



Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

March 2016



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Gold Ribbon Rescue
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A Message from Our President:



This month I'd like to share with you the myriad of tasks our volunteers accomplish every single day. This is the GRR 'machine!' The amount of coordination and cooperation involved here is phenomenal and heartwarming. I know there are many other tasks involved to accomplish those I've listed below, but still the magnitude of what all of you do cannot be understated. Simply. Thank you.

Intake team - shelter coordination, initial vetting, transport, foster placement
Foster team - foster coordination, respite coordination, fostering in readiness for adoption
Medical team - medical direction, medical supplies, administration support, medical supervision of foster dogs
Matchmaking team - matched Golden Retrievers with approved families
Adoption team - application review, interview and home visit assignments
Dog profile writing team - dog profiles
Social media team - Twitter, Facebook and Instagram posts, monthly newsletter
Web team - network administration, dog profile posts, web content, special fundraising projects
Fundraising team - campaigns, events, sponsorships
Grant writing team - grants, product donations, foundation requests
Administrative team - weekly reporting, document archive, financial reporting, financial account management, thank you notes, contracts, tax returns
Dog training team - behavioral advice and consultation
Volunteer education team - volunteer classes

Also, we're about to launch our Amplify Austin campaign this year. See the article below. I hope you'll contribute what you can for our wonderful organization. Every donation, large or small, counts.

In this issue:

- Hear from Christmas puppies - Orli and Shepherd (now Ernie)
- Get an update on Diesel (16-009) and his continuing recovery
- Read about cancer mortality studies between English Creams and American Golden Retrievers
- Dear Goldie talks to a nervous 3-legged dog about a first date



- Candice Gourley gives us a week-to-week account about the REALITIES of whelping those Christmas puppies!

Enjoy!

-Margo-

Current and Upcoming Events

Amplify Austin

March 8th 2016

See article below this one for more details!

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.



Amplify Austin



Amplify Austin Day is a 24-hour online giving day on March 8th at 6PM until March 9th at 6PM.

Schedule a donation for Amplify Austin Day March 8, 2016! You will not be charged until then.

Click [here](#) to get started!

Peabody. Brady. Turkish Golden. Mary's Christmas Puppies. Diesel. The list goes on and on. Our Gold Ribbon Rescue village of incoming Golden Retrievers 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. All this must come before they can find their forever home. But, all have found better lives through Gold Ribbon Rescue.

Gold Ribbon Rescue rescues, rehabilitates and finds permanent homes for over 150 Golden Retrievers annually in the Central Texas area. Founded in 1998, we are an all-volunteer nonprofit corporation recognized as a rescue organization by the Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc. Our success is due to the hard work of our volunteers, supporters and generous donors, like you.

To everyone reading this, and to all who have supported us - and continue to support us - through the years, a huge Golden thank you. You make all of this possible.

- To learn about our rescue **demographics and expenses**, click [here](#).
- To read about our **Turkey Dog Rescue**, click [here](#).
- To meet our **Available Golden Retrievers**, click [here](#).
- To read about **Diesel**, our recent rescue found discarded by the side of the road, with oozing ulcers and raging mange covering his body, Click [here](#).
- To read about **Mary's Christmas puppies**, click [here](#).

Schedule a donation for Amplify Austin Day March 8, 2016! You will not be charged until then. Click [here](#) to get started!

Where Are They Now? Bella (Tiara 15-016)

- Curtis Burch



In November 2014, my beloved 12 year-old Golden, Roxy, went to the Rainbow Bridge as a result of a massive stroke. I was devastated and resolved not to go through such a sad event ever again. In December, I contacted Gold Ribbon Rescue to explore the possibility of adopting a Golden, having come to the realization that the joy of sharing the life of a Golden overcomes the sadness of losing one. The wonderful volunteers guided me through the application and interview process and encouraged me to foster and adopt.

John and Liz Horne conducted my home visits and were very supportive of my fostering and adopting a Golden. I remember the day in February 2015 when Paula Ellis called me and said she had a puppy available. She sent me photos.

And, suddenly I was very interested in an 8 month old Golden, at that time named Tiara, from a shelter at Lake Buchanan. No surprise there. I knew in my heart that when I saw the pictures I would be hooked.

At that time Tiara was underweight, positive for hookworms and had a damaged tooth which had to be extracted. When I picked her up at the vet in Round Rock, she was very cautious and suspicious due to experiences during her brief life, not to mention wearing a cone of shame from just having been spayed.

One year later, February 2016, the former Tiara, now named Bella, is fully in charge of the household. She is beautiful, very intelligent, loves other dogs, children and the many people in my neighborhood we encounter on our morning walks. She knows every neighbor who gives her treats and makes a point of looking for them as we pass their houses. She is totally healthy, normal weight and trusts her new human family, except when the broom or mop are in use, still lingering issues from the past with those evil objects.

My experience with Gold Ribbon Rescue and the dedicated volunteers has been wonderful. My personal thanks to John and Liz, Paula, and the many others who assisted me in fostering and adopting a wonderful Golden. What a wonderful organization filled with caring, compassionate and loving people.

