

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

December 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



WELL! What a year this has been, right? We saw three litters of puppies: the Gems, the Memorial Day puppies, and the Sweet Treats. Our 14 Turkey Golden arrived safe and sound, fostered by some incredible people and helped into Central Texas by many generous donors and sponsorships. See the recap below. As of this writing, we have rescued 148 Golden, 76% of which are from shelters, 24% of which are owner surrenders. We remain dedicated to rescuing every single Golden in need of a loving home.

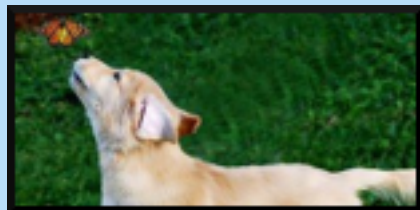
As 2015 comes to a close, I again say, thank you. Thank you for your love of these precious dogs, your passion in bringing them back to health, your dedication to giving them the love and affection they so deserve. In some way, be it volunteer time, financial assistance, or adopting, each of you has made a profound difference. Our dogs are that testament.

Enjoy your holidays with your family, friends and furry loved ones, and be well.

In this issue:

- Join us for our Annual Holiday Brunch
- Our newest stray, Pat Bond 15-007T
- A shout out to our Turkey Golden sponsors
- An update on Shaye and her puppies
- Updates from three of our Turkey Golden FPAs
- Giving Thanks at Thanksgiving - Andrea 15-137

Enjoy!
-Margo



Current and Upcoming Events - Annual GRR Holiday Brunch

Date: Sunday, December 20, 2015
Time: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Place: Elizabeth and Don Kalbacher's Home
Address: 5808 Via Drive, Austin, TX 78735
Venue:

- Champagne Brunch
- Silent Auction
- Holiday Music

A festive time to catch up with old GRR friends and make new ones! Please bring your favorite holiday salad, vegetable or dessert to share.

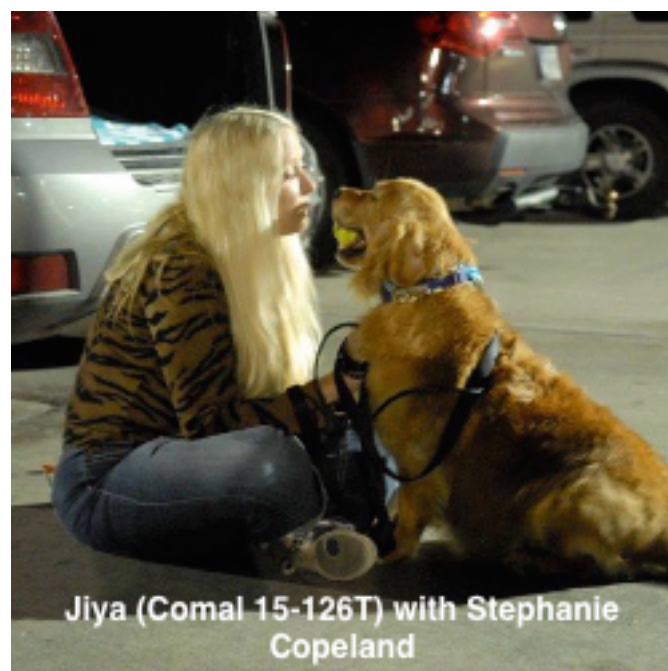
If you have an item to donate for the Silent Auction, contact [Pam Phillips](#) or [Paula Ellis](#).

Reservations are \$25 per person and should be made by December 15, 2016. Click [here](#) for reservations, registration, and to make your food selection.



OPERATION HOME: Our Thanks

The GRR Board of Directors



Can you believe it? We did it. It is just overwhelming what a wonderful thing we all just accomplished. Thank you...

- To our wonderful GRR volunteers who handled the logistics of all of this: 3+ months of planning.
- To our fund-raising team, for working their magic to find ways to help fund this effort.
- To [Service Dogs Inc](#), without whose support, we would have had an impossible time finding a safe and secure landing spot, and for spending the time with each dog to offer our foster homes the best advice on how to best integrate their new foster into this, well, new world.
- To our transporters for donating their time to transport at (insane) hours of the night, ensuring each and every dog was welcomed, their needs met, and they received some loving, before bringing the dogs to SDI.
- To our photographers and videographers, who ensured we captured every wonderful moment of this grand adventure.
- To our wonderful foster families, who are welcoming these dogs into their homes, understanding that the transition may possibly not be an easy one, but giving their 100% support to ensuring each of these pups transitions successfully.
- To all that contributed a full or co-sponsorship for each of these dogs. Without you, it would not have been possible to get this off the ground.
- To everyone who donated towards this cause in any way, through our FundRazr account, through buying a Turkey dog stuffie ... all of that has mattered to getting this off the ground as well.
- To all of our vets, Dr. Stried, Dr. LeBry, and Dr. Hunter, who offered their services to provide post-

arrival vetting to ensure that each of these dogs were given health assessments and provided any additional support needed.

