

# Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

January 2016



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[Dawn Marie Rae](#)

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Gold Ribbon Rescue

## A Message From Our President



Welcome 2016! What an exciting past year we've had. As of this writing, we've brought in 171 dogs, with a good number of puppies in the mix. We also saw our amazing arrival of the Turkey Goldens from Istanbul and successfully raised a significant amount of money to pay for their trip and subsequent medical care. From conducting a 6-day rescue effort for Andrea, who was lost over the Thanksgiving holiday to the whelping of multiple litters of puppies, this group has stepped up in so many ways.

The compassion and dedication of this wonderful group never ceases to amaze me: the ability to react quickly to intake, the hard work of fostering, the complex workings of the matching, to the wonderful donors who just keep giving. Many more contributed to the wonderful year of 2015. I'm so looking forward to working with all of you again, in this wonderful mission of rescuing Golden Retrievers in 2016.

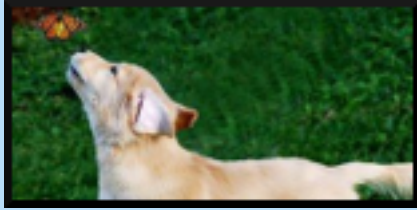
I hope everyone had a warm and wonderful holiday with friends, family, and your furry four-legged kiddos.

Before 2015 ends, you can still contribute to GRR for 2015 tax deductions before the first of the month [here](#). Other deduction guidelines are explained at the end of the newsletter.

In this issue:

- Get an update on lost and found Andrea
- Meet Mary and her Christmas pups
- Dear Goldie talks to a birdaholic
- Meet our veteranarian of the month, Lisa Byer, from Forest Creek
- And a plea for GRR senior and hospice dogs donations from Amber Middleton, in memory of Chewy

Enjoy!



-Margo

## ***Current and Upcoming Events***

### **Volunteer Training:**

Saturday, January 30th

9:00-12:00

Austin Animal Center

7201 Levander Loop, Austin, TX.

### **Home Visitor Training:**

Saturday, January 30th

1:30-4:30

Austin Animal Center

7201 Levander Loop, Austin, TX.

Volunteering can be very rewarding and there are so many ways you can help. You would be surprised! Also, learn how to become a more effective home visitor, the last and very important step, before matching a dog to a new family.



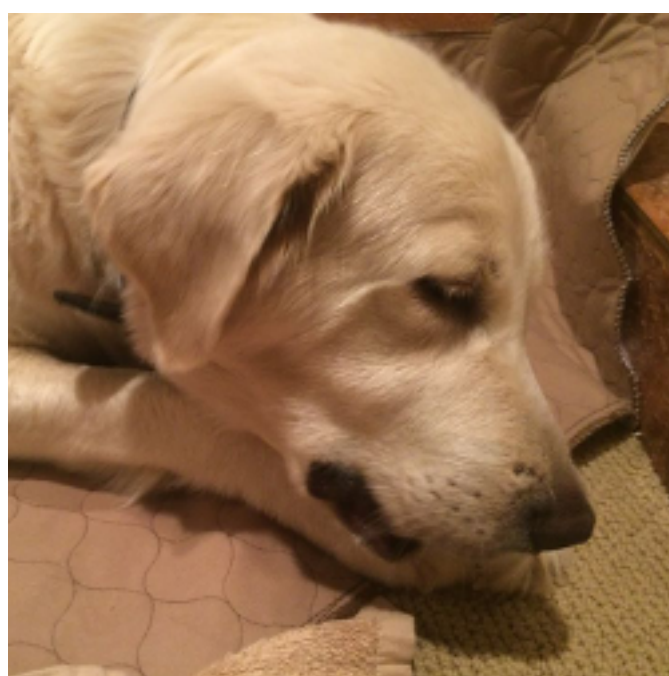
## ***Our Annual Holiday Brunch***



Great fun was had by all and it was good to see everyone again. Thanks to Donald and Elizabeth Kalbacher for opening their beautiful home to us and to all the people who contributed in making it a great party. Thanks also for everyone who donated, bid, and bought our silent auction items. We brought in \$5000 dollars toward the care of our Goldens as well! Until next year!

## ***Mary 'Christmas' and Her Puppies (15-147)***

*Candace Gourley - foster Mom*



It was Tuesday, December 8th at 7:58pm, and the call went out from Susan Perry, the GRR Foster Coordinator, "We have just gotten notice from Austin Animal Clinic that they have a very, very pregnant Golden Retriever...GRR always believes there is room at the inn so we brought her in. However, we aren't sure where that inn is..."