A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him

Dawn Marie Rae



Sometimes, you are altered by one event in a way you will never forget or ever experience again. And so it was last night, as I listened to Luis Carlos Montalvan in San Antonio, as he spoke of the bond with, and love

of, his service dog, Tuesday. A best-selling author and world-renowned speaker, Luis talked about how he and Tuesday healed each other's souls. It was a humbling and eloquent tribute to the dog that saved his life after several tours in Iraq. Physical and psychological injuries had taken their toll. He thought he would never recover. Some highlights from Luis...

I started writing because what I saw in combat did not correspond with what the media and the top brass were talking about. It felt like a betrayal to me. I felt it was my duty to speak out about my war - after the war.

Dogs have been man's friend for as long as 40,000 years, the longest of any animal-human relationship. It is a sacred one, in which there has long been mutual nurturing.

Tuesday knows 80 commands: he helps me walk, he wakes me up when I have nightmares and he alerts me when I am about to have a migraine. Unbelievably, he will lick my face during the headache and it numbs the pain. He can untangle his own leash, fetch things for me, and calm me when I'm stressed. His is able to perform very complex tasks, based on how I'm feeling and sometimes, in manipulative ways. He tucks me in, literally and figuratively, and everyone needs to be tucked in. It is a form of peace before sleep.

Tuesday's favorite place is the NEXT place we're going, he's always excited for the next adventure. He especially likes trains, what with the food carts and the moving scenery, who wouldn't? He's excited about life's next steps.

Dogs ALWAYS know what you are feeling. Always. They sense and can smell your pheromones and your sweat, which contains specific minerals and chemicals. In this way, they are particularly and specifically tuned in to you. When you nestle with them and groom them yourself, you are bonding. You are creating that eternal connection that will never leave either of you.

What touched me the most was the palpable evidence, right in front of me, of the basic tenets of love in its purest form: living in the moment together, physically nurturing each other, spending quality time together, bearing pain with grace and dignity. It was a privilege and an honor to hear this man pay tribute to the dog who literally saved his life. I went home and hugged my dogs, ever more grateful for their presence in my life and the gifts they give me every day. Thank you Luis Carlos Montalvan, for your service, and for reminding me of how lucky I am to love a dog.

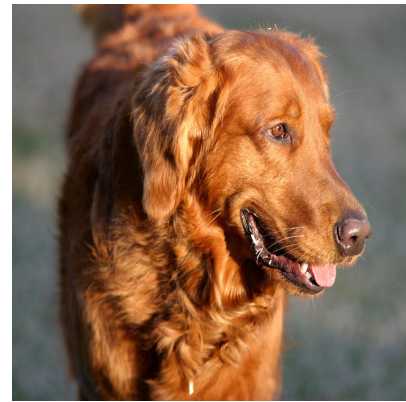
If you are interested in hearing more about Luis' and Tuesday's journey, you can order his books, "Until Tuesday" and "Tuesday Tucks Me In" (a children's book) [here](#) and visit his website [here](#).

When service dogs go off-duty... Below, see Tuesday and Linda Gunter's service dog, Leo, hamming it up!



Cancer Mortality in English Cream and American Golden Retrievers

By Mary Buffie of [Goldfeather Run](#)



Cancer is having a great impact on owners of Golden Retrievers here in the US; this is costing dog owners not just huge vet bills, but also time and the care involved in dealing with a dog with cancer; the heartache for most owners is the most costly of all.

The most common cancers found in Golden Retrievers are: hemangiosarcoma, followed by lymphosarcoma, mast cell tumor, and osteosarcoma. Cancer was the cause of death, or 71.8% of American Goldens according to a 1998 health study conducted by the Golden Retriever Club of America, making it the breed's biggest killer.

The health differences between the European Golden and the American Golden are significant. The cost over time, not including heartache, is far higher if an individual purchases an American Golden over a European one. The incidence of cancer among European bloodlines is significantly lower than in the American lines. The British Kennel Club did an extensive study and found that cancer was the cause of death of 38.8% of European Goldens.

The median age of an English Golden is 12 years and 3 months according to the study, but the median age of an American Golden is only 10 years and 8 months.

Hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia are also much more common in American Golden Retrievers than in European Golden Retrievers. The reasons are not completely understood, but it seems the health standards in Europe are far higher and the American gene pool is more closed with fewer stud dogs being used as compared to the many great stud dogs of Europe. This is from my own research, but it could also be that the popular stud dogs in Europe simply do not carry strong cancer genes.

Once the American kennel Club set the breed standard for the American Golden, the cream color variation and some other standards found in Europe were excluded leaving Americans with a more limited gene pool. I believe this was a bad choice and that if this breed is to be saved, conscientious breeders need to import from the best lines of Europe after doing extensive research into the lines they are purchasing from. I also believe it is the average puppy buyer's responsibility to do some research of their own and buy only from ethical breeders, so that the unethical ones are put out of business.