- To our volunteers who came out to SDI to help break down crates, groom, bathe, walk, water, feed and provide loving encouragement by offering their time to sit and provide comfort.
- To everyone who gave so generously to ensure these pups arrived in style - beds, toys, shampoo, towels, treats, food.... the list goes on.
- To everyone who ensured all of our volunteers did not go hungry during this great undertaking.

To ALL of you - from all of our hearts. Thank you a million fold.

OPERATION HOME: Media links:

USA Today article: 'Dogs travel 6,500 miles to find forever homes'. Click [here](#) to see us on national news! (picked up from KVUE)

KSAT San Antonio, please click [here](#).

From the Drippings Springs online paper,click [here](#).

From the San Antonio Express, click [here](#).

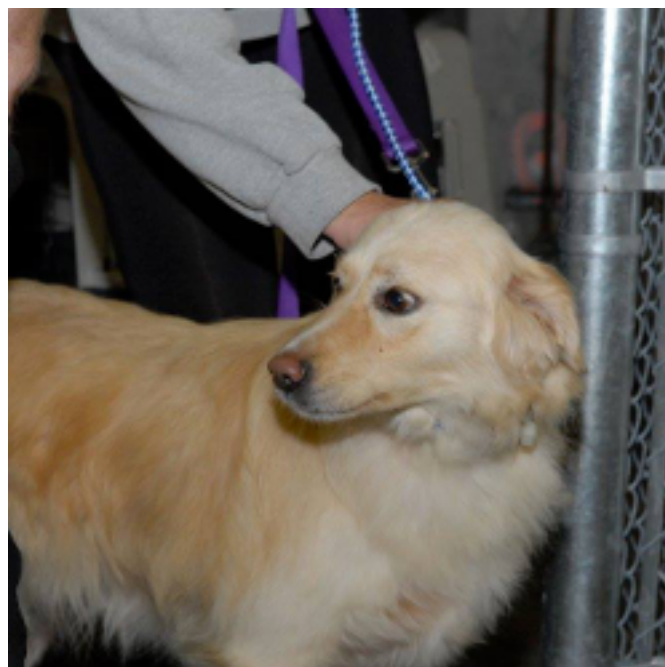
OPERATION HOME: 95 photos:(by Gary Biba)

Click [here](#) for the Dropbox album.

Shown below is Joe Pool 15-135T with the Williams family.



OPERATION HOME: Thank you Turkey Golden Sponsors!



A big, big shout of appreciation to our sponsors of the Turkey Golden. Your generosity can never be repaid and GRR will be forever grateful to each and every one of you.

Comal 15-126T Anonymous

Lady Bird 15-123T Anonymous

Frio 15-128T John & Kathy Simmons

Pecos 15-124T John & Kathy Simmons

Pecos 15-124T John and Elizabeth Horne

Trinity 15-122T Anne & Doug Williams

Trinity 15-122T Lynn Turner

Trinity 15-122T Central Texas Veterinarian Specialty Hospital – Medical Sponsorship

Travis 15-130T Anonymous

Red River 15-133T Lisa, David & Emily Savage

Red River 15-133T Bob and Leigh Tate

Angelina 15-132T Willow and Frodo

Deep Eddy 15-131T Anonymous

Deep Eddy 15-131T Sharon and David Mills

Joe Pool 15-135T Sweet Treats Bakery

Brazos 15-125T Benjamin Romano (in Memory of Sammy)

Brazos 15-125T Lera and Ron Borden

Emma Long 15-134T Food! Food!, Susan Eggert, Theo & Scout

Austin 15-129T Mollie Mitchell and the Ridgelea Rescuers)

Canyon 15-127T Lynne Wisby

General Turkey Golden Sponsors:

The Matthews Foundation

General Turkey Golden Co-sponsors:

The Pledger Family and GRR Lady

We've Brought in Another Stray, Meet Bond 15-007T (AKA Pat Capin)

By a bunch of Facebook rascals



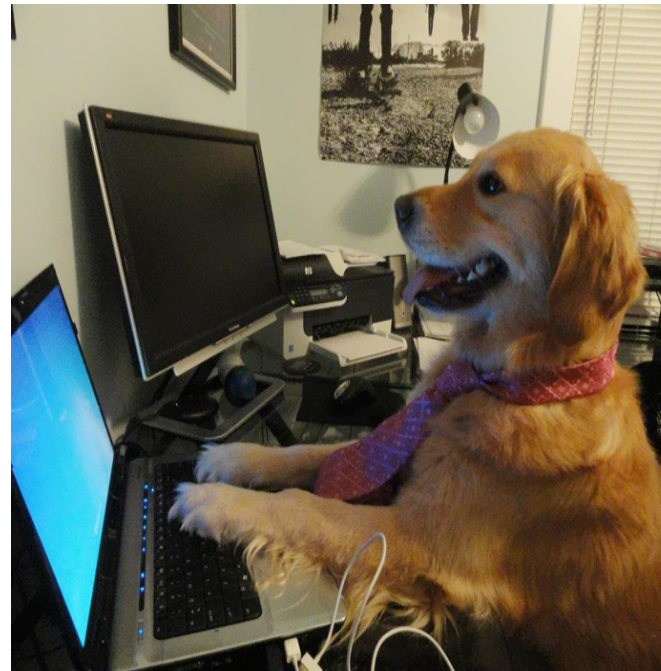
Meet our new addition, Bond, Pat Bond, pictured here at the shelter. She is patiently waiting for her forever home. She's very good around other dogs, especially Golden Retrievers, but we're not sure about cats just yet. She's house trained, but sometimes piddles when excited. She's very sociable and will actually speak English when prompted, a major plus, don't you think?

