



**Scarlett 13-098  
(Teanne Basham)**



# Gold Ribbon Rescue

**Rescuing Goldens in Central Texas for Over 15 Years**

**MAY 2015**

## From Margo, GRR President



Hi all,

This month I'd like to highlight our wonderful intake team and their amazing efforts to serve the front lines of our organization. They often have to react very quickly to a dog in need, often within hours, and they are very efficient in doing this. Jacki and her team are a critical piece of the work we do. They are the people who answer our hotline, who go to the shelters for assessment, transport our dogs to our vets and new foster home, wherever they need to go, and they secure a foster home. See Jacki's article in this month's issue and a few testimonials. Thank you all so much!

Also, a reminder of how important it is to have your dog indoors when you're gone, as specified in your contract. I know accidents happen to the best of us, but I'd like you to be aware of the dangers this situation can be to your dogs. Please see the article below for more information.

In this issue, you'll see dear Trace in his quest for a family to foster him through his second FHO (femoral head ostectomy) surgery, how to help your children through the death of a beloved pet, and Dear Goldie tackles a backyard behavior many of us can relate to.

Enjoy!  
*Margo*

### Upcoming Events

**Spring  
Splashfest** at  
The Quarries is  
June 6<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 - 12:00  
See more  
details below!



## Inside When Gone: Why It's Important

It's important that we safeguard our Goldens by ensuring that they are not left unattended outdoors, but are left indoors. Equally important is having their license, rabies, personal identification, and GRR tags on their collars at all times. All of these help provide support to reunite a lost dog with its owner.

### **Krispy (Scott and Sheila Thomas)**

The risks of being left unattended:

- \* Escape from the yard, which can lead to being hit by a car, lost in the woods, hurt by people, or stolen (worse yet, being used as a bait dog)
- \* Taunting and cruelty from people on the other side of the fence.
- \* Theft.
- \* Poisoning.
- \* Accidental release by a passerby, yard maintenance crews, meter reader or service technician.
- \* Possible electrocution when digging up or chewing on wiring outside the house.

**'Inside when gone' is GRR policy, as outlined in your adoption contract.** Everyone realizes that accidents can happen, even when the best of intentions and policy are being followed.

If your dog is missing, here are a few things you can do. (Please note that some of the information is specific to the Austin area.)

**Important note:** Physically visit local shelters **every day** - some do not identify breeds correctly, so it's very important to have that first-hand walk-through.

## LOST A PET?

Here's some ideas on what to do next:

-  Put up flyers in neighborhood common areas, bulletin boards, and in your yard
-  Visit or call local vet's offices, grocery store bulletin boards, and pet stores such as [PetSmart](#) & [PETCO](#).
-  Visit your local animal shelter see if they have received your pet or fill out a lost pet's form
-  Canvas the neighborhood door to door and hand out flyers
-  E-mail friends and neighbors to be on the look-out for your pet
-  Check local rescue groups, especially if your pet is a purebred
-  Contact private locating firms such as [www.findtoto.com](http://www.findtoto.com)
-  Check the lost pets section in newspapers and on-line sites such as: [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com); [www.austinlostpets.com](http://www.austinlostpets.com); [www.petharbor.com](http://www.petharbor.com); [www.myspace.com/wilcopets.com](http://www.myspace.com/wilcopets.com); [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) and [www.wilcopets.org](http://www.wilcopets.org)

Shop on Amazon [with this special link](#) and donate to GRR at the same time.

### Join GRR:

Become a Member. Click this [link](#) to access the GRR Membership page



## Spring Splashfest at the Quarries – June 6th

Due to the great feedback from last fall's event at the Quarries, this get-together **will replace our Annual Spring Picnic** this year! Originally planned for April 11, the event was rescheduled due to rain and is now on June 6.

**Who:** Golden Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Golden Retrievers. Oh, and bring your human family too!

**When:** June 6th

**Time:** 10 am-12 pm

**Where:** 11400 N Mopac Expressway Austin, Texas 78759 [Map and directions.](#)

\$25 admission fee per family (unlimited number of dogs). **If you paid for the April event, your \$25 fee will be automatically applied to the June event.** Enjoy some breakfast tacos and pastries!

Please pay in advance [here](#) so we can get a good idea for the refreshments. Come join us!



## Volunteer Appreciation Gathering - April 19th

This was truly a great opportunity to put faces and names together and to celebrate the good work we all do to rescue, rehabilitate and find forever homes for our Golden Retrievers. It truly takes a village of volunteers to accomplish this.

Pat Capin, Susan Perry, Michelle Goldberg, Jane Shaughness and Dennis and Carey Gunthert all spoke about why they volunteer and what makes GRR so special.

A special shout-out to Jackie McGrath and [Sweet Treats Bakery](#) and also [Amy's Ice Creams](#). Sheila Thomas provided bags of homemade doggy treats and Kathy Simmons brought bags of homemade chocolate treats and cute doggie items for everyone. Thank you Paula Ellis and Pam Phillips for organizing the event. A great afternoon to share our stories. Thanks for attending!

