



# Gold Ribbon Rescue

*Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas*

May 2016



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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Dawn Marie Rae

Send comments or suggestions to:  
[Newsletter@grr-tx.com](mailto:Newsletter@grr-tx.com)

Gold Ribbon Rescue

## A Message from Our President:



Over the years, GRR and other Golden Retriever rescue groups across the USA have experienced a sharp downward trend in the number of purebred Goldens requiring rescue. From a high of 208 Goldens in 2009 – I was the intake coordinator that year and we were brutally busy – our projected number of purebreds in 2016 is approximately 90. Conversely, the number of adoptive applicants continues to skyrocket. In order to ease long waiting lists of adopters, we are accepting more Golden Retriever mixes into our program, as are most other Golden Retriever rescues. As a result, you'll note an increase in diversity among our available dogs, while retaining the Golden Retriever's fun and loving nature. It really will be nice to help more of the "almost Goldens."

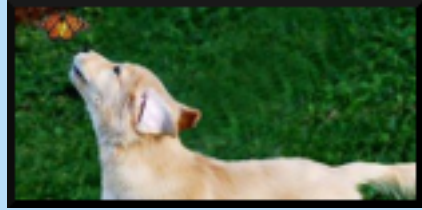
Our 2017 GRR Calendar auction begins May 7th at noon! Let's make it great again this year with all of the wonderful photos of your Goldens. Let the bidding begin! There is a link in the Events section and you'll hear more through our social media team.

### In this issue:

- Hear about the miracle of Rosebud and her amazing rescue after being missing for 44 days
- Get an update on Diesel (16-009) and his continuing recovery
- Read my review of a great new book about nutrigenomics
- See our new feature: "Thoughts, Prayers, and Remembrance"

Enjoy!  
-Margo

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## Current and Upcoming Events

### 2017 Gold Ribbon Rescue Calendar Auction!

Bidding begins May 7th at noon for the January page! Click [here](#) to get started.

### 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](#).

### **- Cancelled - to be rescheduled** Volunteer Training - Fostering: The First Step to Changing a Rescue Dog's World

When: May 14 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Where: Austin Animal Center

7201 Levander Loop, Austin, TX 78702



### 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](#).

## Swimfest at the Quarries - April 9th

Plan ahead. This very fun event is doing a repeat on August 20th! See above in the Events section...





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### ***Pints For Pups - April 16th***



Pints for Pups was a lot of fun. [Red Horn Coffee House and Brewing Co](#) is awesome and they loved our Goldens!!! We didn't let a little rain keep us away. We had lots of dogs bring their people out to support Gold Ribbon Rescue!

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### ***Spring Romp in Schertz - April 23rd***

Lots of good food, a gorgeous day in the neighborhood, and of course, we got to meet our Goldens and other four-legged friends that we love so much!



**Where Are They Now? Fred 16-021**  
*Sam and Cindy Bauserman - with Lauren*



Living in Pennsylvania, we were the previous owners of four wonderful dogs. After going through the experience of losing our pets, Cindy and I were determined not to go through this pain again. We started a new life in Texas in 2014, after I accepted a job transfer, and it didn't take too much time before we both realized we were missing an important presence in our family. I filled out an application and we went through the interview and home visit process and then, were notified that our new family member was ready for us to meet.

Meanwhile, I had just found out what Texas also has to offer, beside a job transfer – ALLERGIES! I was advised not to adopt a dog at that time. We were both heartbroken. I continued with my allergy shots and after quite a bit of time, we met with Arlen and his therapy dog, Sam, to see if allergies were still an issue. Thankfully they were not. So, we once again made contact with GRR and in time were notified about Fred (16-021) and how he needed a new home. We fostered him and adopted him as fast as we could.

We found out Fred does not like his crate, so we decided against using it, but he does well and sleeps all night long. He loves going for walks and chasing the ball in our yard. Fred is so loving around everyone who comes to visit. Our two grandchildren who live close by absolutely love Fred and they taught him to sit and shake in no time. He is very eager to learn and has started obedience training. We personally think he will be a star student! Our life is now complete with our sweet boy and we are so grateful to GRR for giving us this opportunity to love and care for Fred for many years to come!

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## ***Turmeric, Skunks, and a Great New Book***

*Margo Biba - GRR President and Medical Supervisor*



As a longtime advocate of using nutrition to heal the body naturally, I've found my new best resource ever for my dogs: [Canine Nutrigenomics: The New Science of Feeding Your Dog for Optimum Health](#), by W. Jean Dodds, DVM. It is amazing in its depth of information and it gives instructions on topics such as:

- Health through food
- Food intolerances and allergies
- Using food and nutritional supplements to combat
  - Weight Control
  - Arthritis
  - Cancer

- o Medical issues such as chronic kidney disease, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, heart disease, liver disease, epilepsy, thyroid disease
- o Canine behavior and cognitive aging

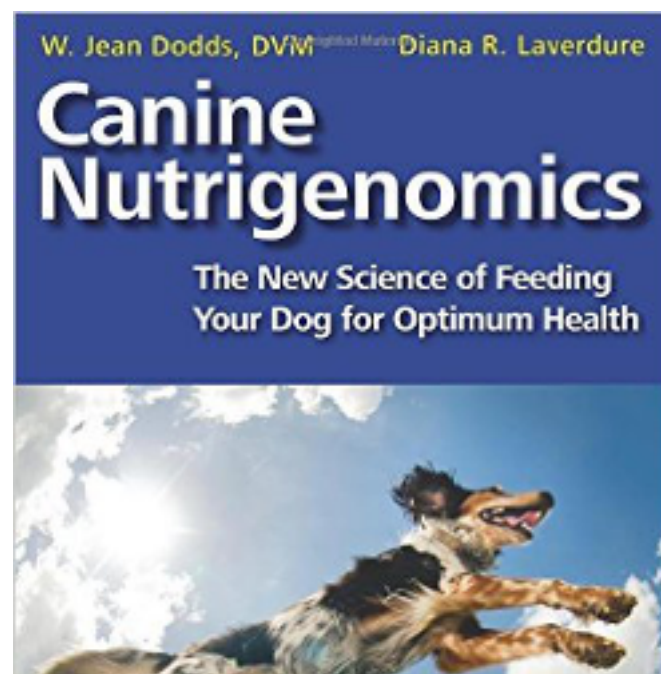
I'm using Dr. Dodd's suggestions for #12-138 Bijou's severe allergy issues such as chronic yeast ear infections, chewing her feet and non-stop itching. The changes helped immediately.