On Wednesday, December 9th, at 8:15pm, this pregnant Golden, now named Mary (15-147), made the journey north, from Austin to Temple. She was panting constantly, and both her transport team and I, were a little worried that the puppies would come that night. It was also discovered that Mary was a quick escape artist and knew how to expertly twist out of a dog collar. Thankfully, the weight of the puppies she carried slowed her down so she couldn't get very far.

Thus, the GRR vigil began, with everyone anxiously awaiting the arrival of Mary's babies. Meanwhile, oblivious to her growing fan club, Mary was settling into her foster home. I nicknamed her "The Balloon," and her foster siblings, Willow and Frodo, soon showed her where the kitchen was, as well as the joys of bully sticks and sitting for treats. To me, and to the GRR community, it seemed as if Mary would never give birth.

However, on Saturday, December 12th around 10:40pm, an announcement went out to the GRR Facebook page: The puppies had begun to appear. The first out was Hope (15-150), followed by a second girl, Orli (15-151), within about 30 minutes. Mary continued to deliver puppies into Sunday morning and out came Kringle (15-152), Twinkle (15-153), Noel (stillborn, 15-154), Prancer (15-155), Jingle (15-156), Shepherd (15-157), Jangle (15-158), until the tenth puppy, Max (15-159), was delivered around 6:30am. Mary lay exhausted and still panting, in the whelping box, her nine tiny babies drinking noisily. I cleaned up the room, and wiped Mary down with a damp towel, hoping to provide some comfort.

At 9am, as I lay down on the couch to take a nap, Mary had decided to do the same. At 12:20pm, I went into check on the brood, and snapped a picture, posting it on Facebook for the eagerly awaiting GRR community. However, Michelle Goldberg was the first to note a discrepancy, "Wait...are there 10 puppies there or are my eyes playing tricks on me?" Several other GRR members confirmed. I posted: "Wait! Oh holy Hannah you're right! I'm such an idiot? All that green? She must have given birth to another in the last 2 hours!" Running in, an eleventh puppy was discovered. Her name? Joy (15-160), for first we started with Hope and ended with Joy.

On the 18th of December, the litter was almost one week old. Unfortunately, little Max joined his sister, Noel, and now runs free. However, the remaining nine continue to thrive and to gain weight daily. Mary? Well, she's going to stay right where she is. With me. Forever.

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**Check out Mary's puppies in 2 new videos! Click [here](#) for #1 from 12/19/2015 and click [here](#) for #2 from 12/26/2015.**



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## ***What You Don't Want to Think About, But Should...***

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

If you neglect to assign ownership of your pet in your will or a trust, your four-legged family member will automatically go to your residuary beneficiary (the person or persons who'll receive everything not assigned in your final legal documents). If you have no will or trust when you die, your pet will go to your next of kin.

When you adopted or purchased your pet, did you sign a contract agreeing to return the animal to the breeder, shelter, or some other entity in the event you can no longer keep your pet? If so, it's a good idea to attach those documents to your will or trust and give a copy to your assigned pet caretaker as well so everyone who may need the information has it.

Your will or testament is one tool you can use to legally arrange for the care of your companion animal in the event of your death.

One or more people who agree to take responsibility for your pet are named in the document, along with any assets you want to leave to that person to help with expenses.

Another option is to leave your pet with one person and the money with another person, with instructions for reimbursing the new owner for pet-related expenses.

Unfortunately, wills are not handled immediately upon a person's death, and settlements can sometimes be dragged out for years. In addition, specific instructions for a pet's care contained in a will are not enforceable, nor does a will allow for disbursement of monies over the remaining lifetime of the animal.

So including pet care in your will is only a first step. You'll also need a legal document called a pet trust. Read full article [here](#)...

**Editor's note:** A reminder that your GRR contract states that your GRR dog must come back to us if you are no longer able to care for him or her.



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## ***Veterinarian Spotlight: Dr. Lisa Byer***

*See Lisa at the [Forest Creek Animal Hospital](#)*

My name is Lisa Byer (nee' LaBry). I am a southern Louisiana native and attended Louisiana State University for both my undergraduate studies and veterinary school. I obtained my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in May 2005. I was a small animal practitioner for four years in Las Vegas prior to moving to Round Rock where I have been an associate veterinarian at Forest Creek Animal Hospital since August 2009. I share my home with my husband, Danny, and the fuzzybutts: Barnabas (GRR Ritz #15-044), Leila (courtesy of Austin Boxer Rescue), and our three cats, Beanie, Asia, and Mouser. In my spare time I enjoy gardening, DIY/crafts (the artsier the better!!), reading, and spending time outdoors with my dogs.