### How Can You Help a Golden?

Make a [tax deductible donation](#) to GRR

Become a [monthly donor](#) and we'll automatically charge your credit card

**Volunteer** – lots of exciting opportunities

**Foster** – helping a golden is rewarding

To volunteer or learn more, contact Sheila at [sheila@grr-tx.com](mailto:sheila@grr-tx.com)



## A Day With The Intake Team

**-Jacki Mulkey (Intake Director)**

The intake team at GRR provides much more than an evaluation. We take hotline calls, meet and evaluate prospective dogs at the shelters or an owner's home, transport the dog to a GRR vet and arrange for a foster home and transport again when a family is designated. We have to work fast and make decisions quickly, often at the drop of a dime. More often than not, these dogs are ill, distressed, or about to be euthanized at a shelter.

### Paddy 10-030 (Barbara Tankey)

We never turn away a Golden unless it is aggressive. We take them all and it takes a village, it truly does.

1. Rescuing a Golden and beginning the quest for a forever home all starts with that one very important Hotline phone call or email (512-659-4653 / [surrender2@grr-tx.com](mailto:surrender2@grr-tx.com)). After returning the call, the hotline volunteer will complete a surrender form that goes electronically to the "surrender" team.
2. The first thing we do is send a volunteer to meet the dog, either at a shelter or at an owner's home, as appropriate. We want first to verify that the dog is indeed a Golden Retriever with all of the characteristics inherent to the breed, but we also want to learn about the dog's personality and any medical needs. If the rescue is to be from an animal shelter, we meet, evaluate, and pull the dog at the same time (if the stray hold timeframe has ended). For an owner turn-in situation, Carey Gunthert (GRR's Intake Evaluations Coordinator) will schedule an intake evaluation/appointment.
3. Either myself, or someone I designate, must approve the dog into the program before any transport to a vet and before any paperwork is completed. Intake vetting consists of a Wellness Exam, HW and Fecal test and any updates needed for vaccinations (based on any records we have on hand). GRR will also spay or neuter as needed and only if the dog

is healthy enough. We always microchip the dog if he/she is not chipped. We work very closely with our medical team when necessary.

4. Once our new Golden is safe at the vet clinic, the next step is to identify a foster home. Our Foster Home Coordinator (Susan Perry) will start the search for a foster home or the matchmakers will look for an FPA (Foster Pending Adoption) home. This can be challenging at times. This can take hours to locate just one foster home based on availability and the dog's particular needs at that time.
5. The final steps of the intake team are transporting the dog from the vet clinic to the foster home. Once a foster home has been identified our Transport Coordinator (Bob Pollack) will make sure our Golden gets from point A to point B.

As Intake Director, I have the honor of working with some very dedicated volunteers. Without this team we would not be able to save as many Golden Retrievers as efficiently as we do. Without Susan, Carey, Pat Capin and Bob, the intake team would come to a grinding halt. In addition to Susan, Carey, Pat and Bob, there are so many other people that are involved in bringing in a Golden. Thank you for ALL you do from the bottom of my heart and from the hundreds of Golden Retrievers we save every year.

## Testimonials from the Intake Team

It's loud, dark – barking dogs all around, rushing their kennel gate to see if you are there to get them. Then you spy the Golden – she's scared, piddles on herself a bit then the gate is open and she crawls into your lap. While she is getting much needed TLC, you are doing the eval – ears long enough? White whiskers? Pants/feathers? Soft mouth? Spots on tongue? Eventually you decide she is absolutely Golden and she gets put back in the kennel run. You send your photos to the Intake Team and shortly thereafter, Jacki says, "Bring her in!" You have just saved a life.

**-Pat Capin**

I see such heartwarming changes in the dogs coming into our care and then only a few weeks later. Miracles happen with these dogs. Of course we think of Sherman and Peabody but also little Hero who came to us underweight, having non-contagious mange and dry lifeless hair. Now his fur is growing back and you can see the shine to it even in the photos.

Everybody steps up to the plate for our dogs. I can't begin to list all of them, so I'll stick with foster homes. I call them out of the blue and essentially say, 'Are you willing to disrupt your life for this pup?' Barring serious conflicts, they say yes - over and over again.

**-Susan Perry**

**Newsletter**  
**Editor: Dawn**  
**Marie Rae**

Send  
comments or  
suggestions to:

[dawnmarie@grr-tx.com](mailto:dawnmarie@grr-tx.com)

GRR



Community

GRR Page



## A Golden Road Trip

**-Michelle Goldberg**

A total of eight GRR dogs (Sedona, Durango, Juneau, Kona, Rusty, Aspen, Krispy and Jazz) just experienced "dog nirvana land" last month. The Thomas and Goldberg/Benson packs, packed up their tennis balls and Frisbees and headed on a Golden Road Trip to North Carolina -for almost 1200 miles and almost two days of travel (man their paws were tired) to reach [Barkwells - The Dog Lovers Vacation Retreat](#). And then - it was all worth it!

