



Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

September 2015









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Click this <u>link</u> 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.

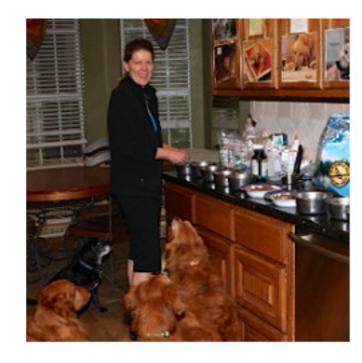
**Volunteer** 

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

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

**Gold Ribbon Rescue** 

# A Message From Our President



This summer, we've seen all of the facets of rescuing Goldens: the sad, the happy, the heartbreak, the joy.

We all love the happy stories and the 'easy dogs' that come in. We see a beautiful dog has been brought back to life with a little medical care and a LOT of TLC. We get to see the photos of smiling and excited new owners and the heartwarming pictures of a now content and well-loved Golden. Their owners share their progress after adoption and beyond, leaving us with a job-well-done feeling. And our summer did start well. Our Memorial Day puppies, all of which are beautiful, happy and healthy, are now adopted. These are the absolutely wonderful parts, aren't they? But rescuing has its downsides, too. Of course it does.

The Gem Puppies - They came to us with distemper, and 5 are now gone from us, even after weeks and weeks of medical care. Today, we only have little Topaz. Of course, we love her, too.

**Mylee and Ginger** - Their owner called, needing to surrender the dogs because he was moving abroad. Of course, we said that we would take Mylee, a beautiful, 7 year-old purebred Golden. Ginger, their other dog, is a 12 year-old Chocolate Labrador who is blind and depends on Mylee to help her get around. There was no hesitancy in Intake Director, Jacki Mulkey's response to the family, "Of course we will take both dogs." We couldn't humanely split these two dogs up at this time in their lives. Of course not.

The Dallas/Forth Worth Golden Retriever Rescue – Sadly, they are closing their doors after 30+ years of rescue and they have asked us to take four of their dogs. Of course we will help.

All of these are things that make our work bitter AND sweet are reminders. Reminders of how fortunate GRR is to have a wonderful dedicated group of volunteers and donors. I truly appreciate all that you do day-in-and-day-out for GRR. Of course I do!

A big shout out to all of you who donated to our \$5 Challenge! We raised \$3785 in two weeks and the funds go into the foster care and medical costs for our Goldens.

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





Our Golden Gala: Texas Four-Step Style is getting underway and we are launching Name That Golden this month. Watch for more details soon.

**In this issue**, you will find Dear Goldie in mourning, see updates from Atlanta and Birmingham's Turkey Dogs and read loving tributes to Casey and Oakley.

Enjoy!

-Margo



# The Golden Gala: Texas Four-Step Style

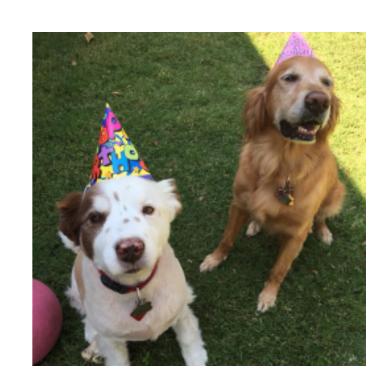
Presented by Gold Ribbon Rescue at the home of:

Susan and Chris Wilson 3410 Windy Harbor Drive Austin, Texas 78734

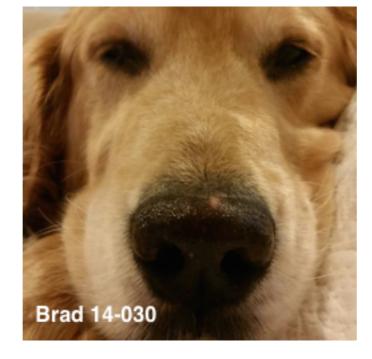
Saturday, October 17, 2015 7:00 – 10:30 pm Attire: Texas Hill Country

Appetizers, Dinner, Dancing and Silent Auction

**Look for your invitation after Labor Day!** 



# **Upcoming and Current Events**





**GRR 2016 Calendar thumbnail submissions:** Send photos of your fur babies to <u>Kathy Simmons</u> for your chance to show off in the calendar! If you want a special date or even a special image, click <u>here.</u> **Entries due by September 15th.** 

### San Antonio Meet Up

Two Bros. BBQ Market

October 3rd, 2015 (rain date October 10)

2 - 4 PM

12656 West Avenue

San Antonio, Texas 78216

On leash please. Water pails/bowls and waste bags will be supplied. There is a grassy area and plenty of room for everyone, including a playground. Please RSVP to <u>Cathy Smith</u> by September 25th with the number of people attending. Just south of Wurzbach Parkway on West Avenue. Come and join us! GRR and non-GRR dogs welcome!