My old guy, #11-007 Magnum is riddled with arthritis in every joint. He has never been able to tolerate traditional medications, pain killers or anti-inflammatories, such as Rimadyl. Magnum had reached the point that he could barely walk, spent his days napping in the bedroom, and was becoming increasingly withdrawn. I made one simple change, as suggested by Dr. Dodds: adding the supplement Curcumin. Within 12 hours, Magnum was much more mobile, interactive and cheery. You can bet that Magnum will be taking Curcumin lifelong!

Be aware of a few points with Curcumin:

- Quality varies widely, brand to brand. I purchased Magnum's "Curcumin Advanced" from [mercola.com](http://mercola.com). He weighs 78 pounds, so his dosage is 500 mg once daily, sprinkled on his supper.
- Curcumin reportedly thins the blood. Use caution if your dog already takes non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as Rimadyl, or other blood thinners. In Magnum's case, he takes no other medication, so this was not a concern for him.

Read Canine Nutrigenomics for more information and you can read more about curcumin [here](#), the anti-oxidant found in turmeric root. I will be using my trusty highlighter non-stop on this book, marking beneficial information. Canine Nutrigenomics is my new dog health bible!



On a different note, Gary and I are fostering Rosebud (16-007), GRR's recent escapee (see Sandy's story, The Miracle of Rosebud). She spent 6 weeks evading capture, until she was nabbed on April 7th. Although Rosebud was highly skilled at avoiding humans, she was not as adept at dodging skunks. Rosebud must have taken multiple direct hits. The skunk stench was overpowering. I caught myself holding my breath when Rosebud was nearby and the smell wafted throughout the house. I even envisioned replacing our furniture and rugs. Even worse, I started smelling skunk in my own hair. The horror!

Thank goodness, we found the skunk solution: [Professional Pet Products' "S.O.S" Skunk Odor Shampoo](#). One shampoo, and the smell was immediately gone. If you have skunks in your neighborhood, have this shampoo on hand. I promise you, it's worth it!

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***Free Golden Retriever e-cards***  
[Golden Retriever Magic](#)



Here are some free dog ecards that will surely bring a smile to any dog-lover's face. Send them to someone special, for any occasion, or for no reason at all.

Be sure to pick a picture for your free dog ecard, and a stamp you like. You can preview the card before you send it, to make sure that it is exactly the way you like it. Click [here](#) to send one now!

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## ***Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and his Service Dog***

*Dawn Marie Rae*



A few months ago, I wrote about Luis Montalvan, the talk I attended, and the books he has written. [Until Tuesday](#) chronicles his journey from combat in Iraq to the tale of his service dog, Tuesday, a Golden Retriever with a remarkable history of his own. The relationship between the two of them is most poignant and amazing. The presentation he gave was so striking and so beautifully inspiring that I am moved once again to have a spot for him and his new book for children, Tuesday Takes Me There.

Tuesday and Luis, an Iraq War veteran, must travel by boat, bus, train, horse, pedicab and more as they race from New York City to the countryside outside the nation's capitol for an important event. Along the way, they see many famous sites, share hilarious and touching adventures, and show young readers (along with their teachers and parents) how trained service dogs help people with disabilities. Full of beautiful photos of this loveable Golden Retriever and his best friend, Tuesday Takes Me There continues the bestselling true story of a wounded veteran and the dog that saved him. Pre-order [Tuesday Takes Me There](#) today!

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## ***Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance***

*Compiled by Kimberly Thomas*

### **Sending Good Thoughts and Prayers:**

Fluke - vomiting several times with latest having bile/small amounts of blood. Going to vet. 4/12 no more



vomiting. Possible GI problem with irritation (blood). Awaiting blood work results.  
Worry - intestinal blockage. 4/12 home and gaining weight!  
Dayzee - ACL surgery 4/4  
Marley - Parvo  
Casey - Variety of health concerns  
Mandy - Knee sprain, bad hips  
Rodgers - sore on leg that is not healing  
Trixie - mobility problems  
Diesel - all sorts of skin issues  
Trinity - Leg removal. 2/1 successful procedure, continuing to heal and adapt.  
Mona - Lumpectomies for multiple growths  
Razzle - Kennel cough  
Dazzle - Kennel cough  
Bear - Elbow soft tissue sarcoma removal without clean margins

Chloe - Liver problems, possible cirrhosis

Travis - foot/ankle problem

Honey - Unable to stand - Honey improved dramatically the very same day. Update 12/13 callous shrinking with elbow pad protectors.

Fitz - hip problems with future surgery

Friday - Lepto



#### **Recent Rainbow Bridge: (Since November 4th 2015)**

Max - age

Sandy - too many issues for her body to handle

Toby

Lady

Bailey

Sadie

Devine

Ember/E-Dawg/Dawg Shark - mast cell

Missy

Taylor - Osteosarcoma

Ginger Snap - Lymphoma

Lady

Jazz

Chewy - B3's brother

Max - Little green bean couldn't thrive

Zeppo - infection

Noel - in utero

Linkin - Liver disease

Rozee - Lymphoma

Rusty - Hemangiosarcoma

Benny - FIP

Dixie - Parvo(?)

