

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

October 2015



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

Join GRR:

Your Membership Expired or Expires on

Click this [link](#) to join or renew your membership

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](#)

Newsletter Editor:
Dawn Marie Rae

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

Gold Ribbon Rescue

A Message From Our President



I'd like to reiterate our urgent plea for foster families that has already gone out to all of GRR's social media platforms. We have 45 dogs in foster homes and still we bring in more dogs from shelters and from owner turn-ins. If you can help and are approved, contact us [here](#). If you are not approved, please fill out our application [here](#). We need your help to provide these beautiful dogs a home until they can be adopted. See the article below called 'A Circle of Love - A Plea for Foster Families' for more details.

Also, we have some exciting news! We've decided to join the effort to rescue abandoned Golden Retrievers in Turkey! We are looking at committing to taking in 10 Goldens, and the possibility of partnering with other interested Golden rescues to take in a total of 18 (otherwise known as a "pallet of Goldens"). More details will be coming as we work out the time-frame and the logistics. Goldens in Central Texas will always be our primary focus. Stay tuned!

In this issue you'll find three beautiful memorials to dogs we've recently lost, Jake, Sake, and Beau, Dear Goldie has a bolter to contend with, and you can learn more about the early signs of hyperthyroidism.

Enjoy!

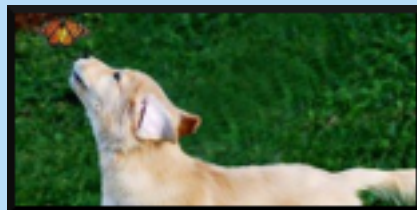
-Margo

The Golden Gala: Texas Four-Step Style

Presented by Gold Ribbon Rescue at the home of:

Susan and Chris Wilson
3410 Windy Harbor Drive

PO Box 956
Austin, TX 78767
512 659-4653
www.grr-tx.com



Austin, Texas 78734

Saturday, October 17, 2015
7:00 – 10:30 pm
Attire: Texas Hill Country (casual/dressy casual)

Appetizers, Dinner, Dancing and Silent Auction

Come and join us! You can register [here](#). Tickets are \ \$65.00 a person. Registration closes October 10th.

A our silent auction needs donated items. Please send an email to [Paula Ellis](#) or to [Pam Phillips](#) if you have any items you would like to donate. All items are tax-deductible.



Upcoming and Current Events

Dogtoberfest

October 17th, 2015
10:00 - 4:00pm
At the Domain
11410 Century Oaks Terrace, Austin, 79758

GRR Fall Splashfest / Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 31st, 2015
10:00am - 12:00pm
11400 N Mopac Expy Austin, Texas 78759
The event is \$25 per family (unlimited dogs) to help us cover the rental fee and food. Breakfast tacos, pastries drinks are included. The beach area of the lake will be blocked off, so your dogs can enjoy splashing around, leash-free! All well-mannered dogs welcome. Please make sure your dogs are up to date on their vaccinations. See a map to the Quarries [here](#).

Please note that the Annual Meeting will be conducted here as well. If you paid last spring for the Splashfest that was cancelled due to weather, your registration fee will apply.

Snout by Snoutwest Dog Festival

Sunday, November 8th
12:00pm - 3:00pm
JCC Austin, Soccer Fields
7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas
\$5 Adult/Free for Kids under 12 and Dogs
Note: Read more about this wonderful event [here](#).



A Circle of Love - A Plea for Foster Families

Emily Tuczowski

Summer here in Central Texas is soon coming to an end, and everyone is looking forward to cooler temperatures, beautiful fall foliage, and the start of the holiday season. Unfortunately, what is not coming to an end is our need for foster homes.

It seems that every year, about this time, we send out a plea asking former adoptive homes, former foster homes, and our supporters for their help. We often worry that such repeated pleas will eventually find themselves quickly dropped into the trash bin.

If you're reading this, most likely you have one or more Golden foot-warmers nearby. Take a moment and think about what it took for that joyful foot-warmer to have found his or her way to your home (and feet).

“

A Circle of Love!

Know that I am safe.
Know that I am loved.
Know that I am cared for.
Know that regardless from where I started, you showed me love and patience.
Know that finding you wasn't something that "just happened".

”

These are the rings of the **Circle of Love** for our GRR dogs:

A call to our hotline or an email from someone

- About a neglected dog
- About a dog that was once well loved, but whose family fell on hard times
- About a dog who lost their owner from illness.