#### **Dogtoberfest**

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

### **GRR Fall Splashfest**

Saturday, October 31st, 2015 10:00am - 12:00pm 11400 N Mopac Expy Austin, Texas 78759

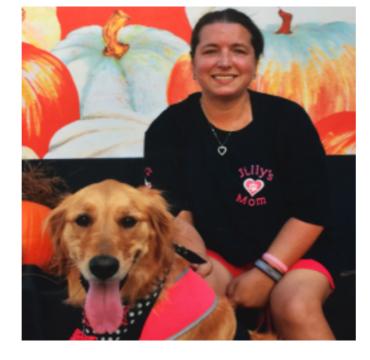
The event is \$25 per family (unlimited dogs) to help us cover the rental fee and food. Breakfast tacos, pastries drinks are included. The beach area of the lake will be blocked off, so your dogs can enjoy splashing around, leash-free! All well-mannered dogs welcome. Please make sure your dogs are up to date on their vaccinations. See a map to the Quarries <a href="here.">here.</a>

### **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

## Foster Family of the Month - Kimberly Thomas

Kimberly Thomas (Pictured here are Jilly and Theo 15-082





I've kind of been a GRR "stalker" for a few years through the website and Facebook. About a year ago I decided to foster and started the process but, due to other circumstances, I didn't actually start until a few months ago. So far I've fostered Willow 15-051, Allison 15-067 (only for a few days as she "loved" the resident cat too much), and Theo 15-082. They spoiled me! They are angels! No potty accidents and no chewing of my belongings. Neither cared about the resident cat, Simon (minus Allison)! I'm in heaven! My non-GRR Golden, Jilly, loves them all, too. She loves to have playmates and shares all of her toys as well as her mama! I couldn't ask for a better foster sister for Goldens that need us. She plays a huge role in their success.

I enjoy fostering simply because they need us! Goldens are some of the most resilient, loving, smart, sweet, gorgeous (I could go on...) dogs out there! It doesn't matter what they've been through. They just know how to love and do that very well. I've seen pictures of some of the intakes and there is NO way they would have been adopted out of a shelter. A few months with GRR and they are a completely different dog with their forever families. They just needed a chance. GRR gives them that chance. Plus, have you not seen their faces? Who could say no to those sweet faces! They also make me a better person! Try looking at the world through the eyes of a golden.

The best part about fostering for me is the chance to see them thrive; to see their trust build each day; to see a bit more wag in their tail and give a few golden kisses for no special reason other than because you love them; to see them learn not to gobble their food because they know they are guaranteed another meal; to see the playful pup come out when they discover how fun toys are; to wake up to the toy box completely empty and the floor covered in stuffies and bones. You just find yourself smiling more...a lot more.

A lot of people say "I just wouldn't be able to give them up if I fostered". Yes, it is hard as you do form a bond with them. But when you see them with their forever family continuing to thrive though there is nothing else like it. YOU started that for them. YOU gave them that chance they may not have had otherwise. There will always be another one that needs YOU. Be sure that with GRR they will always go to a great home. Not just anyone can get a GRR dog. Be their first step to the beginning of their new life. Foster these sweet babies that need YOU.

For more information about fostering a Golden, click here. To apply to be a foster family, click here.

### Meet Our New Social Media Team!

Dawn Marie Rae

To better coordinate GRR activities, such as fostering, fundraising and events through social media, we have gathered a team together to launch on their respective platforms at the same time when we go live with various programs. Maximum exposure to our members, volunteers and donors!