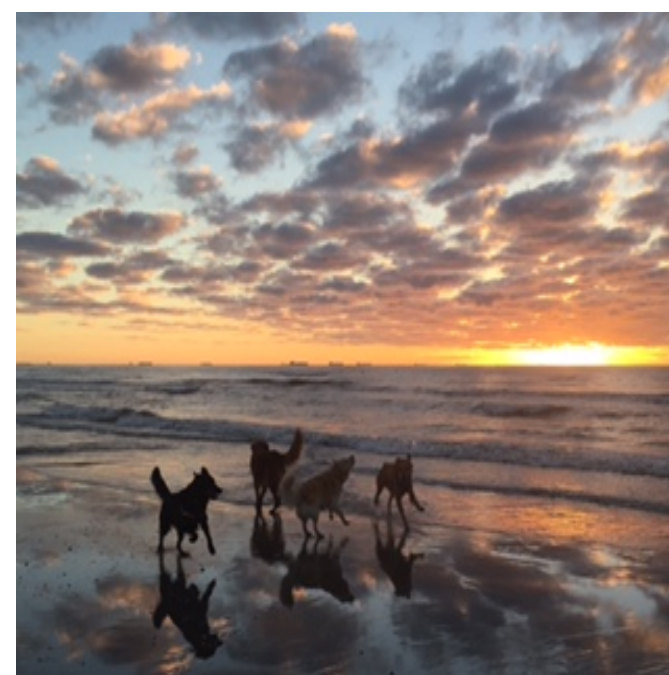
Jake





## ***New Feature: Living in a Dog's House - The Thomas Pack***

*Scott and Sheila Thomas*



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

We have 4 GRR dogs...

Rusty, just turned 11

Aspen, my soulmate, is 6

Krispy is 5

Jazz, Border Collie/Golden Retriever, 3

Birch, our rabbit who trains the dogs, is 2 ½

### **Describe feeding time.**

When Krispy knows it's time to eat, he leads the charge, barking the entire way into the mudroom. Then it becomes an organized affair. They head to their spots to wait for bowls to be filled...with Krispy adding commentary. While we love to think our dogs are "perfect", we've lived and learned that something delectable, like chicken livers, can bring out the crocodile, so we supervise chow time. As one dog finishes, the bowl is picked up and the dog knows to leave the room.

### **What does your welcome home committee look like? Getting tackled by a football team?**

There's nothing better than having our best friends greet us at the door, but we try to keep things low key. The party starts once we've put down our stuff and have changed clothes. Then we love on each other – and get lots of doggie hugs and kisses.

### **What happens when you want to take a vacation?**

Our favorite vacations are trips we take with them, usually two a year. One reason we love Golden Retrievers is because they're great travel companions and provide lots of laughs and memories. They've been North Carolina six times, Port Aransas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and many state parks in Texas. They will be visiting New Mexico, North Carolina (again) and South Dakota next year. The one vacation a year when they can't go with us, we hire a pet sitter (since Bob and Jan Dallas moved to Iowa), and we spend that trip missing them.

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

What's a housekeeper??!! Oh wait, see the photo below! Scott and I provide the daily labor of love of

cleaning up after them. What's a little dog hair when they give so much fun and pleasure in return? And we have a good vacuum cleaner.

**How do you take everybody for a walk?**

With leashes and a Frisbee. They all know the walk routine and toddle along in synch. It's really not hard to walk our four dogs – even for one person. Jazz lives for the Frisbee, so we always take her somewhere for F-bee time. Krispy isn't a big leash walker, and he'll sit down and refuse to go any further – so if we can't prod him on, we'll take him home. But 11 year-old Rusty loves his walks and is ready go morning and night. And Aspen, my soulmate, is perfect.

**If you have two hands and 4 Golden Retrievers, how do you handle all of the nuzzling and competition for loves and petting?**

The toughest time for us is in the wee hours of the morning right after the alarm clock rings at 4:15. Everyone but Krispy is ready for a walk, so they take turns trying to figure out how to get us out of bed. Jazz starts moaning, Aspen walks up on Scott's chest and presents him with an antler, and Rusty starts to howl. No rest for the weary.

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

Aspen, who has no fear of anything in nature, has started reacting to thunder and fireworks over the past year. She just needs a hidey hole.

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

It's funny. They aren't too reactive to things that creep and crawl, maybe because they live with a rabbit. They've had deer and fox run across their path without noticing. Other times it will be game on. Guess it depends on the scents and their moods.



