

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

February 2016



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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:



You might be interested to know of a perspective from the National Rescue Committee, and their views on multi-national imports of Goldens. A worthwhile read to be sure.

Importing of Goldens in need: As political for Goldens as for humans?

"The reaction of the Golden community to the U.S. Golden Retriever Rescue programs accepting Goldens from foreign countries has been mixed, ranging from "A Golden in need is a Golden in need" to "How could you?" In fairness, one can't legitimately say that postings on the various Golden forums represent the Golden community, but arrows sting no matter the bow. I will try to respond to some of the more common questions." See the full article [here](#).

Elsewhere, check out our 2015 metrics with an [infographic](#). They depict a compelling story of the momentous efforts of this fabulous group called Gold Ribbon Rescue and our endless donors and supporters; of its dedication, its excellence, and its outstanding support over the year.

In this issue:

- Get an update on Mary and our growing Christmas puppies.
- Hear from two of our Turkey dogs needing homes.
- Meet Diesel 16-009, and see how our "Village" has come together - again
- And, read about why we don't adopt littermates together

Enjoy!

-Margo

Current and Upcoming Events

Annual Valentine's Day Party

Zoom Room Austin
7739 Northcross Dr. Ste. H
February 6th
5 - 7 pm

This is a family and dog friendly event that will include music, treats, snacks and refreshments. You will

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



have a chance to get your picture taken with your furry Valentine as well. All well behaved dogs are welcome to attend.

Amplify Austin

March 8th 2016

See more details [here](#). Stay tuned!

Swimfest at the Quarries

Date: April 9, 2016

Time: 10:00 – 2:00

Location: Quarry Lake, 210 W Braker Ln, Austin, TX 78759

Cost: \$25 per family (includes 2 and 4 legged) Click [here](#) to register.



A Tribute to Our Village

Emily Tuczowski and the GRR board



There is an African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child."

The original proverb related to the effort, the support and the love that is involved with bringing up a newborn, through childhood and into adulthood, within a supportive family. All of us here blessed with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren can fully understand this.

But, if you include a four-legged child within your life, you will quickly understand that that same village is needed to support their health wellbeing and inclusion into a family as well.

Our Gold Ribbon Rescue village of incoming Goldens runs the gamut - sometimes they are easy owner surrenders that were kept up to date on all medical care; and sometimes they are strays in deplorable health condition in need of a tremendous amount of medical support before they find their forever home.

On January 19th, we were contacted by Linda Gunter at Williamson County Animal Shelter about a young dog in desperate need. Demodex mange had consumed his body and left open sores everywhere. Despite his obvious discomfort, he greeted everyone with a wagging tail and a joyful attitude. Linda asked us if we could help. How could we not? Under all of that, there was a Golden waiting to shine!

His journey to his forever home will be a long one. He'll need medical support to treat the mange and the open wounds caused by the itching. Add to that getting his immune system back on track. The list goes on. He will be a 3-6 month "project" for certain.

On January 20th, we posted a GoFundMe request to help cover the expected medical costs. In only 9 hours, we were blessed with a wonderful response, which met the request fully, and then some. All of us at Gold Ribbon Rescue cannot thank you enough.

For your support for 16-009 Diesel and for your support for every dog like him that have needed your help throughout the years at Gold Ribbon Rescue, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We couldn't do any of this without you.

Side-note: A few years back, I was walking through my local PetCo and saw a friend there with her breed-specific rescue group. She had been following a GRR dog in need of medical care and remarked on our

community not turning our backs to a dog in need. I'll always remember her words: "You all have earned another Gold Star on your crowns in the Promised Land". However you might want to interpret that, I'll always like to define it as simply as possible: as "one more job, well done"..

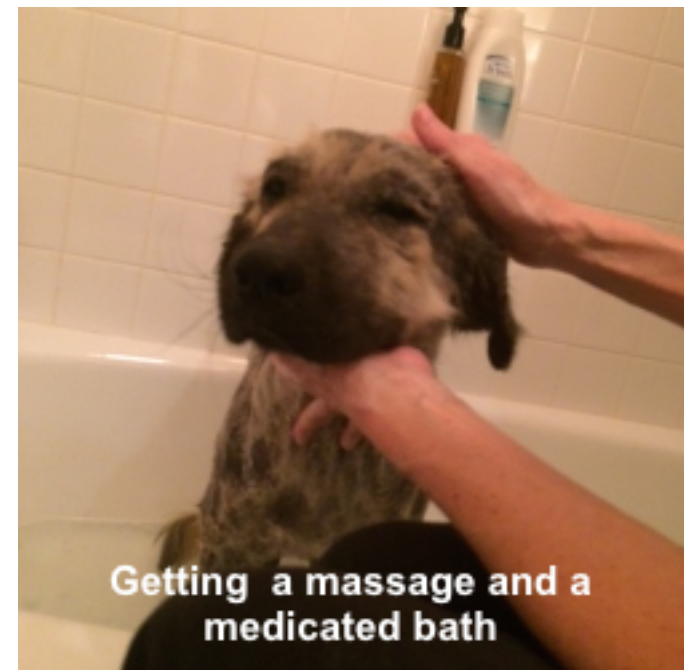
To everyone reading this, and to all who have supported us - and continue to support us - through the years: Job Well Done!