It's an Election Year - Hilary Clinton, the Cat vs Finian Wollums, the Golden

James Wollums



Hillary Clinton, the cat, thinks she is a dog and has adopted Finian, and attempts to groom him from time to time. Talk about the fur balls from HELL! He simply tries to ignore her as best he can, but she is very pushy. Sometimes, in the middle of the night she comes into our room and jumps in Finian's bed to cuddle with him and he just gets up and goes to his bed in the living room. Finny says, "CATS? YUK!"

Love Has No Age Limit

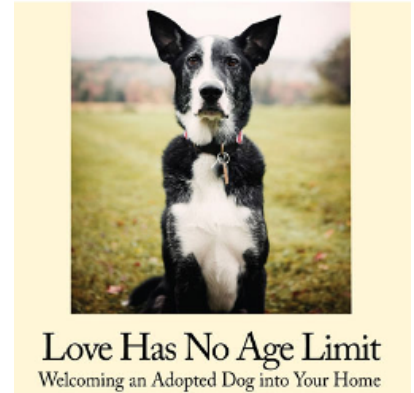
- *Written by Patricia McConnell and Karen London*

This book is **Gold Ribbon Rescue** recommended for anyone adopting or fostering a dog. You can get it [here](#) on Amazon. Five star reviews by 89% of the people who bought this great book.

A review:

"Great little booklet for people thinking about adopting an adult dog. McConnell explains how to prepare for your adult dog's arrival, how to help her settle in, how to build a relationship with her, and more. She also briefly addresses some common problems: housetraining, chewing, separation anxiety, etc. The best part of the book is the bibliography at the end, arranged by subject such as "Crate Training," "Barking," "Fearful Dogs," "General Training," etc.

McConnell's booklet is brief and introductory; those expecting an in-depth discussion on training and behavior will be disappointed. The booklet should be treated more like a map; it will orient readers and set them off in the right direction. Once readers understand where they'd like go, they can use the resources in the back to find their way. (What a fabulous, up-to-date bibliography!)"



A Coat of Many Colors - 16-009 Diesel - Week 4

From foster mom Lisa Savage



Wow! "Exponential" is the word that keeps coming to mind. Diesel is doing very well! His appetite has increased and he looks taller since last week. I think his body is now in full-steam-ahead mode. His coat continues to grow in, even in the barest patches that I thought were destined to be bald forever.

Funny stories: A couple of people have said "what a beautiful coat he has!", thinking that the black skin patches were furry and that he is a pretty patchwork dog, like a paint horse. Ha! Well, his coat is beautiful, if you ask me. It is growing in brindle-like, with different colors in the mix. We joked that maybe he should be called "Joseph" as in the coat of many colors! The texture is still coarse in most areas, but I'm sure it will soften up and get shinier and more conditioned as time goes by. His skin just has a couple more areas of crustiness, and we are "exfoliating" as we can, mostly waiting for the natural process to complete. His ears are completely hair-covered now, and he looks less and less reptilian all the time. A neighbor sat down next to him last night to pet him and said, "he smells good!" This is a big milestone, as his original situation was a far cry from "smells good!" He is eating well and getting a probiotic supplement, in addition to getting some extras like a daily scrambled egg and quite a few treats.

We are continuing to reinforce housetraining, using Margo's "pepperoni" method, with good success. This guy is smart, that is for sure. The big news this week (really as of today) is that he can SIT! He now knows he is ABLE to sit, for one thing, because his tail and rear end are pain-free. Big discovery for him, I'm sure.

Furthermore, this morning I am all tickled because he has learned the "sit" command, after about three sessions. The light bulb went off this morning, and he is so proud of himself. He has been following me around, getting in front of me, and spontaneously demonstrating the "sit". Like I said, very smart! We are doing the happy dance over here for him.

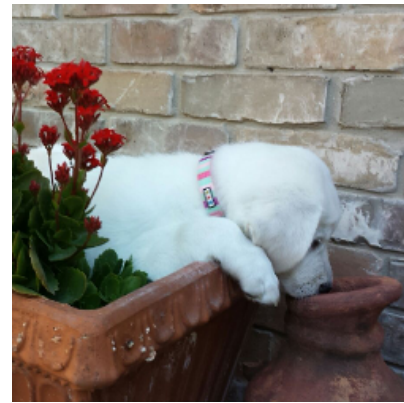
He is doing typical puppy mischievous things that make us laugh more than anything else. He likes to steal fabric things, like my bath towel, and tiptoe away with them, but he doesn't rip them up, just likes to take them and chew a bit, and then leaves it. I did find a couple of cookbooks from a low kitchen shelf in a state of disrepair this morning, but ce la vie with a youngster! He is generally not destructive with things, and we are supplying him with appropriate things to chew on. He likes a squeaky toy, and can entertain himself for short periods with one. We will be working on some habits like pawing and biting at you to get attention. Manners matter, and he is now ready to learn some. Given how quickly he learned to "sit", he is highly trainable and wants to please. He has such a sweet personality and still likes to nestle into the crook of my arm and just stand there for petting. Belly rubs are his favorite.