I have been working with Gold Ribbon Rescue in one capacity or another since joining the Forest Creek family in 2009. Initially, I would see the odd GRR dog every now and again for routine check-ups or new intake health evaluations – these visits were always a highlight to my day – the fosters were attentive and caring, the dogs were just the sweetest, happiest things, and the rescue itself was so easy to work with, allowing me the latitude to do my job in a way that served the best interests of my patients. Today, it seems I see at least one of these wonderful dogs per week (often more) – puppies, seniors, sick, and well – and the visits are as enjoyable now as they were then. Earlier this year I also had the pleasure of becoming a Gold Ribbon adopter myself! After hearing all the heartwarming stories of furever homes, foster fails, and perfect matches over the years I now have my own warm fuzzy story of how my Barnabas found me. Gold Ribbon is such a well run organization and they are truly advocates for their dogs; I have been so honored to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing and dedicated group of people, even though the part I play is quite small when compared to all that this team does for these magnificent animals.



Most recently I was blown away to learn, not only of the plight of hundreds of homeless Golden Retrievers in Turkey, but that our very own Gold Ribbon Rescue had put the wheels in motion to bring a group of them here! I was asked if I wouldn't mind donating my time the morning after their arrival to get general wellness exams done prior to sending them off to their cushy new lives. Would I mind!?!? Where do I sign up?? While I was extremely excited about this project I soon began to have some qualms. After reading up on the homeless dog situation in Turkey, and as the arrival date neared, I began to wonder what I might have gotten myself into. I envisioned encountering diseased and defeated dogs with little to no socialization, mistrust of humans, possibly even aggression issues among other things. Was I ever wrong! It warmed my heart when I walked into Service Dogs, Inc, looked around, and saw 14 smiling faces and wagging tails. All of the dogs were calm and tolerant of their exams (even the blood draws!) and, evidence of previously healed traumatic injuries aside, these guys could have been any old patient walking through the door at the clinic – mild to moderate ear infections, some bad skin, a couple with damaged teeth – nothing out of the ordinary for adolescent to older Golden Retrievers. It was a really enjoyable day and a true testament to the resilience of this incredible breed. I am looking forward to continued work with this group in both professional and volunteer capacities in the years to come.

## ***Shaye (15-097) and her Sweet Treet's! .....And Then There Was One!***

*By Jackie McGrath from [Sweet Treet's](#)*



**Update #2 from Jackie:** The Sweet Treet's litter is moving on to their furever families! After nine fun-filled puppy weeks, all but one of the puppies (Biscotti) has been adopted and they are starting the next phase of their lives. It's been so much fun to watch them grow...and grow and grow. Some of these BIG babies tipped the scales at nearly 20 pounds when they were adopted out! It will be fun to see what they weigh a year from now.

**Update #1 from Jackie:** All the babies were healthy, happy and bouncing full of energy. Even more, they are smart! Many of them learned the command "sit" before they were adopted. Now that half the litter is gone and "mom" is slacking from the bakery, we are in boot camp. She's trying to teach us everything she

can before we go to our furever homes.

We're getting REALLY good with crate training, sleeping thru the night. Potty training is coming along nicely, especially considering there's three of us to train. Now we are learning basic commands and good doggy manners. Here's our group "sit". Haha, we look so sweet and innocent!

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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!

**The Sweet Treats 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 Golden [here](#).

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## ***San Antonio Chiropractor Donating Free Laser Treatments to GRR dogs - Furever!***

*Robin Early*



### **Arthritis? Spondylosis? Pre- or post-op pain?**

Dr. Emily Oliver of Oliver Chiropractic Clinic is offering free laser therapy for all GRR dogs in need.

Dr. Oliver has a class IV infrared laser that is also used by vets for inflammation. Pre- or post-op surgery patients can also benefit by reducing swelling. This class IV laser goes 6 centimeters deep into the tissue to help with circulation, arthritis pain, joint or muscle pain and disc inflammation. It is a viable non-invasive pain relief option that can significantly alleviate your pet's aches and pains.

Dr. Oliver's offer extends indefinitely. Call for an appointment now!

Read more about laser treatments for pets [here](#).

Romeo 12-166, above, works at our clinic and will sit with kids while getting a laser treatment or adjustment!

**Oliver Chiropractic Clinic:**

110 Melrose Place  
San Antonio, 78212  
210-826-3292

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## ***Why We Love Our Dogs - The Diaries!***

*Apologies to all of you cat lovers out there!*

**The Dog's Diary**

- 8:00 am - Dog food! My favorite thing!
- 9:30 am - A car ride! My favorite thing!
- 9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favorite thing!

10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!  
12:00 pm - Milk bones! My favorite thing!  
1:00 pm - Played in the yard! My favorite thing!  
3:00 pm - Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!  
5:00 pm - Dinner! My favorite thing!  
7:00 pm - Got to play ball! My favorite thing!  
8:00 pm - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!  
11:00 pm - Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing!



