

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

August 2015



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Newsletter Editor:
[Dawn Marie Rae](#)

Send comments or suggestions to:
dawnmarie@grr-tx.com

Gold Ribbon Rescue

A Message From Our President



Hello everyone! I hope you and your Goldens are staying cool in this heat!

I'd like to talk about our Gold Ribbon Rescue \$5 Challenge this month and why it's important to our organization. Here's a little insight to what it's all about:

A handsome, friendly adolescent born with badly malformed hips... a fluffy little stray, just a baby at 10 weeks, loving but listless from the dreaded parvovirus... a senior "train wreck" whose shelter pictures are almost too painful to look at... a mature gentleman and a true ambassador for the breed, suffering from seizure disorder and mast cell cancer...

GRR Goldens are young and old, boys and girls, shelter dogs and family pets, husky and dainty, red and blonde. What brings them all together? In too many cases it's health issues that require significant medical expense—major surgeries, repeated lab tests and blood draws, hospitalization and IV antibiotics, complicated diagnostics, and X-ray and ultrasound imaging. As we figure out each dog's problem and devise a plan of action, the costs skyrocket.

At GRR, one of our firmest principles is this: **We will never turn down a dog for health reasons and we will always be a haven for those who need help the most.**

But now more than ever, we desperately need **YOUR** help to continue our mission. And your help means so much! You have the chance to make one Golden after another feel better (maybe better than he or she ever has), and the hope of a happy-ever-after.

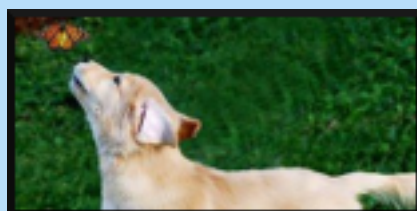
For just half of 2015, GRR's dog expenses have been \$51,788.00. Some of the medical expenses Gold Ribbon Rescue incurs are:

- \$27.30 to cover the veterinary exam for a Golden Retriever we rescue
- \$37.20 to cover the vaccinations for a Golden Retriever we rescue
- \$147.29 to cover the spaying / neutering for a Golden Retriever we rescue
- \$410.74 to cover the cost of heart worm treatment for a Golden Retriever we rescue

Help us continue to help every Golden who needs an extra assist into a brand new life by supporting our cause. **Please take the Gold Ribbon Rescue \$5.00 challenge. Every dollar matters!** You can see our video and donation page through FundRazr [here!](#) The campaign runs August 1st until August 15th.

In this issue you'll find out why we don't adopt out litter mates together, Dear Goldie is back asking for help with thunder and firecrackers, read about Camp Candy and see a loving farewell to Trooper (Fernando 05-059) from Cindy Berdan.

PO Box 956
Austin, TX 78767
512 659-4653
www.grr-tx.com



Get your 2016 Calendar thumbnail submissions in to Kathy Simmons. See the Events section below.

Enjoy!

-Margo

Upcoming and Current Events

Gold Ribbon Rescue \$5 Challenge: Help a Golden August 1 - 15

See Margo's column above for more details. You can see our video and donate page [here!](#)

GRR 2016 Calendar thumbnail submissions: Send photos of your fur babies to [Kathy Simmons](#) for your chance to show off in the calendar! **Entries due by August 31st.**

GRR Fall Splashfest

Saturday, October 31st

10:00am - 12:00pm

11400 N Mopac Expy Austin, Texas 78759

The event is \$25 per family (unlimited dogs) to help us cover the rental fee and food. Breakfast tacos, pastries drinks are included. The beach area of the lake will be gated off, so your dogs can enjoy splashing around, leash-free! All well-mannered dogs welcome. Please make sure your dogs are up to date on their vaccinations. See a map to the Quarries [here.](#)

Snout by Snoutwest Dog Festival

Sunday, November 8th

12:00pm - 3:00pm

JCC Austin, Soccer Fields

7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas

\$5 Adult/Free for Kids under 12 and Dogs

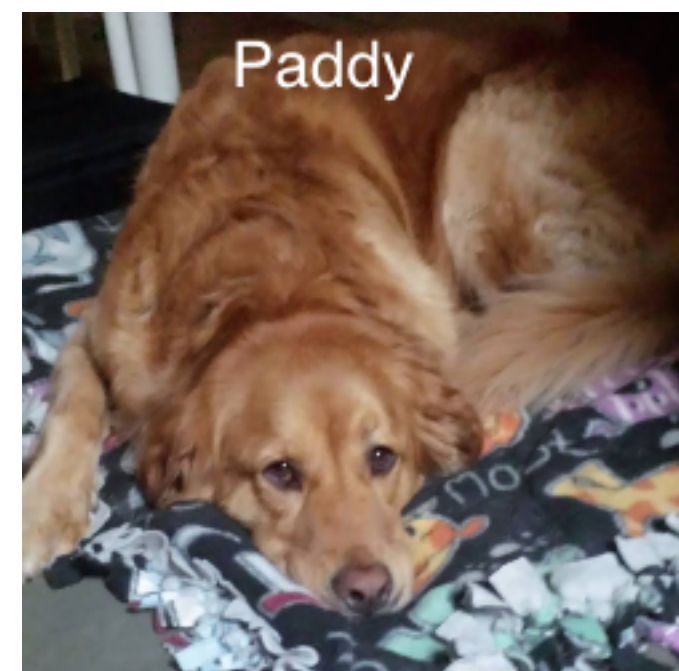
Dogtoberfest

October 17 2015

10:00 - 4:00

At the Domain

11410 Century Oaks Terrace, Austin, 79758



Our Wonderful Donors January 1 - June 30 2015

With our Memorial Day puppies



With great appreciation and sincere thanks to the following donors whose contributions have helped our rescue dogs in so many ways.

