

# THE THULANI TIMES

## OUR MISSION

Thulani Senior German Shepherd Rescue (TSGSR) is dedicated to saving old and terminally ill dogs in shelters across CA and NV.

It's thanks to your generous donations, that we can continue to save these sweet seniors year after year, and find them the forever homes they deserve.



Dogs like **Opa T.**—a stray with a fungal skin infection so severe, he had to spend two months at a vet clinic for treatment. Now in his foster home, his family makes sure to give him a kiss every night as he nestles into his luxurious indoor bed to let him know the warmth and love he deserves.

**THULANI**  
SENIOR GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE

*A Legacy of Helping the Most Vulnerable*



## Remembering Tasha

BY DAWN LAWSON

Tasha came to me with questions in her eyes. She had lived in a cage for nine cruel years. Thulani rescued her after she was dumped by her breeders.

The first time I met Tasha, I got down to her level and met her eyes. My heart broke. She was scared to hope. She didn't know if she would have to go back to the cage. I took her head in my hands and told her, "You are home, girl. I will love you and protect you always." She knew the tone and the promise. She grinned all the way home.

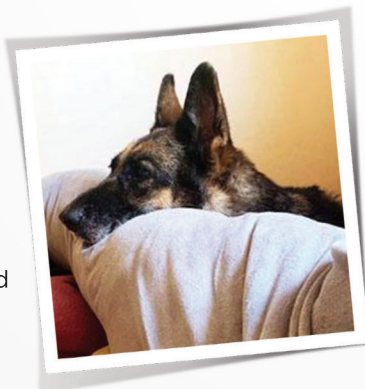
A few nights after she moved in, I awoke to her on top of me, whining. I had no idea why she appeared to be having a nervous breakdown. **SEE PAGE 2 »**

I'm oxygen dependent, and I realized that my cannula had come off and I was physically in trouble. When my saturation drops, the first thing to go is my brain. I get too confused to notice I'm confused. Tasha noticed. She was tested and certified as an alert dog. When my portable oxygen machine beeped, Tasha knew that I either needed to change the battery or plug the machine into the car. She would watch me to see which one I was doing. If I didn't notice the beep, she would stand up, lower her head, and give me a hard stare.

Tasha saved my life more times than I can count. One day at a store, I didn't notice I was confused again. My portable had frozen. We left the store immediately. By the time I got on the emergency tank, I was starting to see black. That dog loved me fiercely. She was 100% focused on me, all the time. I loved her back, just as fiercely. To Tasha, no one was allowed to endanger my health.

At rehab, Tasha didn't approve of the treadmills. My breathing changed, and she would not have it. She pulled me off gently and made it clear I wasn't allowed on the treadmills. She even alerted other people at rehab a couple of times. She cared for Bethany, the woman who worked out next to me. One day she circled Bethany a couple of times, lowered her head, and gave me a hard stare. I asked our friend how she was doing. She told me, "Not so great lately." Bethany didn't show up the next week or the week after. The second week, Tasha circled her empty chair a couple of times and gave me the stare. I said "Okay. I'll find her."

Bethany had a stroke, had been in the hospital, and was in assisted living. Tasha walked up to her bed and touched Bethany's hand with her nose. Bethany stroked her head and cried. She was alone and not being cared for. We fixed that.



As I walked down the hall, I would hear people whisper, "It's the lady with the dog." Tasha took the time to stop and visit with people in wheelchairs. She would look at me like, "These people need dogs." Yes, they did.

One day when we walked into rehab, instead of following me, Tasha walked up to a new woman sitting at the table. She sniffed her from one angle, then from another. She lowered her head and gave the signature hard stare. I told the woman, "You might want to check your saturation. My dog is looking at you funny." She did and it was low.

Tasha was nearly crippled when she came to me, and her X-rays suggested that she shouldn't be able to walk. The dog park was rehab for all of us.



I noticed she was getting better at moving around when we parked, and she wasn't trying to hurry me out of the car. One time, I looked up, and she was standing in front of the car waiting for me. She had sailed through the open window. Tasha loved to run. At the dog park, she ran like the wind.

I lost Tasha about three months ago. The grief is hard, but I would go through it a million times over to be the beneficiary of what that dog gave me. Tasha changed me. She gave me all of herself. I became a better person to be worthy of her love, to take part in the dance that was her love and her delight. Every Thulani dog I've lived with has been a magic dog. Dogs know, and their gratitude is unfathomable. I am incredibly rich that they consider me pack.