### **The Cat's Diary**

Day 983 of My Captivity

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength.

The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates my capabilities. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. Bastards!

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies." I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow, but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released, and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird must be an informant. I observe him communicate with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe. For now ...

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## ***Meet Our New Grant Writing Team***

*Dawn Marie Rae - Pictured here are Amy and Judy Sebesta (Mary Marks not shown)*



Meet our new team! We're focusing on writing and acquiring grants for GRR. We are currently collecting GRR stats, mission statements, letter of introduction, and other organization specific information to then write up grants for GRR.

- Amy Sebesta - grant writer
- Judy Sebesta - grant writer
- Mary Marks - grant writer
- Dawn Marie Rae - coordinator
- Paula Ellis - Board advisor

We have identified 13 organizations so far, but will be concentrating on writing grants offered by the following organizations for the time being:

- Petfinder
- The April Fund (Golden Retriever Foundation)
- The Doris Day Fund
- and the Grey Muzzle Fund

We look forward to helping GRR with some much needed financial relief!

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## ***A Sweet Treet Happy Tail***

*Jackie McGrath*

One of the things I am most thankful for this year is the litter of puppies Shaye gave me. That was one of the best experiences of my entire life! I loved every last bit of it...even the not so fun parts.

What was also very rewarding for me was having my husband apologize for giving me such a hard time about wanting to have her puppies here (this coming from a man who was cleaning up poop at the time and who rarely apologizes). A few weeks later he told me I need to "sign up for puppy patrol more often!" And, a few days ago, he said "Maybe GRR will forget we have Biscotti"...haha, I couldn't help but laugh. Clearly, this has been an even better experience than he anticipated! I'll remind him of this when he gets the credit card bill with our bi-weekly visits to [Healthy Pets](#) finding new chew toys and training treats for the pups. Haha!



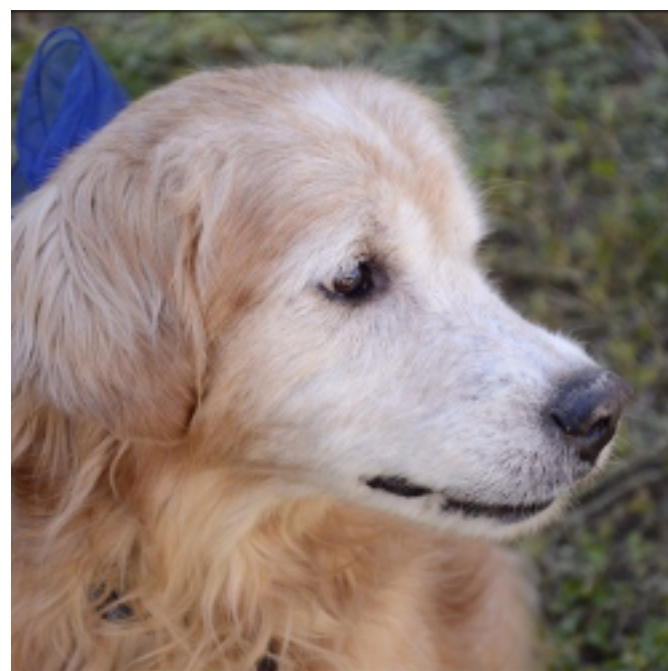
Here's a picture of the man behind the videos, my wonderful husband, Drew. This is us with 'Macaron' 15-115 (now Brodie) and he was 10.5 weeks old here. BIG BOY! I can barely carry him anymore! He and the other puppies are doing great. They are 100% crate trained and go into the crates on command. They are well on their way to being potty trained. I will say, potty training three at once keeps me on my toes for sure! They all sit on command, no problem. Next week we are going to work on "Down" and do a little leash training in the house so when they are ready to go outside after they are done with vaccines they are familiar with collars and leashes and the basics.

All of this is to say, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE let me know if you ever need another litter of pups whelped. You don't even need to ask, consider it a yes! We would love to!

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## ***In Memory of Chewy - A Plea to Help Our Senior and Hospice Dogs***

*Amber Middleton (Pictured here is Chewy)*





In honor of the sweetest of boys, I wanted to do something Chewy would be proud of. All donations will be given to Gold Ribbon Rescue and earmarked for rescued seniors and those dogs that come in, in need of hospice care. Any small amount makes a difference.

As some of you might know, we lost Chewy on Christmas Eve to an age-based neurological condition. He was originally rescued from Old Gold Rescue in Houma, Louisiana. He was my support and best friend through grad school, evacuating from Katrina with me, and making the move to start a new life in Austin. He, along with my parents walked me down the aisle at my wedding. He has been there for me through the very worst and the very best and my heart will never be whole again. I know he has journeyed ahead and we'll one day be together again, but missing him is the greatest pain I've ever experienced.