She may be a mix, as her ears do not completely cover her eyes, but she does have the characteristic

eyeliner. Her mascara tends to run when piddling though. Since she has not had a DNA test, we're going to make a guess that she is part Wolfhound, since she claims to be from Ireland. She is easily excitable, but winds down quickly and is not a jumper. She is not chipped and caution should be exercised as she may be a bolter. We will take care of the microchipping at no cost to you and our experts will help you work with her behavioral issues! The adoption fee is \$5.00; a great price for such a sweet girl. If you are interested in adopting this adorable Golden lover, fill out your application for adoption [here](#).

Dear Anna

Dean Koontz from [Ask Anna](#)



Dear Anna: What is it about tennis balls? Huh? What is it? Why do we like to chase after them and chase after them until we exhaust ourselves?

Dear Mutt and Jeff: Tennis balls are mystical objects symbolizing the perfect roundness of creation, reminding us that life is a chase toward our destiny. Each tennis ball is a symbol of eternal joy and eternal life. Humans bat them away with rackets because, sadly, humans are afraid to bite the concept of eternity and chew it. *They even squeak nowadays!* - **Love Anna**

OPERATION HOME: Emma Long 15-134T

Rick and Jeanne Avant



We had a Golden Retriever (Max) that recently passed away, and knew that when the time came, we wanted another Golden. We first heard about the plight of the Turkey Golden on national news when the Adopt a Golden – Atlanta rescue group was working to bring them to the US. Rick was so moved by the story that he contacted them and applied to adopt. He was quickly interviewed by phone and he submitted home pictures at their request. At the same time, I contacted GRR, applied to adopt, and completed the process. We were approved by both rescue organizations, and starting watching the websites for a Turkey dog. After focusing on Austin GRR Turkey dogs, we discovered Emma Long. We thought she would be the best match for us. We contacted the group that we would like Emma, and we all agreed to the Foster to Adopt program.

We met Emma for the first time at adoption day in Dripping Springs, and it was immediate love. The trip home confirmed our feelings for her. During the past week, our bonding has gotten stronger. She had a few "accidents" the first days, but quickly learned where she needs to go! She knows her name when I call her, has learned "sit", and we're working on "stay". When I get home from work, she greets me with a "Happy Dance". She prances/hops to me with her tail wagging a mile a minute, with the biggest bared teeth smile on her face that I've ever seen. She loves her toys, especially the rag babies. She is more laid back than our previous Golden, but she actually walks better on leash than he ever did! She has exhibited a lot of the same, endearing traits as Max, and sometimes it's almost as if we're looking into his eyes. Emma is perfectly filling the void in our hearts from losing Max. She is a cuddler and loves to make us happy. We brought her to our retreat in Corpus Christi, and she was so good during the drive, and after we arrived, as well. She made herself right at home with another new environment, as if she'd been coming here for a long time.

We are so looking forward to our future with our new family member. We want to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for fulfilling ours and Emma's needs.

OPERATION HOME: Travis 15-130T

Donnie and Cheryl Smith



On the Sunday the Turkey Goldens were to arrive, I was so excited to meet my new boy, I arrived an hour early at the meeting place! I sat there thinking about what he would be like. Would he be house trained? Would he get along with our other three? So, so excited! When I finally met him, he was more interested in the snacks everyone was offering, going potty, and generally sniffing everything in sight.

Once we reached Dripping Springs though, Travis and I had the first real chance of spending some one-on-one time, with him eating, us going for some walks, and me sitting in his pen with him. After he realized I kept coming back to him, he would lay in his pen and watch the door to see when I returned from helping the others. When he would see me, his eyes would light up and he would get really excited. The rest of that Monday we spent bonding and letting him know that I was always going to be there for him. We even got on TV when KVUE came that day. I got all teary eyed talking about him on camera, not one of my finer moments.

There have been many "new" things that evidently Travis has never experienced. The automatic garage door opener is one. I push the button to open and he sits there and thinks I do magic by opening it. He is also intrigued by the dishwasher and the pantry. Everyday seems to be something new he learns about. With this though, comes some bad habits. We have caught him a few times counter surfing and pulling stuff out of the trash. He is learning though, that these actions are not acceptable. It is hard though to punish him when he sits there with those puppy dog eyes and looks at you as to say "I love you Daddy". He follows me all over the house; lays out in the family room when I watch TV, or lays outside my home office when I work in there. Wherever he can keep an eye on me is where he is. He is truly a special boy.

That 24 hours spent picking up, and then working with, the new Texan Goldens, has forever made an impact on my life. It was such a wonderful sight to see all of those Golden smiles and their tails that were wagging a million miles an hour. It made all the lack of sleep and hard work worth it, and I would do it all over again - in a heartbeat. Travis has overcome many obstacles to make it this far, and now that he has, he will forever be a part of the Smith family. Welcome home Travis!