Read more about Diesel on his web profile [here](#). See his foster Mom's progress reports in the article immediately following this one.



Diesel's (16-009) Progress Notes

Lisa Savage - Foster Mom



1/23/2016:

Diesel just might be a Goldendoodle! He's about that size, though only time will tell what he'll look like. He is such a good boy; he's so patient and sweet. I've been to the pet store twice this afternoon! I got him a little coat to put on when going outside in the cold, and treats, of course. I do believe this guy is house trained because he seems to know what to do. I have to keep his cervical-collar on because he wants to mess with an open ulcer on his tail. I took a soft brush to his face, which helped him with his itching. He loved that. He's not wild about treats just yet, or maybe he's just not sure what to do with them. He likes our dog beds, but he wants to mostly stay back in our bedroom. It's quieter and darker in there. Wait. I just heard him bark when he heard the next-door neighbor's yappy terrier talking. He is otherwise quiet and timid this afternoon, as expected, but wants to nuzzle into your arms and just stay there. He's got a bit of neck and chest hair unaffected by scabs and sores, so that's a good spot to scratch and massage. He gets very Zen-like and relaxed with that. Right now he is hanging out in our family room with us, content to watch the news about blizzard mania. So far, so good.

1/27/2016

He is getting even more settled into our routine and is quite cute and perky. He has a canine cold, which seems mild. His appetite is good and his eyes are bright. He had his first medicated bath here last night, and he was quite a good sport. He really liked the massage and the warm rinse! He looks a lot better after the bath, and we will continue with it twice weekly. I'm going to get a soft brush to get more of the crusty

stuff off and stimulate the skin. Most of the open sores are now scabbed over, with one large ulcerated area on his tail being the last to start healing. The poor thing is unable to sit. He stands, except when he eases himself slowly to lie down. I'm sure that will be the case until the base of the tail is less bothersome. He is tolerating his medications well, but does not appreciate the ear drops routine.

We received some homemade dog treats courtesy of Lainey Garcia, and they were a hit! Those are the first ones he wanted more of! Thank you, Lainey! He is enjoying his meals and I am sneaking in some extras, like a scrambled egg...he was overjoyed with that supplement!

Diesel has found our master closet to be a good, secure place to hang out. Our dog Goldie felt the same way! It's enclosed, quiet and secure. When he's not with us or on his tempurpedic bed in the kitchen, he can be found resting in the closet.

His hair is starting to grow in. He wears a nice warm jacket for short potty strolls and we put him in a soft t-shirt for a while in the evening to give him a little break from the c-collar and allow being up close to be more pleasant. He is looking (and smelling) more canine and less jackal/hyena for sure! Ha!

We are enjoying this little guy and he has even considered being playful at times.

1/30/2016

He is changing every single day! He is more and more energetic and alert. This morning, he discovered a toy basket that he has had access to all week, but never noticed before. He unloaded the basket while I was able to sleep in a bit, and scattered the contents all over the kitchen. Go Diesel! He has also found it in him to chew on some things this week. Probably a sign of more to come! This morning we spent a lot of time soaking up the sun...good for the psyche as well as the skin. We took actual walks yesterday afternoon and this morning. He is great on the leash. He is curious about everything; it all seems new. He stops on our walks to simply look all around. He seems especially intrigued by people walking in the neighborhood and wants to follow them, tail wagging. He is also perked up by the sound of kids playing. Diesel's skin wounds are healing in steadily, even the one around the base of his tail. He loves, loves to be brushed in the areas that allow it."

A Dog He Was - A Poem For Strizzi

- Cecily (11 years old)

He never drooled, but a dog he was.
He wandered to and fro,
Tracing the path of steps he always took,
Day after day, licking the floor for the millionth time.

A Dog He Was.

His golden fur slightly curled, and soft,
Just waiting for your fingers to gently thread your way through.

A Dog He Was.