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**Dear Goldie**

*Dawn Marie Rae*

**Dear Goldie,**

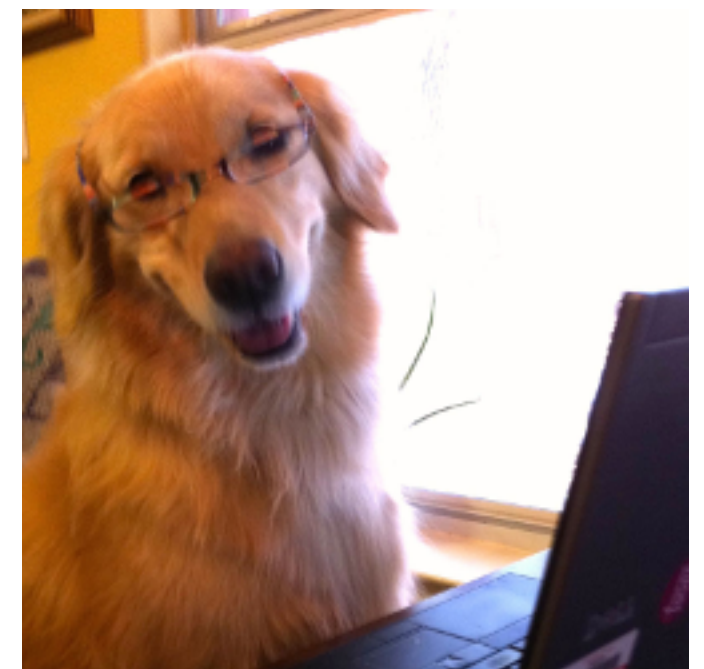
Those other critters with four-legs, you know who I'm talking about. Dogs! I just don't like them near me and I tell them about it. I get pretty worked up, especially if they're those rugrat kind! I can even be more specific - under 40 lbs., the big ones not so much, but they are also suspect. We can't even have a meet and greet of the exteriors before I get all snarky.

Even though my Mom has a harness on me, I still get really mad and nearly knock her over pulling on my leash. How can I become a nicer dog?  
-Snarky in San Antonio

**Dear Snarky,**

Listen, I don't expect you to like every dog you meet, that's just not the way it works, but do you have to be such a butthead?

It's quite possible you didn't get the puppy socialization thing going as a toddler, playing with other dogs OR you could be a very possessive dog - of your humans. Do they look like they are in danger to you? I



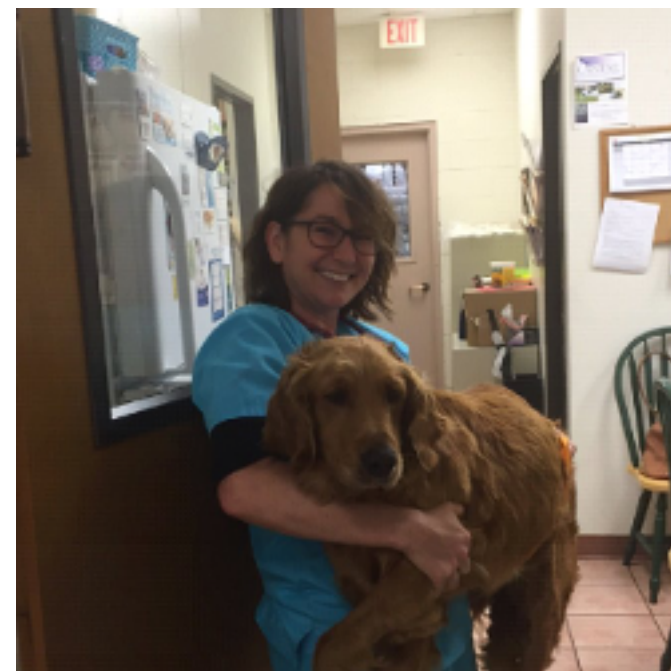
think you should know by now that unless someone's attacking them, they'll be ok.

So, what to do? How about a little training with treats? Got your attention? If you're a well-behaved dog, you will get some goodies when you come upon a nice dog who is minding his own business, providing you stay calm, that is. See? Not so bad, right? If you insist on being a brute, you better get some formal training with a veterinary behaviorist, which I might add, may not be as fun as all the goodies while you're taking your cherished walk in your own neighborhood. Now, get going!

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## ***The Miracle of Rosebud***

*Sandy Balch, pictured here with Dr. Byer from Forest Creek Animal Hospital*



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### **An update from Margo, her foster Mom, April 22nd**

Rosebud's doing great! She is right here in my office now, hanging out next to Wheeler, under a tall cabinet. Rosebud likes tummy rubs and helping us in the yard and eating. As soon as she hears me in the kitchen, she zooms into her crate, just in case it's meal time again. Her favorite treats are freeze dried duck hearts.

She comes up to us more and more often for attention and she acts really happy. She prefers to be indoors unless we escort her outside, but I still haven't heard her bark. She gets intimidated by new things or fast movements, so we are taking it very slow. She really likes it when I sit in the middle of the living room floor in the evenings, so she and the other dogs can cuddle with me. She such a sweet girl, we're really enjoying her and she continues to make progress coming out of her shell. See the whole story below.

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On February 24th, our girl Rosebud (16-007) flew the coop, after arriving home from spay surgery. Rosebud came to GRR after a family posted her on Craigslist as available - she was living in an open field in a lean-to shelter and was eating their chickens. In her new foster home there was also a ranch just behind the homes across the street and Rosebud bolted that way. Of the people we alerted to watch for her were previous GRR adopters of my beloved foster 09-166 Tussey (now Ellie). Marlys and Paul, and their watchful eyes, brought Rosebud home April 7th, 44 long days later.

Six weeks after she got loose, Sunday April 3rd, they spotted her in a field behind their home. What are the chances? That began the great stakeout as Marlys and I, and soon Arlen, began feeding her and working to slowly gain her trust. During those days, she would allow us to throw food to her. Later, she would nab food from our hands and quickly retreat, then she would linger and lick our hands, But, there was never a possibility for us to get more than a quick soft hand on her chin. But we turned a corner Thursday when Rosebud visibly bonded with Marlys. She playfully barked at her to provide food, and was following Marlys, and taking food from her over and over.

After some advice Dr. Ron Stried had given me the day before, we decided to let Marlys interact and I would watch from afar. Just before dusk, Marlys called out that something was happening! Rosebud had not just taken food and licked her hand quickly, but had kept licking it over and over. She had lain down in her 'nest' where she had slept the last few nights. She allowed Marlys to stand with her, then sit with her and then not only touch her, but pet her. She had just finally surrendered and was happy to have Marlys there as her companion and protector!