Shaye (15-097) and her Sweet Treet's! An Update...

Fostered by Jackie McGrath from [Sweet Treet's](#)



Shaye was scheduled to be spayed and plans changed - BIG TIME. Dr. Smith at [Manchaca Village Veterinary Care](#) did an ultrasound and said it probably wasn't a good time to spay. Shaye was PREGNANT! Stay tuned as we watch them grow into their own, with their personalities sure to shine through soon. Many, many thanks to **Jackie McGrath** for fostering, whelping, and loving these adorable dogs, Mama included!

Update from Jackie: The Sweet Treet's puppies are growing like weeds and are full of energy! Since the last newsletter, these little sweeties have learned to walk, run, and romp around. They can eat and drink on their own. They have mouths full of teeth. And, they have energy for days. They have moved out of their whelping box and into a nice, double-wide play area with lots of toys and fun things to play with. Each has its own, unique personality and they all look very different. It's hard to believe they are all from the same litter!

See the latest video of them [here](#). It guarantees a smile on your face and a bit more golden love in your heart! You can see regular updates on Facebook as well.

The Sweet Treet's Litter:

- 15-112 Pound Cake
- 15-113 Meringue
- 15-114 Marshmallow
- 15-115 Macaron
- 15-116 Biscotti
- 15-117 Short Cake

If you're looking for a Golden companion of your own and are ready for the responsibility, take a look at our available Texas Goldens [here](#).

Dear Goldie

Dawn Marie Rae

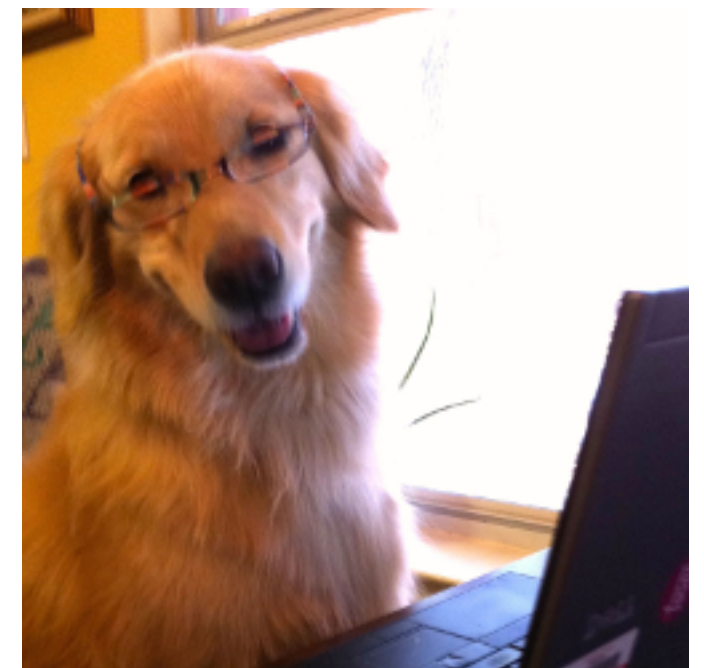
Please, please tell me why my humans insist on embarrassing me all the time with those costumes - Halloween, Christmas, the 4th of July, every darn holiday! I even got dressed up as a bunny for Easter! SERIOUSLY???? Don't they know I feel ridiculous and mortified and humiliated? THEN what happens? They take a gazillion photos, laugh at me, say I'm cute AND post me to social media for the whole world to see.

I like my birthday suit! My dog buddies don't even know who I am sometimes. They thought I was a rabbit at Easter and started chasing me. I was the laughing stock. Help!

- Signed, Birthday Suit in Bastrop

Dear Birthday Suit:

You poor thing! Some dogs really love dressing up, but it's not for everyone. For those dogs that like it, their humans need to



understand a couple of things about getting 'dressed up'. First, when you are dressed up, another dog might not understand you are a nice and sensitive dog and might become aggressive, not good. Also, it might prevent you from communicating your intentions to another dog with your body language. You definitely need to talk to other dogs 'au naturel'.

Some dogs are ok with this and even enjoy it. For those guys, their Moms and Dads just need to make sure they are not around strange dogs who might be confused by their costume.

Talk to your Mom and Dad and let them know you'd rather not dress up. Maybe you are the kind of dog who is just more comfortable with a shirt to keep you warm in the winter. Good luck!

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

The Healing Power of My Seniors

Anita Briggs



We've always shied away from seniors, primarily out of fear of saying goodbye too soon and thinking of the pain it would cause our kids. Losing our 7-year-old unexpectedly showed us that there are no guarantees.

When Honey and Bailey came into our lives, they brought such beautiful healing with them. Rather than the fear of losing them, too, instead we find freedom that they have lived SUCH long, wonderful lives that our part is simply the privilege of spoiling them rotten until the end.

Another surprise is how my love for previous dogs is rekindled by these seniors. I have said goodbye to two lovely female dogs, one my childhood pet and the other as our first "baby". When I look in Honey's face, I appreciate her years and all the love she gave her first family and now gives to us. When I look in Bailey's face, I see his regal dignity, remember our sweet 7-year-old, and delight to care for this "elderly gentleman" that our Strizzi never had the chance to become.