His black-brown eyes pleading for food,
Though full of happiness.

A Dog He Was.

Always happy and we were too,
Time and time again, over and over.

A Dog He Was.

But one day he was happy but we were not,
I don't think he ever understood why,
Because soon came the time when his miles were gone.
And now he watches over us,
Tracing the steps of a new place,
Waiting for us, and come we will.
Wish dogs had nine lives,
But a dog he was,
And so a dog he will be.



In Loving Memory - Jazz

Marla Tonsi



Thank you everyone for all your love and support. It's so heartwarming - and it shows us all how the love of a good animal can bring us together and show us all what's important in life. Many people have suffered loss -- of pets and even greater - of their humans. Dogs represent heaven to me and I am grateful to them - they show me a little glimpse of eternity every day in my life.

Our dogs represent pure, positive love
Jazz loved us as we are, she lived in the moment
She was always full of joy to be with us
She never held grudges
She was always happy to see us
She protected our home
She welcomed other furry friends to our family
We will miss her every day
See you at the pond sweet angel girl

Canyon 15-127T(Turkey Dog) - Ready For My Forever Home

Wendy Dittmer - Foster Mom



Personality: Canyon is a high energy young girl, full of play and ready to test the limits set by her master, now that she is in Texas. Each new day is full of adventures, and she is ready to go when you are. She plays with the resident dog at her foster family nonstop: tug of war, climbing on each other, and chasing each other around the yard are favorite daily activities. She goes full blast and high speed, until she is pooped, and then she is ready for a nap - just like the puppy she is!

At one year of age, she is discovering the wonders around her now in her new home, including sleeping on a bed, regular meals, and treats for a well-executed “sit”! As a puppy, she is still getting into the synchronized rhythm of running alongside her master, but walking is just fine.

She is interested in any ball that her foster brother has, but only after he has dropped it. Prancing around the yard with it while her brother looks for it is a favorite activity. She hasn’t actually retrieved a ball...far too many other things going on in the yard to bring the ball back. For example, the challenges of tracking and chasing squirrels are right up her alley. For Canyon, every squirrel is an exciting learning experience. What’s up with those squirrels?

Canyon is a sweet girl. She will bond to her forever family and other pets in the house. She is very well socialized. From the dog chair in the front of the house, Canyon will roo-roo-roo when someone comes to the door or spends too much time in front of the house...just in case you wanted to know! And she watches TV with interest when there is a dog barking on it, trying to figure out where the dog actually is!

Ideal home: Canyon would do best in a home with another dog that will play with her and tolerate her playfulness. She and the resident dog at her foster family are pals, playing as often as their nap schedule allows. Because her obedience training has been limited, a family that is committed to furthering her training would be very helpful to her. She is a smart girl and food motivated, so training should go well. She can sit and stay, waits to be released before she eats, and is working on her “down” command. Because she is still a puppy, having someone home at least part of the day would be great for her. She rarely has a potty accident inside but is prone to counter surfing and chewing random items, as does any puppy!

Comments: Canyon’s foster parents will be sad to see her go. She is a sweet, loving girl who loves to cuddle. However, her foster parents have another young dog that requires focused attention. If the resident dog were older, she would be staying forever at her foster house!

The Littermate Syndrome - Why 1 is Better Than 2

From Dr. Karen Becker at [Healthy Pets](#)...

Many experts and organizations in a position to know (for example, animal behaviorists, dog trainers, and rescue professionals), discourage dog guardians from acquiring puppy littermates. In fact, many shelters and breeders simply refuse to place siblings together.

The reason, according to certified professional dog trainer Jeff Stallings, writing for The Bark: *“Anecdotal evidence suggests that behavioral issues may arise during key development periods because the two puppies’ deep bond impedes their individual ability to absorb and grasp the nuances of human and canine communication.”*

In other words, canine siblings can be so closely bonded on a primal level, that if they go on to share the same home and family, that deep connection can inhibit their ability to learn how to communicate with their humans and interact with other dogs.

They wind up with a “muddled understanding of the world around them,” according to Stallings, which can create fearfulness and other undesirable coping behaviors.

The phenomenon is known as “littermate syndrome.”

Signs of Littermate Syndrome

- Fear of strangers (people and dogs)
- Fear of unfamiliar stimuli
- High level of anxiety when separated even for a short time
- Failure to learn basic obedience commands

Training two littermates is not just a matter of twice the work, but also the level of difficulty resulting from the puppies constantly distracting each other.