Then, perhaps, some much needed vet care

Next, placing our dogs in a foster home

- A foster home who nurses a dog back to health
- Shows neglected dogs the meaning of love
- Introduces them to the idea of being a part of a family

We need foster families badly. Our **Goldens** need you. The ring on this Circle of Love is very close to being torn apart. GRR continues to take in more dogs than we have foster homes to handle. We're asking for help. It's not the first time, and it certainly won't be the last, but the urgency doesn't change.

Our immediate needs are for foster homes willing to take a heartworm positive dog through treatment, or take in the Goldens we are getting in from the Palm Valley area and who typically have treatable respiratory illnesses.

We will accommodate whatever parameters you put in place – you tell us what you can handle. We will make it happen!

If you would like to help us get a Golden to the final ring in their Circle of Love and are already approved, please [contact](#) us OR fill out a foster application [here](#). Note: the application for fostering is the same as for adoption.

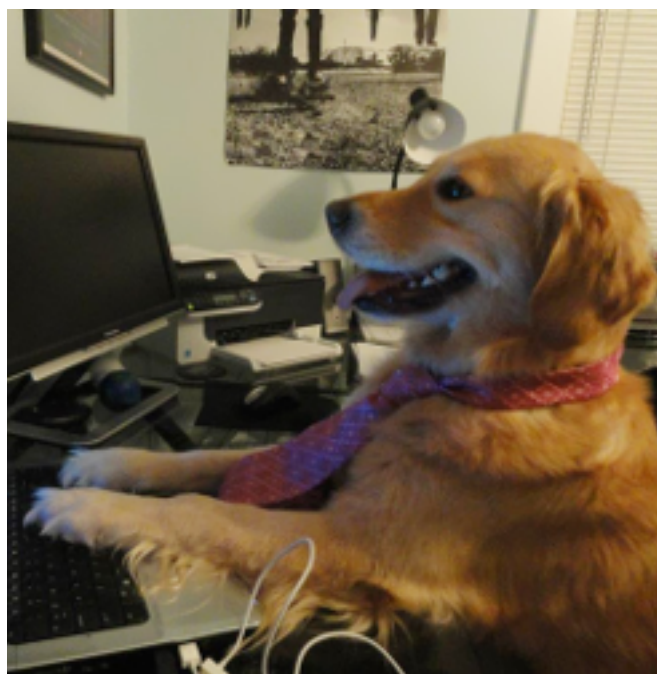
And the last ring of the Circle of Love for our Goldens?

Know that I am safe. Know that I am loved. Know that I am cared for. Know that regardless of where I started, you showed me love and patience. Know that finding you wasn't something that "just happened".

We so appreciate your support,

Gold Ribbon Rescue

The GRR Boutique - check it out!



Great news to share! We have officially opened our online boutique of Gold Ribbon Rescue items.

Find what you're looking for yourself or great gifts for your friends. You'll find unique merchandise with the GRR logo and designs on t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, hats and more. Proceeds from each sale goes towards defraying the medical costs of our foster dogs in care.

Please check out the site [here](#) and keep an eye out for even more new and fun additions to our little

In Loving Memory - Jake (Expressway 15-026)

Greg and Allison Frank



On Mar 28 Jake (Lorax, Expressway) was united with us through the GRR. He accepted us right off the bat, and he quickly won our hearts. Jake came to us with a few medical issues to that included heartworms so we had to keep him calm during his treatment period. Yeah right, we are supposed to keep an energetic 2 year-old Golden calm! Nonetheless he was a trooper and we all got through his treatments successfully. Although the treatments are supposed to be very painful, he never showed any signs of being in pain and was always a ray of sunshine.

We have always had a dog in our lives, but Jake was definitely unique. He loved, loved, loved to watch TV, especially the nature channel and his favorite new series, Zoo. When we would turn to his shows, he would hurry from his bedding and sit very alert right in front of the TV soaking in everything. He was funny to watch, sniffing and looking around the floor speaker trying to find the animals that he watched.

Jake was such a goofball too. He was always ready to play, regardless if it was indoors or out. He loved to play with his antler, stuffed toy or tennis ball on his bed. He was learning to fetch and very quickly learned to catch the Frisbee. He got along well with other dogs and humans, and enjoyed the attention he received from our friends who all thought he was very sweet, extremely handsome and well mannered.

He seemed to always light up when we entered the room. He seemed happiest when he could be near us, which he assured us was when at all possible. We quickly learned to walk around him in the bathroom, kitchen, etc. Wherever we were, he was there as well, if he could be. We didn't mind, as we understood, having had a Golden previously for 14 years.