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Foster Family of the Month

Candy O'Connor

Pictured are Truman 13-037, Angel 15-001 and Sam 15-009

From Camp Candy:

I became a Foster Mom back in 2008 with the encouragement of Anne Williams. I helped care for a stray pup that was abandoned on our block. It took us 3 months of calling the Humane Society of San Antonio before we could arrange for the pup to be accepted by them.

After doing that, I found I had a knack for helping rescue dogs. I live alone and I had lots of free time that I could devote to helping a rescue dog. Anne said she would take care of all the foster reports, emails, trips to the vets, purchase the dog food, and walk the dog, if I would love and care for the dogs in my home. The GRR Board was asked if they would accept us as a foster team. They said yes and the rest is history.

I especially like the Oldie Goldies as they move at a slower pace. What started out as fostering just one

Golden expanded. Right now I have 3 fosters. Sam 15-009 is 12 years. Angel 15-001 is 10 1/2 years old and Truman 13-037 is 7 years old.

A good friend, Nadine Morning, and a former GRR member came up with a name for my home. It is called "Camp Candy". I suppose it is because I always have room for just one more, be it a weekend stash, a parking spot until another foster is available, or an Oldie that needs end of life love.

The second dog I fostered was a "keeper". I just could not send him on his way to another family. He had to be mine. I was able to adopt Mason and he was with me for 5 years, living until 2013. He helped me with the other fosters. He was a mentor, sometimes to one dog, and sometimes to 3 or 4. He always shared my love and attention.



I have photos of every dog that has come through my home. Each one has his or her own story to tell. One thing they all have in common is their ability to live each day giving love.

I am so glad I have had the opportunity to be a foster mom. It has been a grand experience. Always new and challenging!

For more information about fostering a Golden, click [here](#). To apply to be a foster family, click [here](#).

Volunteer Spotlight - Jane Shaughness

with Honey 15-039, Champ, Jane, ad Jake 13-004

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I started volunteering two years ago; about five months after we adopted our first golden, Jake (GRR 13-004), from Gold Ribbon Rescue.

What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

Having Jake in our lives was such a wonderful experience, and we were so grateful to the many kind folks who had helped bring him into our lives, I just wanted to do *something* to help.

What volunteer position do you hold?

We have fostered and provided respite to five dogs. I also help update the website.

About how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in this position?

It depends. When the GRR website was hacked and we had to re-post information about dogs and events it seemed like I worked a couple of hours a day!

What is your favorite part above all?

I love to hear about the happy endings; the stories of how these wonderful creatures become such a loved and integral part of people's families.

Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position.

When I picked up my last foster from the vet's office in Round Rock, she insisted on sitting in the front seat. I tried to persuade her into the back of the station wagon with a treat, but she wouldn't have it, so I put the seat belt on her and drove back to Austin. She sat in the front seat without moving all the way home!

Give one piece of advice for volunteers interested in serving in this position.

Go to a volunteer training session to hear about the tons of ways that you can help then pick one thing you can do. It doesn't have to be a huge commitment but if each of us does *something* then no one has to do *everything*.

What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR?

Truly, everyone I have met through Gold Ribbon Rescue is just so *nice*.

For more information about volunteering, click [here](#).



Dear Goldie

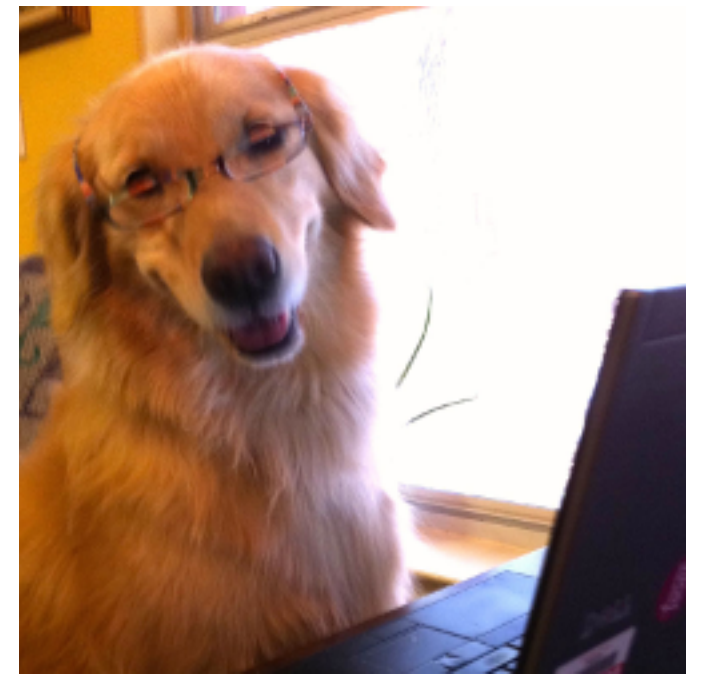
Dawn Marie Rae

The winds are blowing, the lights are flashing, there is a God bowling upstairs, maybe Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture with all the cannons is playing up there, I have NO idea what's going on. And then there is that one hellish night in the summer where the popping noises NEVER stop!