This is why I wanted to do a little something in honor of the most beautiful spirit I have ever known.

Will you donate to GRR's seniors and those in hospice care, in honor of Chewy? Click [here](#).

Thank you!  
- Amber

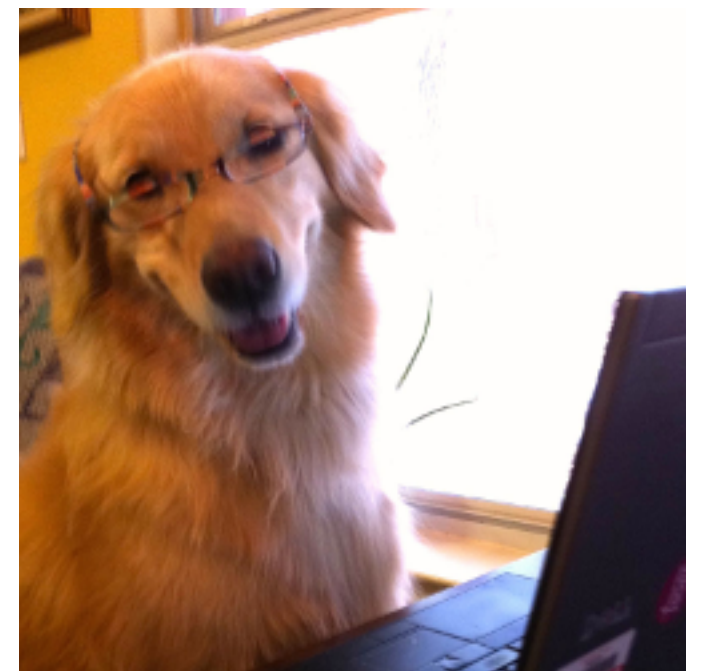
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## **Dear Goldie**

*Dawn Marie Rae*

I am nuts about birds, they squawk and sing and squeak, and I love to run after them. I get so crazy and excited when I see a bird, I could just fly up there and get 'em! Bunnies? Ho-hum. Squirrels? They are just gross! Those little bird critters hop around on the ground and taunt me way up in the trees and then dive-bomb me. If I could just fly!

One little problem though. My Mom and Dad are tired of me jerking on the leash to get to a bird and dislocating their shoulders, whatever that means. One time, I got free and actually caught one; I was in ecstasy. Needless to say, Mom was grossed out and Dad put me on restriction for a week! OK, ok, I admit it. My name is Jake, and I am a birdaholic!  
- Signed, Bird Lover in Bastrop



### **Dear Bird Lover:**

First, you will never fly, so give it up. Flying dogs are only in the movies, mostly as cartoons. Second, birds are smug and haughty creatures who don't deserve your obsessive behavior, and they will never share with you the secret of flight. Try to keep that in mind as I get to the point of your dilemma.

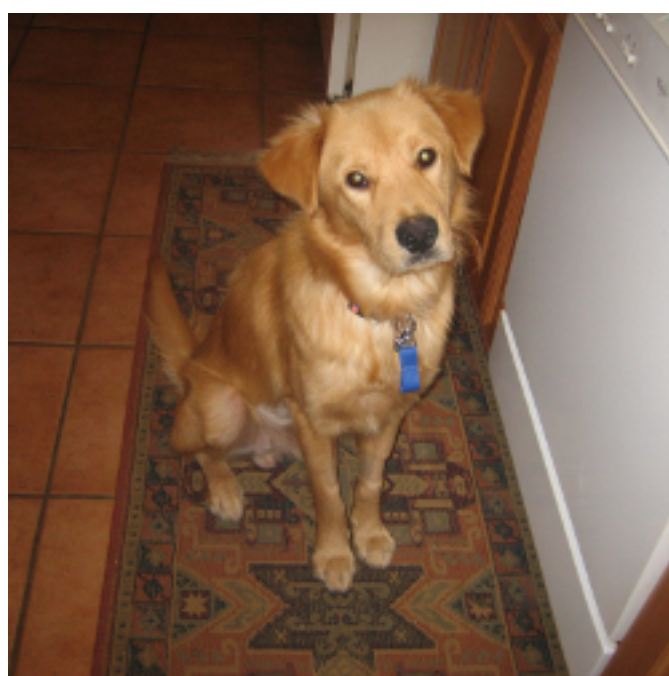
You are a Golden Retriever and you love to fetch, but you are also a wonderful affectionate and well-behaved dog. Right? Picture this. If you see a duck floating around in a pond that you want to get snarky with and jerk on the leash, where will your human parents end up? What if they take you on a hike where it's hilly or steep and you jerk on the leash? Or, worse, what if you jerk them into the street and there is a lot of traffic? Get my drift? What dog does that to the humans that love you?!?