I decided THIS WAS IT ... we had no idea what would happen and how we would overcome some logistical issues, which we'll leave to the imagination, but we had to try right then before it was too dark and in case this was a fleeting attitude. I brought the leads to Marlys, which Rosebud had been so wary of

just 30 minutes before. She got two slip leads, a Martingale collar and leash on her. Rosebud also allowed me to join them in her nest and pet her. We raised her up, and then carried her back to Marlys' home, handing her to a waiting Paul on their property.

Once in their yard, she allowed Marlys to walk her on a leash. It was only when we were in the front yard and she saw we were taking her to a car that she tried to bolt. Our triple lead system kept her with us and we successfully loaded her into the car for the ride to my home. When I had her in the car it was obvious she had been skunked. Marlys and I spent several hours soothing her as she was frightened and shut down. We did the best we could with a skunk solution sponge bath but she was in need of several super baths!

Friday morning, our wonderful vets at Forest Creek worked her into their busy schedule. Arlen very sweetly was waiting for us to arrive in order to ensure we got her inside safely. A vet tech came to help as well since Rosebud did not want to leave the comfort of the car. While he was carrying her inside, she completely emptied her bladder (which she had been holding since capture) all over the parking lot and those of us standing closely. Poor girl was super scared. She was checked out and is in remarkably good shape. Tests for tick borne and intestinal diseases have been sent off for analysis.

Rosebud is now settling into the home of our president, Margo, who has a calm pack, quiet house and, best of all, no access to a ranch! She reports that Rosebud has been very nervous but is making good strides.

Along with Arlen, Marlys and I, there were a lot of people who have been working to find Rosebud. Carol spent weeks working on her return as did her wonderful foster mom, Brenda, who never gave up - and many more. Marlys and I had the great joy and privilege of being there when she was ready to come home.

As Arlen mentioned on Facebook, GRR is incredibly indebted to Marlys and Paul for what they did for Rosebud. Without them keeping a watchful eye all of these weeks, allowing us to spend all week on their property working with Rosebud, Paul feeding her and giving her water in the mornings, Marlys spending all evening with me on the stakeout; that girl would still be out there in the wilds of Round Rock. How wonderful that she is no longer out there because we have a strong and caring GRR community.

Now go hug your Golden.



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## ***Volunteer Spotlight - Heather Smalley***



**Tell us a little about you and your dogs.**

Currently we have Jack (09-122), our 8 year old GRR Golden, and Trixie, a 6 year old Pug. Jack is the worst possible example of a Golden Retriever: he doesn't retrieve (he only receives), he knocks over small children, he pulls on the leash, he digs holes in the backyard, he is a bolter, he sleeps on the couch, he counter-surfs. He makes the best home visitor because of his ability to show people who have never had a Golden that they're not all angelic, perfect dogs!

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

I have been volunteering with GRR for 15 years. I have fostered, conducted phone interviews, home visits, intake evaluations, served as a matchmaker and adoption director, and served on the board. For at least the past 10 years, I have maintained the Dog List (the master record of all dogs that come into GRR).

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

My favorite part is seeing these happy, kind dogs go into forever homes where they are loved. I always say that GRR is the absolute best at finding top-notch homes. It has made surrender easier in a number of difficult situations when I was able to explain the full foster and adoption process to the families.

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

I have two. One has to be when I took my old, old lady (Sassy 02-035) to a new volunteer training. Sassy had to be at least 13 years old. She looked and moved like a furry Eeyore. As another volunteer (Tracy G.) and I were bragging about how wonderful both of our old lady dogs were, the "delicate" ladies proceeded to get into a Godzilla-Mothra-like fight and had to be pulled apart. The second one was when I took our Ben to do a home visit and he pooped (!) in the living room. I was mortified! Fortunately the family was non-plussed and ended up being long-time GRR volunteers.

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

You don't have to have a ton of time to volunteer with GRR. We can use you for the time you have available. Also, don't be afraid to foster. Yes, you will cry when they go to their forever home, but you will also realize that the forever home is an even better match for that dog than your own home. Of course, you can also expect to find a foster or two that says YOU are their forever home.

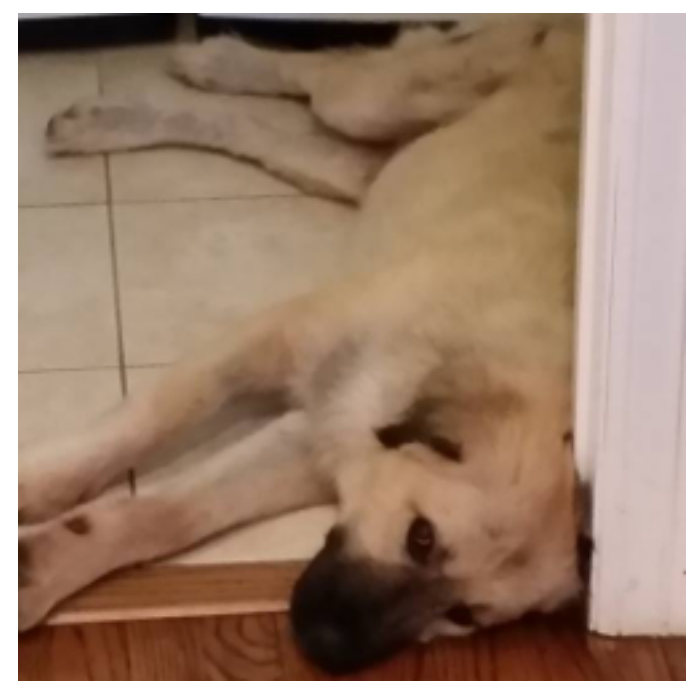
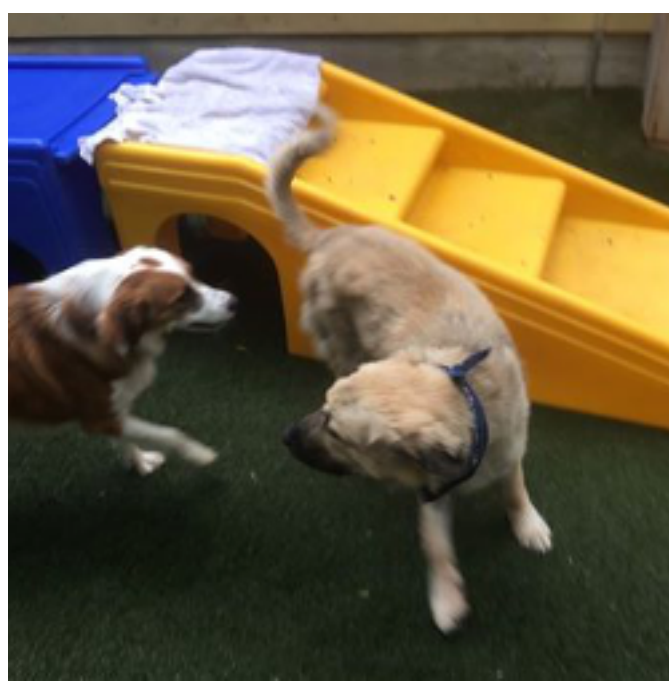
**What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR?**