Whatever is going on, it is freaking me out! I shake and claw on the door and hide in one closet after another and I just don't know if I can sit still. I tried to get out of the yard once, but that wasn't the answer because it was even louder - OUCH.

My humans try to hold me and pet me, but this just makes things worse, it just gets me more worked up. Then they put me in a crate. That is so NOT cool! I have to be on the run. I even wet my pants last week because of this. I need help fast.

- Frantic in Fredricksburg



Dear Frantic,

I fortunately can commiserate with you on this subject! I want to help you get some relief and find some peace of mind. Here's a few things you can do.

- Find a quiet safe place like a closet and have Mom put your food and water there with you, or maybe some toys, so you can associate these nice things with the closet. See if this helps.
- Don't wait too long to get help. Have your Mom play with you a little and get some treats and distract yourself. How about a massage?
- Sometimes, playing some music real low might calm you.
- Also, ask your Mom to talk to your doctor about some medications to help you along if things don't improve.
- Don't forget about a Thundershirt, ask Mom.
- And last, you might have to go to class to do some conditioning. Maybe you'll stand up to the noise and do some confidence building. It's not that bad and the treats can help.

By the way, try some Debussy. He might drown out the cannons and his music is nice and soft.

Why Raising Littermates Together is a Bad Idea

Shari Elkin, CPDT-KA



Murphy and Jazz



Goldie 15-010 and Arson

Looking to add a new dog or two to your family? Buying or adopting multiple dogs together can have a severe impact on their future behavior. I hear the same story over and over: "It was Christmas Eve and there was this sign reading 'Two FREE PUPPIES.' We felt sorry for them so we took them both home." Not realizing their mistake, ten months later one dog has bitten six people, the other shies away from strangers.

Another story I hear is about siblings sitting side by side in their cage at the pound: “you can’t take one and leave the other, right?” One year later, the male growls and snaps at any new person and attacks other dogs yet his sister loves everyone. Well-intentioned people and rescuers often get siblings because they want their dog to have a companion, a playmate, not wanting one to go home alone.

Puppies do learn important social tools from their littermates. They learn to share food, toys and attention. They are taught the rules of play and “how much is too much” by their brothers and sisters. After sixteen weeks, the bonds that have developed between them become dangerously hard to break. And why break them? There are two important reasons... Read the full article [here](#)

Shari Elkin, CPDT-KA
Director of Training and Behavior Consultant
The Canine Center for Behavior and Training
11500 290 West
Austin, TX 78737

Tucker - A Non-GRR Dog to the Rescue

Arne and Donna Larson



Our journey with Golden Retrievers began over 30 years ago in Colorado, however, our first Texas golden came into our lives in 2003. We had recently lost a wonderful dark-red female and were ready to fill the void with a new dog. After searching for a few months, Donna came across a rescue group out of Dallas called GRRNT (Golden Retriever Rescue of North Texas) and specifically, a beautiful red male that needed a new home.

Much like Gold Ribbon Rescue, GRRNT doesn't normally adopt out of its area. However, after seeing our résumé of dogs, cats and dozens of other types of animal rescues, both domestic and wild, they were convinced we were the perfect match for this big guy. It was agreed that Donna would meet them halfway between Dallas and San Antonio and transfer the dog to her for his ride south to his new home. For the next two hours, he sat in the back of the SUV with his head sticking between the two front seats making a low rumbling sound. Donna knew that at any moment he was going to eat her face off! However, we soon discovered that his ominous growl was just his “happy” sound, which he would do the rest of his life whenever he was content.

We named him “Tucker” and he became Donna’s loyal sidekick, following her wherever she went. He was also one of the most gentle, patient and gracious dogs we have ever owned. We began adopting and fostering dogs with GRR in 2008 and for the next several years, he seemed to thoroughly enjoy the parade of dogs that we had go through the house, some of which also made our house their forever home.

Looking back, Tucker’s crowning achievement was helping to raise two litters of puppies, Copper’s (10-066) “Candy” puppies born on New Year’s Eve 2010 and Hope’s (11-152) “Thanksgiving” puppies from the fall of 2011. From the time they were first born to the day the last of them was adopted, Tucker’s “maternal” instinct kicked in and he took care of each of them like they were his own. He would clean them, play with them, sleep with them and teach them how to behave with the other dogs and cats. We ended up adopting one of the puppies Dudley (10-178) and we think that he considered Tucker his parent as well.

Around the same time, Tucker began the process of training to become a therapy dog. He loved everyone and would have made a wonderful ambassador to visit hospitals and nursing homes, but his health started to fail. We had to say goodbye to Tucker in May 2012 when he finally got to the point he couldn't walk anymore. All of our Golden Retrievers are special, but he was truly a one-of-a-kind and the wonderful memories of him will last forever.

GRR Monthly Status Report: June 15th - July 15th



Adopted: 15-047 Papa Bear, 15-044 Ritz, 15-054 Noelani, 15-039 Hannah, 15-010 Goldie, 15-034 Finian, 15-065 Jake

Came in to GRR Care: 15-077 Benedict, 15-078 Molly, 15-079 Tucker, 15-080 Howie, 15-081 Mona, 15-082 Theo, 15-083 Tanner, 15-084 Rose

Currently in Foster Care: 55 (25 Available Now/Soon, 16 Foster Pending Adoption, 4 Matched, 10 Permanent Fosters)

We Want to Hear from You!