**Thank you for bringing this wondrous dog into my life. She smoothed my jagged edges. Thulani dogs are magic dogs. Every single one of them has given me something I did not know I needed. 🐾**

*Are you a current Thulani adopter? We love getting updates about all our wonderful seniors and learning how they have touched your life. Photos are definitely welcome! Email us at [info@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org](mailto:info@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org)*





## Adoption Success: Anders the Incredible

When Thulani rescued Anders, we expected him to be a hospice dog, likely in our program for life. But Anders clearly had other plans!

Diagnosed with very severe hip dysplasia, Anders spent most of his time in motion dragging his hind legs or 'bunny hopping' at best. It was horrible to watch. He wanted so badly to be athletic and play his own kind of soccer, but his old body simply couldn't keep up.

We started a strict regimen of controlled exercise, anti-inflammatories, and pain management. Slowly he responded, spending more and more time using all four legs, less time dragging his back legs, and playing increasingly energetic soccer. After three months and much improvement, we consulted a vet for advice on medical or surgical paths we might pursue to help Anders. The vet was astonished after reading Anders shelter report and examining the x-rays, exclaiming that he didn't even recognize Anders as the same shelter dog. **His advice: "Whatever you're doing, don't change a thing!"**

Anders went up for adoption, got snapped up, and is now living in the northern Sierras with a single man and his ten other German Shepherds (yes, ten!) in a home equipped with an elevator for dogs that can no longer climb stairs. A true GSD lover, he cooks for the dogs and they all sleep in his room. Anders now has free run of the house and the beautiful surrounding forest and fire trails.

**It couldn't happen to a more deserving dog!** 🐾

### FOSTER

Have room in your home to host a Thulani senior? We welcome you to apply! We pay all the expenses, you provide the love and care.

### VOLUNTEER

Join us! No matter your skillset, interests, or even your physical location, Thulani has a volunteer position for you.

### ADOPT

Ready to adopt one of our special seniors? Go to **thulanidogs.org**, browse our available dogs, and submit an online adoption application to get the process started.

### DONATE

#### By Paypal:

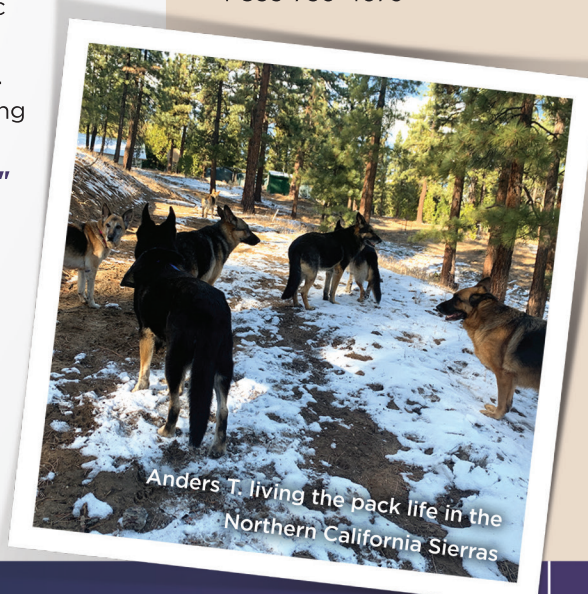
donate@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org

#### By Check:

Make payable to Thulani Senior German Shepherd Rescue, and mail to our P.O. Box below.

### CONTACT US

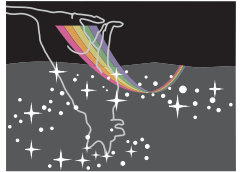
P.O. Box 1065  
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045  
info@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org  
1-833-736-4679



Post Office Box 1065, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045-1065

*A Legacy of Helping the Most Vulnerable*

THULANI  
SENIOR GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE



WINTER 2020

## Giving Seniors Hope

Join Thulani as we dedicate the entire month of December to our year-end fundraiser.

**Thulani has partnered with supporters that have dedicated \$35,000 in matching funds donated in the month of December. When you give—THEY GIVE, which gives to senior dogs in need.**

Our goal is to save as many seniors as possible. To do this, we need your support! Each dog we rescue costs \$1,000–\$1,200 in medical care. Your contributions have never mattered more!



### CHOOSE HOW TO DONATE:

1. Visit [thulanidogs.org/please-help](https://thulanidogs.org/please-help)
2. Donate by Paypal  
[donate@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org](mailto:donate@ThulaniSeniorGSR.org)
2. Donate through our social media  
[facebook.com/ThulaniProgram](https://facebook.com/ThulaniProgram)
3. Mail a personal check to  
**P.O. Box 1065, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045**