

Summer Edition

JUNE 1, 2022 | VOLUME 2  
NEWSLETTER



# Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue

*forever dogs for forever homes*

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# WHO WE ARE



## Our Mission



The Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue is dedicated to the rescue of homeless, abandoned, abused, unwanted and neglected German Shepherd dogs and puppies. We work to rehabilitate each dog physically, medically and emotionally with the goal of placing them in appropriate homes where they can thrive as loving and loyal companions, typical of this noble breed.

We are a group of volunteers who work and live in Southwest Florida. We dedicate our spare time to aid the rescue in anyway we can. Our members and volunteers come from a broad background and we use our collective knowledge for the betterment of BCGSR.

While our volunteer work isn't always easy, we do like to have fun as a group during our events. We always welcome new members and volunteers to our rescue.



## Our Group



# MEET THE PRESIDENT

Michelle Delaney combined her lifelong passion for dogs and her 28 year career in the fire service as a Firefighter/EMT into a successful and rewarding business endeavor as the sole owner of Shelzsmide K9s, where she serves as training director, handler, breeder, and professional consultant. Michelle has successfully competed and titled in Conformation, Obedience, Schutzhund and Search and Rescue, and has been training quality family pets for the past 15 years. Michelle is a devoted advocate for animal welfare and is the founder and president of Big Cypress German Shepherd rescue, a not for profit 501(c)3 founded in 2015, where she dedicates an extensive amount of time and personal resources addressing behavioral issues, malnutrition issues and assisting in rehabilitation of dogs so they may be adopted as quality, lifelong companions into their new fur-ever homes. With her unique professional background in public service, she appreciates the value of canine team members. Knowing that all work and no play is a recipe for poor performance, she intuitively guides the training process with discipline and fun, bringing out the best in both human and canine components.

No two working teams are exactly alike in what motivates them to excellence – just as no two home situations are exactly alike in the challenges and relationships that exist. Michelle utilizes multiple training techniques and an extensive knowledge of animal psychology to empower her clients to overcome any behavioral issues and develop harmonious relationships with their canine companions, whether they are working dogs, competition dogs, family pets or rescues dogs. Her ability to communicate with dogs enables her to reliably train, motivate, and achieve consistently high rates of success. Her professional affiliations include evaluator for AKC Canine Good Citizen, ABC -LT2, and Pet Care technician (she is also a valued resource for pet care, health, and well-being issues).



PRESIDENT/FOUNDER

She is a member of the National Search and Rescue Association (NASAR) and the North American Police Working Dog Association (NAPWDA). She is a former member of of the Tracking Club of Central Florida, held a Board of Directors position for the Greater Naples Dog Club and as Treasurer for the Peace River Schutzhund Club.



# EDITOR'S NOTE

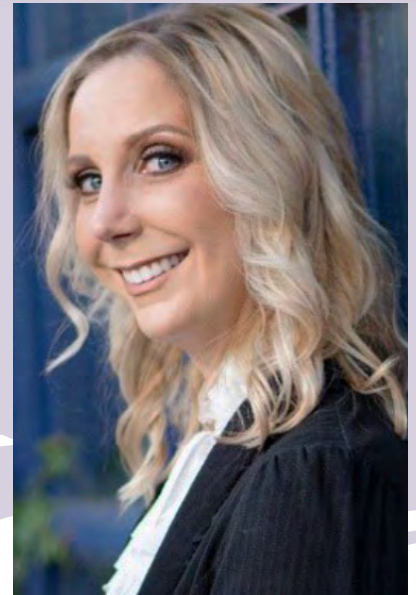
My goal for this edition is to get our readers more involved. Rescues in Florida face an ongoing challenge with the alarming number of dogs in need of saving. It is because of our supporters that we have been able to save so many this past year.

## CALL TO ACTION

We not only work to rescue dogs; we also fight against animal abuse and the lack of action taken by many of our Florida shelters against abusive owners. I am still seeking justice for a prior medical foster, Sweetie, to no avail. I have written to the appropriate shelter management members and commissioners regarding her abuse and will continue to fight until action is taken.