I suspect the vet will give him the green light for vaccines next week. He would love a play date, I think. He and our neighbor's Golden have done some romping about when we run into them on walks, and Diesel seems to be up for some playing with a dog friend. His energy level now seems to be normal for age, which is so great to see.

Photos this week are of his "sit" and "I am a big 'ole lap dog!"

A Letter from Christmas Puppy Orli (15-151)

- Debbie Schifanella



What a journey I have been on! Thank you to GRR and Candice for accepting my mom, Mary, into your home around the holiday season. It was a true blessing and just in time for the Christmas litter to be born. I was the second puppy to arrive and was excited to be part of this loving family. As the weeks flew by with a lot of socialization and learning about my new environment, my future parents were anxiously waiting for the date to arrive for me to start my new adventure with them.

The anticipated day finally arrived and as I left the comfort of my surroundings, my eyes filled with tears knowing that I was leaving this special family. Candice, Mary, Willow, and Frodo helped me be the Golden I wanted to be. I may not look Golden on the outside, but it is the dog you are on the inside. Golden retrievers are big (that's me), beautiful, and with a personality that does not match any other dog. Did I say I was Golden? You better know it!

I do not whine when travelling or spending time in my crate. Believe it or not, potty training was nothing to be concerned about, especially since I love the outdoors. Every morning I cuddle with my parents in their bed. Kisses are spread back-and-forth between us and I whine (talk) to let them know I had a great night's sleep. When the house is full of commotion and I am tired, I will sneak to a quiet spot in the house to dream about all the fun I had during the day. I am a great helper around the house. I love to pull weeds, kill sticks, crush leaves, move dirt around, dig for rocks, and bite the water hose. Water puddles are awesome! My favorite thing is to run through the water. A while back, I fell in my backyard pool and my parents were not sure if it was an accident or not? I'll never tell.

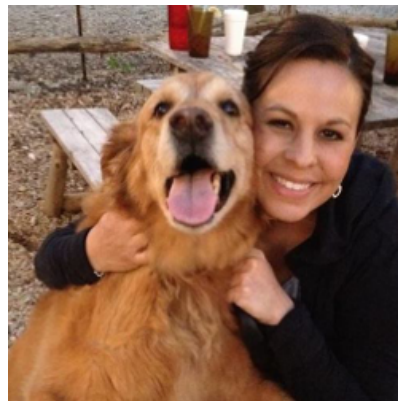
Spring is around the corner and a trip is planned to take our RV to the Hill Country. I will be going on many vacations where I can swim in lakes, hike through the woods, sniff great scents in the air, and spend quality time with my family.

I have an exciting future ahead of me! Yipeee!
-Love, Orli



The 30 Best Dog-Friendly Hangouts in San Antonio

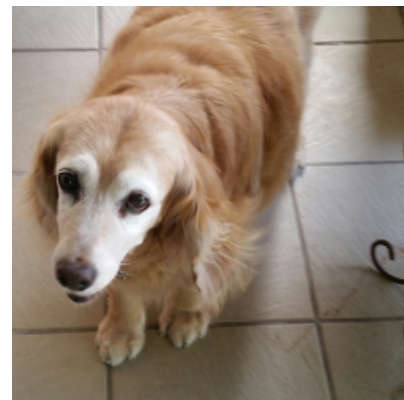
From the [The San Antonio Current](#)



From the Pearl Brewery to Blue Star Arts Complex to Alamo Heights, you and your Golden Retrievers can romp around on leash. Click [here](#) to see all 30. A lot of them are downtown, but there are quite a few in Alamo Heights and in northwest San Antonio. The Riverwalk even has a few places!

In Loving Memory - Missy (Misty 14-087)

- Peg Crownover



2-9-2016

The past few days have been very difficult for us as Missy (Misty 14-087) has been struggling with arthritis in her hips and knees, the back right leg collapsing under her, making it almost impossible for her to walk. Despite pain meds and booties that didn't work, it worsened.

Missy wasn't even a Golden, but more English Cocker Spaniel, perhaps a mix. GRR didn't refuse to take her

and she became our 2nd foster. She was a mess in many ways, fur felt like straw and way too long, matted, terrible mouth odor, eye drainage, but she had the sweetest face under all that mess. Within weeks, with antibiotics, 10 teeth extractions, several baths, proper grooming, fish oil and walks, she bloomed into a beautiful senior dog -12 - 13 yrs old. Yes, weight reduction and exercise was needed but the old joints were in bad shape as her former life lacked exercise & proper nutrition. We adopted her, our 2nd failure.

Gus, (14-028) was a bit jealous of the newbie in the house who was getting a lot of attention. He made sure he was an equal partner. Today he's been very quiet, not demanding, and just now I found him in her bed. I clipped some fur from Missy so he could sniff it and told him the whole story... I know he understands.