Rewarding!

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***A Coat of Many Colors - 16-009 Diesel (now Dexter) - Week 12 & 13***

*From fosters David and Lisa Savage (NOW FOSTER FAILURES!!! see below)*



### **Week 13**

Our boy had a good week! There were more playdates, and the best one of all was at the GRR Spring Romp! He (and we) had a great time. He was accepted by all the “real” Golden Retrievers and their people. He was admired by all, as he has come so far. It was great to see old and new GRR friends alike.

We worked on walking in an Easy Walker harness, though I’m still not sure I’ve got it adjusted correctly. I noticed a number of the GRR dogs at the Romp were wearing them. It does help with forward pulling, but he also wants to just park it sometimes on a walk (stare at a bird, watch the people...) and it’s not so great for convincing him to come on along. Careful what you ask for, I guess! I am walking him in both the harness and a Martingale collar, so I can switch back and forth, depending on his momentum, or lack thereof.

We’ve cut back his kibble to about half of what he needed before. A neighbor reminded me “he has gained 20 pounds!” He does not seem to mind the smaller portions, and it’s not as if he isn’t getting extras with treats, etc. He gets DinOVite (yes, as heard on the radio) in a couple tablespoons of plain yogurt every evening, so there’s that...and a scrambled egg on Mondays when my housekeeper is kind enough to give him company, attention and a potty break while she is at our house. She loved our last GRR (2005) dog, Goldie, and it’s nice for everyone in our circle to have another dog in the house after over a year without one. I did have to warn her initially “don’t be scared, it’s not contagious, and he’s really sweet!” Now, no such warnings are needed for anyone. The neighborhood kids are all commenting on the change and asking to pet him now. We take a nightly walk around our circular street so his neighborhood fans can admire and visit with him. He is very friendly to every dog and person we’ve ever met.

Bragging rights: Diesel is so great around the dinner table. He might just check it out once, but then he removes himself to a nearby location and does a very nice “go lie down” without any prompting. He is also quite good while I’m in the kitchen making dinner. He is now content to be nearby (underfoot, sometimes, but not in a bad way), whereas before he was more in the “pest” category during this time of day. The “stay” command is coming along pretty well. I haven’t been emphasizing obedience as much lately, because he is perfect at sit, down and shake.

We will visit the vet again on Wednesday to re-assess the neck cyst that persists despite finishing a course of antibiotics. It’s less inflamed, but still sticks out and periodically drains some fluid. It’s quite noticeable to everyone except him! There is also a bit of new, subtle hair loss on his snout; not sure if any of the demodex is still hanging around, but the rest of his coat is downright impressive, and he is even really soft on his head and ears.

Pictures this week of “Diesel at the Spring Romp” and “I match the furniture, so they don’t notice I’m on it.”

### **Week 12**

“I have new friends!” This week Diesel got to have playdates...YEAH!! He met a new friend named Ginger and got to play with my friend’s dog, Corey, who lives across the street. We had a sort-of playdate with another girl named Mele. Mele is an older alpha Golden Retriever girl, and she put him in his place a few times on a walk before we let them try to play. D-man was completely undeterred and just came back, tail wagging, re-inviting. Mele finally gave him the time of day and they did romp about a bit before she rolled her eyes and said she was done. Diesel is overjoyed with playing with other dogs. He is an assertive playmate, so other confident and ready-to-rumble dogs will be our best friends. Diesel is not the least bit timid or bothered by a dog like Mele, who wants to establish her alpha-ness. He says “But I have my puppyhood!” “And I am fun!” “And I am cute!” “Let’s play lady!”

Diesel’s neck cyst is sort of status-quo. We will finish our antibiotics in another week and re-assess. I am thinking it might need a procedure to really open it up, as it continues to seal over, then drain, then seal over, then drain. It doesn’t bother him in the least, and his seepage-soaking bandanas are a cute accessory anyway.

This guy likes to chew, and I have tried every single chew thing out there. I don't care for stuff that he ingests ("long-lasting" is a claim to be ignored in his case) and have found, thanks to a suggestion by Emily T., that frozen marrow bones from the grocery store are the best bet. This is the one thing he is protective about, however, and we will need to work on that. He does growl and run away with it if we come up to him when he's working on it. Other than that one item, no other such behavior.