In addition to the constant failures at our shelters, the staff has stopped collaborating with us. They have failed to honor rescue holds and are now euthanizing dogs without giving rescues any notice.

Our rescue, as many others in Florida, is small. We need help from the community to inspire the changes we need to see in shelters.



If you would like to join our cause, please contact me at [secretary@savegermanshepherd.org](mailto:secretary@savegermanshepherd.org) to see how you can help.

“IT’S ABOUT MORE THAN JUSTICE FOR THE DOGS WHO WERE VICTIMS, IT’S ABOUT PREVENTING FUTURE VICTIMS OF THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCE.”

*Lily Patton*

# EVENTS

## Fun Holidays

**June 21st** National Dog Party Day

**June 24th** Take Your Dog to Work Day

**July 31st** National Mutt Day

**August** National Dog Month

**August 10th** Spoil Your Dog Day

**August 26th** National Dog Day



## Puppy Mania!

Big Cypress has rescued 42 puppies in the past few months. If you missed our previous adoption events, fear not! We have puppies ready for adoption at our next event!

*Adoption Event*  
**Pet Supermarket**  
2220 Logan Blvd N, Naples

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**Saturday June 4th**  
**10:00am - 3:00pm**

Approved adopters, you can take your new puppy home from this event!

**Adoption Event for Jessie and Harpers Puppies**

Want to adopt, but not pre-approved?  
Submit your application on our website prior to the event.

[www.saveagermanshepherd.org](http://www.saveagermanshepherd.org)

Big Cypress

The poster features a black and tan puppy wearing yellow sunglasses, lying on a sandy beach. In the background, there is a colorful beach umbrella, a slice of watermelon, and flip-flops.

# DOG SPOTLIGHT



## The Maggie and Sur Story!

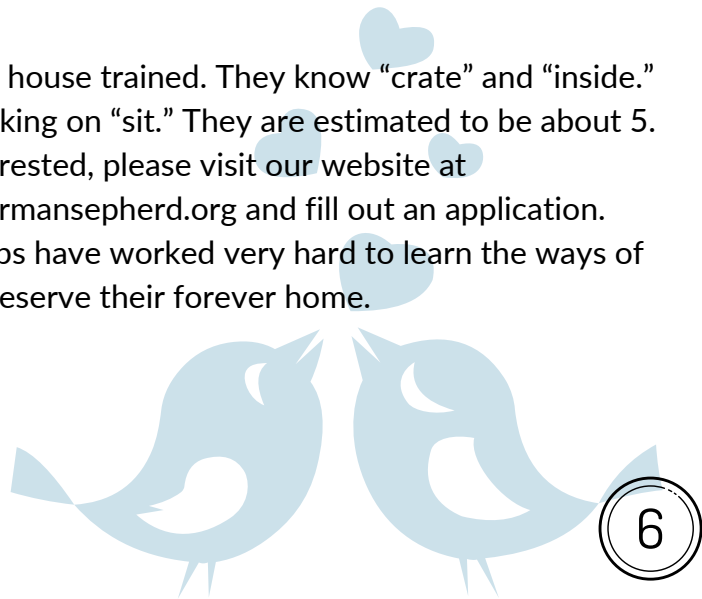
They are a bonded pair that have had quite the adventures in their life. They made sure to get their pups happy and safe homes and are now looking for one of their own. They aren't quite sure about this whole living with humans thing yet so they would appreciate a home with a patient human.

Maggie loves taking naps in the sun and playing with toys. Her favorite are the ones with toys hidden inside. She likes to get them out and give them to her mate. She really likes any toy that can put up a good fight.

Sur likes to play hide and seek with humans but never goes too far. His favorite spot to hide is under his outdoor cot. He graciously accepts the toys that Maggie gives him but also like hard chew toys. He says they remind him of his younger years on the street. If he isn't outside, he can be found curled up on his favorite corner of the couch taking a nap.



They are both house trained. They know "crate" and "inside." Maggie is working on "sit." They are estimated to be about 5. If you are interested, please visit our website at [www.saveagermansepherd.org](http://www.saveagermansepherd.org) and fill out an application. These two pups have worked very hard to learn the ways of humans and deserve their forever home.





