing the mental capacity to care for himself or Sasha. When the woman visited her father recently, she saw him and Sasha living in deplorable conditions and she made the difficult decision to put her dad in a care facility immediately.

What would become of Sasha? The daughter couldn't take the elderly Sasha to the shelter – Sasha wouldn't survive. But her landlord wouldn't allow Sasha in either. Without options, she kept



Sasha at her dad's place, with someone stopping by daily to check on her. And she contacted us. Sasha immediately went into one of our foster homes, and proved to be a sweet, laidback girl. As

might be expected of an older dog who's been loved her whole life, she is very low maintenance, happy to lie around and watch the activity around her. She still has energy to play fetch in the park, though giving it back needs work!

Enter Carolyn and Dan: Carolyn S and Daniel G of Templeton lost their senior GSD 2 years ago. They live on a 3-acre apple farm, growing Granny Smiths which are harvested every fall. Their previous GSD followed them everywhere on the ranch and went with them into town in the car. They sorely missed his companionship and turned to GSRNC to find a mellow mature dog

to fit into their relaxed lifestyle. The timing was perfect and Sasha went home with Carolyn and Daniel. She can call that 3-acre ranch "hers"!

Her new mom Carol reports: "Sasha has been renamed Shasta! She is doing great! She has REALLY bonded with Dan--follows him everywhere. He has bought her a harness to help her with walks and taught her some manners." She adds with a chuckle, "I feed her so I get some attention at least twice a day!"