I laugh to think of Valentine's Day 1999, Honey and Bailey's birthday. If someone had said "Your Golden puppies were born today!", you could have knocked me over with a feather. We still lived in our newlywed apartment and "weren't going to have dogs" (HAH! That would change before the year was out).

I don't understand the sequence of events that led to becoming family to Honey and Bailey, but I can see it is beautiful. While our kids don't look forward to more goodbyes, they adore these seniors and love giving them the "retirement" they deserve. Interestingly, my son has had the opportunity to pet-sit a neighbor puppy a number of times lately. Another surprise - he would a million times over rather sit and read with the seniors (yep, that's him and Bailey on the November 2016 calendar page) than CONSTANTLY entertain a puppy.

When we brought Honey and Bailey into our home, we knew there wouldn't be the hearty rounds of tug-of-war and bitey-face that Ferris previously enjoyed with his canine brother. Honey and Bailey have brought Ferris the quiet companionship we expected, and they have also been gentle teachers for his jumpy, sensitive personality. He is a more confident dog for having kept company with Honey and Bailey these six months.

Yikes! A House Full of Guests

The Preventative Vet

The holidays will be here before you know it, and that means your home will likely soon be full of friends, family, and chaos. If that thought causes you a bit of stress, can you imagine the stress that the commotion and hectic pace of the holidays is likely to cause your *pets*?!

Even if they seem "cool with it," they may not be..

Sure, some pets really seem to enjoy all the new company and goings on of the holidays, but even many of those pets are actually experiencing some degree of stress during the busy holiday season.

Watch Out For The Signs That Your Pet May Be Stressed

- Acting more "clingy"
- Withdrawing or hiding
- Increased panting and/or salivating
- Increased vocalizing - barking or howling
- Increased grooming - licking or chewing at themselves
- Urinating or defecating in the house
- Barking or nipping at your guests
- Scratching or tearing up furniture

Plan Ahead To Reduce Everybody's Stress: Set Up Your Pet's "Safe Area" Now

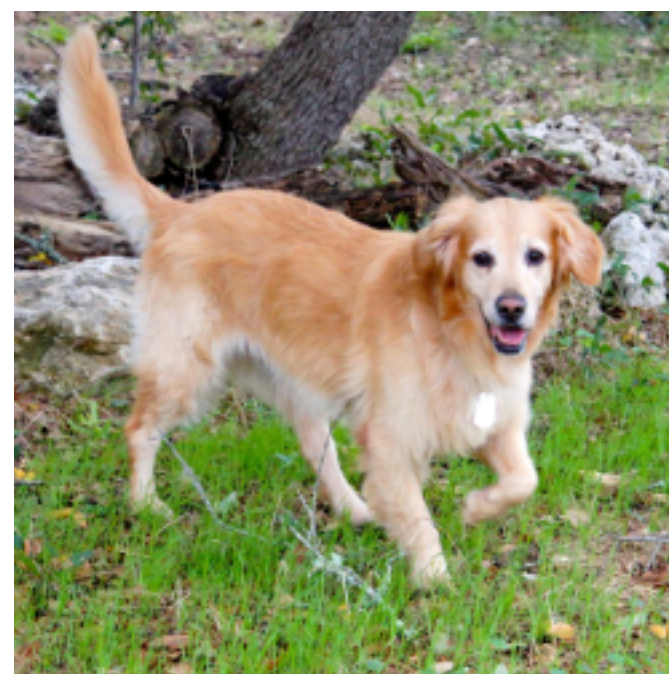
A "safe area" is a reliable place for your pets to escape to when they're stressed. This can be your bedroom, the basement, or any other area that can be closed off or isolated from the holiday goings on. A "safe place" will help to decrease your pet's stress and it will also help protect them from the multitude of food indiscretions and toxicities that happen in droves each year around the holidays.

Please read additional information about some of the hazards the holidays pose for our pets [here](#).



OPERATION HOME: Frio (15-128T)

Alan Weiner and Cyndi Nelson-Weiner



His first week...

It has been five months since we lost our precious Golden, Louie, to brain cancer. Of all the incredible dogs we've had in our lives, Louie was the most special of all. Additionally, Louie's Golden buddy, Sophie, has missed having a canine friend to hang with. While we will always feel the pain of losing him, his absence left a huge hole in our home, we were ready to bring another Golden into our family once again.

We were excited about the possibility of adopting one of the Turkey Goldens that would be arriving and wanted to provide a stable and loving home to a dog that has gone through so much. While adopting a rescue dog of any breed or origin is filled with the unknown, the Turkey dogs added another layer of questions. Will their difficult beginning make them flighty and suspicious or eager to engage? Will the lack of early home socialization make for additional training difficulties? How would he know not to 'eliminate' in

the house? Would he chew things? Walk on counters? Which way will it go? When Frio came home with us, all of our concerns dissipated.