Sergeant Stubby during a visit to the White House to meet President Coolidge, November 1924. Photo courtesy National Museum of America, History Division of Armed Forces

# WAR DOGS

By Nathan Dinger

American history is littered with stories of famous War Dogs hailed as heroes by the military. Topping that list is Sergeant Stubby, who was the most decorated four-legged warrior of World War I (WW I). Sergeant Stubby earned his rank and fame by warning Soldiers of incoming artillery rounds, mustard gas attacks, and locating critically wounded troops on seventeen of France's worst battlefields. In one instance, Sergeant Stubby even identified and captured a German spy all on his own. Sergeant Stubby's war efforts were recognized by three presidents, eleven medals, and the appointment as the mascot of Georgetown University, go Bulldogs!

Americans have celebrated Military Working Dogs (MWD) like Sergeant Stubby throughout history. However, towards the end of the Vietnam war, the U.S. Government began to identify MWD's as military surplus and stopped returning these heroes to the homeland. The dog handlers who were assigned to the canine warriors advocated and requested to bring their companions home, and some even offered to pay out of pocket for the animals' transportation and adoption. Most requests were denied by the U.S Government and 1,600 dogs were euthanized, while another 2,700 were given to the South Vietnamese Army to use as they saw fit. For supporters of the MWDs, the mantra "no man left behind," did not apply.

Continued....

## War Dogs Continued.

In 2000, the fate of many MWDs began to change when President Bill Clinton signed “Robby’s Law” (H.R. 5314) into effect and the U.S. Government was again moved to make all MWDs, that were suitable, available for adoption upon their retirement from service. Robby’s Law came about after a military working dog, named Robby, had received a diagnosis of arthritis and elbow dysplasia and a military veterinarian scheduled Robby for euthanasia. Robby’s handler spent months trying to adopt Robby as numerous handlers, Veterans, state representatives, and Senators lobbied for legislative change. Robby was euthanized before the legislation passed.

The delay in the passing of Robby’s law stemmed from fear that Robby, and other working dogs like him, would not adjust well to civilian life. Additionally, many experts feared that the aggressive military training, combat experience, and PTSD related behavioral issues that many MWDs experienced would make them dangerous and unfit for adoption. In response, the military implemented a program at Lackland Airforce Base where each MWD is put through a three-phase screening process. The screening assesses for three areas of aggression: (1) Verbal aggression towards the canine’s handler, (2) Verbal aggression towards the canine, and (3) Canine’s response to bite pads.

It is important to remember that even though an MWD may pass his/her screening they are still not “regular” dogs. MWDs will face the same challenges of any Service Member reintegrating into society. Their transition will come with challenges that are not for the faint of heart. Adopters must be patient and have a willingness to learn K9 training skills, and most importantly treat their MWD with the love and respect they deserve. Very often, the MWD’s military handler is the perfect person to take on the task and always gets priority in the adoption process.

Robby’s Law requires that all MWDs that are suitable are made available for adoption after these animals complete their service to their country. There is currently an 18 to 24-month waiting period to adopt one of these heroes.

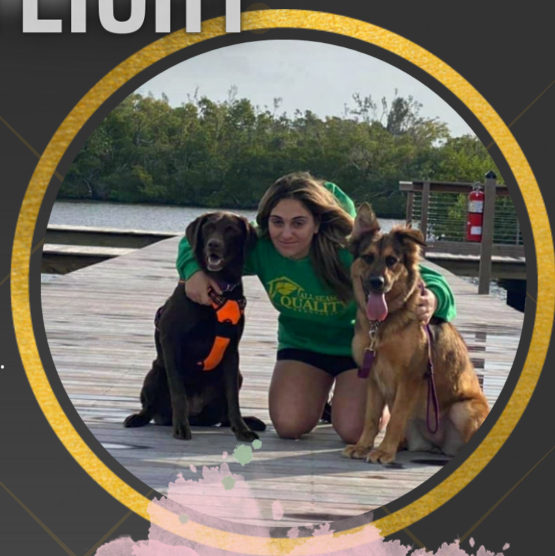
To learn more about MWDs or for more information on the adoption process please visit:  
<https://www.37trw.af.mil/Units/37th-Training-Group/341st-Training-Squadron/Military-Working-Dog-Adoption-Program/>



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If you have had the pleasure of meeting Maya, then you're probably not surprised that she is this edition's volunteer spotlight!