According to Patricia McConnell, applied animal behaviorist and author of several books on canine behavior:

"It's just hard to get their attention. They are so busy playing with each other ... that you become the odd man out. I suspect this indeed does have to do with social bonding to some extent, but I have seen pups of a duo who clearly adored their humans. Adored them. They just didn't listen to them. It seems harder to get their attention, harder to teach them emotional control, and harder to teach them boundaries. I imagine that we humans become more like party poopers that interfere in their fun with their playmates, not to mention that we are more tiring, because they have to learn a foreign language in order to communicate with us."

Another Potential Problem Among Littermates: Fighting

Sometimes littermate syndrome can take the form of non-stop fighting between the dogs. Bullying and aggression between siblings seems to happen more often than between unrelated dogs, and it can get nasty. Many well-intentioned dog guardians have terrible tales to tell about the harm caused to one sibling by the other. Shelters have stories as well of pairs (or one of a pair) being returned because the adoptive owner feared for the well-being of the sibling being bullied.

Unhealthy Emotional Dependence

Nicole Wilde, canine behavior expert and author of "Don't Leave Me!" believes the separation anxiety between littermates is the result of hyper-attachment, which is also what interferes with the puppies' ability to be properly socialized.

"People assume that having two same-age pups who play together and interact constantly covers their dog-dog socialization needs," Wilde told Stallings, "but they in fact don't learn how other [dogs] play and have no idea about social skills with other puppies, adolescents or adult dogs."

"Perhaps one puppy is a bit of a bully, which his littermate puts up with," Wilde continued, "but his rude behavior might not be tolerated by a new dog in a new setting."

Many canine behavior experts feel it's best to rehome siblings separately so that all puppies have the opportunity to grow separately into stable, balanced adults.

Red River 15-133T (Turkey Dog) Waiting For My Forever Home

Cathy Smith



Personality:

Red River is the picture of calm, cool and collected. While other Golden Retrievers were showing their "over the top" excitement at being GRR rescues, Red River showed his adult Golden composure as he very gratefully acknowledged the constant pets and rubs awarded him since arrival in Texas. He just loves to be scratched on his back and practically goes into a trance when he is being petted. To announce that he is ready for pets and back rubs, he will walk halfway between your legs as a very direct hint!

By all accounts, Red River appears to be the poster boy for an adult Golden, since he relaxes when he has the opportunity, is the ultimate quiet companion, and wants to be where we are.

But make no mistake, he does LOVE to go on walks. And can he ever walk! The only time so far that he

has barked is when his supper was taking longer to prepare than he could stand! He gave a “Roo-Roo-Bark” as a gentle hurry up! He actively shows appreciation for the newfound care, so radically different than his life in the puppy mill. In the short time since his arrival, he has behaved admirably in our house and with our other dogs as well, acclimating to the crew with calm self-assurance.

Red River now has his own doggy bed, likely for the first time in his life, and he loves it. He sleeps through the night, and is house trained, even venturing outside in the rain when nature calls. He is a very good car rider. Great manners he has!

Every Golden has their own unique personality. Red River is the epitome of a gentle, intelligent adult companion, and is ready to shower some lucky family with his deep appreciation for a new forever home.

Ideal home: Red River would most like a quiet home life, which includes regular walks and sharing quiet times with you. A home with multiple dogs is fine, but no word yet on Red River’s feelings for cats.

Update 1/27/2016: Red River came to the U.S. with a golf ball size abscess on his leg. Fortunately that swelling has gone away. A skin sample revealed 3 different kinds of bacteria. A stronger round of antibiotics and the abscess still stubbornly persists. A biopsy has been taken and we are awaiting the results and then what treatment is indicated. That means he’s on a medical hold until then. Paws and fingers crossed that the vets can get him fixed up soon. He has been such a “Trooper” wearing his cone of shame, and since Dec. 23rd! We just tell him that’s what “Turkey Dogs” wear when they first come to the US! We are so enjoying his company; however we will be excited for him when he finally feels better and finds his “Special Forever Home”. He so deserves the best.

When Vomiting Isn't Actually Vomiting

Dr. Jason Nicholas at [Preventative Vet](#)

Lots of dogs and cats vomit, right? In fact, so many do it that vomiting is one of the most common reasons why people bring their pets to the vet. But did you know that “vomiting” isn’t always vomiting? Sometimes it’s actually **regurgitation** (or, as it’s more affectionately known, “regurge”) — and knowing the difference can be quite important.

Vomiting and regurge may look the same, but they are two very different processes and they are medical signs of two very different sets of potential problems in both cats and dogs. There are ways, albeit, sometimes subtle to tell the difference between the two. Knowing the difference can help you determine what your next steps should be.

What's the difference?