Dawn Marie Rae



Sophie 13-035

Each dog adopted from GRR is special; each has a unique story...and each happy ending is a joy to read. We would love to share YOUR adoption story with our readers.

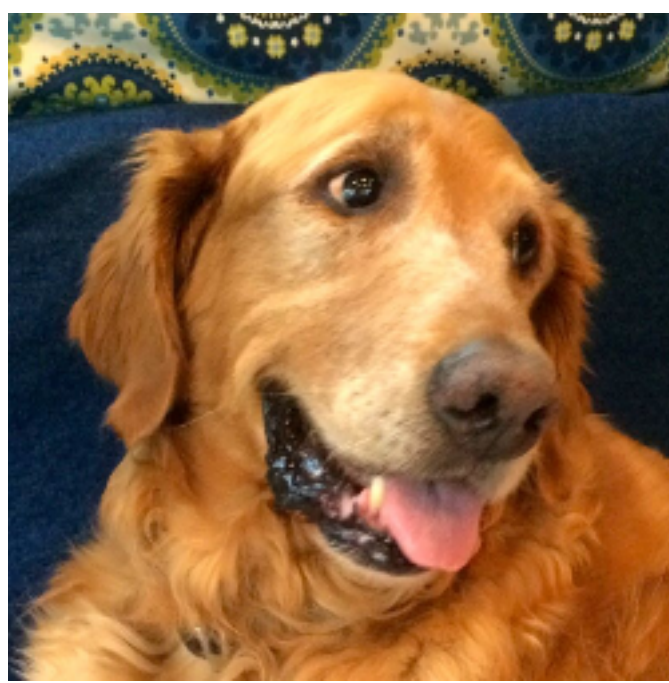
We'd also like to hear a memorial from you if you have lost your GRR dog and would like to pay tribute to them in the newsletter. We welcome article submissions and suggestions on other topics of interest, too.

Not a good writer? It doesn't matter! Just tell us your story and we'll edit it as needed. Help us share your dog's story.

If you would like to contribute something, we'd love to hear it! If you think your story is one our readers would enjoy, please submit it via email to Dawn Marie Rae. (Please include a photo in your e-mail.)

In Loving Memory - Trooper (Fernando 05-059)

Cindy Berdan



On June 23rd, we said goodbye to Trooper, but not before we enjoyed some time in the backyard in the green grass lying under his favorite oak tree, being serenaded by the doves and cardinals. His ears perked up when he heard some children's laughter on the next street. And not before we had another adventure to the Grand Canyon and all the National Parks in Utah with the Airstream. He loved being on the road with us and always enjoyed making new friends. I have to confess he was always the most well behaved dog, too. ♥

I think his favorite thing in the world was just being with us, with Wendy the foster he picked out for us (Wednesday 07-019), and all the Grandkids he loved so much. This rowdy boy turned out to be the best boy ever. Five years of travels with the Airstream and almost 10 years of life in this house we have lived in just a little longer. It is too quiet now without him. This is the house that built Trooper.

So he went peacefully on a quilt he had chewed the corner off years ago. I still have the neck roll with his bite marks I will keep forever! We loved you so and wish you didn't have to go, but we will see you again Trooper ...someday.

We so appreciate GRR for all they do to save the Goldens! Thanks to all the Vets and techs at Terrell Vet Clinic, Dr. Oliver Engle at Lakeline Animal Care and Dr. Kristen Butler Berdan, our daughter-in-law, for all the guidance through the last months.

On and On - A Poem

Dedicated to All Those Who Rescue

One by one, they file past my cage
Too old, too worn, too broken, no way
Way past his time, he can't run and play
Then they shake their heads slowly and go
on their way

A little old man, arthritic and sore
It seems I am not wanted anymore
I once had a home, I once had a bed
A place that was warm, and where I was fed

Now my muzzle is grey, and my eyes slowly fail
Who wants a dog so old and so frail?
My family decided I didn't belong
I got in their way; my attitude was wrong

Whatever excuse they made in their head
Can't justify how they left me for dead
Now I sit in this cage, where day after day
The younger dogs all get adopted away

When I had almost come to the end of my rope
You saw my face, and I finally had hope
You saw through the grey and the legs bent with age
And felt that I still had life beyond this cage

You took me home, gave me food and a bed



And shared your own pillow with my poor tired head
We snuggle and play and you talk to me low
You love me so dearly, you want me to know

I may have lived most of my life with another
But you outshine them with a love so much stronger
And I promise to return all the love I can give
To you, my dear person, as long as I live

I may be with you for a week or for years
We will share many smiles, you will no doubt shed tears
And when the time comes that God deems I must leave
I know you will cry and your heart it will grieve

And when I arrive at the Bridge all brand new
My thoughts and my heart will still be with you

And I will brag to all that will hear
Of the person who made my last days oh, so dear

- Author unknown

17 Reasons Your Dog Has Made You a Better Person

[From dogpost.com](http://dogpost.com)

Though pets may seem like a luxury to some, to the true dog lover a dog is not a luxury. A dog is a living being with its own personality, which offers genuine rapport and friendship. Though pets may seem like a luxury to some, to the true dog lover a dog is not a luxury. A dog is a living being with its own personality, which offers genuine rapport and friendship.