Facebook fan page: Christina Linnell

Facebook community page: Emily Tuczkowski

Facebook promotions: Jennie Rounds

Instagram: Amber Middleton Twitter: Christina Linnell Newsletter: Dawn Marie Rae

Emailings: Dawn Marie Rae and Michelle Goldberg

Website: Carey Gunthert and Karen Watkins

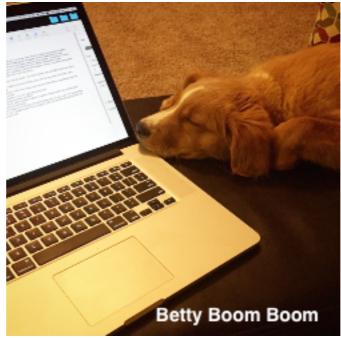


We hope that you will participate in this broad effort to share the information out to your friends and family when we post, mail, tweet, and share information with you! For any questions or suggestions for improvements, please contact <a href="Dawn Marie Rae">Dawn Marie Rae</a>.

### How Social Media Helps GRR

Amber Middleton - pictured here is Betty Boom aka 15-061 Dandy





With Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Pinterest, LinkedIn and dozens of others, the world of social media is ever changing, and can appear almost overwhelming to many. However, the benefits of an active social media presence have become invaluable to the world of non-profit organizations such as Gold Ribbon Rescue. While not all platforms lend themselves to GRR's objectives, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram provide incredible opportunities to connect with the general public in an important way.

Social media also broadens the spectrum of potential families to foster or adopt homeless animals and can guide more dogs into GRR care that otherwise may remain in dangerous or neglectful situations. Social media is a powerful platform for fundraising and allows organizations like GRR to showcase the various dogs we help in a powerful way. It is common for people to connect with one specific dog as they follow that dog's rescue journey, and as a result will do what they can to provide monetary assistance along the way. Rescue organizations across the country are currently utilizing social media to pay their vet bills and increase the number of animals they are able to assist each year.

GRR's two Facebook pages already host an active and engaging community of over 3000 combined users. GRR's Twitter page is also up and running and currently has 140 followers. GRR's Instagram will be re-launching this month with a 10-day event "The Rescue Dog Days of Summer". This will highlight the beautiful dogs of GRR and aimed at building followers and increasing interaction with the community. While each platform interacts differently with users they also work together to further GRR's mission and actively share content.

While the idea of jumping into social media feet first can seem a little overwhelming, there are several websites that offer online tutorials to make setting up and using an account easy and fun:

How-to guide for Facebook Includes setting security preferences

**How-to Guide for Twitter** 

How-to Guide for Instagram

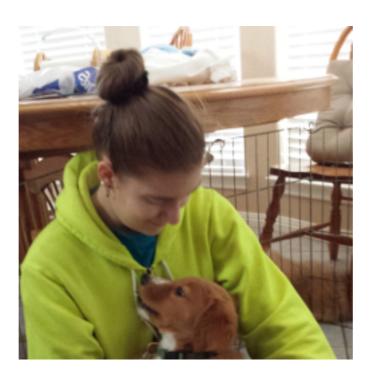
Facebook Stats

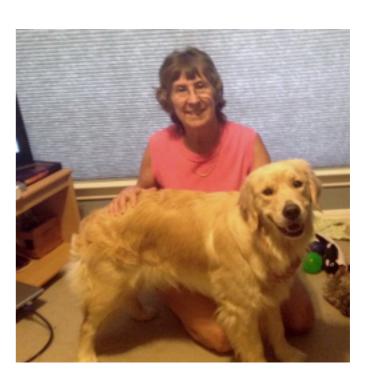
**Twitter Stats** 

**Instagram Stats** 

### Volunteer Spotlight - Jean and Zoe Steensma

Jean and Zoe Steensma (shown here with Glory and Bindi)





We currently have three Happy Hour Goldens - Maezy 12, Beatle, 10, Bindi, 1 1/2, and a Brittany named Lance, 8.

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

Our family has been volunteering with GRR off and on, since 2000.

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

It was the commitment of the people that I met when I called to become a foster home and then started helping with intake. Their dedication to helping Golden Retrievers was inspirational to me and I wanted to do more.

#### What volunteer position do you hold?

In the past, I helped out on the intake team and fostered many GRR dogs. Currently, I do intake evaluations when needed in my area and our family gets called upon when their is a litter of puppies on the way. We really enjoy whelping ad fostering puppies and getting them ready for their new homes. My daughter, Zoe, spends lots of time socializing the puppies, helping to train them, cleaning up after them, and especially cuddling them! Zoe and I are the puppy care team!