Keep focused and do your best. Be good on that leash or you'll be on restriction again. Be good to your humans. Get yourself some stuffed birds you can actually catch. Sit back and enjoy the scenery. And never, ever forget: birds are not to be trusted. Just ask Alfred Hitchcock!

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## **Foster Dog Spotlight - Friday 15-121**

*Cindy Alphord and Lonnie Swanson*



### **Part 1 From Cindy Alford:**

It wasn't your typical sunny Saturday afternoon in Austin. In fact, anything but! We were in the midst of a storm, severe flooding and tornado watch. Gold Ribbon Rescue contacted my family to see if we were able to foster their latest rescue. I happily obliged thinking he would be a nice companion for our Indy (a GRR foster turned permanent family member last year). The plan was to meet Rick Gilpin off of I-35 and 620. Rick opened the door and here was this 37 pound Golden fur ball. His soulful eyes met mine and if he could speak my language he would have told me it has been a long journey thus far. I believe when one is involved in a dog's life, no matter how temporary, one cannot help but feel some sense of connection.

Friday, having just been neutered and not knowing how sick of a dog he really was, felt a bit of trepidation about moving spots again. Yet somehow, he decided to trust my arms and allowed me to pick him up and place him in my car. That's the beauty of dogs, they trust unconditionally until you prove them otherwise. At this point, I realized just how lucky Friday was that GRR found him.

Friday was on board and ready to for some fun! As soon as I opened the back door of the car, Friday was sitting up and ready to be let out. Not a minute to waste, Friday needed to potty! I brought Indy out and introductions ensued. We were off for a walk in the rain. Friday showed zero signs of lethargy or pain. He was happy in every sense of the word and wagged his tail ferociously while sniffing the streets alongside Indy. As soon as we got home, we all toweled off and I gave him a bowl of kibble and water. He gobbled up his food and allowed himself to tour his new place. Indy and Friday were great together. Sadly, I was not ready, nor expecting what was to come of Friday in the following two days.

On Sunday, Friday was happy to be up with the family and ready for his morning walk. I suspected nothing at the time. He ate a tiny but of food and drank water. But throughout the day his nose started to dry up a little and he did not want lunch. I made him some scrambled eggs and offered him some cheese. I figured he was just trying to get use to his new surroundings and still recovering from being neutered. He was still so fun, happy, gentle, loyal and loving. He was Friday...

On Monday morning, I realized that it was time for me to call Margo. Oh, how in hindsight I wished I'd made that call the day before. Although Friday awoke with an abounding desire to be his usual self, I could tell he was not well. Yet through his lethargy, his eyes still spoke of "weekend jaunts", chasing squirrels and running with other four legged companions.

Friday was diagnosed with a rare and contagious disease called Leptospirosis. He would now have to succumb to being kept in isolation, with IVs and so forth. My heart was saddened by this thought, even though he was in the best hands possible at Forest Creek Animal Hospital.

Yet, as I said goodbye to Friday, he looked back me with his soulful Friday eyes. As if to say everything is going to be okay... I am ready for the weekend.

### **Part 2 from Lonnie Swanson:**

We'll have better information about Friday after his labs are done later in the month. He's running a bunch of tests to see if his anemia and kidney function have improved, along with a final Lepto test to be sure he's 100% Lepto free. He had a "single organ ultrasound" for his kidneys and all was normal visually, so that's good. He has been itching like crazy lately, so we need to get to the bottom of that too. He'll have to stay on his kidney diet faithfully, but I'm really hoping for a clean bill of health soon! And this is good news - he respited with a CAT and was pretty much ho hum, indifferent and there's an easy peace with our neighbor's cat too. He spent Christmas with us and was a big hit with the whole family. Everyone wanted to adopt him on the spot. Stay tuned, he'll soon be available!

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## **Fruit and Vegetable Treats**

From [Money Crashers](#)

These strips work as a cheaper alternative to the organic chewy treats sold in pet stores. They also break apart easily, so you can serve smaller pieces as training rewards. Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamin C, which can help boost your dog's immune system.