Maya has been rescuing dogs since she was 8 years old. She joined the Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue team in 2019. I had the privilege of speaking with her about her experience.



*Maya*

Q: What do you like most about working with BCGSR?

A: I love the German Shepherd breed and learning more about working dogs. I love the community and the volunteers in this group.

Q: What are your passions?

A: Animal rescue and including my dogs in everyday activities. I love working with dogs.

Q: What's something about you that most people don't know?

A: That I've been working with rescue dogs for so long, but don't want to do it as a career. I really love traveling and road trips.

Q: How have you grown while working with BCGSR?

A: Tremendously. I've learned a lot about how to handle and treat dogs, teaching others, and dog sports.

Q: Which foster or rescue dog stands out in your memory the most and why?

A: There are two dogs that I think about every day. Sally, who was hit by a car and was at MDAS. She used to run away from people and ended up becoming the most incredible dog. At the same time, I rescued a lab named Hunter, who I also really miss.


Q: What have been your biggest accomplishments with animal rescue?


A: The amount of dogs rescued from death row and placed in homes. I've rescued around 120 dogs under the age of 18. My biggest supporters are my parents by allowing me to rescue so many.





# WHATCHU KNOW BOUT DOG FOSTERING?


By Shimmy Hacker


 A great way to get exposure to different dog breeds and ultimately find out if YOU are even ready to be a dog owner in the future, should you want to be.


 A SUPER big help to rescues and shelters near you that get overwhelmed with dogs that need to be placed into homes but no longer have the space to care for them properly.

 A great way for dogs who need to be rehomed to have a safe and loving place to go while rescues and shelters diligently look for the right home for them

 For those of you that need, fostering also allows you to adopt a companion to be with you and love you, which in these times we could certainly use more of.

 For you parents, fostering is a great way to teach your children responsibility, accountability, and discipline (good luck NOT being disciplined with a new animal)

 If any of you have thought about fostering in the past, totally do it. Look up rescues near your area then contact them on social media or email them. There are so many rescues everywhere that need it and you and the pup will be better off for it every single time.

 As a small aside, if there's a breed you're thinking about actually getting, consider fostering that breed first or something similar to get a feel for what they're like! Costs you nothing and means everything to the dog.

I've been fostering for almost 2 years now whenever I can and I enjoy it very very much so I wanted to tell you all about it. The photo above is of the dog I'm currently fostering. His name is Chase and he is basically Simba, the King of Pride Rock.



Interest



A new way to find the best  
#dog



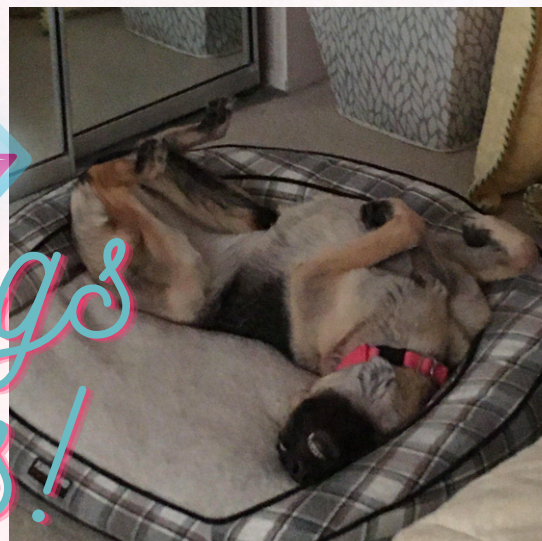
# HAPPY TAILS

Noa had a rough start to life, shut away from the world in a cruel makeshift structure for no apparent reason.

This beautiful fur baby now lives in a paradise with multiple beds for her to sprawl comfortably on.



*Noa  
From Rags  
to Riches!*



Continue on Page 12 for a message from her new family.