His quick passing on September 1st was very difficult for us, but we took comfort in knowing he was not alone when he passed. His time with us, albeit short, was hopefully a very happy time for him. His passing is very fresh in our hearts but nonetheless our hearts are filled with joy as a result of the love he showered on us! We will always cherish the time that we got to be together. We believe he is now running and playing with our previous 2 dogs, who we know received and welcomed him to his new heavenly home with love.



In Loving Memory - Our Memorials Website Page

Dawn Marie Rae



Losing a Golden, or any dog for that matter, is painful and heart breaking. Everyone here at GRR mourns right alongside you. Sometimes, it is cathartic to pay tribute publicly and sometimes, it's just too hard to talk and write about. We totally understand.

But if you feel comfortable writing up a short tribute, we would love to have you share your memories with us. Please send your thoughts and a photo to [Dawn Marie Rae](#) and she will make sure it gets to the right people to post on our [Memorials](#) page. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter with the same text, please indicate this as well.

Bob the Dog

- by Bob the Dog



A Golden Retriever walks into a room with eight birds and one hamster. What happens next?

This scene sounds like it's setting up some silly punch line, but this is no joke - it's a real life situation and it's glorious.

Bob the dog is a Golden Retriever who lives in Brazil and chills with multiple birds and one fat little hamster. As of Monday, he has [over 53,000 followers on Instagram](#) and [12,000 likes on his Facebook page](#). But like any celebrity, a star needs a squad, and Bob's crew rolls deep. In his photos, there are at least eight birds featured, along with a furry gray hamster. Some pictures are just of Bob and one bird snuggled under a blanket, others show the hamster perched on his nose, but the best photos show all 10 animals sprawled out in their interspecies glory. It's too much!

See an article about Bob the dog in [People Magazine](#).

A Tribute to Our GRR Veterinarians

Barbara Tankey



[Manchaca Village Veterinary Care](#) (South Austin)

Manchaca Village Veterinary Care provides caring and dedicated help for rescued a large number of our GRR dogs. When you adopt from GRR, Manchaca Village offers deeply discounted "new pet" services.

[Village Veterinary Hospital](#) (Bee Cave/West Austin area)

[Spicewood Springs Animal Hospital](#) (Central Austin)

Spicewood Springs Animals Hospital is committed to a high level of medicine in a warm and compassionate environment. This commitment extends to providing help for many of the dogs that end up in the care of GRR.

[Forest Creek Animal Hospital](#) (Round Rock)

Forest Creek Animal Hospital strives to provide the highest quality medicine for everyone's small animal companions. This goal also comes into play with the compassion and attention they show towards the GRR dogs that they help.

[Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospital](#) (South Austin & Round Rock)

Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospitals has been providing exceptional care for 20 years and they extend that care beyond personal family pets to some of our wonderful GRR dogs.

[VCA North West Hills](#) (Central Austin)

VCA always welcomes you, your dog, your cat and numerous other types of pets. This welcome is also graciously extended to some of our special GRR dogs who need their special care.

[Sunset Canyon Veterinary Clinic](#) (Dripping Springs)

This multi-doctor veterinary hospital offers a multitude of services performed by experienced veterinarians. Among their patients is the occasional GRR dog coming from the Dripping Springs area that need their high level of comfort and care.

[Veterinary Cardiology & Medicine Services](#) (South Austin)

Working through referrals from GRR's other veterinarians, Dr. Charla Jones, a board certified veterinary cardiologist, provides cardiac care when it is needed for some of GRR's dogs that may require that type of specialized care.

[Veterinary Eye Center](#) (Central Austin)

The Veterinary Eye Center offers optimal veterinary care for eye problems in your pets. They share their compassion and concern by helping dogs that come into GRR requiring eye care.

[All Creatures Mobile Clinic](#) (Austin)

[Emergency Animal Hospital of NW Austin](#) (multiple locations)

These facilities offer both daytime critical and intensive care as well as after hour emergency care. They offer their services to some our most needy GRR dogs.

[Emergency Pet Care of Round Rock](#)

Sometimes problems arise with our special GRR dogs that simply can't wait for attention until a regular doctor is back in the office. Emergency Pet Care is there to help when this happens in the Round Rock area.

[Converse Animal Hospital](#) (East San Antonio) Converse Animal Hospital is a full service animal hospital and is proud to offer both emergency assistance as well as less urgent medical, surgical, and dental veterinary services. They offer their help for some of our GRR dogs that come from the San Antonio area.

