

Koru K9 Dog Training

German Shepherds, especially rescues, are different than other dog breeds. We usually don't know what happened in their past or how it impacts their behavior. Members, volunteers and foster families have the experience (and sometime challenge) of learning about GSRNC's dogs and their personalities. We need to know as much as we can about our dogs before adopting them out to their forever families. It would be ideal if our GSDs were on their best behavior during the Adoption Days. Unfortunately, this isn't always the case. Adoption Days can be stressful for any dog- new smells, new location, a lot of new people and multiple dogs. This can cause them to behave differently than they would at home. GSRNC is striving to become a rescue of well-trained volunteers and adopters. To that end, many members recently attended a training session to help us with our dog-handling skills.

[Koru K9 Dog Training and Rehabilitation](#) provided useful tools to help us with our GSDs. The company's co-owner, Ray Murphey, did a comprehensive presentation of the GSD: health, anatomy, body language, the breed itself and much more. Afterwards, there was hands-on training with some of our personal GSDs as well as foster dogs- proper leash behavior, how to behave around other dogs and how to respond if you are handling a reactive dog. Ray Murphey taught the members attending the training a useful exercise to do with our GSDs prior to an adoption day that will help them relax, get used to their new environment and focus their attention on their handler rather than other dogs and people around them. This exercise begins by walking our GSDs past each other and correcting them if they are reactive, but always rewarding when they are well behaved. Handlers walk in multiple directions weaving in and out of other GSDs. After a couple minutes of walking around, the handlers stop and ask the dog to sit. The goal is to then have the dog's attention on their handler rather than other dogs and people. This exercise helps to focus them on their handler rather than the other dogs and people. This exercise helps to focus them on their handler prior to entering the adoption day. Adoptions days can be loud and scary to a dog. They meet lots of new people and sometimes other dogs that families bring with them. These can all be huge distractions that can cause our dogs to become anxious. Getting them focused on their handler prior to an adoption day, can help with their behavior.

We'd like to thank Ray Murphey and the trainers at [Koru K9 Dog Training and Rehabilitation](#) for their help and education, as well as all the members who attended the training. We look forward to applying what we learned to our GSDs!