Vomiting: An active process. It's the *forceful* ejection of material from the stomach or upper part of the intestines. It is an active process, typically accompanied by retching and contraction of the abdominal muscles. And you often get a “warning” before it happens with that “wake you up out of bed” noise before they spew. It's often, though not always, accompanied by signs of nausea (e.g., lip licking, increased saliva, anxiety). Vomit may also contain bile (green) or digested food.

Regurgitation: A passive process. Regurgitation is typically a very *passive* process. There really isn't often any noise associated with regurge, it's much more stealthy — quietly occurring and often only discovered when you step in the results. In cases of regurge there really aren't any contractions of the abdominal muscles, and there typically aren't any signs of nausea. Rather a cat or dog just lowers their head and out falls the food or other material — again, very passive.

Why should I care?

Where vomiting typically indicates a problem with either the stomach or intestines, or even a non-GI system (see list below) within the body, regurgitation predominately points to a problem specifically with the esophagus (the muscular tube that connects the mouth to the stomach). So, differentiating vomiting from regurgitation is important because they point to a very different set of potential problems. Below are some (partial) lists of problems that can cause vomiting and regurgitation in cats and dogs:

Vomiting causes:

- Stomach or intestinal ulcers, inflammation, or obstruction (including linear foreign body obstruction in cats)
- Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis)



- Kidney disease (infection, stones, obstruction)
- Liver disease (inflammation, infection, tumors)
- Medications or supplements being given
- Pain (anywhere within the body)
- Increased pressure within the skull (tumors, swelling from trauma)
- Hormonal disorders (Addison's disease, Hyperthyroidism, out of control diabetes/DKA)

Regurgitation causes:

- Inflammation of the esophagus (esophagitis)
- Megaesophagus (ME)
- Myasthenia Gravis (MG)
- Vascular Ring Anomaly/Persistent Right Aortic Arch

If your cat or dog is bringing up food, water, or other “material” more than once per week — regardless of whether it’s vomiting or regurgitation — it’s time for a visit to your veterinarian. They can help you get to the bottom of what’s causing the problem. And, might I suggest... rather than counting on your cat/dog to have one of their vomiting or regurge episodes in the exam room, try capturing a short video of one of the episodes on your smartphone or video camera. Then bring that video with you to your vet appointment — it’ll help you and your vet figure out what’s going on, and it sure beats you having to play a game of “vomiting vs. regurge charades!”

Volunteer Spotlight - Susan Perry



Tell us a little about you and your dogs.

I teach for an online university, so I work from home. Volunteering for GRR is a big part of my leisure time. Currently, I have two Goldens. Revo is my adopted one. He is the sweetest, happiest creature I have ever met. I adopted him from GRR in 2012 with his brother Oakley. I am grateful every day that they came into my life. (Oakley passed last year.) I also have a foster girl, Rose. She’s about 2 years old. She doesn’t do well when left alone, so she came to me so she could stay quiet during her heartworm treatment. All that is in the past and she is a beautiful, healthy girl.

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I began volunteering in September of 2014. I became foster home finder in January of 2015, just a year ago.

What is your favorite part above all?

That is equally divided between the other volunteers and the Goldens. I have never met, much less worked with over a period of time, a better group of people. Everyone, everyone, is helpful, kind and forgiving of most everything, except hurting a Golden Retriever. Really, every member of this group is a dream to work with and get to know. Each of them will tell you, and act consistently with, that it is all about the dogs. I believe that Golden Retrievers are the best dog ever and so I love being a small part of the help for ones in distress. It is absolutely wonderful to see our rescues become the Golden Retrievers they were always meant to be.

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

One of the great things about being a part of this group is social media. I love the support and connection on the GRR’s FB page. Recently, there have been a couple of videos of one of our rescues, not in his forever home, trying to get his (large) bed outside through a (small) doggie door. And, you know, he’s succeeding! Every time, he gets a little more out the door! There is nothing like vicariously seeing puppies

born and growing and this year we were fortunate to have four litters.

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

Volunteering will be the best thing you will do with your life. I am the foster home finder, so nearly all of my work is finding foster homes for the dogs who come to us. Foster families are wonderful! I can send them information about a sick dog who was a stray and so we know nothing about him or her. In fact, I will be doing that later this evening. No problem; they open their home and care each one back to health. Especially with the increase in social media (it cuts both ways), more people are likely to try to sell their young, healthy Golden Retriever they no longer want on Craig's List or similar sites. This means that GRR is more likely to get Golden Retrievers who are old, sick and/or from shelters. Doesn't matter. There is always room here.

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

It fills my heart.

