



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

June 2016



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Newsletter Editor:
Dawn Marie Rae

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

Gold Ribbon Rescue

A Message from Our President:



I would like to thank everyone who made our calendar auction so successful this year, it went so much faster that we've ever seen before! I know we're all looking forward to seeing the final product.

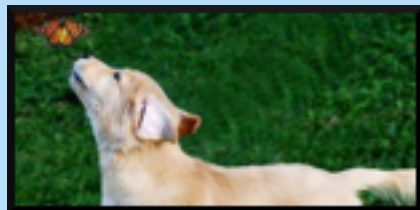
As of May 30th, we've brought in 52 dogs this year, which is staying steady with last year, so again, thank you all for your hard work to save these beautiful angels.

With the preponderance of rain and thunderstorms, I am recommending some products and actions that many of you already know about, but I thought them worth mentioning again:

- [Thundershirts](#)
- Melatonin
- Benedryl
- [DAP Diffusers](#)
- Inside and outside lights on
- TV on or classical music playing
- [Bach's Flower Remedies](#)
- [Peaceful Paws](#)
- [Animal Essentials Tranquility Blend](#)
- Secure places: Crates, closets, showers, bathtubs
- Sleeping on the couch with the dogs :)
- Sleeping sitting up in a chair with 80 pounds on top of you
- Prepare to surrender your bed and your REMs :)

Please read Emily's article about puppies and breeders, a subject that is so important to breed excellence, as well as, proper care and socialization of the puppy.

Take care of your Goldens, protect them from this severe heat. Read some special advice in this newsletter and have a great summer with your pups!



In this issue:

- Paint yourself a Golden with Painting With a Twist (see events)
- Our Volunteer Spotlight with Kathy Ragan
- Dogs and Paws and Cars - What you need to know...
- Get the last update on Diesel (now Dexter), he's been adopted!
- And, the Millers talk to us about life with 5 dogs!

Enjoy!

-Margo

Current and Upcoming Events

2017 Gold Ribbon Rescue Calendar Auction has ended but you can still submit Special Days and free thumbnails [here](#). The last day for submission is June 30th.

Come and paint a Golden with [Painting With a Twist!](#)

When: June 12th from 2 - 4 pm

Where: 6705 US-290, #501, Austin, TX

Come join us and paint a Golden in 2 hours! Reserve your seat now! Sign up [here](#).

Swimfest at the Quarries Hyde Park

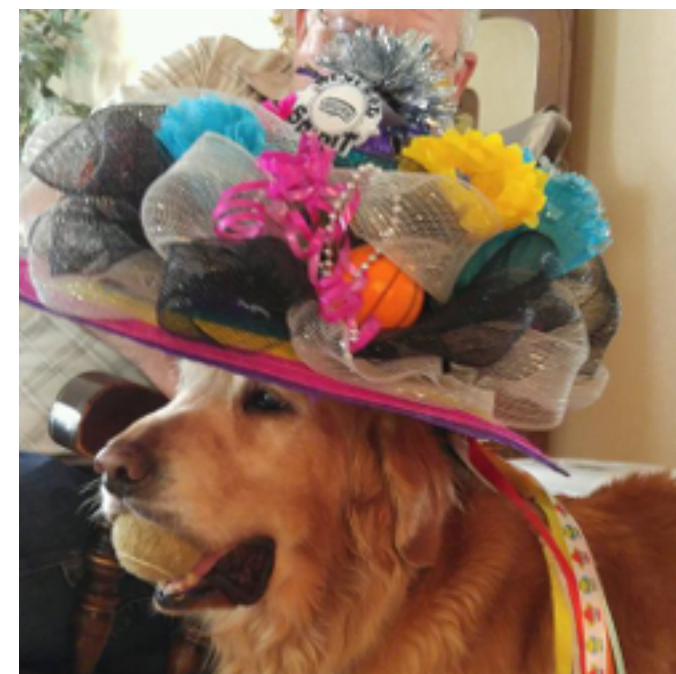
When: August 20th from 10 to 1 pm

Where: 11400 N Mopac Expy

Austin, Texas 78759

Admission: Admission is \$25 for your immediate family of 2 and 4 leggers.

Come join us for some fun lakeside at the Quarries Park. The area will be fenced in so that your pooches can enjoy themselves safely with leash-free abandon. A wonderful brunch will be included. Guaranteed good time for all! Please RSVP and pre-pay [here](#).



Help Wanted

Medical Team Member

20+ hours per week or less, if additional person can volunteer.

Must be available by email and phone: days, evenings and weekends. Medical background (human or canine) preferred.

Requires reading, filing and responding to emails, faxing authorizations for treatment, regular phone contact with veterinarians, and writing reports. You will work closely with GRR's medical supervisor and medical team, as well as foster families and their foster coordinators. Self-starter, responsible, attention to detail and good people skills a must.

If more than one person will take this on, the hours will be less or modified. Please contact [Margo Biba](#) if you are interested.

Newsletter contributor:

Do you have a special interest or skill with regards to our Goldens, such as obedience, training, nutrition or health issues? We could use some thoughtful dialogue on any topic for the newsletter. Please contact the newsletter editor [here](#).

Twitter Account backup:



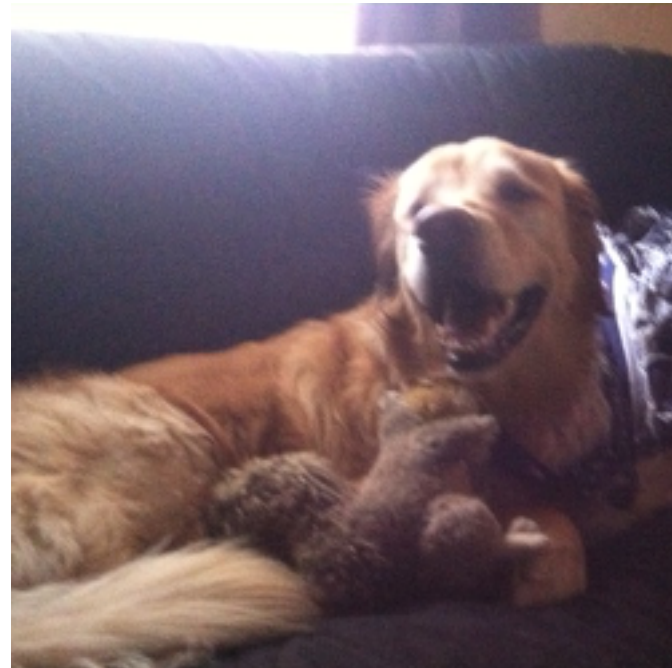
Interested in helping GRR promote our dogs and provide updates about our organization on Twitter? You can swap out months with others on the team or be a backup volunteer. Time needed: 1-2 hours a week. Let us know. Please contact the [editor](#).

Web Developer:

Developer needed for content updates, new pages, special promotions and fundraisers. Skills must include Drupal, CSS, JavaScript, and HTML. Approximately 10 hours or less per month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#) for more information.

In Loving Memory - Wrigley (09-146)

James Woolums



It has been a year since we lost Wrigley. He came into our home and hearts and left all too soon. He was a special dog to us, although all Golden owners know that their dogs are special as well. His last few months were the hardest for him and us, as he was down with rheumatism and/or arthritis. We gave him laser and acupuncture treatments; they helped some but couldn't stop the inevitable. Wrigley and I had bonded since I've been retired. We went to the parks every day and walked for hours and miles, he loved the rugged bike paths and scaring a deer or two along the way. I did draw the line when he wanted to go after a skunk!