Believe it or not, Mr. "Ribby" over here is quite filled out, and we have cut back on his food portions to maintain a waistline. I think his weight is good right at 65 pounds.

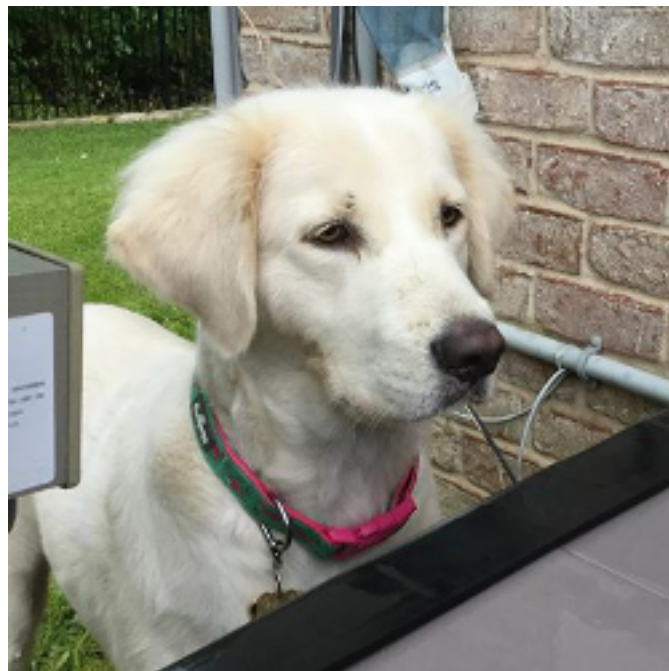
This week's pictures are "Diesel and Ginger" and "I am tired after a long walk and a run-around with Corey" and "No dogs on the furniture".

**Then – Drum Roll Please – foster parents Lisa and David Savage will adopt Diesel/Dexter around Mother's Day, ~05/08/16.**



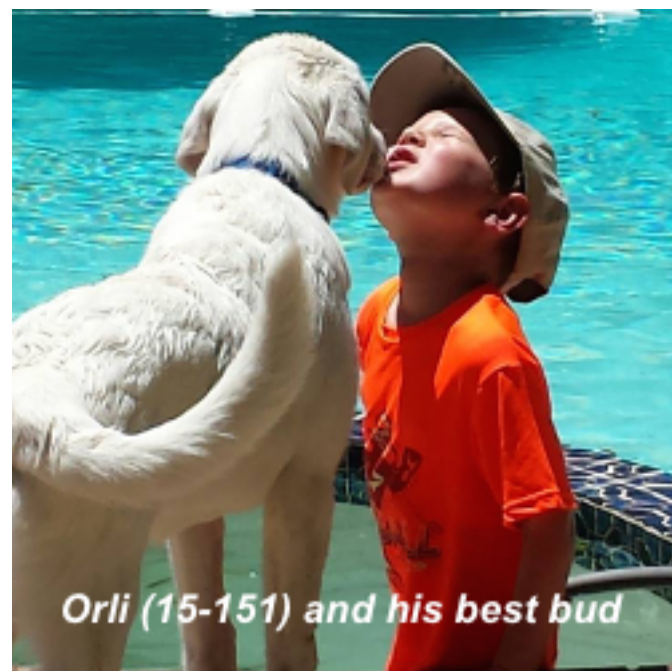
## ***14 Fun Facts About Your Dog's Ears***

**[Dr. Karen Becker](#)**



1. Certain breeds, for example, herding breeds like the Shetland Sheepdog, may have an edge in the hearing department over other breeds due to the jobs they've been bred to do. For example, the sooner a dog protecting a flock of sheep hears a predator or some other danger, the more quickly he can act.
2. Whereas the muscles in human ears seem pretty much useless, the muscles in your dog's ears – around 18 in number – allow for an impressive range of movement.
3. Dogs can tilt, turn, raise, and lower their ears, and move them independently. And for most dogs, the ears significantly enhance their facial expressions.
4. Dogs move their ears not only to hear better, but also to express emotions. The position of your dog's ears can give you clues as to how she's feeling from one moment to the next.

5. You can tell how much attention your dog is paying to you by watching her ears. If they are erect and facing forward, she's engaged, and if they're pulled-back a bit, she's feeling friendly. However, if her ears are laid tightly back against her head, she's probably feeling fearful or shy.
6. Another function of a dog's ear is balance, and in fact, inner ear infections are a frequent cause for loss of balance.
7. The canine ear canal is L-shaped. It's vertical toward the jaw, then takes a 45-degree turn horizontally toward the ear drum. This structure is one of the reasons dogs are prone to a variety of ear issues.
8. Domestic dogs hear at higher frequencies than people do, although not as high as cats. Some whistles can't be heard by human ears, but dogs hear them very clearly.
9. According to scientists, dogs only discriminate resolutions of about one third of an octave. Humans, on the other hand, can discriminate resolutions as fine as one-twelfth of an octave.
10. It is thought that dogs hear about four times better than we do. Cocking his head may help your dog tune in sounds far off in the distance. (Or, it could be he knows how completely irresistible he is with his head cocked!)
11. Puppies are born deaf because their ear canals are still closed. They begin to hear when they are a few weeks old.
12. Dogs are very adept at filtering out some sounds, while remaining alert for others. Have you ever noticed how your dog can hear a car pulling into your driveway or garage over the sound of the TV, the kids playing, or other household noises?
13. Congenital (from birth) deafness has been reported in 85 breeds, for example, Dalmatians. Older dogs can develop hearing problems as well. Tigger, a Bloodhound from St. Joseph, Illinois, holds the Guinness Book of World Records title for longest ears. Tigger's right ear measures 12.75 inches, and his left measures 13.5 inches. Bloodhounds have such long ears to help direct scent to their sensitive noses.
14. Even during the dead of night, the world is still a noisy place for your dog. This is because she can hear sounds you don't even know exist, such as the high-frequency pulse emanating from your digital alarm clock, or the vibrations of termites in the walls.