Barkwells is located in the heart of the beautiful western North Carolina mountains in Mills River, just outside of Asheville. Our dogs had about 50 acres of fenced-in fields with a big pond right in the center so they could run and swim until their hearts were content (and then some). There are 8 cabins located within the resort; each with its own fenced yard and a large deck overlooking the

beautiful property. Our cabin was called "Sparky" and had all of the comforts of home. From the time we woke up in the morning until it was time to go to sleep it was a non-stop adventure for our "kids".

We ventured off of the property to do some day hiking trips and spent several glorious hours hiking trails in the Dupont State Forest (location of some of the scenes from The Hunger Games) as well as Cold Mountain in the Pisgah National Forest. It was truly an oasis for humans and canines. There were abundant waterfalls, streams and lots of winding trails. It was truly a magical experience for our pooches as they acted much like I would imagine kids at Disneyworld would act. No vacation is complete without a little shopping thrown in so we headed into downtown Asheville for a day of sightseeing and shopping as well. Asheville is an extremely dog-friendly place and when we were walking into The Wacky Weed Brewing Co. for lunch we were greeted with a large bowl of fresh water and a handful of dog treats.

By the end of each day all, including the humans, had fun and we would retreat to the Thomas's cabin to enjoy the beautiful landscape and colorful sunsets on the lovely cabin deck with a few libations. After dinner we would venture inside and break out the board games (Dominoes was among our favorite). While we played some pretty intense games of Mexican Train Dominoes, all eight of our dogs would relax, some in front of the fireplace, some on the bed and some (Krispy) under the table hoping for a crumb to drop. And by nightfall the best part was that there were eight very tired pups that slept well with a smile on their face.

For more information: <http://barkwells.com/>



## **Dog of the Month: Trace 14-080**

**Type of surrender:** Owner surrender

**Age:** apx 2 years

**Weight:** 90 lbs.

**Status:** Trace needs a Foster-to-Adopt family to take him through a second FHO surgery at GRR's expense

**Gender:** Male

**Positive for heartworms? :** No

**Extraordinary Golden Fund recipient? :** Yes

### **Comments:**

When we asked about bad habits, **Trace's** surrendering owner said definitively, "NONE! He is the perfect dog. Cheerful, sweet, friendly, loves everyone." All true! No, Trace's problems aren't in the personality department, but purely physical. "He was born without a hip socket," the owner told us—and in fact, both hips were painful and dysplastic, the right one more so than the left. This wasn't something that would get better over time, and at 98 pounds, this big boy needs hips that will hold his weight and let him walk with ease.

Given Trace's young age and the severity of his condition, the surgeon opted for the total hip replacement last July 30th. It turned out to be a tricky procedure, as the socket itself was so deficient in bone. "I tried every trick in the book, almost giving up six times. I ended up building a socket with a synthetic bone graft using mesh, bone and cement. We'll know in 4-5 months if the graft is holding." Well into his second month of rehab, Trace is coming along. He won't be climbing mountains or running marathons, but he is "finally putting some weight on that leg," says his foster mom. "He is a sweetheart and a beauty and just an awesome dog, and I know that once he is well he will get snatched right up."

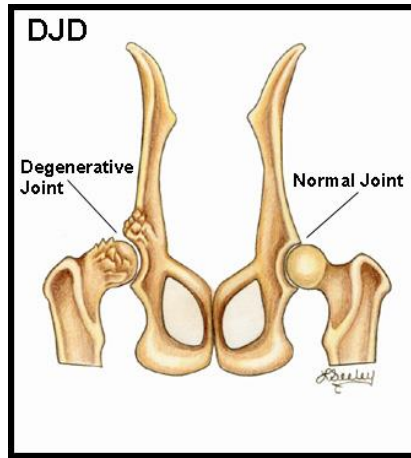
**Update: Trace needs a family who will take him through FHO surgery for his other hip this summer. Naturally all expenses for the surgery will be paid by GRR's Extraordinary Golden Fund. Contact your matchmaker if you would like to learn more.**

To learn about the adoption process and complete an application, [click here.](#)

**Gold Ribbon  
Rescue**

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[www.grr-tx.com](http://www.grr-tx.com)



## What To Expect after FHO surgery (Femoral Head Osteotomy)

### -Alan Oakes - Owner of Thorton (Thor 14-110)

Like a lot of Golden Retriever lovers, I feel like I have some sort of empathic connection with the breed and so I fretted a lot about the surgery: What will little Thor be like post-op? What will his mobility needs be? How long will rehab take? Are there things to watch out for?