[Family Pet Hospital of Stone Oak](#) (San Antonio)

The staff at Family Pet Hospital of Stone Oak believes that all animals deserve compassion. That's why they are willing to help with San Antonio-area GRR dogs when the need arises.

[Compassionate Care Veterinary Services](#) (San Antonio)

Compassionate Care practices holistic veterinary medicine as well as traditional. Holistic medicine is often used as a last resort when all other traditional treatments have failed. Whether traditional or holistic, they offer their compassionate care to GRR dogs when the need arises.

[Angel of Mercy Animal Critical Care](#) (San Antonio)

Incoming GRR dogs in the San Antonio area are often taken to Angel of Mercy. They are there to fulfill the need for veterinary emergency and critical care after normal business hours.

[San Marcos Veterinary Clinic](#) (San Marcos)

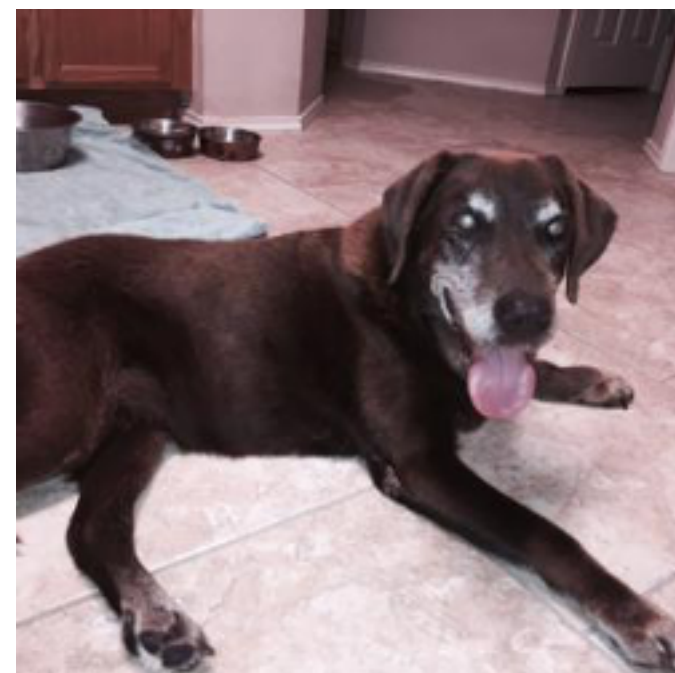
San Marcos Veterinary Clinic is family owned and operated and the entire staff is dedicated to providing the best care option for your pet and family and for GRR dogs in need of care in the San Marcos area.

[Town & Country Animal Hospital](#) (Kerrville)

Town & Country Animal Hospital has been serving the Hill Country for 30 years. Part of those many years of service has been devoted to helping golden retrievers taken in in the Kerrville area before they make their journey to GRR.

Ginger (15-095) and Mylee (15-096) - A Wonderful Story of Companionship

Deb Alme



This time around in my foster duty I got lucky - two-for-one special! Not only did I get Mylee, a petite little Golden Gal, I got her sister, Ginger, a rather petite Chocolate Lab, as well. Two dogs are always better than one, right?

Their owner was moving overseas and unable to take them along. Mylee and Ginger have been together since Mylee was 8 weeks old and their owner was so grateful that we are keeping them together. You may be asking yourself what is so special about this pair. Well, about 5 years ago Ginger developed cataracts and lost her sight. Mylee stepped up to the plate to help her big sister out.

When we go for walks, they are attached to a dual lead so Mylee can help Ginger around. When they first came here Mylee did not let Ginger out of her sight. Now that Ginger is more comfortable Mylee gives her some space. Ginger is good at finding her way around. She walks cautiously and if she bumps into something she backs up and corrects herself. She got to know the lay of the land pretty quickly. They are both sweet, sweet gals who love to go for walks, nap and get belly rubs. I know whoever adopts them will be very, very happy!

Mylee and Ginger are looking for a forever home. If you would like to learn more about these two wonderful dogs, contact your [matchmaker](#). See their profiles on the website [here](#).

In Loving Memory - Sake (01-103)

Margaret Fitzgerald



We said goodbye to Sake (01-103) today. He would have been 15 in October. It has been a rough couple of days and we learned this morning he had cancer in his spleen and liver. We will miss him greatly but are at peace with our very difficult decision. We were his 6th home when we adopted him in Sept. 2001, but we were his last. He was a very bright, high-energy pup who needed 2 walks a day, who could hike for 10 miles and come home and chase a squirrel. He was my protective one, my hiking buddy, and my sleeping companion when Scott traveled. He loved his pile of ice from Zachary every day. He was strong as an ox and unbelievably agile, which made it so hard when he lost his eyesight. Sake, I hope you and Syrah are chasing each other, playing bitey-face and playing tug of war again in heaven. I miss you and your sister terribly.