THE DECISION is so hard to make, until the painful walking, falls, cries, loss of appetite becomes so evident, that it slaps us in the face, then we know the right choice, but it's still difficult.

Missy joined our 1st Golden, Punkin and our 3 cats at the Rainbow Bridge this morning. She was worn out from struggling and went peacefully, looking straight into our loving faces. Yes, she is healed and running free but that doesn't heal my heart or lessen my grief... I will always miss her sweet smiling face.

From a Shepherd to Ernie Floyd - A Christmas Puppy Story

Amber Middleton



Amber and I followed the updates of the very pregnant Mary's arrival at Candice's house. We, like everyone else, appreciated Candice's great and detailed posts, and soon were smitten by a little fella named Shepard. Luckily for us, we were chosen to be his parents! We drove up to Temple and picked up our little boy, naming him Ernie Floyd Middleton Williams. He had a bath just prior to leaving Candice, Mary, Willow and Frodo, and so, wrapped up like a little baby, we headed down to Austin and his forever home. We soon hit a huge traffic jam, but unlike Ernie's new impatient Daddy, Ernie stayed content to snuggle in his new Mommy's arms.

Betty Boom Boom was more excited than her parents to meet her new baby brother and was wagging from head to tail by the time we got home. Soon they were playing with each other (and are doing so as I write this!). After such a long and eventful day, Ernie marched right into his crate to have his first sleep in his new place. From the time he woke up, he fit right in. He has learned pretty quickly to go "outside", and he follows his big sister Betty everywhere. Ernie likes to remind us to hurry up when we're scooping his food into his dish, and due to the puppy party he experienced with his eight puppy brothers and sisters, he'll still wander over to Betty's food to see if she's getting the better of the bargain! He also enjoyed snooping around to see the house, and has earned the nickname "Ern McGern". He tells us he's a little detective, and that he's "on the case!" All in all, Ernie is a sweet little boy, and he's already made himself at home here. Betty is super happy to have a playmate, and we are happy to have another wonderful dog from Gold Ribbon Rescue!

Volunteer Spotlight - Amy Sebesta



Tell us a little about you and your dogs.

Professionally, I am a 10+ year GE Healthcare IT Project Manager and formally practicing Registered Nurse. Personally, I am married with four-legged kids and have lived in Austin for about 10 years. I have a 15 year old calico cat, and a 4 year old GRR dog, Maya 14-117. Maya joined us in October of 2014, however, it's only in the last few months that my cat has recognized Maya as an acceptable member of the household. It's been a long road, but rewarding, if not a test of patience by all involved.

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

Since December of 2015.

What is your favorite part above all?

The best part about working for GRR is supporting the outstanding work of all the volunteers and board members who work selflessly to support the rescue and rehabilitation of amazing dogs.

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

The most interesting part of my role as grant writer is finding hidden treasures. While money (cash) is hard to come by, I have found that there are many great companies out there that are willing to provide products to help aid in rescue work. Asking for help is humbling, but the reward when we win is amazing.

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

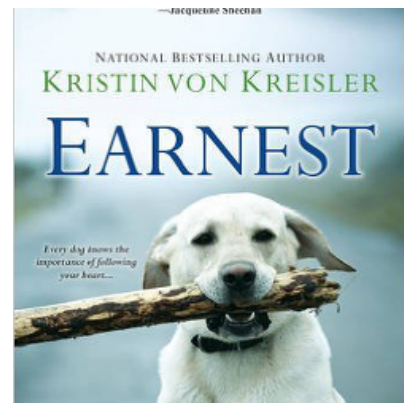
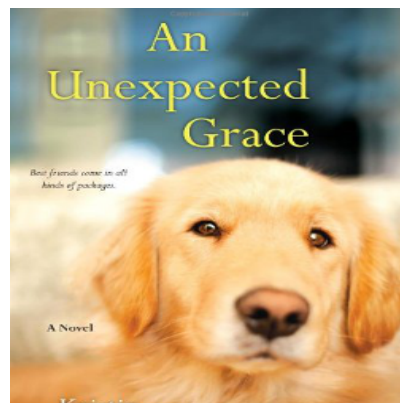
There are many ways to help and the time commitment does not have to be overwhelming. Be open about the time you can provide, and don't be afraid to ask for more information or help when needed.

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

Fulfilling. Appreciated.

An 'Unexpected Grace' and 'Earnest' - Two Books of Love

Kristin Von Kreisler, Author



Earnest.

It's the perfect name for a sweet, eager-to-please yellow Labrador retriever. Anna and her boyfriend Jeff fall for him the minute they see those guileless eyes gazing up from behind his gate at Seattle's Best Friends Shelter. In no time at all, they're a pack of three, with Earnest happily romping in their condo on Gamble Island.