He loved his home and his couch, he was a true couch potato. Wrigley and our cat, Hillary, were good friends. While he laid on the floor, she would wash his face and clean out his ears, she specialized in his grooming. In return he would attempt to wash her face, with a couple of dog-size slurps she was done. There is nothing worse than a cat dripping in dog slobbers.

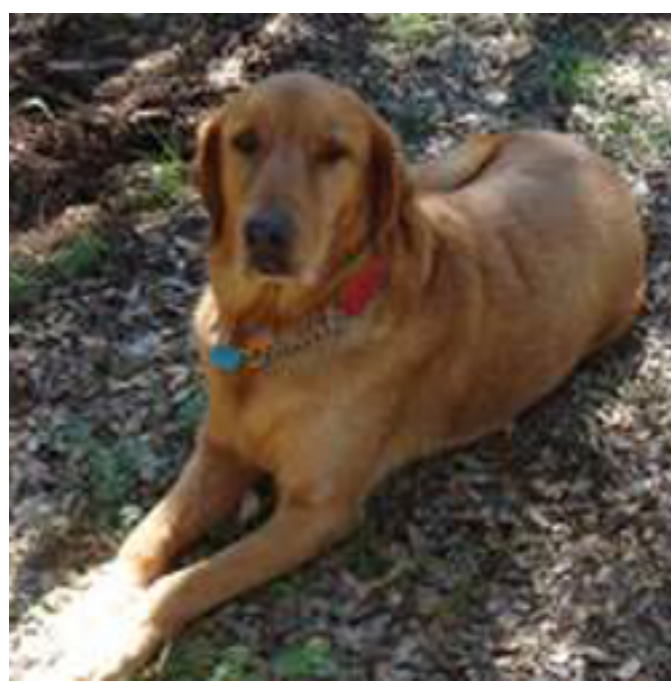
When our son had to go to Germany, we took in his dog, Diamond; he couldn't take her with him. Being a much older dog, she took Wrigley under her wing so to speak, as he was a gentle giant. She would always step in to protect him.

Wrigley never met a body of water he didn't want to swim in, but he could never get the hang of the ocean. When he tried to get a drink he would immediately spit it out; he just couldn't get the idea of it being salty.

As his mobility decreased, we shortened his walks, but even so, he was always the first one out the door. When he couldn't jump on the couch anymore, I would lift him up and he just loved being there again, rolling around on his back.

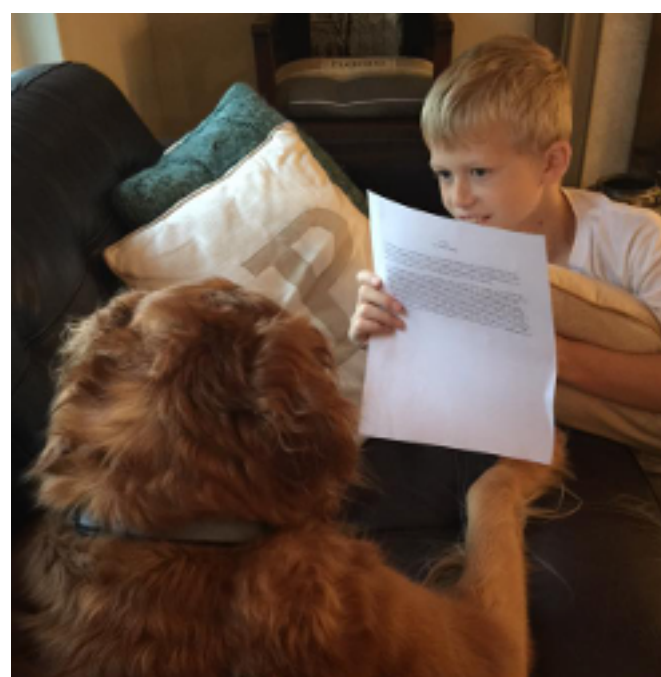
All things must come to an end and he finally just gave up, he just couldn't go on. My wife, Linda, said he loved me so much that he didn't want to put me, or himself, through it anymore. In the end we took his ashes back to a favorite spot of his in the park to bury them, it was still tough letting go and we walked him around a favorite trail one last time.

Two months later my son's dog, who was much older, followed Wrigley, and in turn we buried her ashes next to him. I think she just missed him, they were such good friends. They are now together. Wrigley and Diamond - we loved you so.



Rudy - Cream Cheese, Bagels and Dead Fish!

By Travis Parker, shown here with Rudy



Travis, our 4th grader, loves Rudy, our large, loving, and high energy, 10-year old GRR baby. Check out the look on Travis's face as he proudly showed Rudy the descriptive writing assignment in which he featured Rudy. So sweet! (No worries, we're on top of the referenced "rotten eggs and dead fish" breath!)
- Amber Parker

From Travis:

My favorite pet is my dog Rudy. Rudy is a big Golden Retriever with a dark, goldish color. His fur spreads everywhere like cream cheese on a bagel. He has a really big, long tail. Rudy is nine-years old in human year, too. He is my favorite pet because when I get home from school, he will pounce on me and my family. Rudy acts like a puppy, but he is an old dog.

He is nine years old, but he acts like a puppy. When we take him on a walk, he will wag his tail back and forth. When you are walking him and let the leash go, he will start prancing around like a reindeer. Sometimes when you get him really excited, he will do something we call a "lick attack". A "lick attack" is when a dog starts to lick you a lot. I also like Rudy because he never runs out of energy. Like when you throw the ball to him a couple times, he will stop going after the ball and will start wanting a stick.

When Rudy goes to the park, he will run around like a crazy man and pounce on other dogs. Rudy like to eat the bark off of the sticks! My Dad calls Rudy dumb sometimes because he does some fumb stuff. One time Rudy ran into a glass door thinking he could play outside. Rudy like to chew on balls, toys, and a lot of other things. His breath smells like rotten eggs and dead fish combined. I love Rudy and he will always be the best dog ever.

Want to Adopt a Puppy From a Breeder? Read This First!

Emily Tuczowski



Thinking about bringing a Golden Retriever puppy into your home? For whatever reason, your heart has moved you towards adopting or buying a Golden Retriever puppy. Maybe as a first-time Golden owner? Maybe as a repeat Golden owner, but it's been a long time (or first time) of bringing a Golden puppy into your home. They ARE irresistible. But bringing one into your home needs some serious consideration.

There are many so-called “breeders” out there. Some of them breeding for the money; some of them breeding by accident.

The goal of breeding the Golden Retriever, as with any breed, is to ensure that the integrity of the breed is moved forward; that the breeding tries to eliminate, versus perpetuate, the hereditary diseases associated with Golden Retrievers; and that the breeding maintains the standards outlined in the AKC standards for the breed.

Among the hereditary diseases that are most commonly associated with the Golden Retriever are: hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, eye disorders, and heart issues.

So how do you differentiate one breeder from the other? Ask questions. Expect answers.