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

Currently, I am spending zero hours, but when the last litter was here, it was 24/7 for 8 weeks!

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

Seeing the joy of families when they meet their new puppy or dog.

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

We always love when the first puppy gets big enough, clever enough, mischievous enough, and coordinated enough to get out of the whelping box and make its way into the kitchen. It's quite fun to turn around and suddenly see a puppy in there with the big dogs. They almost look pleased with themselves. It is adorable, and then we know it is time to put away the whelping box and break out the crates and exercise pens.

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

GRR has many volunteer opportunities so there is something for everyone. If you are interested in being a puppy foster home, you will be very much appreciated, but be prepared for lots of cleaning and laundry and not much sleep. Also, tons of cuteness and fun!

What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR? A fun and rewarding experience for the whole family!

For more information about volunteering, click <u>here.</u> To sign up as a volunteer, send an email to <u>Sheila</u> Thomas.

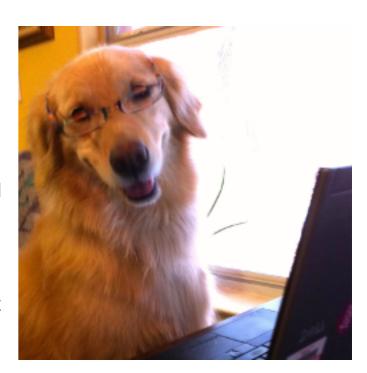
### **Dear Goldie**

Dawn Marie Rae

My best friend and pack mate, Zoe, got sick last week and our Mom took her to the doctor. When Mom came back, Zoe wasn't with her and I don't know where she is now. It's been days and days. I keep waiting for her to come back and sit at the window hoping I'll see her, but I know in my heart that she's gone for good.

Who's going to play bitey-face with me now? Who's going to steal the Frisbee from me at the park? Who's going to sleep with me on Mom's big bed and keep me warm? We loved doing those things together.

Sometimes, I am so sad that I just howl my head off. Mostly, I just try to sleep so I can forget she's gone. We were best friends for 7 years and I miss her so much. Can you help me feel better?
- Hurting in Helotes



#### Dear Hurt,

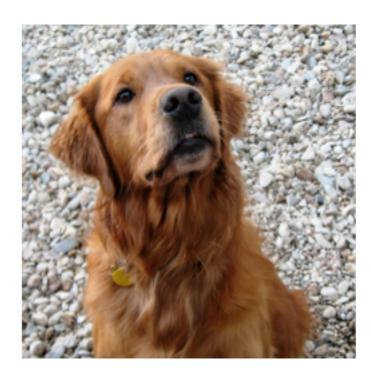
I am so sorry to hear about Zoe. She most likely was in a lot of pain and Mom didn't want her to hurt anymore. She'll be waiting for you at the Rainbow Bridge. She's not suffering, you need to know that, and she's watching out for you even if you can't see her. Let's see if I can help you a little to get you back to your old self and start to heal.

Ask your Mom to take you to your favorite places and play with you more often, you know, a little extra attention. Remember, Mom is sad that Zoe is gone too, and you can help each other by staying close and doing new things together. Give yourself a few months to heal. If you don't feel better after that, maybe it's time for Mom to take you to some classes for some positive training. Stay active and feel better soon!

# Oakley (12-104) - In Loving Memory

Susan Perry





Oakley crossed the rainbow bridge this afternoon (July 24th, 2015). I consider myself fortunate that he was in my life for nearly three years. He is one of those special goldens who exemplify everything that is good. He was loving, confident, a stable big brother to Revo and a wonderful Velcro dog. His love was as big as Texas. He also was able to deliver a world class stink-eye when he thought the situation warranted.

He spent every day in the office with me, going to look for me if I left for more than a minute. He sat in the kitchen when I cooked. I called him my sous chef. He was a wonderful teacher of living each day as it comes and knowing that is enough.

There were no dry eyes at his euthanasia at his oncologist's office. He worked his charm on everyone in that office and, in truth, everyone he met. He is breathing well, not in pain and running with my other goldens who preceded him.

God speed, Oakley. Forever would not have been enough time.