During the day, Earnest keeps Anna company in her flower shop, located in a historic gingerbread Victorian

on the island's main street. Anna hopes to buy and restore the house, once owned by her beloved grandmother. But when that dream is threatened by Jeff's actions, Anna's trust is shattered. For so long, the house has encompassed all her ideals of security, home, and family. Yet Earnest's devotion to his two people, and theirs to him, make it impossible for them to walk away from each other. And when a crisis hits, it's Earnest—honest, stubborn, and uncannily wise—who will help Anna reconcile her past and embrace what the future can bring... You can order **Earnest** [here](#).

An Unexpected Grace

From bestselling author Kristin von Kreisler comes a poignant, uplifting novel of one woman's journey to healing, and the surprising soul mate that helps guide her there.

Lila Elliot knows she's lucky. A shooting rampage at her office left several colleagues dead and others seriously wounded. Lila's injuries will heal in time. Yet though she gratefully retreats to her best friend's house to recuperate, Lila can't quite move past her fear and anger. Being drafted into caring for Grace—a shaggy, formerly abused golden retriever—only adds to her stress. Lila has been terrified of dogs since childhood. But Grace, like Lila, needs time and space to recover.

Grace keeps her distance, sensing Lila's wariness, and only perks up for Adam, the neighbor who rescued her. Though struggling to make sense of her recent tragedy, Lila, an accomplished artist, begins to see beauty in Grace's wisps of fur and haunted eyes. As Adam points out, Grace, too, has suffered through no fault of her own. And in helping Grace to trust, Lila is being gently nudged toward the courage she needs to do the same.

Rich in warmth and humor, *An Unexpected Grace* is a story of compassion and connection, and of finding that what truly makes us whole again may be the love we give away.

You can order **An Unexpected Grace** [here](#).

Editor's note: Kristin has graciously donated both books to GRR for a future raffle. Please use smile.amazon.com to donate a portion of your purchase to GRR.

Dear Goldie

Dawn Marie Rae

Dear Goldie,

If I don't get that food stuffed into my mouth faster than I have been, I will be slacking in my duty to show appreciation of my dinner. Dinner is presented precisely at 5:00 am and 5:00 pm. It's time to rock and roll! I love my food so much that I could swallow the food AND the bowl, gone in a blink of an eye! Dad gets very nervous when I do that. Sometimes, I throw up and cough and generally make a mess of things and then Dad gets really freaked out! What's his problem?

- Signed, Rockin' in Roundrock

Dear Rockin':

Well, I have never heard of such extreme and appalling behavior from a Golden! Have you ever seen a hamster eat his food?? Or a pig? I can't believe you're a Golden, because we just don't do that. We are dignified in our dining etiquette and eat leisurely, as befits our regal ancestry.

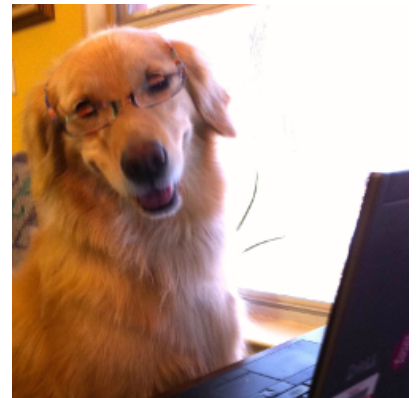
There are a number of things Dad can do to help you, but you have to slow down or you could get seriously ill. That food you're stuffing in that mouth of yours could make you get bloat or even get stuck in your gut. I am not joking.

Here are the top 5 things Dad can do:

1. Provide a puzzle feeder or treat-release toy for you.
2. Serve you meals on a cookie sheet.
3. Use a muffin tin.
4. Create your own slow feeder bowl by turning yours upside down and with a big rock in the middle.
5. Play hide-and-seek at dinnertime.

Now, do you really want to eat your food with a rock or from a muffin tin??? Straighten up and act like a Golden for crying out loud!

For more information about how to help yourself with this unbecoming behavior, see a very good article from Dr. Becker [here](#).



Dear Goldie,

I am an older Golden Retriever who got hit by a car a few years ago and now get around with three legs. I do ok now, but it was rough at first. I am about to go on my first date with the beautiful Golden named Bella down the street and I am so nervous. We've been introduced, but haven't really had a chance to talk and get to know each other. I know she's been hanging out with that Husky next door to her and I need to make my move. I don't know why she likes him anyway, because he bullies me every chance he gets. How do I win her heart with only 3 legs?

- Signed Nervewracked in New Braunfels

Dear Nervewracked,

Picture this. You've just enjoyed a wonderful treat together and you're both really nervous. You're thinking: "Please don't let me fall down", and she's thinking: "Wow, I am on a date with a crazy-cute guy with three legs. What if I stare at it too much?" You don't know Bella, but she might have issues, too, like a medical problem of her own. Did you consider that? Relax. Show her your playful side: play Frisbee, go swimming, take a stroll through the park together. This will show her you are not so different than her and that you have a lot to give her. She'll fall in love, I guarantee it!

About that Husky. Lots of girls like bad boys. Just imply that the black eyes he's got - are from you! She'll think twice about him.

Diabetic Dog Treats (and for a svelte figure!)