The Exchange

- Mollie Mitchell (pictured is Mollie's Golden, Taylor)

It used to be he walked ahead,
No, he ran.
Forging a path
For me to follow.
Never too far
That he couldn't turn
And see me there.
Lately he walks behind.
No, he lags.
Struggling to keep
My very slow pace.
Now I'm the one
Who turns
To meet his gaze.
He won't always be there
But I'll never stop looking.



Dear Goldie

Dawn Marie Rae

I love to play with my friend Jake, but lately, he has had the worst breath I've ever smelled and I can hardly stand it. I don't want to hurt his feelings because I really like him, but I just don't want to have play dates anymore until he gets this fixed. What in the world do I say to him?

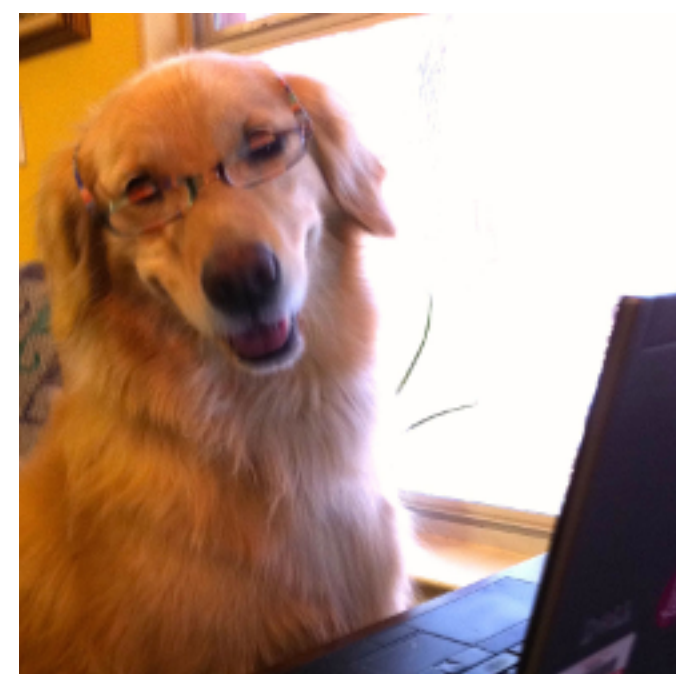
- Signed, Breathless in Brenham

Dear Breathless:

If Jake is capable of brushing his own teeth, please stop reading this now. Post a YouTube video so you can get things under control and help other dogs do the same!

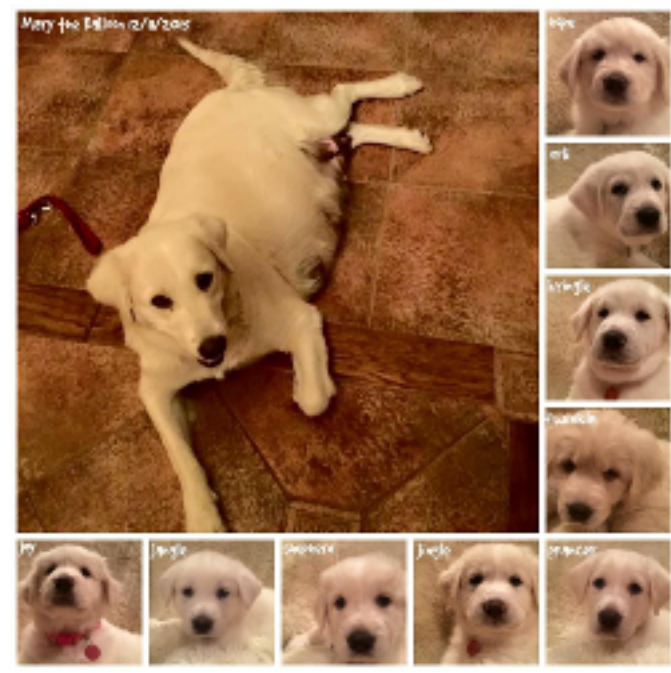
The problem is his owners! After all, what human only chews gum and only uses a mouthwash? Just doesn't work! He needs a checkup and maybe a cleaning, since a lot of other things can cause bad breath. Right now. Besides, Jake could get really sick if this continues, too. Tell him to get his doggy toothpaste and bring it to his Mom and Dad, too. Hopefully, they'll get the hint? Encourage them to get him some chew toys to help clean his teeth. Dry food is better than soft food and regular cleanings are a must, depending upon how Jake's teeth are looking.

Bye-bye bad breath, hello play dates!



Christmas Litter Update - A Letter to New Parents

Candice Gourley - foster Mom



Dear prospective Christmas puppy parents!