I went to YouTube and watched videos and tried to glean the internet for any good FHO hints. Here is what I've learned from my experience with Thorton:

**Post-op:** Right after the operation, your pup will be exhausted and want rest. The meds are strong and pretty much knock out your pup. The first thing you need to think about is transportation home. Docs caution that the most problems they have is when the dog goes home. Online, I noticed that the best is having an SUV – you can even load your pup into the crate at the doc's office and then load the crate right in the vehicle. I've got a Corolla and didn't have this luxury. Big helper: ditch the sling they give you for lifting and lowering – just use a towel under your pup's belly and lift him or her right on in.

**The meds** for the first two weeks work wonders!! Your pup will be chill and even start testing the leg that was operated on. Your pup is going to need your help to go potty for several weeks. Your pup will be stoned out on the meds, but you will need to take him or her out on a leash for each poop. The pups for several weeks are on restricted movement so you will be taking him/her out to potty on a leash.

**Rehab:** While out for potty, start the walking. Your pup will want to limp at first and you will feel horrible when you see limping. Your goal is to get your Golden testing and putting weight on the foot. I have rock gardens surrounding the perimeter of my back yard. I found for whatever reason, Thor would limp on grass, but walk using all four legs on the rocks, so that was our starting point.

After a couple of weeks of quiet time, you will start walking and exercising your pup in earnest. I don't have a pool, but swimming in water is supposed to be the absolute best for FHO surgery recovery because it works all of those muscles.

**Walks:** Start with small walks in the back yard on varying surfaces to get your pup walking on all fours. Then, after those initial first two weeks, start walking a couple of times a day – start with just a house a day--extending your walking distance each day by a house lot. Then build up in frequency of walks and distance. Watch your Golden closely. You know that they will want to please and not show pain. Watch their walking closely to make sure they aren't struggling.

**Play:** When the vet approves, start playing again! This will be scary at first because your pup will be kind of floppy – but what Golden doesn't love a little fetch? Just watch to not push too much. After a month or two, we were all surprised that Thor jumped up on the bed and into cars and SUV's without any help.

As I write this about six months after surgery, Thor is not on any pain meds and walks and plays just like a normal Golden. Seeing Thor run full out after tennis balls, or drag me on the leash to chase a bunny, or leap effortlessly over 30 inches into bed or in the car, is proof that he is doing just fine!



**GG (Spirit #13-112), Yogi (#12-003), Itty (Cypress #05-115), Mojo (Master/Bear #09-206), Nelli (#03-081), Chloe (Clover #13-113)**

## **Volunteer Spotlight: Rob and Micki Miller**

**How long have you been volunteering with GRR?**

12 Golden years

**What made you want to volunteer with GRR?**

We have a lifelong love for Golden Retrievers, and they have been a part of our family for over 40 years. After the passing of 2 amazing Golden Retrievers within several months of each other, we weren't mentally ready to make a commitment for more as that hit us hard, but our house felt empty and lonely so we decided to volunteer with GRR. After the first week of fostering, we fell head over tails with Nelli (#03-081); she found her forever home with us, and we took in more and more fosters. To date, we have fostered 18 wonderful Golden Retrievers.

**What volunteer position do you hold?**

We originally volunteered for respite care but never did that! Instead, we were asked to foster and did plenty of that! We mostly foster but since we live at Canyon Lake we are sometimes asked to do intake evaluations, owner surrenders and transports in our area.

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

24/7 when we are fostering

**What is your favorite part above all?**

When we take in fosters, most of them are broken with a lack of love, food, and care. Helping these sweet, loving Golden Retrievers learn to trust and love humans again is the most heartwarming, fulfilling feeling and fills our hearts with gratitude to be a part of their rehabilitation.

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

When Tina (Athena 04-046) came in as our foster (then adopted her), she was a social recluse. She was used as an outdoor breeding bitch for profit. At two years of age, she already had 3 litters of pups.

Often, all our Golden Retrievers would look out the windows and bark at nature's critters, except Tina. She NEVER barked—not once. We thought, heaven forbid, that the owner may have had her vocal cords cut. Then while on vacation at my parent's cottage, we were relaxing on their pontoon boat when we heard this strange bark. It was Tina!!!! We were shocked! She was barking at ducks paddling by the boat. Apparently, she just never had anything to bark about before—until she laid eyes on these strange creatures! THEY were barkworthy!!!

**Give one piece of advice for volunteers interested in serving in this position.**

Fostering is extremely rewarding. You are part of the transformation from the moment a Golden Retriever is welcomed into your home from whatever horrific past (most of them) and see them flourish into a loving, trusting, sweet family member. And to further this rewarding experience is uniting these beautiful Golden Retrievers with their forever families for a lifetime of love and happiness they are so deserving of.

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

There are NO WORDS to describe the feeling in your heart knowing you are doing your part to save the life of a Golden and help them so they can be united with their forever families.

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to [Sheila@grr-tx.com](mailto:Sheila@grr-tx.com).