From AllRecipes.com



Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 pounds beef liver, cut into pieces

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a 10x15 inch jellyroll pan with parchment paper.
2. Place the liver into a food processor. Pulse until finely chopped. If you have room, add the flour and eggs, and process until smooth. Otherwise, transfer to a bowl, and stir in the flour and eggs using a wooden spoon. Spread evenly in the prepared pan.
3. Bake for 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the center is firm. Cool, and cut into squares using a pizza cutter. The treats will have a consistency similar to a sponge. Store in a sealed container in the refrigerator.

Savoring the Memories (and Realities) - A Christmas Blog in March

- Candice Gourley



Award-winning chronicler of the Christmas puppies, Candice Gourley, tells us what it was all about and what it was REALLY like:

Pre puppies: Dog labor lasts a very long time (Mary indicated that she is sure it lasts one year, and all I could say was that I am sure that's what it felt like). A very long time. Your dam's doctor pre-emptively and periodically texts you, BE PATIENT;

Delivery: Puppy delivery lasts a very long time and there is an inordinate amount of green substances involved, and not nearly as many red substances as one might think. Five Diet Dr. Peppers are not nearly enough to get you gracefully through the event. Oh, and Mama Dog does most of the work, thank you very much;

Week 1: Newborn puppies are very sweet but are shaped like kidney beans. You love each and every one of them deeply and are amazed at the miracles of birth and puppies and all that they are. Mostly, you feel like you're pretty cool because even though you do a few loads a day, keeping up on laundry is doable, plus you get to take lots of pictures and cuddle puppies that snuggle into your neck. You go through your first 30 pound bag of puppy food because Mama is eating 3 times per day, 1 cup per puppy, and you think, "Huh, that's a lot of food." Also, everyone is jealous and wishes they were you.

Week 2: Newborn puppies like it warm because they can't thermo regulate. Warmer than most people like it, even if you are THAT person who thinks that below 90, there is a chill in the air. Your second 30-pound bag of puppy food disappears, and you figure out that maybe you need it on auto delivery. You also realize that you are going through puppy pads at a fairly consistent rate. Your love for each puppy grows and you can't believe how cute and sweet they are, and you start recognizing them by their face and not their collar color. Still, everyone is jealous and wishes they were you and you feel pretty cool and on top of it all.

Week 3: Hmmm, puppies are moving a lot more, making a lot of noise that disturbs the entire household (turning up the television doesn't really work), and they are starting to escape their whelping box. Your carefully formulated plan is starting to unravel and you aren't nearly as cool. The facade is cracking. You might even fall behind on the laundry. The kidney beans are starting to look like hamsters and even Mama dog isn't nearly as enamored with the whole experience. The babies have little teeth and sharp claws. But still, you cuddle the puppies and they are now licking your face and falling asleep in your arms, and you just are overwhelmed with love for them. You receive your first auto delivery of puppy food and realize that you need to change the delivery schedule to weekly. You also realize that people aren't nearly as jealous of you as you originally thought.

Week 4: The puppies are walking and playing and you could watch them for 24 hours a day because they make you laugh and you just think you have the cutest puppies ever born. They are starting to eat gruel. One tablespoon of puppy food per puppy doesn't sound like a lot, but with 9 puppies eating that amount three times per day, and Mama Dog still eating 1 cup per puppy per day, that the amount of puppy food you are going through has accelerated. Now is the time you also decide to invest in a \$700 blender because you've just burned out your food processor when you're powdering the puppy kibble. Also, the amount of laundry has accelerated because a basic principle of animals applies: what goes in, must come out. No one is jealous of you, and Mama dog gives you a look that says, "Look, you'd better get on top of this, because I'm not doing this for much longer."

Week 5: You are now at maximum gruel amounts, and starting the transition to just plain kibble, and the puppies are putting on about 12-15% of their weight daily. You go through two 30 pound bags of puppy food in a week, because you are also still feeding Mama 3x per day - you've gotta keep her letting the puppies breast feed until the end of week 6, and food is your only motivator. You might even trick her by giving her food inside the puppy pen. You also realize that in order to keep up with laundry, you need 3 laundry rooms and 2,486 towels. Because you don't have this, you fall behind. You are slightly worried that the piles of soiled laundry don't gross you out as much as they would have 6 weeks earlier. You stand in the expen after you've cleaned it and the puppies wiggle and play around your feet, pulling at your toes and you are sure that each one is going to be a Rhodes scholar and is the most precious being ever created.

Week 6: You discover all the flaws in your ex-pen set up, as you see pieces of poo in places that you can't believe. There are no physics or geometric equations that can explain how THAT piece of poo got all the way over THERE. You also can't get THERE without dismantling the entire setup. Perhaps you spray the little pieces of poo (if you can reach them) with 409 or nature's miracle, hoping that this will help it disintegrate. You take a trip to Bath & Body works and buy every fragrance bulb and candle available. The laundry is relentless. Your outdoor garbage bin is full the second day after it is emptied. You start bumming space from your neighbors, double bagging the detritus because oh boy, IT STINKS. You now have to be creative and find a place where the puppies can be when you clean the pen, since the box you used to use is way too small, however, wherever you have them, you must plan for the principles of animals: what goes in, must come out and it must come out at the most inopportune moments. Also, you can confirm that puppies don't mind rolling and playing in what comes out. You pick each one up, and give them 20-30 kisses and their tails thump against you, and they put their little heads on your shoulder. You don't mind that they have just rolled in something and that something is now all over your shirt.