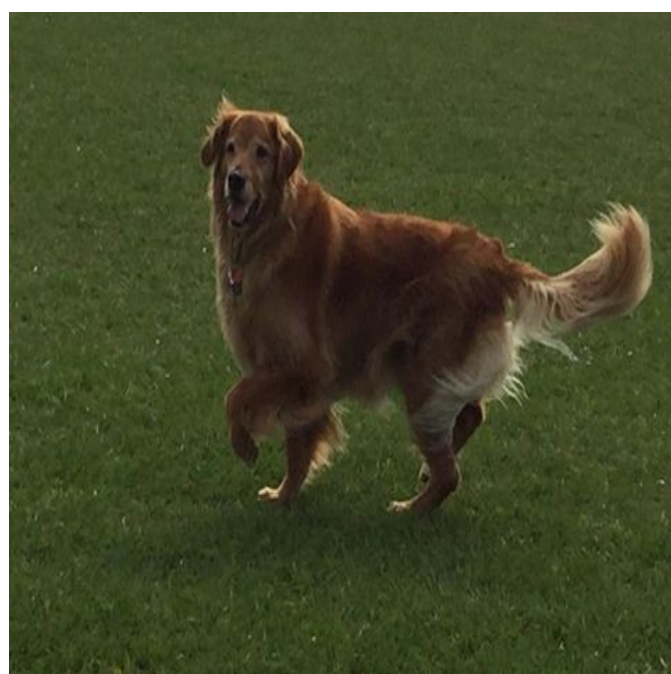
Don't rely on “getting AKC papers” as the be-all, end-all. They are not. AKC papers do not ensure you are getting a puppy that will be free from the hereditary issues associated with the breed. They only ensure you are getting a Golden Retriever. We all want a healthy companion. One who will share in our family's joys and adventures for as many years as possible. How do we make that happen?

Questions to consider if you are interested in a Golden puppy:

- To ensure the puppy has had full socialization with the dam and litter-mates, no puppy should be available to come into your home **until after 8 weeks of age or older**.
 - This is the time when puppies learn proper behavior with other dogs, and it's a critical time period. A puppy's litter-mates will teach them when a bite/move is too harsh and correct them; likewise, they will teach when a play move is acceptable. This goes far in teaching a puppy acceptable vs non-acceptable moves with other dogs when they get older. Puppies that are removed from their dam and litter-mates younger than 8 weeks of age often have issues with inappropriate biting, not only during puppyhood, but also “mouthiness” and biting through their adult years. They also can be fearful of strange situations and lack the appropriate understanding of how to properly interact with other dogs. This can lead to aggression towards other dogs as the dog matures.
 - This is also the time when the momma teaches her pups acceptable behaviors as well. She will not tolerate bullish or inappropriate behavior, and will let her pup know that. This is critical for proper socialization.
 - Puppies who aren't yet weaned, but removed from the litter, also lose the nutrients and benefits of the dam's milk. Their gastro-intestinal tracts have also not yet gotten accustomed to eating the food they will be eating the remainder of their lives, and gastro-intestinal issues may occur. This is significant because they can dehydrate and lose needed nutrition very quickly, which can be fatal.
- Ensure that your breeder is breeding for the right reasons and can provide proof of the same of both the sire and the dam – you must ask and be provided with the certificates for each of the following:
 - Has been seen by a Board-certified cardiologist (not just a vet without those credentials) and neither has sub-aortic stenosis (SAS), or pericardial effusion (fluid around the heart) and there

is no history of the same in either's respective generations.

- Has been seen by a Board-certified ophthalmologist and has been cleared of any eye issues e.g. multi-focal retinal dysplasia (MRD) (litter screening); hereditary cataract (HC) (annual testing); progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) (annual testing) (gradual loss of vision); goniodysgenesis/primary glaucoma (G) (annual testing)
- Has been cleared as having healthy hips and elbows by the OFA, OVC, Pennhip or BVA. A veterinarian is not qualified to score hips or elbows.
- Has compatible DNA results for PRA-1, PRA-2, PRCD-PRA, and Ichthyosis-A/(B)
- Ask the breeder what steps they are taking to socialize the litter, including getting them used to people, noises, having all parts of their bodies touched, getting them used to their feet being handled and nails trimmed, and getting them accustomed to baths.
- Ensure the breeder will be providing the first round of puppy shots before letting a puppy from the litter be adopted
- Ensure the breeder has provided de-worming meds prior to adoption.
- Ask what foods the breeder has been feeding the litter, to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the same food post-adoption.



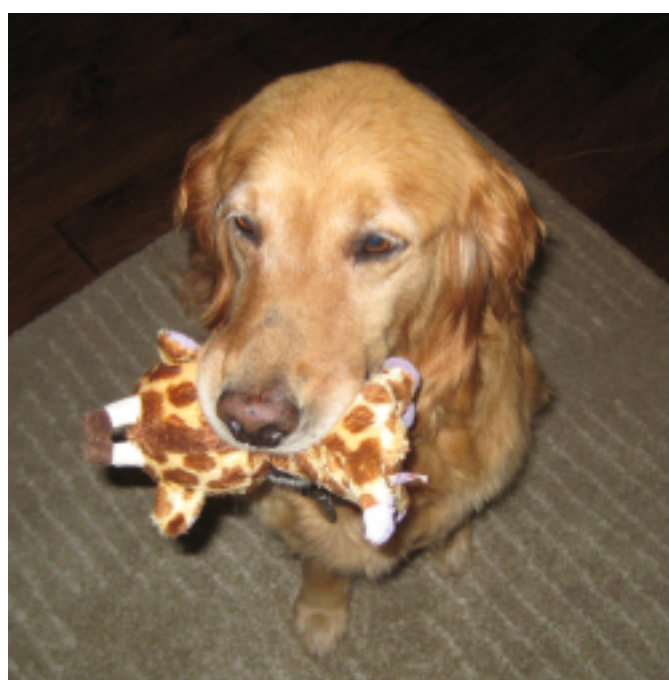
Adding a puppy to your family is a lot of work. It starts with a lot of work for a reputable breeder as well, (I personally know of the many sleepless nights they go through), to ensure that they are supporting the “best of the breed” going forward. And it continues with a lot of sleepless nights for the adoptive home, as your puppy transitions into your world.

Please do not go into it blindly. Please ask the right questions, and expect they will be happily accepted and answered. If not, consider this as a red flag. Please go into this as a relationship, between you, your family, your breeder and your new pup. If your breeder isn't interested in continuing a relationship with you, please also consider this a red flag.

For more information on the health concerns and testing of the Golden Retriever breed, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to read about finding a reputable breeder.

Where Are They Now? Kaya 16-029

The Dragosas - with Kaya



Although it has only been a couple weeks since we have brought Kaya into our lives, it feels like she has always been a part of our family.

When we first met Kaya, she was rather shy and the shaved areas of her coat and scars were still visible from her recent surgery. Despite being abandoned and left on the streets by her previous family, she was still trusting and showed her love and enjoyment of people. We took her home and slowly, but surely, she has blossomed. She epitomizes the "Golden Retriever personality." She is loving and playful and exceptionally loyal. She is eager to please and learns quickly. Although Kaya gets bothered by other dogs getting too close to us (not the other family dog), she is easily redirected and has already learned, in a short time, to be more social and accepting of other dogs. Her coat is coming back and is shiny and beautiful, although this might be due to the constant attention she gets from everyone in the family who pet her and brush her during every waking moment. Showing off her intelligence, Kaya has learned how to wrap everyone in the family around her paw and get them to pet, play or feed her with just a look or a gentle paw on the lap. Even the other family dog, a skittish Rat Terrier/Chihuahua mix, has come to accept Kaya and will follow her around the yard.