Hello GRR friends! Can you believe another week has gone by and the puppies are now 5 weeks old? Next week, they get their first vaccinations. I know that soon comes the exciting time when puppies are matched to families, and visits are arranged. You know, I am glad for those of you who will bring one of these babies into your family: they are all lovely, mellow, "neutral" dogs. None of them are anxious, or standoffish or stay apart from the crowd, and none of them are bullies.

Meanwhile, I'm socializing them with lots of kids, as well all ages and genders of adults. In addition, cleaning up lots of bodily fluids, bathing them, and chronicling any unique personality traits. And, of course, getting my lifetime fill of cuddles and kisses from these small ones.

Never fear. The time will come when you will meet your new baby (and probably Frodo, Willow and Mary), and will take them home, cradled in your arms. And for their part, they will love you and give you stinky presents, and years of joy. What an honor it is for me to have them with me for just a little time - and THANK YOU for being so excited and willing to bring these funny, silly, precious souls into your lives. - Candice

To my little charges: while you will soon leave and your hearts will be rightfully consumed by the family you will be with and love forever, if I might ask a small favor. If there is some day that you and I might cross paths - say a long time from now, when we have gone through that veil that leads to the next world...if you would but wag your tail at me, or even, if you have the time, come up to me and give me a kiss before running off with your family to play, it would make my eternity complete. For even though you are not - and have never been - mine, you carry with you a part of my heart, which you are welcome to keep. For the heart that you leave me is all the much better because of you. Thank you, little babies, thank you GRR, and thank you, dear Lord in Heaven, for this amazing experience! - Candice

Check out my video of Mary and her puppies. This was their journey with me. Click [here](#) and enjoy!

Blueberry Bacon Dog Treat Recipe

From [Pet Guide](#)

Makes 25 medium-sized dog cookies.

Ingredients:

1. 2 cups whole wheat flour
2. ¼ cup flaxseed meal
3. ½ cup oatmeal
4. 1 cup blueberries
5. 2-3 strips bacon, crumbled
6. ½ water or milk (regular or almond)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Fry bacon until desired crispness. Drain and let cool on paper towel before crumbling the strips.
3. Mash blueberries in a small bowl with fork. Set aside.
4. In a large bowl mix together flour, flaxseed, oatmeal, and bacon. Mix well. Add in mashed blueberries.
5. Add milk or water slowly in the mixture, stirring until the dough holds together and is stiff.
6. On a floured or parchment-paper lined surface, roll out the dough to ¼ to ½ thickness. Using cookie cutters, press out shapes and place on cookie sheet.
7. Bake for 25-30 minutes or lightly golden. Allow treats to cool completely, and store in air-tight bags or containers in refrigerator or in freezer.

Blueberry Bacon
Dog Treat Recipe



If you want, you can poke the treats with a fork before they go into the oven. This helps to eliminate air bubbles in the cookies and keeps them completely flat and hard.

Helping Your Dog Cope With Arthritis

Dr. Jason Nicholas - [The Preventive Vet](#)

Arthritis — which literally means “inflammation of the joint(s)” — can range from mild to severe and it can have many causes. Fortunately, there are some simple steps you can take and some great products you can use to help your arthritic dog get around more easily and with less pain. Below are just a few things that have helped countless dogs suffering from arthritis.

It's important to recognize that arthritis may be hurting your dog without you even realizing it.

Many dogs are quite skilled at hiding the signs of pain and discomfort. Taking the safe and effective steps to reduce your arthritic dog's pain will improve their mobility and greatly improve their quality of life. The steps highlighted below and discussed in this article have helped lots of dogs live their “golden years” more happily and comfortably. I hope they'll do the same for your dogs now and in the years to come.

Some Products You Can Try

- Something as “simple” as regular nail trims can improve your dog's comfort and mobility
- Products like the Power Paws Socks by Woodrow Wear and Dr. Buzby's toe grips can help to improve your dog's confidence and grip on slick floors.
- Ensuring that your arthritic dog has plenty of comfortable beds and surfaces to lay on can help to keep their joints more comfortable