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## ***For the Kids in All of Us!***

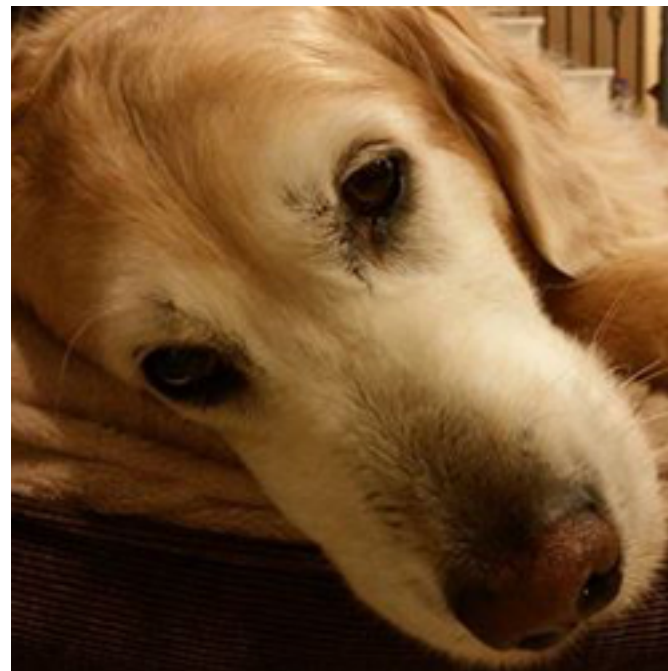
From [Sugar the Golden Retriever](#)

In honor of spring, Sugar The Golden Retriever is offering a giveaway right now. A free printable coloring page of Sugar! Go visit Sugar's page [HERE](#) to download your copy. Happy spring everyone!



***It's Wonderful  
for Healing...so  
why is this so  
very  
uncommon?***

From [Dr. Karen Becker](#)



Does your veterinarian perform post-operative massage on patients after surgery? Dr. Narda Robinson, writing for Veterinary Practice News, encourages DVMs to learn to perform bodywork or employ someone in their practice who does:

*"Gentle, careful, scientific and evidence-informed massage can work wonders for those patients who accept touch and need help recovering from surgery, trauma or a variety of medical conditions."*

*"Even with animals that don't at first welcome hands-on healing, many can learn to relax and appreciate massage when it is delivered with care and respect for the patient's individual physical and emotional receptivity."*

Caring, inspired veterinarians are leading the way in implementing medical massage (defined as the therapeutic manipulation of soft tissues) at their clinics to make post-operative patients more comfortable, and to speed recovery time.

A preview of the full article...

### **Massage for Terminally Ill Pets**

Families of dying pets often feel helpless and are eager to learn simple, beneficial [massage techniques](#) - for example, a gentle backrub or neck massage. This gives family members a way to help their pet relax and rest more comfortably. It gives them the sense they are doing something useful for their animal companion beyond medicating him when he seems upset or frustrated. Massage also helps maintain a powerful physical connection between the guardian and his or her terminally ill pet. Ask your veterinarian about where to go to find an animal massage therapist in your community, search online animal massage resources, or investigate earning an [animal massage certification](#) yourself.

Please click [here](#) for the full article discussing these other subtopics:

- Why Massage Should Be Routine for Post-Op Pets
- Massage Keeps Things Flowing Inside the Body After Surgery
- Massage Affects Almost Every System in the Body
- How Massage Improves Digestion
- Massage Can Also Address Behavior Issues



## ***Six Problems Only Golden Retriever Owners Will Understand*** [BuzzSharer](#)



1. You can never eat dinner without a pair of watching eyes on the side.



2. Just when you think they've grown out of the puppy stage, this happens.



3. You can never say 'no' to those eyes. They'll melt the hardest of hearts.



4. NO other dog can make you feel this guilty just by turning their head.



5. Their wonderfully weird sleeping positions never cease to amaze you.



6. Your bed is no longer just your bed.

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## ***GRR Monthly Status Report: March 15th – April 15th 2016***



**Came into care:** 16-026 Marley, 16-027 Chance, 16-028 Boogie, 16-029 Kaya, 16-030 Nala, and 16-031 Blaze

**Adopted:** 16-011 Nutmeg, 16-015 Tebow, 15-147 Mary, 16-021 Fred, 15-133T Red River, 16-017 Angus, 16-025 Oliver and 16-022 Barney

**Currently in Foster Care:** 37 dogs (12 Available/Available Soon), 16 Foster-Pend-Adopt/Matched, 9 Permanent Fosters

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## ***Help Wanted***

### **Medical Team Member**

20+ hours per week

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, [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 hours a week. Let us know. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#).

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## ***We Want to Hear from You!***

*Dawn Marie Rae*

Each dog adopted from GRR is special; each has a unique story...and each happy ending is a joy to read. We would love to share YOUR adoption story with our readers. We'd also like to hear a memorial from you if you have lost your GRR dog and would like to pay tribute to them in the newsletter. We welcome article submissions and suggestions on other topics of interest, too.

Not a good writer? It doesn't matter! Just tell us your story and we'll edit it as needed. Help us share your dog's story.

If you would like to contribute something, we'd love to hear it! If you think your story is one our readers would enjoy, please submit it via email to [Dawn Marie Rae](#). (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.

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