Don't get us wrong. Dogs are a blast! But they also require much care and attention. As a result, dog people tend to be...well, better people. Here's why.

1. Pawsonal Responsibility

There's no getting around the fact that you have accepted responsibility for a living creature. Embracing that responsibility will encourage you to take on more responsibility.

2. Communication

Dogs can't use words like people, so you learn to communicate in other ways: through touch or gesture. Which makes you think harder about how your non-verbal signals are received by other persons in your life.

3. Affection

The gestures and touches you learn to communicate with will make you more affectionate, and everybody likes being treated with affection.

4. You Become Nicer

The more affectionate you become and the more people like you, the nicer you'll eventually be.

5. Stronger Relationships

With all that affection, niceness and likability, you're bound to improve the quality of any of your relationships. Having such intense focus on your relationship with your pup will naturally lead you to similarly invest yourself in all relationships.

6. Patience

Short walks easily turn into long walks. Like kids, dogs wake up in the middle of the night to poop, pee or throw up. But you find yourself not feeling imposed upon. You want them to be better and you take the time to ensure they are. In essence, you learn the art of patience.

7. Flexibility



Diamond (Pansy) 15-022

Okay, so not really yoga flexibility. But with all the unexpected aspects of pup parenthood, you learn to manage your time around the unexpected until nothing can throw you off balance!

8. **You Won't Hold Grudges**

As you learn to bend like a reed in the wind, you also let go of things like blame. Your pup didn't hurl in your shoes at midnight on purpose. So you forgive them. And slowly forgiveness becomes a commonplace occurrence.

9. **Priorities**

You'll find yourself putting your pup before other things in your life. You may blow off social outings to go home and walk or play with your pup. It doesn't make you boring, it means you know what's more important.

10. **Planning Ahead**

Since you and your pup will have different schedules, you'll learn to coordinate them to make sure they're both fulfilled.

11. **Living In The Moment**

With that said, you'll also learn to stop and smell the roses. On days you have an appointment in the afternoon, you'll better appreciate the morning you have with your pup.

12. **Health**

You take your dog to the vet at least once a year and that'll make you more mindful of your own checkups.

13. **Exercise**

Your pup gets a few walks a day, but do you? Keeping your pup fit will make you more conscientious of your fitness.

14. **Diet**

Same goes here. You'll want your pup to have the healthiest food, which should make you realize you deserve the same. You should both be happy and healthy.

15. **Self-esteem**

Your dog doesn't judge you. Your dog accepts you. If your dog accepts you, you must be pretty darn awesome! So who cares what other people think about you? After all, you're already good enough for your pup.

16. **Importance Of Play**

Dogs NEED recreational time. The more time you spend playing with them, the more you'll realize you need play time too.

17. **Sense Of Humor**

Most importantly, you learn to laugh at the hurdles life puts in your way. Where pee, poop, boogers and drool once seemed gross, they become a fact of life. Eventually they become jokes. Instead of frowning at your pup as you wipe their face, you make bets on whether their drool can reach the floor. This helps you find the humor in all things.

Is Your Dog Fat?

[From All About Goldens](#)

Owning overweight dogs is not good news, especially when it comes to Golden Retrievers. Goldens are prone for hip dysplasia, which is a degenerative joint disease that can cause severe limping and other serious problems. Though hip dysplasia can be hereditary, being overweight can greatly increase, **and can sometimes even cause**, this very destructive disease. Obese dogs put a much greater strain on their individual joints.

Ideally, male Golden Retriever dogs should weigh between 65 and 75 pounds at full maturity. Female Goldens should weigh between 55 and 65 pounds. However, this is a guideline only. The best indicator of whether or not your dogs are overweight, is to look at and feel their bodies. Male or female, your Golden Retriever should have a "curvy" look to him.

While standing over your Golden and looking down at him, you should be able to see a "waist" in front of

his hips. Looking at him from the side, you should be able to see a streamlined, abdominal up-tuck, **not** a straight, flat line all the way across. You should not be able to **see** your Golden's ribs, but using your hand and running it down along the sides of his body, you should be able to **feel** his ribs with your fingers. If you cannot see a waist or feel any ribs, then you probably have overweight dogs, regardless of what the actual weight is.

Note: This only applies to adults. While puppies are growing, their bodies go through many changes, and judging their ideal weight cannot be assessed in this manner. Also, puppies rarely over eat, and never should be put on diets.

There are several ways to remedy overweight problems, and get him back to his ideal size, if he has put on too many pounds.



- Notice how many treats you give to him. It doesn't matter if you have been giving him table scraps, or dog treats. If he is overweight, these will need to be stopped. Many times stopping these daily treats will be enough to slowly get your Golden's weight back in order.
- Has he been getting enough exercise? Exercise for dogs is pretty simple, since they don't look at exercise as we do. They consider it fun, rather than a dreaded chore!
- Start taking him for daily walks, playing fetch or similar games with him, or even taking him for a swim.
- If you are trying to help him lose weight, it will be easier on him if you divide the amount of food that he is suppose to eat in a day, into small meals and feed him 2 to 3 times a day. This way, he won't be as hungry throughout the day.
- Unsalted, rinsed, green beans, and/or baby carrots can be fed to overweight dogs. Either of these can replace one or more of his feedings, depending on how much weight he has to lose. Use caution with this though, as adding all of this additional fiber to his diet, may cause loose bowel movements.