We were expecting a dog who had some of the emotional and physical scars from her past life, and thought she might need some extra training. What we found is a dog who is happy to be a part of the family, and who teaches us something new every day.

Kaya loves soft toys. From the first day she came home with us, she located some of the kids' stuffed animals and took them as her own. We affectionately refer to these small stuffed animals as her "puppies" and it is not uncommon to see her surrounded by a "litter" of these soft toys. For a dog that is so big with such big teeth, it is amazing to see how gentle she is with these toys. Similarly, she nurtures our kids as well. Although in the midst of a petting session, she will occasionally moan and grunt, we've realized that is her way of letting us know how much she appreciates the attention. We are still getting used to Kaya but everything we have learned about her has been a pleasant surprise. She is a great companion and a wonderful family dog.

We are very fortunate to have Kaya in our family and look forward to new adventures with her.

Final Foster Report - Diesel (now Dexter) weeks 14 and 15

David and Lisa Savage



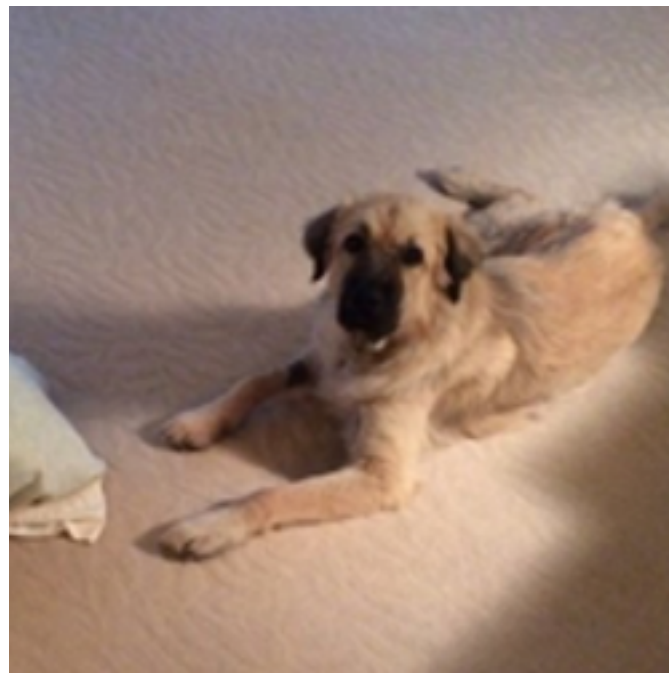
Diesel did well with the excision of a persistent cyst on his neck, and the microscopic exam looked benign/inflammatory. Those sutures will come out this week, and then we will be done with everything medical that he came in with. Yea! Dr. Byer and the staff at Forest Creek Animal Hospital have been great. Kudos to them for everything, including being a big fan club!

Diesel is now "Dexter" and true to form, we have failed fostering. Yesterday was Dexter's adoption day! Thanks to my friend, Lonni Swanson, for meeting me to make it official!

Here's the thing: he is unique, of course, and not a Golden Retriever. He is probably a "Pyrenees/Shepherd mix". He has the CUTEST face, but his back end will forever be partly hairless and leathery in patches. These things would probably make him less adoptable from our Golden Retriever rescue (not to discount the great deal of LOVE that has been bestowed upon him by everyone!!) He has been on the receiving end, but also on the GIVING end of therapy over here with us. We just felt it was meant to be that way; first with Dexter's needs and then with Dave's needs. And, we just think he is a Savage. Yesterday, I took him to our (very) long term boarding kennel for a play day, and the owner, who has known us through two dogs and was attached to both, became tearful when she met him because she felt Goldie (GRR, 2005) coming through. Awwww, so sweet.

So, I'll be signing off for now. Diesel/Dexter, while still a work in progress, has recovered from the terrible state he was in upon intake, and has found his forever home. I've signed us up for Obedience/Companion classes at the Canine Center starting in June, and might just pursue additional training, like Good Citizen, because he is super smart and I have more time than I did with my other two canine family members in the past. To EVERYONE who has supported him and us through this process, we are so very grateful. Diesel's GRR fan club has been hugely important. Everyone's positive comments and well wishes have been amazingly helpful and affirming. Thanks to the GRR teams and every single member and friend who has been on "Team Diesel". I will send a periodic update and keep everyone in the loop as time goes by. I'll be going back to phone interviews and respite care. My hat is off to everyone who does fostering and is able to send a dog on to another family. (Lonni and her husband have done it 27 times, and THAT is something!)

Pictures this week are "Diesel conquers a pillow", "Playing at Onion Creek kennels" and "I got invited to Birthday Party" (we are saying the party hat also symbolized his adoption day!) Thanks everyone!



BREAKING NEWS: Leading Brand Issues Pet Food Recall [Animal Rescue Site](#)

Blue Buffalo of Connecticut has announced a voluntary recall of one lot of its products, which may be contaminated by high moisture levels, resulting in mold. Please click on the link below if you are using this product.

[Life Protection Formula Fish and Sweet Potato Recipe product recalled.](#)



Dear Goldie

Dawn Marie Rae

Dear Goldie,
Mom's newest arrival, Maximilian, has my routine royally messed up and I am extremely

irritated. I will say that his name fits him perfectly; he lords it over me every day. He been sleeping with me in my big bed every night ever since he got here, but that's got to stop right this minute!

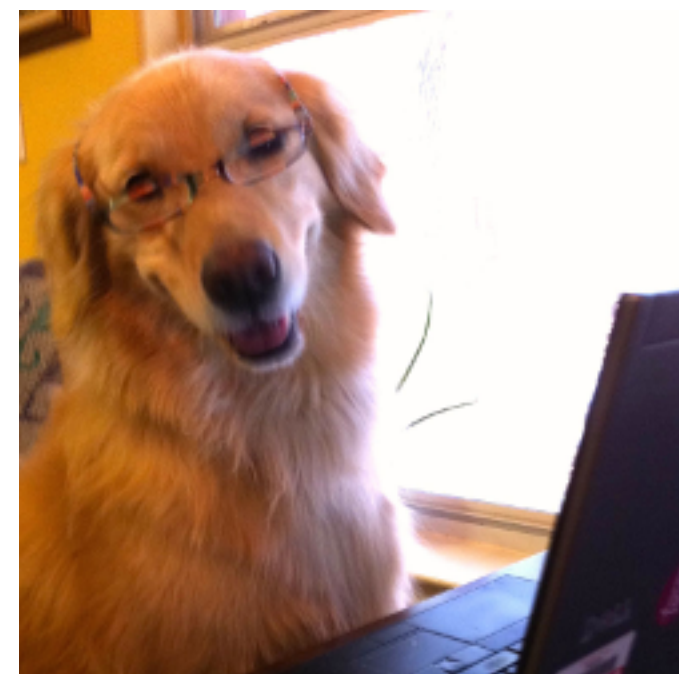
Not only does he snore, he barks in his sleep, his feet go crazy, like he's chasing a squirrel, and squeals and snorts all night long! Those mournful wails and yips do not fool me for one minute!