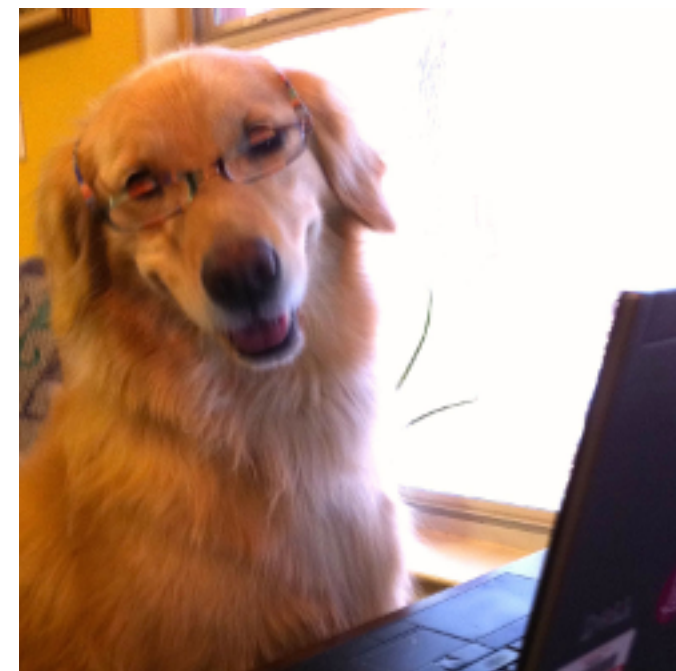
Dear Goldie

Dawn Marie Rae

That glorious chime, that Golden doorknob, the sound of the UPS truck. Oh what joy! The opportunity to chase critters outside. Oh it's just unbelievable Goldie. I am the coolest escape artist on the block and I'm yelling at the top of my lungs, 'Dad, look at me, look at ME!'

There's a big problem though. My Dad does NOT like it and tells me I could get run over by a car in my so-called joy. Even the neighbors are mad at me when they're walking their dogs, because I want to play with their furry kids. How can something so fun get my Dad so mad? What a party-poopers!

- Door Dasher in Dripping Springs



Dear Dasher,

Sigh. Don't you get embarrassed when Dad is disciplining you right in the middle of the street, in front of the neighbors, AND their dogs? Then, you have to endure that tail-between-the-legs look when you come back home. Not pretty at all. Don't you feel even a little bit humiliated? Your reputation must be redeemed!

You can recover your standing all around by having Dad teach you the 'wait' command. And get this, every step you learn, you get a little treat.

Step 1: Reward for waiting a few feet back from the door while Dad turns the door knob.

Step 2: Reward for waiting while Dad opens the door a crack.

Step 3: Reward for waiting while Dad opens the door halfway, and then all the way. He might have to put your leash on though.

Step 4: Reward for waiting while Dad steps outside the door.

Double the fun and go on a walk. Treats AND a walk? Dasher, what in the world are you waiting for? Get popular again!

GRR Monthly Status Report: August 15th - September 15th



Came into care: 15-092 Tac, 15-093 Razi, 15-094 Sissy, 15-095 Ginger, 15-096 Mylee, 15-097 Shaye, 15-098 Memphis, 15-099 Ramona, 15-100 Frazier, 15-101 Buster, 15-102 Duce, 15-103 Cash, 15-104 Zoey, 15-105 Prince, 15-106 Buffy

Adopted: 15-022 Diamond, 15-053 Reggie, 15-089 Max, 15-055 Kai, 15-103 Cash, 15-099 Ramona, 15-037 Indiana, 15-094 Sissy

Currently in Foster Care: 45 (17 Available Now/Soon, 21 Foster Pending Adoption, 15 Matched, 7 Permanent Fosters)

Volunteer Spotlight - Susan Wilson

Pictured here are Harry (06-149), the red dog. Sandy is the blonde dog.



How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I'm not sure when I started volunteering, but I'd say 4-5 years.

What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

We adopted Harry in 2007, and after having him for a couple of years, our home wasn't ready for another, but I wanted to help GRR, so I attended a volunteer training and started out on Hotline.

What volunteer position do you hold?

I do a variety of volunteer tasks for GRR, but my current focus is on Fundraising. Over the years, I have worked the Hotline, done phone interviews, home visits, transport, follow-up calls, volunteer orientation, event planning, fostering and transport.