I had originally met Noa when she was first rescued by Big Cypress. I had walked her a few times when she was still with Michelle Delaney. She was pretty shy back then, but I saw something special in her. However, at that time, we still had Elsa, the dog we were fostering as her hospice home. Elsa did not care for other dogs. Elsa lived with us for 22 months which was about 18 months longer than her original diagnosis. After Elsa passed in September 2021, we were really missing the company of a dog.



I thought for sure Noa would have been adopted by the time we were ready for another dog. I had shown my husband pictures of Noa, as I saw her still available in posts on Facebook. My husband also saw something special in her! So we contacted Michelle and she put us in touch with Cheri, the wonderful woman that was fostering Noa for well over a year....I believe it was 17 months! So on January 15, 2022, Cheri brought Noa over to meet with us. And that was the beginning of our life with Noa. Noa stayed with us that night and we never looked back! Noa has really adapted well to our home and enjoys being able to go out and roam on the lanai. We go for frequent walks throughout the day and of course, we play with a ball throughout the day! Noa is pretty demanding when she wants to play! She will grab one of her many balls that are around the house and roll them onto the table, across my computer, or wherever she has to plop it on to get our attention! And there is no ignoring her when she wants to play!

Noa has gotten to know many of our friends and knows that she gets lots of love from all of them. If you are not a dog person, then you probably don't want to come to my house! Noa has the run of the place and has her own special beds in two of our rooms, so she has options during the day if she is home alone. At night, she is right next to us in our room in one of her beds, but one of her favorite spots is on her cot that we got her so that she can lounge out on the lanai. When we sit outside at night for cocktail hour, Noa knows that she also gets a treat of chicken chips! How quickly she learned to give her paw to earn a treat! Now she will simply put her paw up before we even ask to let us know that she is ready for her treat! She is so smart! She puts a smile on our faces every single day. Noa has found her forever home and we love having her!

# GET INVOLVED

DO SOMETHING  
TODAY THAT  
YOUR FUTURE  
SELF WILL  
THANK YOU FOR.

**Fostering saves lives!** If you would like to help us save one of the many German Shepherds needing rescue, please consider opening your home on a temporary basis while we search for their forever home. All expenses are paid for by Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue and the rewards are endless.



If you cannot foster, please consider the many ways you can volunteer. Volunteers with a variety of skills are needed to ensure the success of our rescue. Are you good with animals, people, social media, or general work? Come have fun volunteering with us and help us make a difference.



Many people would like to be involved but are unable to foster or volunteer. Please consider sponsoring one of our rescues or making donations. Donations go directly to medical expenses, boarding fees, food, and supplies for our rescues. All donations are greatly appreciated.

# FEATURED PARTNER

If you haven't already checked out their website,  
please learn more about them here  
[doctorshempolutions.com](http://doctorshempolutions.com)



We are proud to announce that we are partnered with Canine Hemp Solutions in Labelle, FL!

They continuously make generous donations to Big Cypress German Shepherd Rescue and have even provided a forever home to one of our favorite rescues of all time! With their donations, we have successfully treated rescues and raised funds at our fundraiser event. We are eternally grateful for assistance like this and to be partnered with a company who cares as much about animals as we all do!



Canine Hemp Solutions uses hemp-based products made with the highest-quality ingredients that have many benefits for animals. It can be used to ease animal's pain and suffering, as well as anxiety. Their products have successfully treated parasitic infections, muscle trauma, and wound care.

In addition to making donations to rescue groups, Canine Hemp Solutions offers a 5% discount to our adopters. Please use this QR Code for their amazing offer.



Check out the bonus article  
attached with this newsletter from  
Canine Hemp Solutions!

# Thank you



**GERMAN SHEPHERD SHOP**  
*For the love of shepherds!*

## Thank you for reading

Thank you for joining our newsletter. If you have suggestions or wish to submit an article to be considered in our next newsletter, please email Lily McLane-Dalton at [Secretary@saveagermanshepherd.org](mailto:Secretary@saveagermanshepherd.org) along with your contact information.

If you would like to become a volunteer or consider one of our adoptable dogs, please visit us at [www.saveagermanshepherd.org](http://www.saveagermanshepherd.org) to submit an application.

We value all of our volunteers, donors, fosters, and adopters. Thank you for being a part of our community.

*Thank you*