Frio has exceeded all of our expectations. He has a wonderful personality and temperament. He's sweet, affectionate, confident, curious, very smart and keenly tuned in to us. I understand that many of the families of the Turkey Golden Retrievers are reporting the same. That speaks volumes for this wonderful breed. He is so engaging and is thriving on interacting with us and is developing a nice relationship with Sophie as well.

Frio is learning basic obedience now. Having him understand how to sit, lie down, stay, wait and come on our signal gives us an effective way to communicate with him in a way he understands. This provides a way to give instructional corrections that are positive, not punitive. For example, when super excited, he would jump on us. By having him sit, he gets under control and earns praise and rewards. By replacing the inappropriate behavior with responding to the sit command, it tells him how we expect him to act rather than punishing his behavior. He is learning by following hand signals. He is so smart and learns very quickly but of course, it's an ongoing process to get full reliability. The training is really building his confidence and strengthening our relationship with him.

Gold Ribbon Rescue's Operation Home has been such a significant accomplishment that has made a positive difference in the lives of so many dogs and families. The dedication, hard work and high level of competence of those that pulled this off is amazing. The handling of monumental logistics, media awareness and communications involved so many dedicated people and it was performed at a very high level. Thank you, Gold Ribbon Rescue. You have certainly made a difference in our family's life!

Volunteer Spotlight - AJ Harper

Tell us a little about you and your dogs.

Shiner (Good Boy GRR 08-166) came to me April of 2009. He had been in several homes, returned, and finally found us to love. He had several fosters and was known as "Pony Boy" for his long legs; then there is bad girl Rosie ("Joy" GRR-10-183) who was one of Kopper's pups who continually keeps us on our toes; and finally our dear Honey (Ari - GRR - 13-079) who came to us as a senior and stole our hearts the second she stepped across the threshold. They are kind enough to share their yard and space with fosters as needed.



How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I have been the Home Visit Coordinator since about June of 2009.

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

Clueless as to time invested. Depends on if I have a foster and doing thank you notes along with assignments. I don't really worry about it, I just try to keep up with it. When there are puppies or special dogs like Turkey dogs, things get crazy. My job is made easy by the devoted volunteers I have doing the Home Visits. They are the heartbeat and final leg to finding a forever home.

What is your favorite part above all?

Mostly the special volunteers who accept the assignments. I prefer staying behind the scenes. The credit goes to the volunteers who are our final line of defense in finding homes. They are our eyes and ears. They give their time and do the work.

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

One day when little Rosie came into the house with a "friend". Ken was napping and felt something brush against his face on the bed. He was awakened by the flapping wings of a dove Rosie had clenched in her mouth. He yelled, Rosie dropped the bird and off it went. I entered in time to see Rosie leap over the top of the sofa and catch it again in midair. We were chasing both around the house. Ken got it out of her mouth and put it back in the tree. We watched it fly away. It wasn't funny at the time but we laugh about it all the time now.

Give one piece of advice for THOSE interested in serving as volunteers.

It's the fullness of my heart to see a foster find a forever home. It's bittersweet because I'm a dog hoarder. To see how they progress is so fulfilling. I hate letting them go but I know I can't keep them all. Sadly, there is another always needing us. I would say, foster if you can. You won't regret it.

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

Fulfilled - my mother told the story of finding me with a Coyote in our back yard in Seguin. I was about 2 and I showed her my new doggie. I have always loved dogs and found my first Golden out of the back of a pickup truck in a WalMart parking lot. I paid \$100 for her - her name was Pearl - and I gave her my heart. I have never looked back except to thank her for loving me and showing me a path.

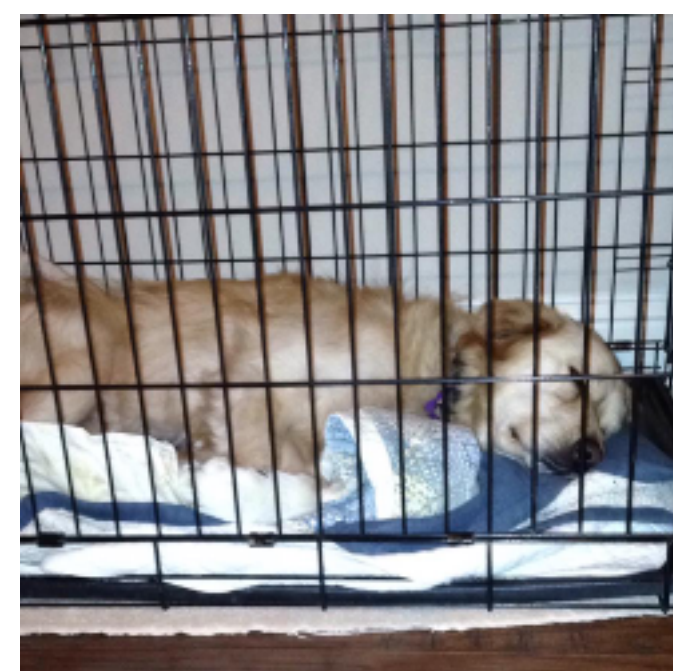
To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to [Sheila Thomas](#).