Make Sure Weight Isn't An Issue

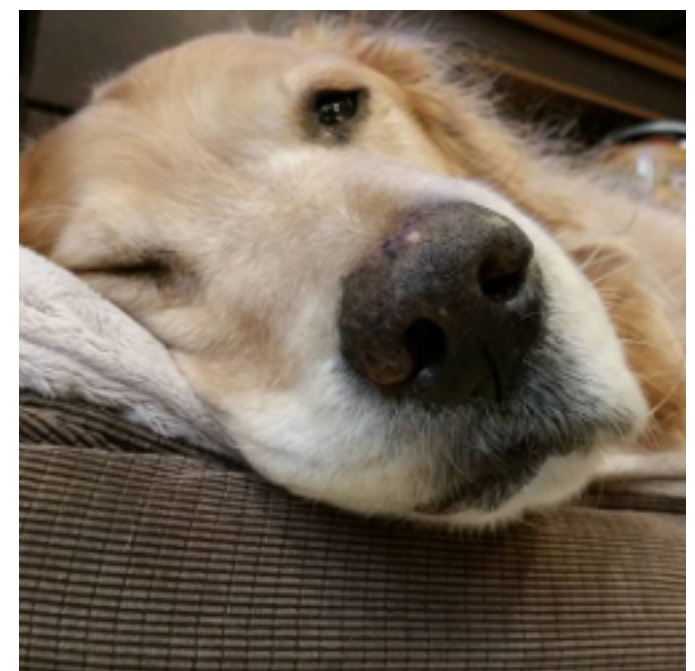
Helping your arthritic dog achieve and maintain their ideal weight prevents undue strain on their aching joints — talk with your veterinarian about a safe and effective weight loss plan if your dog is overweight, and see if one of the prescription weight loss and joint support diets might help your dog.

Supplements & Alternative Therapies Might Help

- Try one of the safe and (often) effective joint/mobility supplements, such as the Synovie G4 or Cosequin DS chews, and don't forget that fish oils can also be anti-inflammatory and therefore part of a well-balanced pain management protocol for some dogs.
- Look into treatments such as warm water swimming and hydrotherapy, massage, and acupuncture to relieve pain and improve range of motion in inflamed joints.

Medications (Important Warning About "Doggie Aspirin")

Work with your veterinarian to determine which prescription pain medications might be the safest and most



effective for your dog. Please appreciate the importance of discussing any medications with your veterinarian prior to giving them to your pets — the importance and safety of this truly cannot be overstated. Even something as ubiquitous as “doggie aspirin” — which you can (unfortunately) pick up at most pet stores without a prescription — can cause serious, painful, and even potentially fatal problems for your dog. **Please, please, please take this warning to heart** — it’s a result of seeing far too many problems arising when well-intentioned pet owners self prescribe medications for their painful pets.

GRR Monthly Status Report: December 27th - January 27th



Came into care: 16-001 Sam, 16-002 Elvis, 16-003 Gunner, 16-004 Rory, 16-005 Hazel, 16-006 Rosie, 16-007 Rosebud, 16-008 Oakley, 16-009 Diesel

Adopted: 14-114 Bogart, 15-053 Brayden, 15-105 Prince, 15-126T Comal, 15-128T Frio, 15-134T Emma Long, 15-135T Joe Pool, 15-143 Dazzle, 15-162 Willie, 15-070 Jade, 15-093 Razi, 15-098 Memphis, 15-100 Frazier, 15-111 Starr, 15-113 Meringue, 15-142 Razzle, 15-149 Elly, 15-108 Goldie, 15-123T Lady Bird

Currently in Foster Care: 54 dogs (25 Available/Available Soon), 21 Foster-Pend-Adopt/Matched, 8 Permanent Fosters

2015 GRR Tax Deductions



The IRS allows you to claim the following deductions as charitable contributions, if you itemize:

- Mileage for every mile you travel for GRR purposes: vet appointments, transport, home visits, etc.
- **Direct** expenses such as food, medical supplies and other items for a foster dog.
- Money spent on envelopes, postage, containers for supplies, baggies for supplies, etc.

GRR always recommends that you talk with your tax consultant/adviser on all deductions. Publication 526 can be found [here](#) for more information. If you have further questions, or need donation receipts, contact [Tim Tierney](#), GRR Treasurer.

Help Wanted

Newsletter contributor:

Do you have a special interest or skill with regards to our Golden Retrievers, such as obedience, training, nutrition or health issues? Even if you don't think you write well, we could use some thoughtful dialogue on any topic for the newsletter. Time needed: about 1-2 hours a month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

Newsletter assistant:

Collection and editing of articles from other volunteers for our regular features, such as Volunteer spotlight, Where Are They Now?, Foster Dog of the Month, etc. Time needed: about 1-2 hours a month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

Social Media promoter:

Interested in helping GRR promote our dogs and provide updates about our organization? You can swap out months with others on the team or be a backup volunteer. We utilize Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Let us know. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

Graphic Designer:

We're launching a new campaign in the spring and we need a one-time consult for design development. If you're interested, please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).



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.