# 4 Sneaky Signs That Your Dog Suffers from Separation Anxiety Dr. Karen Becker



Separation anxiety is a common problem for many dogs and their guardians. To the uninitiated, it may not sound like a big deal, but it's actually a very serious issue.

Dogs who at first seem just exceptionally eager to see their humans are often brewing a full-blown case of separation anxiety just below the surface. Behaviors to watch for in your dog include:

He needs to be within a few feet of you at all times
She gives you a frenzied greeting every time you come home,
whether you've been gone 5 days or 5 minutes
His mood changes noticeably as you go about preparing to leave
the house

She engages in behaviors while you're gone that she doesn't do when you're home

Many people tend to confuse some of the more subtle symptoms of separation anxiety for signs of love from their dog. See the full article <u>here</u>.

## GRR Monthly Status Report: July 15th - August 15th



**Came into care:** 15-059 Yankee, 15-086 Siena, 15-087 Mia, 15-088 Gus, 15-089 Max, 15-090 Carley, 15-091 Donovan

**Adopted:** 15-059 Yankee, 15-060 Doodle, 15-062 Rebel, 15-061 Dandy, 15-064 Mr. Wonderful, 15-026 Expressway, 15-077 Benedict, 15-048 Bailey, 15-049 Honey, 15-032 Shadow, 15-052 Nolan, 15-066 Tango, 15-063 Glory, 15-056 Buddy, 15-079 Ticker, 15025 Bryce, 15-054 Noelani

**Currently in Foster Care:** 42 (18 Available Now/Soon, 16 Foster Pending Adoption, 15 Matched, 9 Permanent Fosters)

### Volunteer Spotlight - Lisa Rans

Lisa Ran (Pictured here is Winnie and the Ran family)





How long have you been volunteering with GRR? Just over a year.

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

I have always loved Golden Retrievers. I've never owned one; but when I was young, my favorite aunt had a female Golden named Lucy. I remember her as the cutest puppy I had ever seen. When she grew older, I loved how she would sit with us at the kitchen table and bump my hand to be petted.

I found Gold Ribbon Rescue through my friend Beth Freeman. Her son, Dillon, and my son, Griffin, were

I found Gold Ribbon Rescue through my friend Beth Freeman. Her son, Dillon, and my son, Griffin, were playmates and when play dates were at her house, we would get to visit with her three GRR dogs.

# What volunteer position do you hold? Foster mom.

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

With fostering, it totally depends on the dog and her needs. A puppy requires quite a bit of attention and you may not sleep through the night. With adult dogs, I might spend an hour a day walking and feeding and grooming them. The rest of the time they are just hanging out with our family.

### What is your favorite part above all?

Although it is also bittersweet, I love adoption day! I'm always so happy to meet my foster dog's forever family and see how happy they are to be getting her. I also feel like it is the end of my part, so I feel satisfaction and a sense of a job well done. It's what we've been working toward all along and it is here!

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

Our favorite family story is when Winnie came to our home. She was a darling girl and when we picked her up from the clinic she was an instant hit. When we got home, I told my sons I was going to rest my eyes for a minute and grabbed a quick nap. When I came out of my room, the boys yelled, "Winnie can catch a ball in her mouth!" They were over the moon. Later that day was the funny part. My husband came home from work and sat down to meet the new foster girl. Winnie walked right up to him and sneezed in his face! The kids and I just laughed and laughed.

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

My advice to new foster families is to use all the resources available through GRR. This organization has got it covered! If you ask for help or advice, you will get it! If a dog gets out, we will all rally to find it. There are people actively matching your foster dog with her forever home. There are people creating web profiles. There are coordinators available to help you and answer questions. There is respite care available, if you need to go out of town. A heart worm pill will show up in the mail when it is due. Margo has a dog pharmacy in her hall closet!

I knew I loved dogs, and especially Golden Retrievers, when I started volunteering. I did not know how much I would love the people in Gold Ribbon Rescue. We are of like mind in that we all have the same mission: sheltering, rehabilitating and rehoming Golden Retrievers. We are dedicated, we are kind to each other, and we are grateful for your help.

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to **Sheila Thomas**.

From and Adopt a Golden Atlanta and Adopt a Golden Birmingham



#### From Adopt a Golden Atlanta:

Because our guiding motto is that we never say no to a Golden Retriever in need, we are brought in 24 more dogs on Saturday, August 22.