At first, I'll nudge him and try to go back to sleep. Just when I'm enjoying my newfound REM sleep, he starts barking and shaking, so then I nudge him harder and try to go back to sleep. He starts right up again, groaning and shaking, and it irritates the crap out of me. Finally, I actually smack him on the head. That finally gets his attention! It's worse than hearing my Mom snore every night! He's 12 years old and still chasing squirrels? Really?
- Sleep Deprived in San Antonio

Dear Deprived,

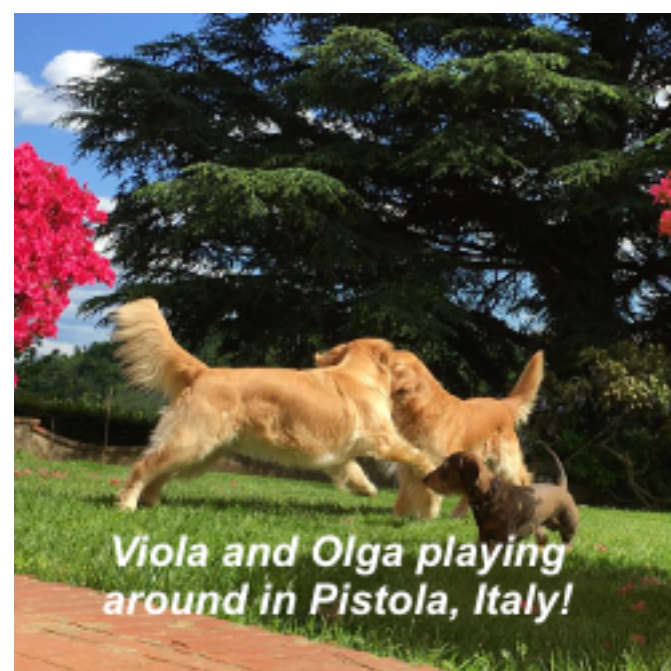
Are you serious??? You're the one who needs to get smacked on the head! First, follow the old adage: "let sleeping dogs lie." Disrupting his sleep during the REM cycle can be very startling (think about how you feel waking up from a dream). Do you know he could be dreaming about KILLING a squirrel and not Chasing it? Do you want to be half-asleep and get bit? Do you want his royal highness to be grumpy all day?

Get him a new bed of his own or YOU hit the floor and sleep there. This is easy to fix, UNLESS you secretly adore him and want something more out of your relationship. There's always Breathe Right nasal strips for a budding romance!



Bite Prevention Week - We're Not Playing Around!

Candice Gourley



Each year, the third full week in May is designated as National Dog Bite Prevention Week. While Golden Retrievers are not known as "bitey" dogs, the point of the campaign is that any dog, any breed can bite. The Center for Disease Control estimates that there are an estimated 4.5 million dog bites each year, and that 1 out of 5 become infected. Of the 4.5 million, at least half are children, typically by family dogs and

during common every day activities. Men are more likely to be bitten than women.

The ASPCA states, "While a dog's genetics may predispose it to behave in certain ways, genetics do not exist in a vacuum." Human beings have 3 billion base pairs in their genome in 23 pairs of chromosome; dogs have 2.8 billion base pairs in 39 pairs of chromosomes. Despite billions of genes, less than 1% determine how a dog looks. The Animal Farm Foundation, Inc. (AFF) emphasizes that "all dogs are individuals." They further state that "looks don't equal behavior."

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has developed a set of guidelines on how to avoid dog bites:

- Avoid unknown dogs, particularly those without their owner present
- Ask permission before petting a dog - even if you see it every day on a walk
- Learn how to react to an aggressive dog: stand still, hands clasped in front and play "tree," or, just walk away - but do not run. If you are knocked down, cover your head with your arms. Do not yell, hit or start running
- Don't bother dogs that have put themselves to bed or in a crate
- Body language reading is tricky - and sometimes a behavior (e.g. tail wagging) can mean different things.
- The best approach is to be gentle and calm.
- When a dog wants to play, it will
- Do not take a dog's treats or food bowl, and don't pretend to hit or kick it
- Do not pull on a dog's ears, tail, feet, or try to ride it like a horse.
- Leave a dog alone when asleep or eating.
- Do not drag smaller dogs around and be careful when picking them up

Dog parents can also do much good by socializing dogs throughout their life. [The American Veterinary Society for Animal Behavior \(AVSAB\)](#) issued a position statement on the importance of puppy socialization. While it is critical during puppyhood, the concepts apply throughout a dog's life.

Gold Ribbon Rescue takes in many dogs with unknown origins, which increases the risk of bites, simply because we have little or no history of the dog. Additionally, many Golden Retrievers that come to GRR appear to have not been well treated. That is why the intake process, as well as the time a dog spends in a foster home is so important. It is GRR's hope that aggressive or problematic behavior can be determined during this period, rather than with adoptive families. However, it is very important that all families understand that under the right (wrong) circumstances, any dog may bite.

References:

1. [AVMA Info on Dog Bite Prevention Week](#)
2. [ASPCA Policy/Position Statement About PitBulls](#)
3. [Animal Farm Foundation Information re: Dog Genome](#)
4. [AVSAB Position Statement on Puppy Socialization](#)
5. [CDC Website on dog bite prevention](#)

Hanging My Head Out the Car Window - Yesssss! Owners Think Again...

Dawn Marie Rae



Dogs love to be free to stick their heads out of the window and sit on our laps, but just like we don't allow our children to do those things, it's very important to make sure our dogs are safely restrained in the car using an anchored crate, Pup Saver or a quality seatbelt harness. **Our dogs can still get the air and smells they crave, just not in the direct manner of physically hanging their heads out the window completely.**

These options do the following:

1. Prevents the driver from being distracted by the dog - this causes more accidents than cell phone use!
2. Protects your dog. A proper restraint could mean the difference between life and death for your dog.
3. Protects others in your vehicle. In an accident, a dog can be thrown with hundreds or even thousands of pounds of force.
4. Makes it easier for rescue workers to help in the event of an accident. Prevent runaways and daring escapes in the event of an accident.
5. It's convenience. You won't have to worry about escape every time a window or door is opened.
6. Helps dogs that get carsick or fear driving feel more secure which may help them be calmer and less nauseous.
7. Restraints for your dog may be required by law.

It is undeniable that many dogs find sticking their heads out of car windows to be exciting, refreshing and relaxing experiences. Despite that, it is crucial to never allow your precious dog to engage in this behavior. It simply is too dangerous for a couple of reasons. Not only can overstimulated dogs accidentally fall or leap out from rapidly moving vehicles, they risk the chance of passing matter getting into their eyes, ears or mouths. Whether a tiny rock, dust or insect, you want to make sure that foreign items never get inside of your pooch's body. If your dog's ears flutter around wildly in the wind, it also can trigger detrimental consequences. Rushing cold winds traveling aggressively into your dog's lungs can be a tremendous hazard as well.

Note: All seatbelt harnesses are not equal! Most stores offer cheaply constructed harnesses that have plastic weight-bearing buckles that will not hold up in an accident.

Protect your dogs eyes with a product like [Doggles](#), get him a safety restraint so he can't jump out of the car, and maybe just try cracking the window so he can catch the scents with his nose, but not put his entire head out the window.

They ARE your babies, right? Keep them safe!



Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance

Compiled by Kimberly Thomas and Dawn Marie Rae



Recent Rainbow Bridge: (Since May 1, 2016)

Mischief - heart problems

Mia - cancerous tumor

Buddy

Max - age

Sedona

Penny - a cat with cancer/age

Rascal

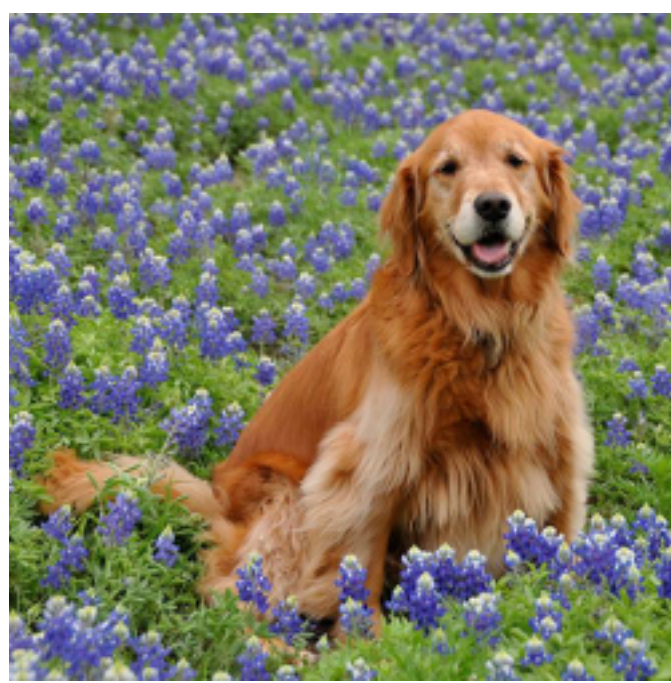
Punkin - Epitheliotropic lymphoma (Golden Beginnings GRR out of Houston)

Rina

Rest in peace our forever friends and companions...

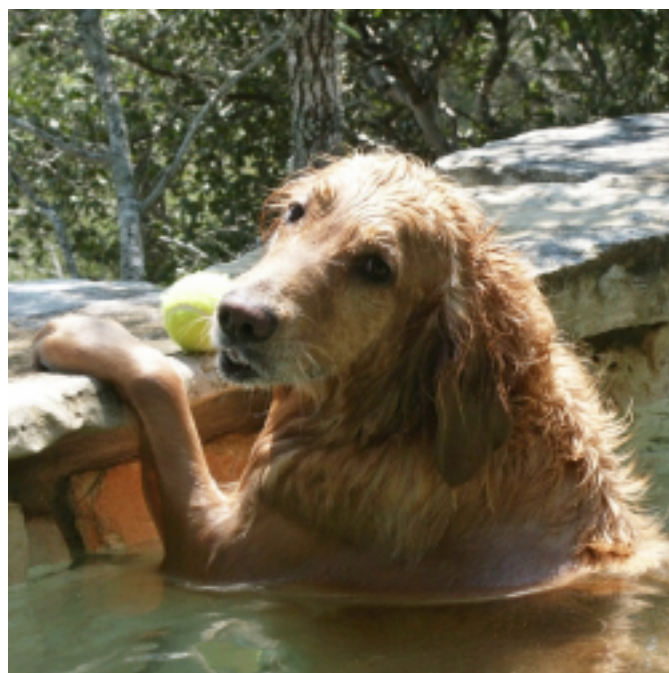
A beautiful article about saying goodbye: [5 Things I Wish You Knew Before Euthanizing](#), from Kelsey Beth Carpenter.

Rest in peace Punkin, shown below.



New Feature: Living in a Dog's House - The Miller Pack

Micki and Robb Miller



How many dogs allow you to live with them and what are their names?

Until the fall of last year, we had a "6-pack." Now, we are down to five (all GRR):

- *Mojo* - aged 7, a huge Golden Retriever/Great Pyrenees with a laid back personality;
- *Yogi* - aged 5, our only true Golden Retriever and blue collar boy. He loves to work and will retrieve anything, from a cold beer to a wrench;
- *Chloe* - aged 7, the mother of Gigi and is a Great Pyrenees mix, and is our Zen Goddess. She will stare endlessly into your eyes, and then proceed to lie on her back, with her head in your lap for an hour's worth of meditation and belly rubbing;
- *Gigi* - aged 3, has her momma Chloe's genes and purebred GP from her daddy. Gigi is our "fur-st" responder and will sound the alarm when anything outside the norm is seen or heard;
- *Lily* - aged 2, has GP, Samoyed and American Staffordshire gene contributions. Lily got off to a rough start when entering GRR, but she found a stable pack to provide the guidance she needed, and settled into a sweet and energetic girl.

Because we knew that Mojo, Chloe, Gigi and Lily were Something Other than Golden Retriever (SOTGR), we had their DNA tested.

Describe feeding time?

With a pack comes the need for calm and order, and dinnertime is no exception. The dogs are fed in the kitchen, and before any bowl is taken off the shelf - or a bin of food opened - everyone must lay down and be calm and quiet. Only then will bowls be filled and ready for distribution. As each dog has a preferred place to dine, and because they eat at different speeds, we start with the slowest eaters first. Chloe, with her Zen approach to life, likes to determine the meaning of food while she dines and therefore gets hers first. Prior to having her bowl placed, she must sit and then receives four kisses on her forehead as her signal to begin her dining experience. Lily is next, and the sitting and kissing ritual is repeated. Being true gentlemen, Yogi and Mojo allow us to put their bowls in place and will sit and wait until we return from serving Gigi. Mojo, the drooler, patiently sits waiting in front of his bowl (sometimes making bubbles) until receiving his four kisses. Yogi likes to follow us and will return to his bowl once Mojo has been served. Occasionally, Yogi, fed last, thinks the process is taking far too long and will give an impatient bark. This

incurs a 20 second penalty, where he sits looking at one of us - with an occasional glance at his bowl - while we count off the seconds. Those expressive brown eyes make the 20 seconds tougher on us than him. As each dog finishes dinner, they calmly hang around in the kitchen until all have finished—no dog gets into another's food! After dinner, it is now time to get their teeth brushed; they love the attention and line up for the opportunity to get their turn.

What does your welcome home committee look like?

These dogs are so infrequently left alone that we cannot give a good account of their reactions. They are with me almost 24/7. They go with me to my shop every day, and ride along when I make pick ups and deliveries. Five big dogs in the reconfigured back seat of a mega-cab of a truck are quite a sight, and many have stopped me for photo ops and to ask about them.



What happens when you want to take a vacation?

Our philosophy is if a motel is willing to take 5 dogs we probably do not want to stay there. So, we bought a motor home in order to take family vacations.

Does your housekeeper come daily? What are some of your favorite cleaning products for the several Chihuahuas of dog hair shed daily?

With this many furry creatures, a shop-vac and leaf blower are our best friends!

How do you take everybody for a walk?

At home, the dogs have acreage where they can play, get exercise and go for a swim. In springtime when newborn fawns can be found, we use the buddy system where dogs are paired up via their leashes. When walking 5 or 6 dogs in public places, we bring all of the leashes back to a quick link and attach a short leash to it. This keeps the dogs from getting under foot. Keeping everyone calm is the key to avoid being dragged around.

If you have two hands and 5 dogs, how do you handle all of the nuzzling and competition for loves and petting?