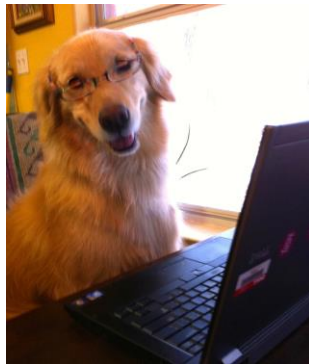
## GRR Monthly Status Report: March 21 – April 21

**Adopted:** 15-006 Cherry, 15-023 Louie, 14-148 Piper, 15-001 BB, 15-028 Mindy, 14-143 Kiska, 15-027 Macy, 15-029 Spunky, 15--019 Duke, 15-020 Journey, 15-012 Cassidy

**Came in to GRR Care:** 15-029 Spunky, 15-030 Hero, 15-031 Bear, 15-032 Shadow, 15-033 Layla, 15-034 Finian, 15-035 Sissy, 15-036 Guy, 15-037 Indiana, 15-038 Tigger, 15-039 Hannah, 15-040 Pookie, 15-041 Trixie

**Currently in Foster Care:** 41 (16 Available Now/Soon, 16 Foster-Pending-Adoption, 2 Matched 7 Permanent Fosters)

### Hero (Sherry Keller)



## Dear Goldie

**Introduction and disclaimer:** Dear Reader, The 'Dear Goldie' column offers advice on issues behavioral and medical, and is written from the **dog's first-person perspective**. I have researched a great number of articles on the internet -and from you- before I formed the issue for this month. If you have any sample issues for the column, please drop me an [email](#). I promise to make the question and answer fun but informational. Enjoy! - Dawn Marie Rae

### Dear Goldie,

Don't judge me, but I need to confess a nasty habit of mine when I go into the backyard. Sometimes it just smells so good, even better than my regular food. I think you know what I'm talking about. I decided that it was a way to get extra treats without begging. (Remember your column from February about begging? I'm trying!) The cat's litter box also can be hard to resist, plus, I get bored sometimes and it's a way to pass the time. My human Dad says it's nasty and disgusting and he says it really LOUD! Why would he say that? Us dogs like a lot of things humans don't, so I don't see what the problem is. I mean, when was the last time you saw a human rolling around on a dead squirrel grinning their fool head off?

Signed, Bored in Bastrop

### Dear Bored,

Your backyard is not a food truck and the cat's litter box is not a buffet! Your behavior is called coprophagia and you need to know that humans find this behavior pretty awful. They don't even want to talk about it to other humans. There are some things your Dad can do to help you out, so let's take this one at a time. 1) If you're bored, then maybe he needs to spend more time with you and give you lots of love. Like, throw the ball around more often Dad! Take me for a walk! Just sitting on the floor giving you a belly rub is better than nothing. 2) He needs to pick that stuff up the second you leave it on the ground. You'll have to suck it up when he watches you go, so don't be embarrassed. 3) Finally, if he can't be there to pick it up, he can try meat tenderizer



in your food. Here's a [list of products](#) Dad can help you with. Tell your human Dad to check out the [ingredients](#) in some of the other products at pet stores to prevent you from doing this. Some of them are better than others. Your Dad can also help keep you healthy by checking things out in the backyard, i.e. he must become a 'poopologist' and monitor your 'stuff'. Get Dad to try some of these things out and hopefully there will be no more shrieking.



## Where Are They Now? Sherman 14-106

### From Anita Briggs – Sherman's foster mom

Sherman found his way into our hearts long before we cared for him in our home as a foster. After watching his rescue story unfold over Facebook, we were delighted to be asked to foster him. Sure enough, that paw won our hearts even more in reality than it had in his online photos. As he became more and more acclimated to our household and routine, we watched him become braver. We watched him relax and begin to enjoy doing dog things, like walks and playtime. Tears came to my eyes the day he became so enthralled with a new toy that he flipped to his back in a half toy-tackle and half happy-dance.

From the moment we agreed to foster him, we knew Sherman was a very special dog and we needed to allow for the possibility that a very special person might come along for his forever home. With his shy personality, we wondered how we would know if the right person came along. But we need not have worried. When the day came to introduce Sherman to Judy and her golden Ryelee, rather than hide or cower, Sherman perched his head right on Judy's knee. Sherman made himself understood that he would be delighted to be the newest member of Judy and Ryelee's family!

### From Judy SelbeMeyer – Sherman's proud new owner

I watched Sherman's story unfold for a couple of months before I asked to adopt him. I knew from the start he was meant to become part of mine and Ryelee's life. Sherman has settled into our home as if he has always been here. He has adjusted remarkably well from the foundation of security Anita and her family provided; we consider them his extended family. Sherman and Ryelee are so much alike; they walk side by side and rarely are apart from each other or me. He does great when I leave the house. So far they have not conspired to get into things they shouldn't. Sherman has a pretty good gig here, Ryelee gets the mail and the newspaper and Sherman gladly accepts the reward treats. He also likes when she gets her daily meds – more reward treats and when she gets her shots, the reward is puppy ice cream. Sherman is glued to my daughter when she comes over, just like Ryelee. He cleans out the toy box daily, they share the toys and play with them together stealing each other's when they think the other cannot see them. Sherman finally went into the garage with us – that was a big accomplishment and he was very proud. Our nickname for him is Eeyore; he is such a mellow sweet, sweet, happy boy. We are blessed to have him.