It will take awhile for your overweight Golden Retriever to lose the extra pounds, but it can and **should** be done. Dogs that maintain a healthy weight, are healthy dogs, and will live a longer, happier life.

Lucy's Recuperation Food

[From AllRecipes.com](http://AllRecipes.com)

"I have a golden retriever that eats everything! She often gets into things she is not supposed to, despite extreme effort on my part to shield her. She has eaten flour, tea, coffee grounds - you name it! When she does this, it makes her sick, so I feed her this for a couple of days, until her stomach settles. It is easy on the stomach, but nutritious and filling. If ever your pet is feeling a little under the weather, I recommend this."

Ingredients:

- 4 cups low-salt chicken broth
- 1 15 ounce unsalted green beans
- 2 cups rice

Directions:

1. Bring broth to boil. Add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Once rice is cooked, stir in green beans.
2. Cool to room temperature before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.

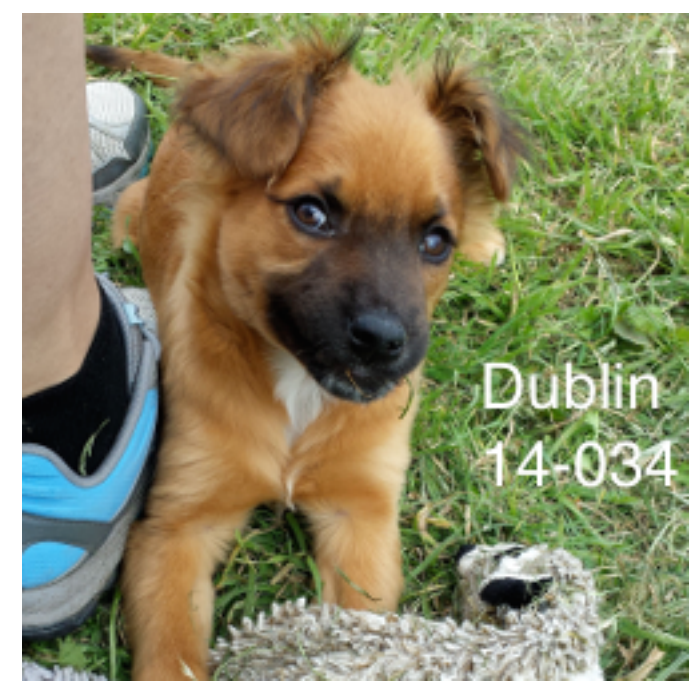


What Is Bloat?

ASPCA

When bloat occurs, the dog's stomach fills with air, fluid and/or food. The enlarged stomach puts pressure on other organs, can cause difficulty breathing, and eventually may decrease blood supply to a dog's vital organs.

People often use the word "bloat" to refer to a life-threatening condition that requires immediate veterinary care known as gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV), gastric torsion and twisted stomach. This condition can cause rapid clinical signs and death in several hours. Even with immediate treatment, approximately 25% to 40% of dogs die from this medical emergency.



What Are the General Symptoms of Bloat/GDV in Dogs?

- Distended abdomen
- Unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit
- Retching without producing anything
- Weakness
- Excessive salivation
- Shortness of breath
- Cold body temperature
- Pale gums
- Rapid heartbeat
- Collapse

What Causes Bloat in Dogs?

The exact cause is currently unknown. Certain risk factors include: rapid eating, eating one large meal daily, dry food-only diet, overeating, over-drinking, heavy exercise after eating, fearful temperament, stress, trauma and abnormal gastric motility or hormone secretion.

What Causes GDV in Dogs?

The exact cause is currently unknown.

What Should I Do If I Think My Dog Has Bloat?

Bring your dog to a veterinarian immediately. Timeliness of treatment is paramount, since a dog exhibiting signs of bloat may actually have GDV, which is fatal if not promptly treated.

How Is Bloat Treated?

Depending on your dog's condition, a veterinarian may take an X-ray of the abdomen to assess the stomach's position. The vet may try to decompress the stomach and relieve gas and fluid pressure by inserting a tube down the esophagus.

How Is GDV Treated?

If the stomach has rotated, emergency surgery is necessary to correct torsion. There are many complications that can occur both during and after surgery, including heart damage, infection and shock; intensive post-operative monitoring for several days is routine. Most vets will recommend that during this surgery, the dog's stomach be permanently attached to the side of the abdominal cavity in order to prevent future episodes.

Are Certain Breeds Prone to Bloat/GDV?

Most dogs love to overeat if given the opportunity, so any dog, from a Greyhound to a Chihuahua, can get bloat. However, it is very rare for dogs that are not large, deep-chested breeds to be struck with GDV. This condition most often afflicts those dogs whose chests present a higher depth-to-width ratio. In other words, their chests are long (from backbone to sternum) rather than wide. Such breeds include Saint Bernards, Akitas, Irish Setters, Boxers, Basset Hounds, Great Danes, Weimaraners and German Shepherds.

(GRR editor's note: While Golden Retrievers are not high on the list, it can still be an issue when strenuous exercising precedes and follows feeding.-dmr)

How Can I Prevent Bloat/GDV?