With 5 dogs comes 5 different personalities and their need for attention/affection varies accordingly. Yogi's idea of attention is being able to help his dad with whatever project is in process. The three girls will snuggle with mom on the sofa, ensuring that she never gets chilly! Mojo acts all macho with a "I don't need no stinking love" attitude, but melts when we do.

How many pounds of scared dog are crawling up on your lap during thunderstorms and fireworks?

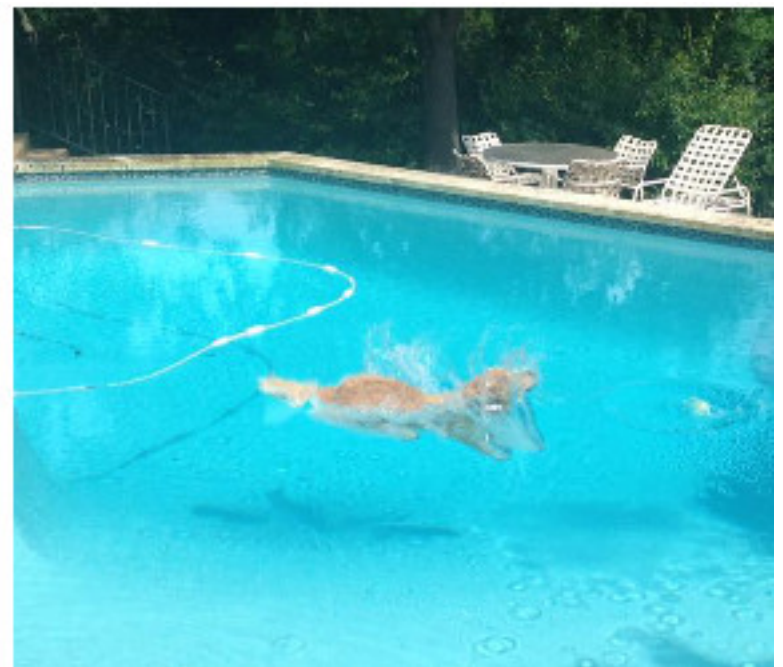
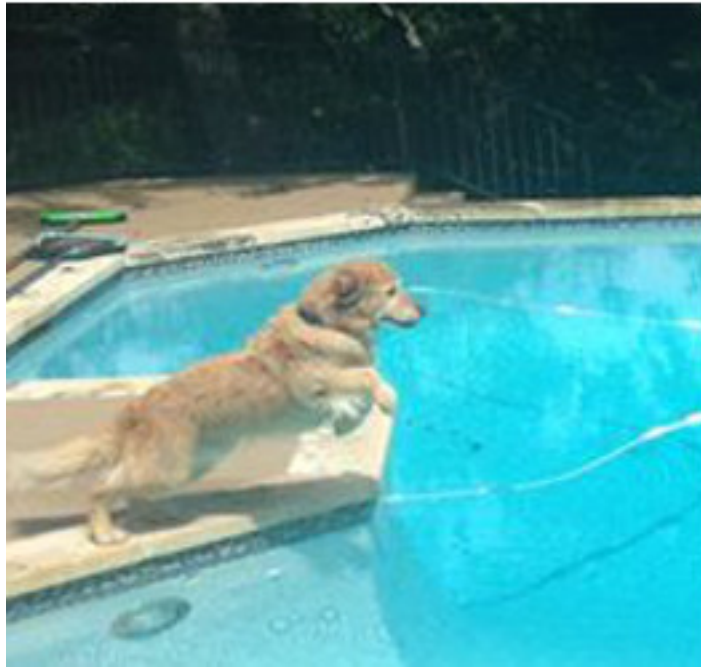
Mojo is our only stormaphobe, and will cling to us like Saran Wrap when the lightning and thunder start.

Does an unfamiliar being more than two inches long ever approach within 20 feet without you knowing about it?

Living in the country means critters galore, and the dogs never miss an opportunity to chase a lizard up a tree. They also have an obsession for turkey vultures who soar overhead on updrafts from the hill. The dogs will bark and chase the birds for reasons only they can comprehend, thinking one day they will get one!

One, Two, Three - Jump! Perfect 10!

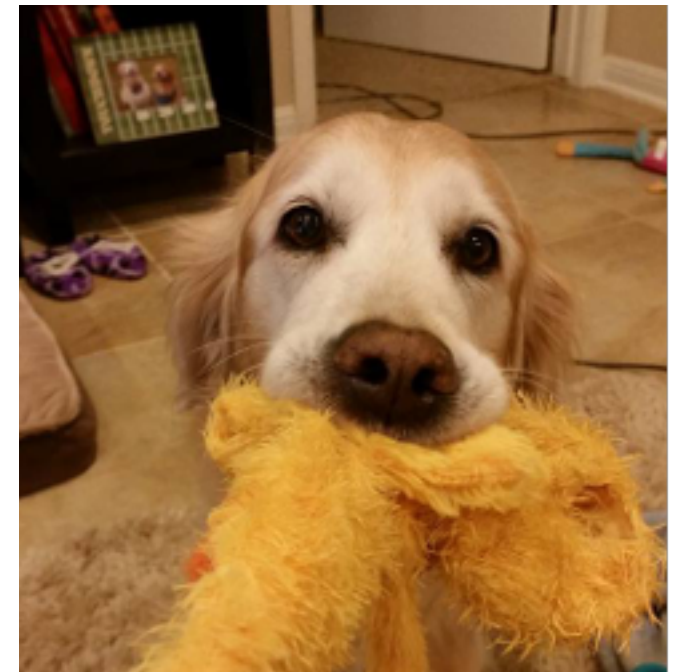
Leigh Tate - Charlie, GRR 13-121



Just Dogs

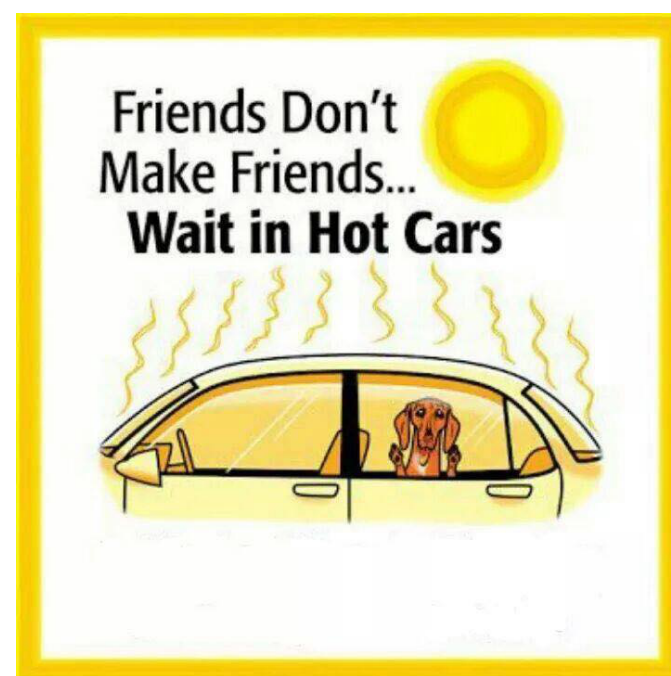
10 Things I Want in Life

1. Dogs
2. More dogs
3. A big house for for dogs
4. Lots of forest for walking
5. Dogs
6. Money for dogs
7. Dogs
8. A husband who loves dogs
9. A big car for dogs
10. Dogs



Hot Cars and Hot Paws - Take Care This Summer

PETA.ORG



Hot Cars

Every year, dogs suffer and die when their guardians make the mistake of leaving them in a parked car—even for “just a minute”—while they run an errand. Parked cars are deathtraps for dogs: On a 78-degree day, the temperature inside a parked car can soar to between 100 and 120 degrees in just minutes, and on a 90-degree day, the interior temperature can reach as high as 160 degrees in less than 10 minutes.