Our Turkey Dog 3 Goldens will have Americana names, such as Superman, Cowboy, Jazz, Elvis, Fonzi, Cotton Candy and more. We've given the names of Aunt Bea and Opi to a mother and son who are coming. They were found at the edge of the forest. Other dogs were trying to fight with the 6-month-old golden who couldn't fight back and the mother was trying to protect him. Luckily, our Turkish contacts found them and Aunt Bea and Opi will be arriving in Atlanta soon and won't have to worry about those fighting dogs any more! Jitterbug is coming also. She was found in the forest begging for food. She won't have to wonder ever again where her next meal is coming from.

Well, it was an exciting night at the Atlanta airport last night! Our 30 goldens from Turkey arrived around 11:45 pm and everyone was cheering! Some dogs were barking and some were just looking at us, bewildered. The crates were unloaded and the pups were leashed and let out (see precious Moonpie below). Thank you to all the fosters who took dogs home last night and to our AMAZING team of volunteers who made this happen! Welcome to America, Turkey Dogs!! (see more pics on our page Turkey's Golden Retrievers Saved by AGA) See more at

#### From Adopt a Golden Birmingham:

Thanks to the hard work and amazing dedication by the volunteers in Istanbul, and the tireless efforts and logistics by our sister rescue Adopt A Golden Atlanta, this was an experience that words could not begin to describe. The emotions that all of us experienced last Saturday night were so profound. It is the goal of AGA, AGB and many other Golden Retriever rescues in the US to rescue as many, if not all, of the 800 estimated Golden Retrievers roaming the streets of Istanbul. This is just the beginning folks, just the beginning, so please support our mission by donating to the Turkey Rescue Mission. Any amount helps, so please donate. Please also know that this effort in no way impacts our continued efforts to take in all Golden Retrievers that come to us. We are a Golden Retriever Rescue and we will never say NO to a Golden in need. See more at Birmingham's Turkey Dogs.

See the Turkey Dogs Facebook page <u>here.</u>

### Artemisinin And Canine Cancer

**DogsNaturally Magazine** 

Chinese medicine has yielded a promising new approach for treating cancer.

Seattle scientists have shown that a compound extracted from the wormwood plant seeks out and destroys many types of cancer cells, while leaving healthy cells unscathed.

In laboratory experiments, the compound called Artemisinin killed virtually all human breast cancer cells in the test tube, reports Dr Henry Lai, a bioengineering researcher at the University of Washington. Just as importantly, he says, nearly all of the normal cells exposed to it were still alive.

And a dog with osteosarcoma so severe that it couldn't walk across the room made a complete recovery within five days of receiving the treatment. X-rays showed the animal's tumor "had basically disappeared," says Lai, adding that he believed the dog is still alive two years later.

"Not only does Artemisinin appear to be effective, but it's very selective," Lai says. "It's highly toxic to the cancer cells, but has a marginal impact on normal cells."

Please read the full article here.

### 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.

Is The Answer

TO THE END OF

In this PLANT?

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.

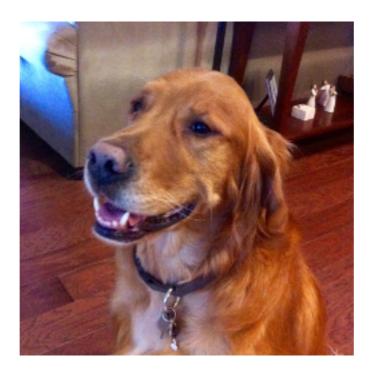
If you would like to contribute something, we'd love to hear it! If you think your story is one our readers would enjoy, please submit it via email to <a href="Dawn Marie Rae">Dawn Marie Rae</a>. (Please include a photo or two (in landscape format) in your e-mail and the dog's GRR

number and former name, if appropriate.)

The copy deadline is the 15th of the month.

# In Loving Memory - Casey (12-093 Cosmo)

Carol Blackwell





Tommy and I lost our first GRR boy, Butters (01-122 Bear) to hemangiosarcoma in August of 2012. We adopted Cosmo (12-093) in September of 2012, when he was 6 years old. We really aren't the "Cosmo" type and changed his name to Casey. We always called him our grief dog. He slept with us and each night and morning, he would snuggle up to one of us and put his head on our chest as if to say, "It's ok, I'm here now". *And it was OK*. He absolutely healed our hearts after losing Butters.