- Feed your dog several small meals, rather than one or two larger ones, throughout the day to avoid eating too much or too fast.
- If appropriate (check with your vet), include canned food in your dog's diet.
- Maintain your dog's appropriate weight.
- Avoid feeding your dog from a raised bowl unless advised to do so by your vet.
- Encourage normal water consumption.
- Limit rigorous exercise before and after meals.
- Consider a prophylactic gastropexy surgery (which fixes the stomach in place, as described above) if you have a high-risk breed.

Poisonous Toads in Texas? Yes.

[Healthy Pets with Dr. Karen Becker](#)



Cane Toad



Sonoran Desert Toad

You might be surprised to know that toad poisoning in dogs is not uncommon.

Over a 4-year period, Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI) processed almost 300 claims from pet guardians whose dog (or much less often, cat) had an encounter with a deadly toad. In fact, it was one of the top 10 types of poisonings during that 4-year period.

And keep in mind those numbers don't include the toad-poisoned dogs of pet owners without pet insurance (which is most of them).

Poisonous Toad Species

The two most well-known species of toad that are deadly to pets are the Sonoran Desert or Colorado River toad (*Incilius alvarius*, formerly known as *Bufo alvarius*) and the Marine or Cane toad (*Rhinella marina*, formerly known as *Bufo marinus*).

These toads are quite large, reaching 8 or 9 inches in length as adults. They are typically only found in and between Arizona and California, as well as in **Texas**, Florida, Hawaii, and other tropical areas. Of the two species, the Marine or Cane toad is considered more poisonous.

How Dogs Get Poisoned by Toads

Many dogs view toads as prey and catch them in their mouths. All toads secrete a substance through their skin that is foul tasting to other animals. Deadly species of toads, when threatened, secrete a highly toxic chemical that is absorbed through membranes in the dog's mouth, and sometimes the eyes.

The toxin is similar to the human heart medication digoxin and consists of compounds called bufotoxins and bufodienolids, and biogenic amines such as bufotenins, bufotionins, epinephrine, and serotonin that are produced in the toad's parotid glands and skin. As the dog mouths, licks, or chews the toad, the glands are compressed, which secretes the toxin.

Less commonly, the toxin is absorbed through wounds or broken skin, and there have also been reports of poisoning as the result of toads sitting in a pet's water bowl, or even just the lip of the bowl.

Time is your enemy

If your dog has been exposed to a toxic toad, time is your enemy, so it's crucial that you get your pet to your veterinarian or an emergency animal clinic immediately. Pets that are treated before the toxin is fully absorbed, within about 30 minutes, have the best chance of recovery.

Unfortunately, the overall prognosis is not good, and death is very common in dogs exposed to toad venom.

Treatment Protocol for Toad Toxicity

The first step in treating toad toxicity is to flush the dog's mouth with large amounts of water for 5 to 10 minutes to prevent further absorption of the venom. Often this is done under anesthesia so the entire mouth and throat can be thoroughly flushed. Activated charcoal may also be administered. Since an abnormal heart rhythm is a common symptom of this type of poisoning, your veterinarian will monitor your dog's heart function and response to treatment using an electrocardiogram (EKG). Drugs may be used to control an abnormal heartbeat.

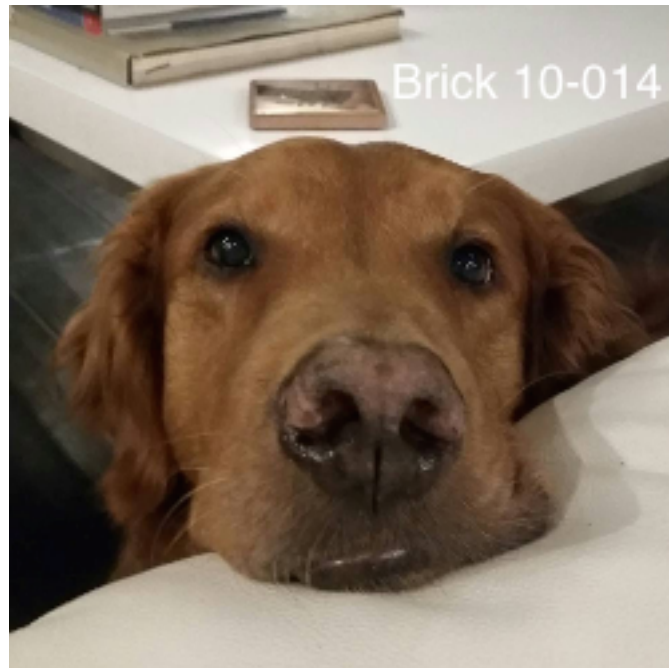
Your dog may also need to be placed in a cool bath to keep her body temperature stable. IV fluids will be administered to keep her hydrated and to manage seizures.

Sedation may be necessary, especially for dogs in obvious pain or extreme distress. Your dog will need to be continuously monitored until she is fully recovered.

Most cases of toad poisoning occur during the warmest months of summer when humidity is high and the toads are more active. Dogs usually encounter the toads in the early morning or after dark. The toads are omnivores. Their natural diet is insects and small rodents, but they will also eat pet food left outdoors. This is often how pets come into contact with them – at an outdoor food or water bowl. It's advisable if you live in an area these toads inhabit, that you not leave pet food or water outside.

Matching Gifts and Volunteer Grants

Does your company offer these?



Did you know that your company might match your volunteer time contributions? Many local companies reward volunteer time with a donation of cash grants to non-profits in which their employees volunteer. For each hour of your volunteer time, your employer may donate money to GRR. Dell, Microsoft, EXXonMobil, and Gap are just a few.