Week 7: Every day, you bother the matchmakers about what paragons might be coming to take the puppies. You have several come by and meet the puppies, and everyone wants to stand in the middle of the pen. Mama Dog, having done her duty, puts her four feet down and says, "Listen, I'm not feeding them anymore. I'm tired of being scratched and bitten. You're on your own." That doesn't mean that she doesn't wander over by their ex-pen, just to get them excited and screaming and crying for her. And, she'll periodically let them feed. But, when she's done, after a maximum 30 seconds, she calmly walks away, and you're left with a noisy, teeming, very indignant swarm.

You've decided that, in order to keep up with laundry and pen cleaning (4-5 times per day, because the cleanliness of the pen is directly proportionate to the amount of puppy baths needed), you'll eschew sleep and thus, are averaging 3-4 hours per night. You are making extra runs to the pet store to supplement the auto-delivery of puppy food, because although you're no longer making gruel, the puppies are eating significantly more. There is also the matter of puppy toys, and that they prefer to drop all toys in their poo. Oh and the water bowls? Impossible to keep full because puppies view them as a toy. You have come to the acceptance that your house smells, and that your laundry machine runs 24 hours per day. Your dryer starts to overheat because you run it on the sanitize cycle constantly. When you walk up to the ex-pen, they are all waiting for you and are so excited to see you. If you had a tail, it would wag as fast and hard as theirs upon seeing their little faces and smelling their puppy breath.

Week 8: Oh my gosh! It's finally here! Relief! People are coming to get the puppies. The first family arrives, and they are the best, and you see how they look at the puppy that was always theirs, sent by God, but given to you to have and hold for just a little while. You count, and you realize that over 60 people came by to socialize your sweet babies, and you are grateful because the puppies are happy and secure. First one, then two, the three, four, five and six go out the door. It takes your breath away. When you go to see the remaining puppies, you hold them a little longer, maybe dance with them and sing them a song. You tell them you love them and you might even sit in the ex-pen, even though it's been three hours since you cleaned it and you know that the wetness you feel isn't from the water bowls. There is a huge pile of laundry in the laundry room, and it smells, but it isn't as gross when you load the washer. You fold the towels a little more lovingly, and you maybe smile as you carefully stack them, preparing to carry them into the room. But, you are excited because the time has come for the puppies to fly. Mama Dog is only interested in stealing any extra food from the puppies, and maybe in playing with them. Otherwise, she's a little disgusted that there are any still remaining.

Week 9: Maybe you have one or two more puppies with you, waiting to go home. You make a point of playing outside for a long while, and they play, but never too far. They run back to you and climb up the little wall on which you are sitting and hunker down beside you, tails wagging, ears pricked. Each time they come near enough, you run your hand over their bodies, tickling behind the ears, and you tell them you love them. A day passes, and one goes home, leaving just one remaining puppy, and that one, you let sleep on the couch with you. Maybe you wake up in the middle of the night, and hold her and let her sleep in your arms, rocking gently. You are tired, you are excited that your house may soon not smell of puppy byproducts, and yet, you are still filled with love and the memories of the most intense, incredible and amazing thing you've ever seen. And you say a prayer of thanks to God for His mercy and for His grace in giving you the opportunity to have these beautiful souls drift into your life, and then so quickly drift out. You take some pictures, and they are grainy, because the house is dark and winding down, but to you, they are the most beautiful pictures ever taken.

GRR Monthly Status Report: January 27 – February 19, 2016



Came into care: 15-011 Nutmeg, 15-012 Laverne, 15-013 Shirley

Adopted: 15-121 Friday, 15-132T Angelina, 14-080 Trace, 15-057 Brendan, 15-091 Donovan, 15-151 Orli, 15-152 Kringle, 15-155 Prancer, 15-156 Jingle, 15-157 Shepherd, 15-158 Jangle, 15-160 Joy, 16-004 Rory, 15-086 Siena, 15-137 Andrea, 15-146 Sassy, 15-150 Hope, and 15,153 Twinkle

Currently in Foster Care: 36 dogs (10 Available/Available Soon), 17 Foster-Pend-Adopt/Matched, 9 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? We could use some thoughtful dialogue on any topic for the newsletter. Time needed: 1 hour. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

Newsletter assistant for regular features:

Pick one feature. Collect information, photos, and edit one of our regular columns, such as Volunteer spotlight, Where Are They Now?, Foster Dog of the Month, etc. Pick more than just one? That's fine, too. Time needed: 1 hour or less a month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

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 week. Let us know. 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.