### **Ingredients**

- 1 small sweet potato
- 1 medium banana
- 1 cup carrots, minced
- 1/2 cup unsweetened organic applesauce
- 2 cups of whole wheat flour (white if your dog has allergies)
- 1 cup of rolled oats
- 1/3 cup of water



### **Directions**

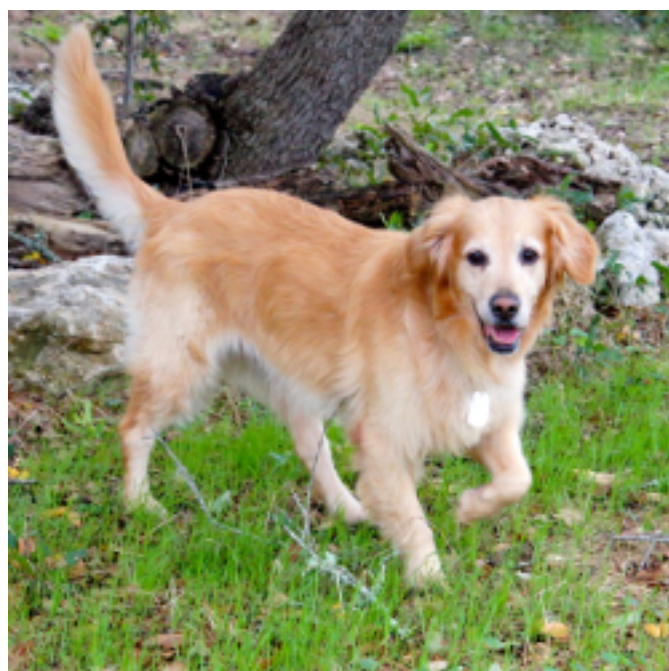
1. Cook the sweet potato in the microwave for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the insides are soft. Set aside and allow to cool.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Mash the banana and sweet potato in a large mixing bowl with a hand masher until smooth. Add in the carrots, flour, and oats. Slowly add in the applesauce and water while mixing.
4. The ingredients will form a soft dough. Roll the dough on to a lightly floured surface until the dough is 1/8 inch thick.
5. Cut the dough into strips.
6. Cook on a baking sheet for 25 minutes.
7. Store leftover strips in the fridge for up to two weeks.

*Pro Tip:* Do not worry about overcooking the sweet potato. Softer potatoes will mash easier.

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## **Choosing Your Canine Family Wisely**

- Alan Weiner (pictured here is Alan and Cyndi Nelson-Weiner's Frio (15-128T))



So often when pets join our family, it's a matter of circumstance. This is particularly true for people involved in a rescue group. Some dogs pick us. Frequently we find, foster or rescue a dog, that they worm their way into our hearts and just like that.....they're in! Many of the most wonderful dogs I've had in my life chose me.

Adding a new dog to your household can also be one of the few times you can carefully choose a relative and increase the likelihood that it will be a good fit. The first choice to consider is between a puppy or adopting an older dog. Each has advantages and disadvantages.

## **Everyone Loves Puppies!**

One most obvious factor is that puppies are incredibly cute and fun.....especially Golden Retrievers! The joy of watching a puppy develop and grow is immeasurable. An advantage of buying from a reputable breeder is that the parents can be screened for genetic problems that plague most breeds. The prevalence of these issues throughout many generations of the sire and dam's bloodlines can be considered. There are tests and certifications that can check for heart defects (SAS), eye defects (CERF), hip and elbow dysplasia (OFA), Von Willebrand's disease (vWD, an inherited bleeding disorder) to name a few. While having parents with these genetic clearances is no guarantee that their offspring won't have them, it will certainly reduce the likelihood of it.

Another advantage of a puppy is that they can learn correct behavior from the beginning. Puppies are capable of learning so much at an early age with proper training and many bad habits can be avoided. Retraining inappropriate behavior can often be more challenging. Puppies typically require more time and monitoring however. It can be a substantial commitment of time and energy to properly housetrain and keep a constant eye on a puppy. Every time they eliminate in the house or chew something that was left lying around can be a setback in their training. Puppies cannot be left alone as long as an adult dog.

When selecting a puppy, it's frequently difficult to see what their personality and temperament will be like as an adult. To get a good match with your family it can be invaluable to know factors such as activity level; will they be gentle and laid back or constantly on the move with lots of energy to burn? This can be very important depending on what you want to do with your dog. If you are a runner, hunter, plan to do dog sports such as agility or flyball for example, you'd want a dog with a high energy level and confident temperament. Conversely, if you have small children, elderly family members or want to do therapy work, a better match may be a dog with a lower energy level and a softer temperament. When you see a puppy, you're only getting a snapshot of them at the time you're visiting. They may have just awakened from a nap and sleepy or right in the middle of a rousing play session with littermates. There are a number of temperament tests that can be performed to determine a lot about their natural temperaments that can be very accurate, but that can be the topic of another article.

## **Adopting an Adult Dog**

As I mentioned earlier, the most special dogs that I've had in my life were rescues that came to me as adults. I assume that most people that are involved in rescue tend to lean towards this option. There are an overwhelming number of dogs that are in need of rescue and being part of a family. While you can't save all dogs, you can save that one and make an enormous difference in their life.