Legendary for his paw dexterity, Thorton takes a post-walk selfie



## Another Where Are They Now: Thorton (Thor 14-110)

### From Allan Oakes, his FPA

If you will recall, we met Thor down in San Antonio. He was an apartment-kept two-year old purebred Golden with serious hip problems, not to mention nasty ear infections. It was determined that Thor needed hip surgery and a calmer place to recover from the operations. With his fearless, buoyant personality, Thor is aptly named. He's a furry superhero with a tartan leash!

Our feisty super-pooch's hip is mending well. Thor continues his exercise routine of daily longer walks (40 minutes) on varying terrain. He also has a short burst of vigorous exercise playing fetch and trying to catch the spray of the hose in his mouth. He has a

habit of seeking out tennis balls and baseballs on walks around Old Settlers Park. He proudly holds onto each find, bringing his new toys to the backyard.

Last Friday, Thor got to visit Alan's offices after school for the first time. He loved saying 'hi' to students and faculty. He did great going up two substantial staircases several times! Thor was a special ambassador of love for a parent who Alan was meeting whose son took his life this year. Thornton was his usual charming self and was a wonderful presence for this man and his grieving family. (Thor even put up his right paw to greet them!)

Superhero pooch that he is, Thor also has rescued two stray dogs in the past month. While on car rides, he whimpers loudly when he sees other dogs on leashes or a stray. When he does this, the strays follow his whimpering (and to my car). He led one lost lab back to a neighbor's house this way, when they accidentally left their front door open. He recently did the same with a Dalmatian out by Paloma Lake. He kept whimpering at the stray that came closer to the car, while Alan called animal control to have them pick up the Dalmatian. Yay Thor!

This summer, Thor's other hip will be evaluated and he will most likely have another FHO surgery. I would want to thank all of his benefactors! Thor has a golden heart and has flourished, as he has gotten better.

## The Golden Toenail: How to Trim Your Dog's Nails

- From [All About Goldens](#)



Trimming your dog's nails will be something that needs to be done all of his/her life, so keep the following in mind, to make it easier on both you and him:

- While you are playing with, and getting to know your dog, make it a habit to touch him everywhere.
- Play with and touch the top of his feet, the pads on his feet, his toes, and his nails.
- Get him use to your touch.

This will make trimming his nails, and his general grooming, much easier and less stressful on him.

If you do not clip his nails, his toes can "splay". This makes him look as if all of his toes are separated, and can cause problems in his walking. Regularly trimming dog nails will prevent this, and if his nails are already getting out of hand, slowly cutting them back will undo much of the damage.

### Tools



The **guillotine nail trimmers** are designed for placing the dog's nail through a metal hole and squeezing the handle to close the blade over the nail. They come in several sizes and the blades can be replaced.



The **plier's type nail trimmers** are similar to scissors, in how you use them on your dog. As you can see from the picture, the blades have a semi-circle shaped groove in them, which is where you position the nail. Then you simply close the handles on the trimmers, just as you would a pair of scissors. These also come in different sizes. I have 3 different sizes, small for my puppies, medium for my mid-size Goldens, and the large size for my adult Goldens.

I also keep **styptic powder** on hand, just in case of accidentally trimming into the "quick" that causes bleeding. Styptic powder can be found at any pet supply outlet. The quick is a blood vessel that carries blood supply into the nail, and it will bleed if cut into. This is temporarily painful for the dog, but nothing to panic about. It will stop bleeding on its own, but the styptic powder combined with a bit of applied pressure on the nail from you, will help it to stop bleeding a bit faster.

**Cuticle scissors** are another handy tool to have in your grooming kit, as there are a few other things you should do while working on your Golden Retriever's paws. A Golden Retriever's fur can grow quite long at the end of his paws. Use the cuticle scissors for trimming back this fur, so he doesn't resemble "Mr. Grinch"! You can also use these for trimming any excess fur that is sticking out around his pads on the bottom of his feet. I like these small scissors to work with, as it greatly lessens the risk of cutting into one of his pads.



**How often:**

Nail trimming should be done will depend on what type of surface your dog spends most of his time on. If he takes a lot of walks on cement surfaces, this will naturally help keep them worn down. On average, a Golden Retriever will need their nails cut every 4-6 weeks. Some people also use a dog file that is similar to a fingernail file, to smooth the nails after they have been trimmed.

**Process:**

I always clip just where the nail first starts to curve, as most Golden's have dark colored nails and you cannot see where the quick is. In light colored nails, you can see the quick and cut just below it, so you do not actually cut into it. Remember to also clip the dewclaws, as these do not touch ground to naturally be worn down, and they can grow until they curl around into your Golden's leg. On average, a Golden Retriever will need their nails cut every 4-6 weeks. Some people also use a dog file that is similar to a fingernail file, to smooth the nails after they have been trimmed.