He had lived with a man for 5 years and definitely had an affinity for Tommy, so I took him through a basic obedience class to help him and I bond. He was just awesome there, and everyone told me what a good-looking dog he was. I thanked them and felt so proud, because not only was he gorgeous, he was just *sweet*. He was my rock solid, bombproof dog.

The only flaw he had was that he didn't like being an only dog when we were gone. I still look at the nibble marks on my back door and smile. Jacki and Margo were nice enough to let us foster Lexus (12-050). She

was just what Casey needed. He was still more bonded to us, but she provided something we couldn't, and he felt safer when we were both out of the house. Sadly, we lost Lexus to cancer in February of 2013.

He welcomed every foster and gently taught them the ropes. We began fostering Ruger (12-170) in December of 2012. I remember bringing Tucker (10-038) home and Tommy was out of town on business, so it was just me to do all the introductions. I put Casey and Ruger in our courtyard (it had a wrought-iron gate) and brought Tucker through the backyard gate. He took one look at Casey and Ruger and he was barking, growling and snarling. This went on for a while until Casey backed up and lay down, as if to tell Tracker "I mean you no harm". We had a successful meeting because Casey made it that way. He was just the best dog! He had enough energy to play ball and run around in the yard, yet he knew when we came inside, that it was time to settle down.

Hemangiosarcoma claimed his life in 3 days - the exact same cancer that took Butters from us, also in 3 days. I am forever grateful to Dr. Eric Winston. He told us to bring Casey in at 5pm (this was a Friday) if he wasn't better and he stayed with him until midnight. Saturday we took him to a specialty hospital where they continued diagnostics – no one knew what was wrong. Finally, the radiologist on Sunday afternoon confirmed a hemangiosarcoma diagnosis.

We knew it was time and we knew we had to be good to Casey, as he had always been to us. Good friends that were close to our dogs came to the hospital and were able to love on him and say their goodbyes. I think we stayed about 3 ½ hours with him.

We only had him for 3 years, but they were so fun-filled. We have so beautiful and heartwarming memories of him that we will always cherish. We will see you at The Bridge dear Casey.

### I Stood By Your Bed

**Author Unknown** 



I stood by your bed last night. I came to have a peep.
I could see that you were crying, you found it hard to sleep.

I whined to you softly, as you brushed away a tear. "It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here".

I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea. You were thinking of the many times your hands reached down to me.

I was with you at the shops today, your arms were getting sore. I want to take your parcels, I wished I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today, you tend it with such care. I want to reassure you that I'm not lying there.

I walked with you towards the house as you fumbled for the key, I gently put my paw on you, I smiled and said "It's me".

You looked so very tired and then you sank into a chair, I tried so hard to let you know that I was standing there.

It's possible for me to be so near you everyday, To say to you with

certainty "I never went away".

You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew, that in the stillness of that evening I was very close to you.

The day is over.... I smile and watch you yawning and say, "Good Night, Sweet Dreams, God Bless,I'll see you in the morning".

And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide, I'll rush to greet you and we'll stand together side by side.

I have so many things to show you, there's much for you to see. Be patient, live your journey out; then come home and be with me.

### Sweet Potato Chews

### **Modern Dog Magazine**

Prepare these single ingredient fiber- and vitamin-rich treats for your dog in 5 minutes flat!

All you need is five minutes prep time and a single raw yam or sweet potato. Pure, easy, and unadulterated, dog treats don't get any healthier, easier or less expensive than this.

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 250° F.
- Scrub the sweet potato or yam. No need to peel.
- Cut it into thin slices (the thinner the slice the shorter the cooking time) and place on a cookie sheet in a single layer.
- Bake in oven at 250° F for about 3 hours for slightly chewy treats or bake slightly longer to get them crunchy.



**Note:** timing will vary according to the thickness of your slices; just keep an eye on them. Or, better yet, if you have a dehydrator, pop them in there instead of the oven.

**Tip:** Sweet potatoes are a source of dietary fiber and contain vitamin B6, vitamin C, beta carotene, and manganese. Most dogs love the chewy sweetness of a delish dehydrated sweet potato treat. And you can rest easy knowing there's no additives, preservatives or anything extraneous added.