Giving Thanks at Thanksgiving - The Story of Sue (Andrea 15-137)

Dawn Marie Rae



Andrea with Officer Andrea Grieg



People are inherently good and kind, dogs are loving and trusting when cared for properly, good Samaritans abound. Here then, is Sue's story...

Sue came to GRR through the San Antonio animal shelter (SAACF). Lisa Westergard went there to do her intake and Sue wouldn't move or get up. Lisa noticed that Sue's nails were so long that it was probably too painful for her to walk. She got someone at the shelter to cut them, hand fed her, and then Sue would finally walk with her. She was rescued November 17th by GRR. She was very scared and withdrawn at the shelter and nervous and shy in her new foster home. Her hips were, and still are, awful, one being completely out of socket. She's also underweight. We're pretty sure she was abused; her anxiety and fear of people was so apparent to everyone. She even cowered when hearing her name.

Saturday: While being walked by her foster, AJ McCormac, Sue suddenly bolted, along with her leash and her collar intact, in the area of Lake Travis Elementary School. Notices immediately were posted on GRR's FB pages and other social media, GRR volunteers posted on their neighborhood FB page, and a search party gathered where she was last seen.

Sunday: A search party was organized for 10am and 1pm, flyers were printed. Volunteers, concerned citizens, and others the GRR volunteers didn't even know, joined together and combed the area. The group, over the course of the week, grew and grew and grew. In all, there were 6 teams searching for her. And then? Sightings! But, to no avail.

Monday: Tommy Blackwell called Lakeway Animal Control and asked for Andrea Grieg, who happened to be off work on this day. She called back from home and offered to help! A good Samaritan in close proximity offered his backyard to lure her with a bait trap.

Tuesday: More searches and more flyers and more social media posts. No Sue. Officer Grieg helped GRR volunteers set up another bait trap.

Wednesday: Officer Grieg supplied GRR with a live trap and helped in the search. No Sue.

Thursday: The live trap was set this day, with smelly cat food to attract her, more flyers, more searches, and baby powder was spread in the live trap vicinity to detect prints. A neighbor brought a dog bed. It's Thanksgiving on this day and it's raining, but still no Sue, no prints.

Friday: Just 20 minutes after the live trap was resupplied with fresh food, the manager of the Tomlinson's nearby drove by to check on the trap. There she was, she was there in the trap! Yes, there she was! Susan and Chris Wilson came to the rescue and got her loaded up and took her to stay with Tommy and

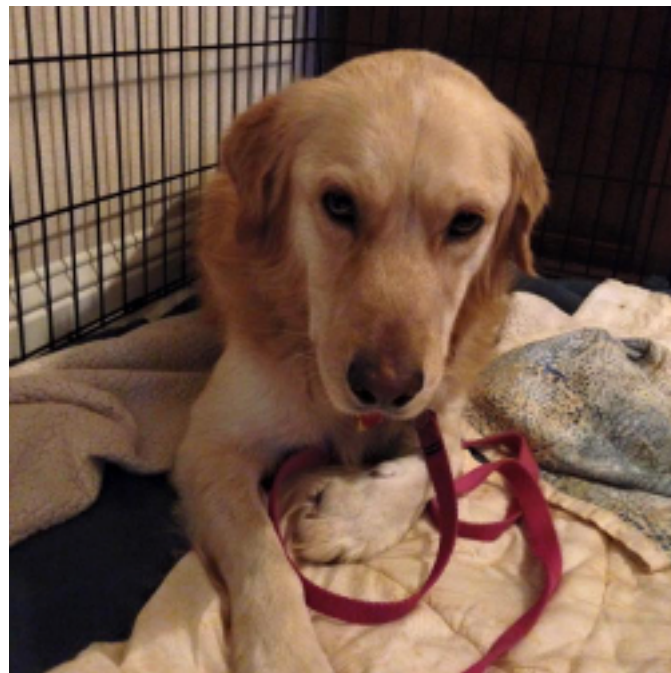
Carol Blackwell.

Andrea initially was hyper-vigilant and very anxious with Carol and Tommy. She would keep her head down when they would talk to her. But, as Carol said, 'She is so darn sweet.' She interacted with the Blackwell's dogs well, given Carprofen for her hips by Dr. Stried, and is much calmer, all in the space of two days. She's quickly on her way to understanding that she is safe at last and on her way to wellness and peace.

Over the course of 6 days, in the middle of a holiday week, (ironically one during which we give special thanks), she was found and rescued all over again. Over 50 people participated in the search efforts, in transport, and in setting the live trap. Over 100 flyers were printed. Uncounted phone calls were received reporting sightings in the neighborhood.

Thank you GRR volunteers, thank you Officer Andrea Grieg, thank you good Samaritans, most of whom we will never know, and all of whom acted so selflessly and with such great compassion, to find her. Sue's name was changed to Andrea, in honor of Officer Andrea Grieg and her integral part in this rescue.

We say it takes a village, and, so it does. Be well Andrea 15-137, GRR loves you.