Trimming dog nails will be a small part of your Golden's grooming, and will keep him healthier, happier, and looking his finest!

## Rainbow Bridge Tribute



Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, the pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends where they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All of the animals that had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor. Those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again just as we remember them in our days

and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they miss someone very special to them, who had been left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent. His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain down upon your face; you hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together. - **Author unknown**



## Helping Kids Deal With the Loss of a Pet

Dr. Robi Ludwig, Contributor – [www.care.com](http://www.care.com)

Losing a pet can impact the entire family, but it can be particularly traumatic for children because it's usually their first encounter with loss and death. As parents, we can feel overwhelmed and helpless knowing that we cannot shield our kids from the painful reality of death. Although we can't stop our kids from having a broken heart, there are things we can do to make their bereavement process as healthy and manageable as possible.

The first step to help kids learn how to cope with the loss of a pet is to be honest with them. As difficult as this may feel it's important to **tell them the truth!** Stay away from half truths and euphemistic descriptions about death. Instead, sensitively explain to your child that his or her pet has died. A child's understanding about death will vary based on his age.

According to the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement, kids between the ages of 7 and 9 tend to have the most questions about death. If your child asks you what happens after death, you can explain your understanding about life after death, but it's also okay to admit that you're not entirely sure.

This loss can also trigger a child's fears that you or other people he or she loves will die. Remember to be patient and try to address these fears as they come up. For example, if your child asks you if you're going to die and leave them too, you can say something like, *"Most people die when they are very old, and I don't plan to leave this earth for a very long time."*

The second step is to **honor your child's feelings**. Help your child to express his or her grief. You can encourage your children to make drawings or write stories about their pet. It's also very helpful to have them recall happy memories, which allows them to both grieve and remember happier times with their pet.

Kids may need to cry and express their feelings of loss, which is to be expected. They might also struggle with other complex emotions like anger, denial and guilt. Encourage your child to talk with you about his or her feelings. This will allow you to explain that what they are experiencing is normal and a natural part of the grieving process. Ultimately, parents want to help their children move through their feelings of depression and eventually come to a place of acceptance.

One of the ways to encourage your child's healthy acceptance of a pet's death is to **find a way to memorialize this passing**. Having a burial, memorial or similar type of ceremony helps to reinforce the importance of the pet's life while also marking its death. This can be done in many different ways. Kids should be allowed to participate in whatever way feels right for them. Maybe it's marking the gravesite, making a garden stone with the pet's name on it, planting a tree in remembrance of the pet, or designing a collage of the pet's photos and placing it in a frame. Managing loss and death is ironically one of the most difficult aspects of life. But if handled correctly, the loss of a family pet can be a valuable opportunity to teach an important, yet tough life lesson about how to deal with loss in an open and healthy way.



## Petting: What Your Dog Craves Most from You

By [Dr. Karen Becker](#), for full article click [here](#).

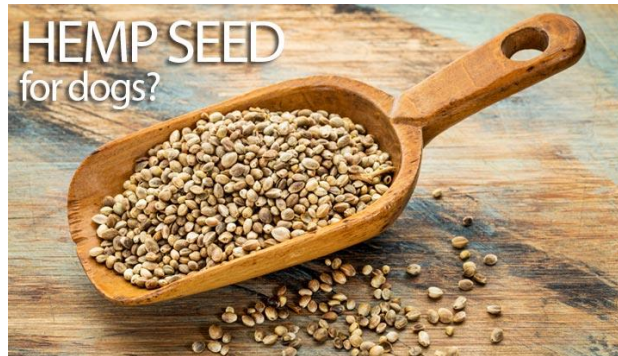
A recently published study confirms what dog lovers have known forever. Dogs love to be petted and most can't get enough of it!

Study researchers observed both shelter and family dogs in an experiment that had the dogs choose whether to spend time with a person who gave them vocal praise or a person

who petted them.

Without exception, the dogs chose to hang out with the people doing the petting, even when the person praising them was their owner, and the petting person was a stranger.

These study results suggest that dogs' preference for petting as positive reinforcement is a natural response, whereas the use of praise to reinforce desirable behavior is more effective when paired with an additional incentive like food or petting.



## Hemp For Dogs: Should You Use It?

by [Dana Scott](#) in [Holistic Care](#)

Is your dog missing out on a great superfood? You might be thinking, "Hemp is a variety of cannabis, I'm not giving that to my dog!" If you aren't, it would be too bad because hemp has many health promoting properties nearly every dog could use!

**Hemp Is Not Marijuana** Let's get that out in the open right now! Hemp is a variety of cannabis that's been safely used for years here in the US. It does contain a small amount of tetrahydrocannabinoids (THC) that makes marijuana well, marijuana, but it only contains 0.3% to 1.5% THC whereas marijuana contains 5% to 10% or more! So hemp will not cause your dog to have psychotropic reactions ... or a sudden craving for munchies! And, since he's probably not smoking the hemp (I assume), he'll reap the health benefits with few unwanted side effects!