From Tim Tierney (GRR Treasurer): I got a letter from Microsoft Employee Giving Program, and they are changing their donation. For each hour of volunteer time donated Microsoft donates \$25. Additionally they match up to \$15,000 total per employee per year. You must be a US employee of Microsoft for matching funds or volunteer funds.

See these sites for more companies and ask your human resources department whether your organization participates.

[Double the Donation](#) and [Friends of Youth](#)

Adoption Policy Change Regarding Families With Children

GRR Board

Golden Ribbon Rescue no longer adopts dogs to families with children under the age of 8 years old (repeat adopters will be considered on a case by case basis). This is a change from the previous requirement of no adoptions to families with children under 5 years of age.

We know many families want to have great memories of their kids growing up with a dog, like they did.

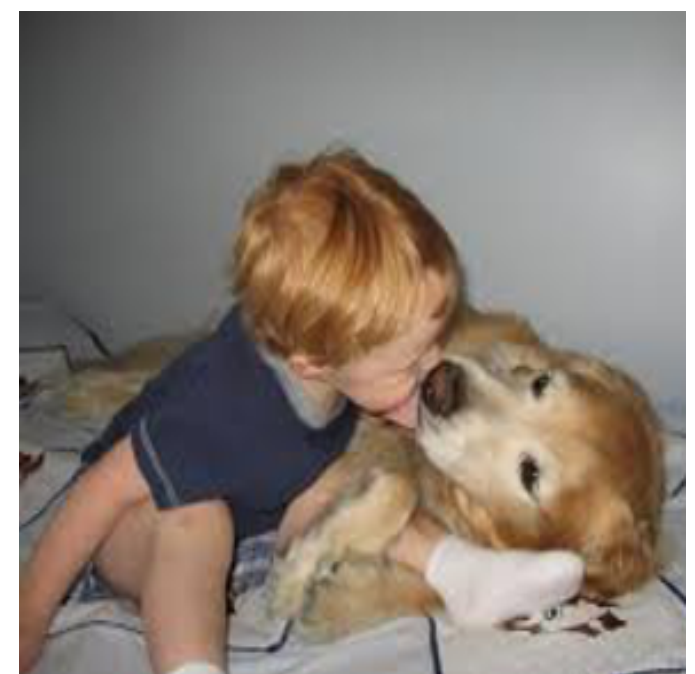
Golden retrievers have changed since many of us were kids. Greed often causes indiscriminate breeding. Puppy mills that mass produce dogs do so for profit and not for betterment of the breed.

As a result of changing times, 71% of the dogs we have taken into care since January 2015 are from shelters. These dogs come with an unknown history of their compatibility with children.

Very few of our foster homes have young children to provide us with insight on how the dog will interact with children.

Therefore, we cannot gauge how a dog will react when a child:

- Removes toys or food from the dog's mouth, bowl, or play area
- Runs and yells through the house or around the yard
- Crawls over or tugs at the dog; gives a hug



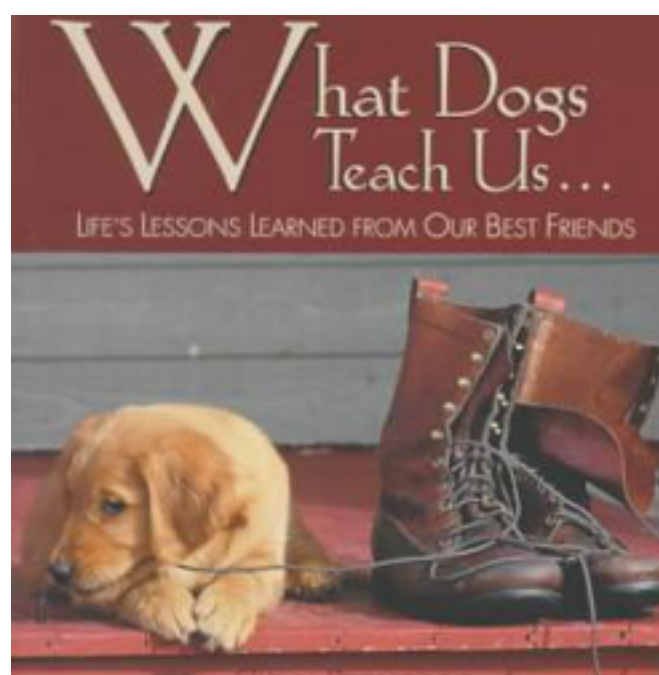
- Carries food in their hands
- Is left alone with the new dog without adult supervision

Small children, many at a dog's eye level, see a Golden as a play partner or stuffed toy. The quick movements of young children and their loud noises can become too much for a dog, which has led to injury to the children and euthanasia for the dog.

Based on this, we feel it is no longer appropriate for us to accept applications from families with children under 8, knowing the chances of placing a dog would be slim, and the wait for a suitable dog, extremely long.

Book Review: What Dogs Teach Us

[Amazon book link](#)



Dogs are our best friends for a number of reasons. Chief among them is their passion for the joys and simplicities of life that we humans so rarely achieve. *What Dogs Teach Us* is a colorful and charming little guide to life's lessons from the unassuming viewpoint of our canine companions. We can all become better friends to one another by applying this inherent wisdom and canine nature to our own lives and circumstances.