GRR Monthly Status Report: October 22nd - November 22nd



Came into care: 15-120 Benchley, 15-121 Friday, 06-152 Stevie, 11-002 Spicer, 15-039 Spunky, 15-136 Luke, 15-122T Trinity, 15-123T Lady Bird, 15-124T Pecos, 15-125T Brazos, 15-126T Comal, 15-127T Canyon, 15-128T Frio, 15-129T Austin, 15-130T Travis, 15-131T Deep Eddy, 15-132T Angelina, 15-133T Red River, 15-134T Emma Long, 15-135T Joe Pool, 15-137 Andrea, 15-138 Curtis, 15-130 Fairbanks, 15-140 Ronald

Adopted: 15-078 Molly, 12-006 Guinness, 15-109 Louie, 15-080 Carley, 15-110 Bo, 15-119 Sammie

Currently in Foster Care: 61 (29 Available Now/Soon, 24 Foster Pending Adoption, 1 Matched, 7 Permanent Fosters)

Chagas Disease in Texas - Beware the Kissing Bug

From the [Kerrville Veterinary Clinic](#)



Due to recent news coverage, we have been receiving a few questions regarding Chagas (pronounced “Sha-gus”) Disease. The Texas Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory has recently warned that a number of “kissing bugs” from Center Point (Kerr County) have tested positive for the parasite that transmits Chagas Disease. Chagas Disease can affect both humans and animals. Dogs are the main concern in domestic animals. Chagas Disease is considered to be a tropical disease, mainly seen in Latin America. It is a fairly rare disease in the United States, but Texas is one state where we do sometimes see it.

What causes Chagas Disease?

Chagas Disease, also called “trypanosomiasis”, is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. *Trypanosoma cruzi* is a blood parasite that lives in the bloodstream, inside white blood cells, and in cells of the muscle. It is spread by the Reduvid (subfamily *Triatoma*) bug.

What symptoms will you see with Chagas Disease?

Chagas Disease is not a very nice disease! It mainly causes severe heart failure or arrhythmias, as the parasite likes to attach to heart muscle. Dogs less than a year old usually develop more serious, sudden cases of heart failure. Oftentimes, the first sign of a problem will be sudden collapse and death! The dogs that do not die suddenly, will develop signs attributed to heart disease, such as a swollen abdomen. Occasionally, they can also develop neurologic signs, as well as anorexia or diarrhea.

How do dogs get Chagas Disease?

The parasite causing Chagas Disease is spread by the Reduvid (subfamily *Triatoma*) insect. This insect is commonly called the “kissing bug”. The insect spreads the parasite by biting the animal (or human) and then defecating in the bite site! (Yuck!) Interestingly, the “kissing bug” got its name by biting humans around the mouth while they sleep, as they are attracted to carbon dioxide. Dogs can also get Chagas Disease by swallowing an infected “kissing bug”.

Is there a treatment for Chagas Disease?

There are two anti-parasitic drugs available to help combat Chagas Disease. These drugs work best in the early phases of the disease, and they have side effects. If the dog lives through the initial infection, it will have to be put on heart medications due to residual heart complications. It is much better to try to prevent the infection from occurring, as there is really no good treatment!

What can I do to try to prevent my dog from getting Chagas Disease?

The only thing you can do to try to prevent Chagas Disease is to decrease your dog’s exposure to the “kissing bug”. “Kissing bugs” feed at night, so letting your dog sleep indoors will decrease its exposure to them. If your dog is housed outdoors, upgrading their housing can help limit infection. The “kissing bug” lives in hay, woodpiles, and chicken coops. Limiting these types of environments on your property will help decrease your animal’s chance of exposure. Insecticides can be sprayed monthly near kennels known to have “kissing bugs” on the property.

While Chagas Disease is scary, it is still extremely rare. Because of “kissing bugs” recently testing positive in our area, we do recommend upgrading your dogs’ housing if they are mainly outdoors.

More articles:

Click [here](#) for a full PetMD story that is very informative. Read what the CDC has on their website [here](#), and here is an article from Texas A&M on their [findings](#).

Website updates:

Working knowledge of HTML and CSS (style sheets), Drupal skills preferred, but not required. Time needed, about 1-2 hours a month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#) for more information.

Amplify Austin project owner

Special person to drive application/participation, create awareness of campaign to GRR community through videos, website copy, promotion to community. Campaign runs March 18-19 2016, but would need at least a month to gear up. If you are interested and would like to discuss further, please contact [Paula Ellis](#). For more information, see the Amplify Austin website [here](#).



We Want to Hear from You!

Dawn Marie Rae

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 or two (in landscape format) in your e-mail and the dog's GRR number and former name, if appropriate. Please limit your article to 500 words or less.)

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month.



In Loving Memory - Our Memorials Website Page

Dawn Marie Rae



Losing a Golden, or any dog for that matter, is painful and heart breaking. Everyone here at GRR mourns right alongside you. Sometimes, it is cathartic to pay tribute publicly and sometimes, it's just too hard to talk and write about. We totally understand.

But if you feel comfortable writing up a short tribute, we would love to have you share your memories with us. Please send your thoughts and a photo to [Dawn Marie Rae](#) and she will make sure it gets to the right people to post on our [Memorials](#) page. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter with the same text, please indicate this as well.

Stocking Stuffer Calendars Still Available

Our 2016 GRR Calendars are still available! Order yours now by clicking [here](#).