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

This really varies, due to my career and travel schedule. Some weeks I spend up to 10 hours or so, and other weeks, I spend about an hour total.

What is your favorite part above all?

Knowing that I am making a small contribution to helping show Central Texas Golden Retrievers what being in a safe, loving home feels like, and helping complete families with their four-legged, Golden family members.

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

Unrelated to fundraising, my favorite stories are of the “gotcha” days for our foster dogs. People often ask how my husband Chris and I can let a foster dog go after getting attached to it. Often times, though we think our foster dog has fallen in love with us and has slid right into being part of our family and household, when the dog meets his/her adoptive family, and when it is “right”, the bond is obvious and instantaneous. We have had so many of our foster dogs who absolutely cling to their new family members, right from the start, and the match is undeniable. It is at that moment that we are given the strength to let them go, because we know they are on to an amazing future.

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

Fundraising requires creativity, but not pushiness, or even an outgoing personality. The ways to raise the funds needed to support Gold Ribbon Rescue are nearly infinite; it just takes time and effort from people who are passionate about our nonprofit mission.

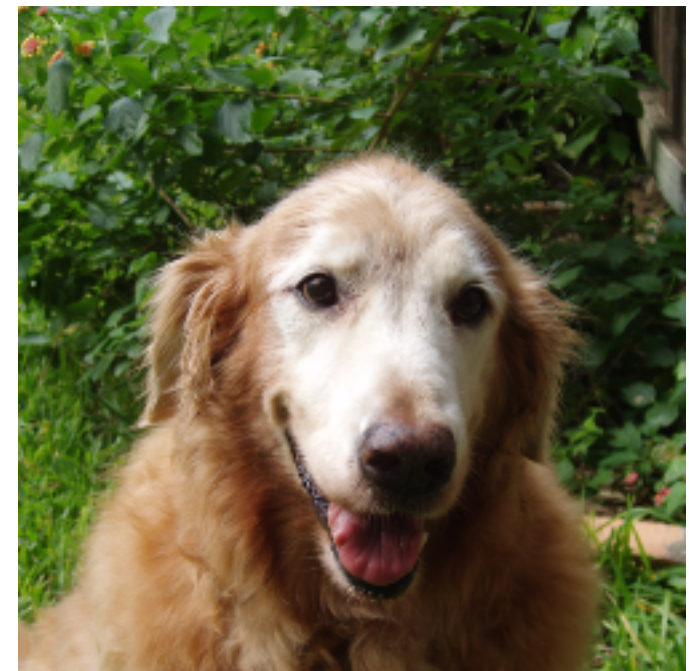
What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR?

Family. Because people who have an affinity for the Golden Retriever breed have a common bond; we are a **family**. Because GRR volunteers will pull out all the stops on a moment’s notice, as a **family**, to move a dog from a bad situation to a better one. Because the Golden Retrievers that are rescued, fostered and adopted get to finally live the life of a loving **family**. And because the Golden Retrievers we rescue and place will complete the **family** of the adoptive household.

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to [Sheila Thomas](#).

In Loving Memory - Beau (14-081)

Cam Snyder



Beau was happiness on four legs. Perhaps the best way to describe Beau was that he understood he was a dog, and really enjoyed being one.

He unconditionally loved everyone, and became a favorite at the dog park where he would circulate until he had visited everyone, human or canine. Then it was time to find a nice stick to chew on.

He loved to amble along the paths, stopping frequently to investigate something that smelled interesting. At first, this was a little frustrating to me because I wanted to keep walking, but learned to let Beau set the pace and just mosey along with him. Our walks became the most relaxing part of the day.

He loved popcorn, hackberry leaves and sticks. His favorite sticks were pecan limbs about an inch or so wide, which he would slowly chew into small pieces.

He had one strange habit - pushing doors open or closed to see what was behind them. Two or three times he got himself trapped in the front bedroom because the door only opened inward. Beau’s solution: take a nap until he was rescued.

He was a big boy, about 100 pounds when he was rescued, and could be a little stubborn, suggesting there was a little Great Pyrenees in his background.

He had seizures, mast cell cancer and spinal problems, but his personality stayed true until shortly before his passing, when he let me know it was time. He was a trusted friend and companion and I always felt safe when he was around.

We Want to Hear from You!