While we typically don't know much about a rescue's early background and experiences, one advantage of adopting an adolescent or adult dog is that you can tell much more about their temperament and personality, which will give you a better indication of how they will fit into your lifestyle and family.

Rescue dogs usually require far less formal training than puppies. Although it's common for rescues to have some issues, such as pulling on the leash, jumping, etc., these are things that are easily addressed with some training. Teaching some basic commands such as sit, down, come and stay will give you an excellent way to communicate with them in a positive, instructional way. Some rescues have been the subject of abuse or neglect and are quite fearful. This, too can be successfully addressed with proper training. Sometimes the fear can manifest itself with cowering and in some more extreme cases with snapping or aggression to fend off mistreatment. These dogs can be successfully worked with and saved and should not be discarded but will not be a good match for certain family situations.

It's amazing how resilient dogs can be to overcome such negative early experiences. Fearful behavior is much easier to correct when it's a result of bad experiences rather than temperament issues. There are a number of simple temperament tests that can be given to get a good idea of a dog's basic temperament and how they interact with people. It can give you an indication of how dominant or submissive they are or if they tend to be stoic or flighty.

Whether you choose a cute puppy, an active adolescent, adult or senior dog, they will be as unconditionally loved as a full-fledged family member.

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## ***The Story of Sue (Andrea 15-137) - An Update from Carol***

*Dawn Marie Rae and Carol Blackwell*



### **From lost and scared, to peace and comfort!**

**Update:** Andrea stayed at our house learning to trust for 3 weeks. On December 18th she moved to the Rudolph family, who will be adopting her after hip surgery, the surgery scheduled for mid-January. This girl has come such a long way!

**Of note:** Officer Greig said she's never has seen so many people show up to search for a lost dog as did GRR. She cried when Andrea was trapped alive and then she cried when she learned we named Andrea after her....she said it's the best part of her job. "I'm so glad this dog was safe", she said. "It's this that made me come out on my day off - because it matters to other people too."

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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.

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.

Andrea went to Carol and Tommy's to reduce her fears and shyness. 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.



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## ***GRR Monthly Status Report: November 22nd - December 27th***



**Came into care:** 13-018 JJ, 15-141 Pais3ly, 14-142, Razzle, 15-143 Dazzle, 15-144 Snickers, 15-145 Shadow, 15-146 Sassy, 15-147 Mary, 15-148 Duke, 15-149 Elly, 15-161 Castle, 15-162 Wille, 14-163 Mica

**The Christmas Litter:** 15-150 Hope, 15-151 Orli, 15-152 Kringle, 15-153 Twinkle, 15-155 Prancer, 15-156 Jingle, 15-157 Shepherd, 15-158 Jangle, 15-160 Joy

**Adopted:** 15-029 Spunky, 15-124T Pecos, 15-130T Travis, 15-125 Brazos, 12-178 Elle, 15-069 Alvin, 15-114 Marshmallow, 15-117 Short Cake, 15-129T Austin, 13-018 JJ, 15-106 Buffy, 15-112 Pound Cake, 15-120 Benchley, 15-131T Deep Eddy, 12-136 Luke

**Currently in Foster Care:** 64 (26 Available Now/Soon, 29 Foster Pending Adoption, 1 Matched, 8 Permanent Fosters)

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## ***Help Wanted***

### **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.

### **Newsletter contributor:**

Do you have a special interest or skill with regards to our Goldens, 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](#)



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## ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## ***GRR 2016 Calendars Still Available***



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

## ***2015 GRR Tax Deductions***



What you do for GRR can count towards your deductions!

**What you CAN claim:**

- \$5 per day for EACH dog that you foster in foster care
- Mileage for every mile you travel for GRR purposes: vet appointments, transport, home visits, etc.
- Medical attention for your foster dog with our approved vets, but you paid for it yourself.
- Money spent on envelopes, postage, containers for supplies, baggies for supplies, etc.

**What you CANNOT claim:**

- Toys and food you bought for your foster dog.
- Grooming for your foster dog
- Any non-approved vet visit.

Email GRR Treasurer [Tim Tierney](#) with your foster dog list, the dates they were at your house, and the total number of foster days and Tim will email you a tax donation receipt.

Example of how to provide documentation for Tim (list all of this info):

Foster: #13-142 Andy

01/01/14 – 02/27/14 = 58 days

Foster: #14-073 Buttercup

06/08/14 – 07/28/14 = 50 days

Foster: #14-079 Cozy

06/23/14 – 10/26/14 = 125 days

Total days for foster dogs: 233 days x \$5/day = \$1,165 tax donation

Please contact [Emily Tuczowski](#) if you have any questions.

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