### Why I Think You Should Give Your Dog Hemp

Hemp is one of our oldest and most versatile plants, dating back to the 28th century BC. Today, hemp is used in foods and even textiles, but we're most interested in the hemp seed and the oil it produces.

Unlike fish oil, hemp seed oil contains the perfect ratio of Omega-6 (linoleum acid) to Omega-3 (alpha linolenic acid) fatty acids. These are essential fatty acids, meaning your dog can't produce them and needs to get them in his diet. A good balance of these Omega oils is critical to your dog's health because they work synergistically in the body.

Hemp seeds are also high in an essential Omega-6 fatty acid called gamma linolenic acid (GLA). That's important because there's some really good reasons to boost the GLA in your dog's diet:

#### 1. It Fights Cancer

Researchers at the American Cancer Society say there's evidence that people with cancer, diabetes and skin allergies don't make enough GLA ... and these issues are incredibly common in dogs too. While GLA is considered a conditionally essential fatty acid (which means that most dogs can make enough of it, most of the time), there are many circumstances (hard exercise or stress) where dogs can't make enough GLA and supplementing can become important.

The THC in hemp seeds have also been found to stop brain cancer (British Journal of Cancer), improve breast cancer (Breast Cancer Research and Treatment) and lung cancer.

Finally, because the GLA is perfectly balanced with Omega-3 fats, hemp seed oil will help reduce inflammation in your dog and strengthen the immune system.

#### 2. It Reduces Joint Pain

Researchers in the *Journal of Arthritis and Rheumatology* found that the GLA found in hemp seeds reduced arthritis symptoms by 25% compared to the placebo at 4%. Once again, this is because the perfect balance of fatty acids helps to reduce inflammation naturally.

**[Check out these herbs that also help with your dog's joint pain!](#)**

#### 3. It Improves Skin And Coat

Hemp seed has long been used in cosmetic products and soaps because the oil can penetrate the inner layers of the skin and promote healthy cellular growth. The balanced fatty acids also play an important role in reducing the inflammation associated with common skin issues, including atopic dermatitis, pruritic skin disease and granulomas.

## How Hemp Seed Oil Works

Your dog has substances in his body called prostaglandins. These are like hormones and they circulate around the body, helping to smooth muscle contractions, control inflammation, regulate the body temperature and other vital functions.

The GLA that's abundant in hemp seed is a building block for prostaglandins. Researchers are looking at GLA supplementation today as an important component of proper hormone health and development.

### A Caution!

Before you start adding hemp oil to your dog's meals, there are a couple of things you should first know.

**1.)** Hemp seed oil is a polyunsaturated fat, which means the oil is unstable. If you **cook your dog's food**, you won't want to add hemp seed oil to the food while cooking as this can cause the oil to become rancid and cause health issues in your dog.

**2.)** In addition, if your dog is eating a **poultry-based diet**, adding hemp seed oil may cause an imbalance in his diet because chicken is already quite high in polyunsaturated fats and linoleic acid. According to Steve Brown, author of *Unlocking the Canine Ancestral Diet*, flaxseed oil is a better choice for chicken-based diets.

But if your dog is eating a diet rich in beef and other ruminants, then hemp seed oil is a great way to balance the diet, alongside your dog's regular fish or fish oil.

### How Much To Give

So we've established that giving your dog hemp seed oil whenever you give him red meat is an excellent boost to his health. So how much should you give? Steve Brown recommends adding a teaspoon for every 1 to 1 1/4 pounds of food. *Cannabis sativa* actually means "useful hemp" in Latin. Try adding some to your dog's diet and learn why this ancient superfood is making such a huge comeback!



## Frosty Yogurt Berries Bone Parfait

Reprinted with permission by [Sugar the Golden Retriever](#)

### Ingredients

- ~1 tablespoon of Greek Yogurt
- ~1 tablespoon of Plain Yogurt
- ~2 teaspoon of fresh blackberries juice (=3 pieces of blackberries)
- 4 x-small pieces of strawberries
- 1 teaspoon of homemade toasted coconut honey oats  
(using old fashion oats, coconut oil and honey)

Use a bone cookie cutter as a mold. Place it on a flat surface, we used a clear plate.

**1)** Pour into the mold ~ 1 tablespoon of Greek yogurt. Freeze it for about an hour.

*\*This is the first time we used Greek yogurt for frosty paw recipe. It does not freeze well unlike the regular plain yogurt.*

**2)** Pour ~2 teaspoons of the fresh blackberries juice.

Smashed blackberries can be added too. Freeze it for about 20 to 30 minutes.

**3)** Place little pieces of strawberries.

**4)** Pour ~1 tablespoon of plain yogurt. Freeze it for 20 minutes.

**5)** Place the tasted oats on top. Freeze it for another 10-15 minutes.