Animals can sustain brain damage or even die from heatstroke in just 15 minutes. Beating the heat is extra tough for dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paw pads.

If you see a dog left alone in a hot car, take down the car's color, model, make, and license plate number. Have the owner paged in the nearest buildings, or call local humane authorities or police. Have someone keep an eye on the dog. Don't leave the scene until the situation has been resolved.

If the authorities are unresponsive or too slow and the dog's life appears to be in imminent danger, find a witness (or several) who will back up your assessment, take steps to remove the suffering animal from the car, and then wait for authorities to arrive.

Watch for heatstroke symptoms such as restlessness, excessive thirst, thick saliva, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, rapid heartbeat, fever, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, and lack of coordination. If a dog shows any of these symptoms, get him or her out of the heat, preferably into an air-conditioned vehicle, and then to a veterinarian immediately. If you are unable to transport the dog yourself, take him or her into an air-conditioned building if possible and call animal control: Tell them it is an emergency.

Provide water to drink, and if possible spray the dog with a garden hose or immerse him or her in a tub of cool (but not iced) water for up to two minutes in order to lower the body temperature gradually. You can also place the dog in front of an electric fan. Applying cool, wet towels to the groin area, stomach, chest, and paws can also help. Be careful not to use ice or cold water, and don't overcool the animal.

Hot Paws

When walking your dog, keep in mind that if it feels hot enough to fry an egg outside, it probably is. When the air temperature is 86 degrees, the asphalt can reach a sizzling 135 degrees — more than hot enough to cook an egg in five minutes. And it can do the same to our canine companions' sensitive foot pads.

On an 87-degree day, asphalt temperatures can reach 140 degrees, hot enough to cause burns, permanent damage and scarring after just one minute of contact. Rapid burns and blistering can occur at 150 degrees. Hot sidewalks, pavement and parking lots can not only burn paws, they also reflect heat onto dogs' bodies, increasing their risk of deadly heatstroke.

If you wouldn't put your dog in a frying pan, please don't make him or her walk on hot pavement. Always test the pavement with your hand before setting out (too hot to touch is too hot for Spot), walk early in the morning or late at night when it's cooler, carry water and take frequent breaks in shady spots and never make dogs wear muzzles that restrict their breathing.

Check out products for your dog's feet on Amazon [here](#).



Volunteer Spotlight - Kathy Ragan

Shown with Molly (Holly 10-148)



Tell us a little about you and your dogs?

In 1997, my husband Gary and I moved to Austin for the second time. My brother has had Golden Retrievers for years, and our youngest son had two that we kept when he was out of town. We fell in love with their personalities. Thus, when we were ready for another dog, it had to be a Golden. Our GRR dog Molly (Holly 10-148) found us in January 2011, aged 5 years old. GRR, in the form of Tamara Gunter, nursed her back to health. Molly knows she has it good and except for mild thunderphobia, Molly is the "perfect" Golden! We had Molly 6 months before we heard her bark, she is laid back, loves attention but is not overbearing, and makes everyone she meets her best friend.

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I started volunteering in 2013, shortly after retiring. Gary and I attended a volunteer training and I decided I would do phone interviews. It was a great way to talk with families. That evolved into Gary and I doing home visits. Soon thereafter, an urgent email came out saying GRR needed additional folks to answer the hotline, so I volunteered. More recently, I became a foster coordinator, and when Gary retired, he decided he would help transport.

What is your favorite part above all?

I really enjoy doing phone interviews because you get to talk with nice people and get to know their family situation, which is important to matching them with the right dog. Recently, I have come across some heartwarming cases coming through the hotline, so that is now a close second!

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

One of our home visits was with a family whose autistic son's psychologist steered them to GRR to find a young Golden to train as a companion. One of the most memorable hotline calls came from a nurse in San Antonio who was told she had a debilitating medical condition. Her 13-year old golden had been with her since it was a puppy, and she was as close to the dog as she was to her daughter. Her daughter was leaving for college, and this nurse knew the right thing to do was to release the dog to GRR. Her decision was agonizing. I must have spoken with her 4 or 5 times before she made her decision; she just needed someone to listen. On the lighter side, I took a call about a stray Golden. The caller and her vet thought it was a large female. After GRR accepted the dog, we discovered it was a neutered male. Some dogs have

secrets they are reluctant to tell!

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

Do not be afraid to jump in - there are many nice GRR folks to help orient you. For me, taking on the hotline was out of my comfort zone. What do I know about giving people answers to their questions, especially if it involves what might be an "emergency?" I thought I might easily cause big problems. I learned that listening is the most important part, then finding the right GRR person to help is the logical next step. If you are a bit timid, start out with phone interviews – the questions are on the form, you fill out the answers and submit it. No pressure!

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

Interesting, heart-warming, fulfilling.

GRR Monthly Status Report: April 15th – May 22nd, 2016



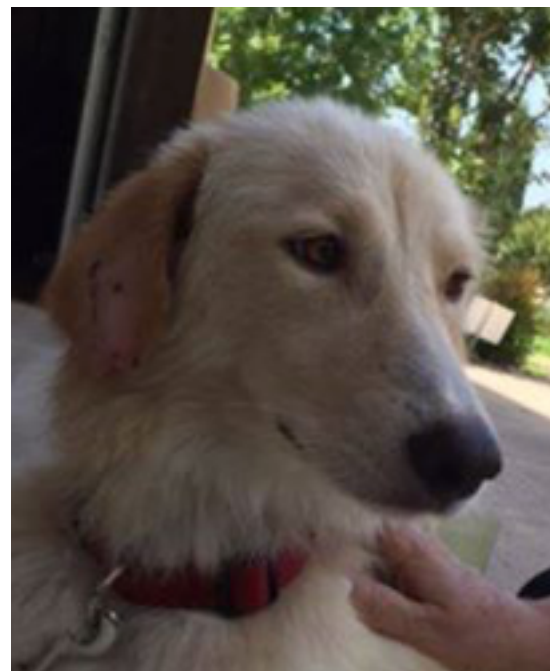
Came into care: 16-032, Emily Elizabeth, 16-033 Oakley, 16-034 Luna, 16-035 Auggie, 16-036 Henry, 16-037 Canelo, 16-038 Collin 16-039 Jager, 16-040 Harper, 16-041 Sasha, 16-042 Blanca, 15-092 Tac, 16-043 Lucy, 16-044 Wonder, 16-045 Honey Bexar, 16-046 Hunter, and 16-047 Abby

Adopted: 16-022 Barney, 16-029 Kaya, 16-001 Sammie, 16-009 Diesel, 16-028 Boogie, 16-033 Oakley and 16-035 Auggie

Currently in Foster Care: 50 dogs (16 Available/Available Soon), 23 Foster-Pend-Adopt/Matched, 11 Permanent Fosters

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 the [editor](#). (Please include a photo or two (in landscape format) in your e-mail and the dog's GRR number and former name, if applicable. Please limit your article to 500 words or less.)

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month.