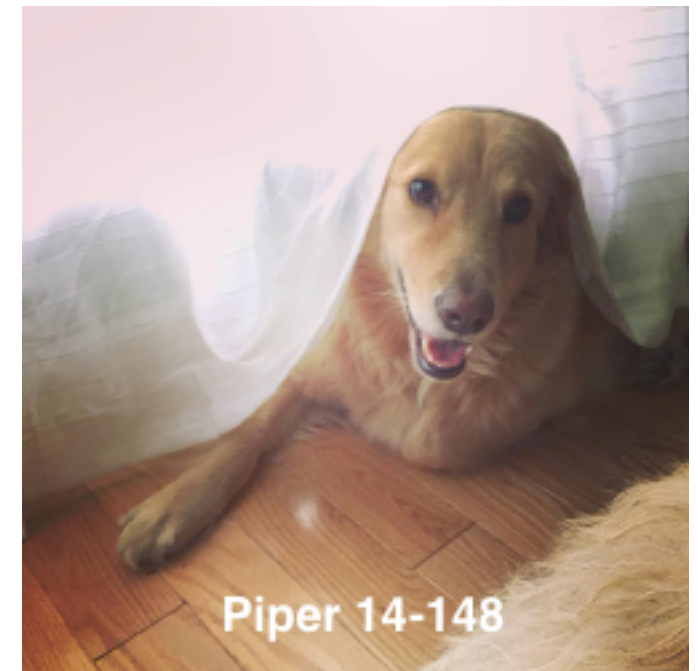
Dawn Marie Rae

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.

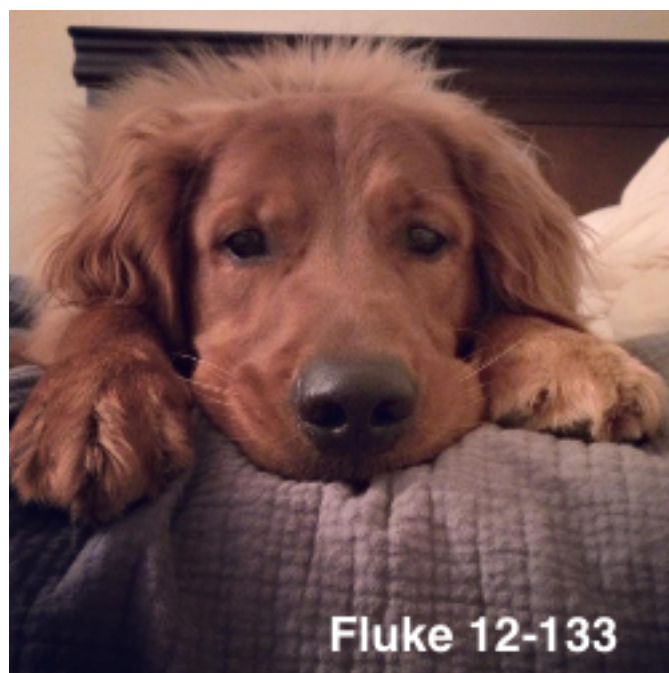
If you would like to contribute something, we'd love to hear it! If you think your story is one our readers would enjoy, please submit it via email to Dawn Marie Rae. (Please include a photo or two (in landscape format) in your e-mail and the dog's GRR number and former name, if appropriate. Please limit your article to 500 words or less.)

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month.



Golden Retriever Rescue Activity, 2014

Carol Allen, Chair, National Rescue Committee



Eighty-five Golden Retriever Rescue organizations reported their activity for 2014. Nine programs declined to participate and four others are considered "referral," meaning they function by linking available dogs with interested people without first legally accepting the dogs for care into their programs.

A total of 8,009 dogs were accepted by these 85 programs, ranging from one dog to over 400. This represents an almost 9 percent decrease over 2013.

At the same time, over \$6,000,000 in veterinary costs in 2014 is fairly consistent with 2013, except that the per dog veterinary cost rose to \$753 per dog, which represents a 12 percent increase over the similar data for 2013. For total program costs, the increase was 20 percent per dog higher in 2014 than in 2013. On average, one program a year converts to the "facility model" from

the "foster home model," and it is well understood that this is because facilities are impossible to operate without paid staff and structure costs (e.g. purchase, maintenance, etc.), resulting in higher total costs for those programs with facilities.

Likely the most significant data for readers of Golden Retriever News will be this: where have the purebred Goldens gone? In 2013, 6,274 purebred Goldens were rescued and rehomed. In 2014, 5,536 purebred Goldens were rescued, reflective of a 12 percent decrease. And this level of decrease has been apparent over the last several years. At the same time, 90 percent of our programs report that they have more qualified adoption applicants than they have Goldens available for adoption.

Why is this the case? Perhaps, and ideally, it can be assumed that public awareness has increased, thanks to public education, and that people are making wiser choices about their readiness and ability to add a dog to their household. That would certainly be one positive reason for the decline. Unfortunately, though, the increased use of outlets, such as craigslist.org, as a quick and easy way of "disposal", clearly affects the decrease in numbers. Our biases tell us that a rescue program is a safer, kinder way of rehoming a dog than Craigslist, although not as quick. Also, shelters are increasingly able to place Goldens without contacting Golden Retriever Rescue programs. Nearly all of our programs report that a Golden comes from a shelter to them only if the dog is senior, ill or with behaviors causing adoption to be problematic.

We often say “rescue takes many forms.” So does breed loyalty. Support of rescue work is just as much breed loyalty as is quality breeding, conformation and performance events. We are proud to display our breed loyalty.

Editor's note: GRR participates in this survey.

The EARLY Signs of Hypothyroidism

From Dogs Naturally Magazine. To see the full article, click [here](#).

If your normally sweet natured dog has suddenly become snappy or even unexpectedly aggressive, you naturally wonder what's going on. So, you take him to the vet to rule out any illness or injury. Your vet does a physical exam and can't find anything that might be causing pain or discomfort and they suggest putting him on anti-anxiety medication to see if that helps. But you feel there must be another reason for your dog's behavior change ... and you're probably right. What many vets may not consider is the possibility that your dog's suffering from hypothyroidism.

Note: A tight or prong collar on a dog who pulls a lot can also cause extensive thyroid damage so using a harness will avoid injury when walking him or her.

Hypothyroidism Symptoms

The classic symptoms of hypothyroidism are familiar to many: weight gain, sluggishness, bad skin, hair loss and dislike of the cold. If we saw these symptoms, we'd probably think about getting our dog's thyroid tested. These are the symptoms veterinarians are trained to look for, too.



But according to Dr. Jean Dodds, these classic clinical symptoms don't occur until 70 percent of the thyroid is already damaged! And once the thyroid is damaged, it doesn't regenerate. So, instead of waiting for these symptoms to appear, it's really important to recognize the early symptoms that may indicate a damaged thyroid.

Early Symptoms

So, getting back to the grumpy dog we talked about at the beginning of the article ... it turns out that a key early symptom of thyroid damage is – guess what – behavioral problems!

Adult dogs who suddenly start snapping are a good example of the kind of change you might observe. Your dog might start being fearful out of the blue, or displaying aggression. You might see submissive or obsessive compulsive behaviors.

Dogs who gain weight when they're not being overfed (known as idiopathic obesity) are also displaying early symptoms of thyroid damage.

You might also see changes in your dog's face. The eyes may look different, the brow can look furrowed, or you may even see a cleft above the eyes. Dr. Dodds recommends taking regular photos of your dog so you can see the changes that take place!

So if you see a sudden behavior change in your dog, perhaps along with some weight gain without any change in diet, it's a very good idea to have your dog's thyroid tested.

What To Ask For

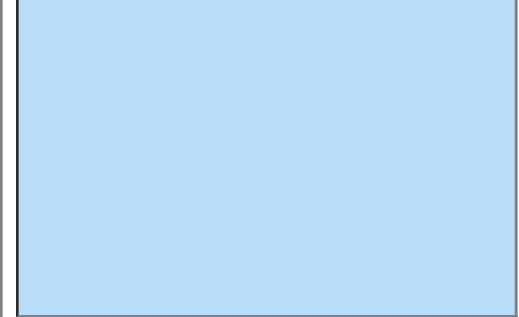
The right kind of testing is important when diagnosing hypothyroidism. Be careful! Many vets will just test the T4 level and diagnose based on that alone.

Both Dr. Dodds and Dr. Goldstein warn that the T4 test alone is useless because it can be affected by many other factors such as diet and medications. Diagnosis should never be based on T4 alone.

Instead, make sure you get a complete thyroid antibody profile, measuring at least T3, T4, Free T3, Free T4, and TgAA.

Treatment Options

If your dog is diagnosed with hypothyroidism, there are many natural therapies that may help before resorting to conventional synthetic thyroid replacement. Be sure to consult a holistic vet about dietary changes as well as nutritional, nutraceutical and glandular therapies that can support your dog's thyroid function.



For more detailed information, watch the video, "What's New in Thyroid Disorders" with Dr. Dodds and Dr. Queenechie [here](#). To learn about natural treatments for Hypothyroidism, click [here](#)
