



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing and Rehabilitating Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

September 2016



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Newsletter Editor:
Dawn Marie Rae

Send comments or
suggestions to:
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Gold Ribbon Rescue

A Message from Our President:



Dear Friends,

We exist with a selfless and large community of foster families who care for and love these handsome dogs we rescue. They take in the infirm, the aged, and the neglected Golden Retrievers to get them on the road to health, give them a sense of security, and a loving environment. We could not operate without this foster network and the families who dedicate their time to nurture our Golden Retrievers. We are in need of fosters at present. If you would like to foster, please fill out our foster application [here](#). The Foster application is the same as the Adoption application. Approved adopting families are already approved to foster so there is no need to reapply. If you've already been approved, please contact [Susan Perry](#).

We continue to assess our overall process for operation and we've scheduled our annual business meeting for members to discuss proposed changes to our by-laws, GRR activities, and financials (see meeting details in the events section).

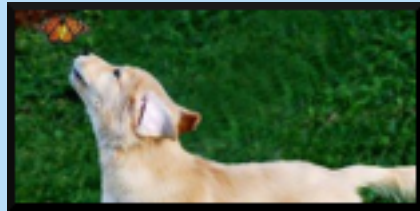
Our Swimfest was a great success. Thanks to everyone who came out to watch our dogs at play.

And, mark your calendars for our third annual **GRR Golden Gala** on October 1st, our big fall event to be held at Stone House Vineyard. See the article below, and get your RSVP in before we sell out! I hope you'll join us!

Enjoy!
-Margo

In this issue:

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- Remembering Bob Dallas
- Read about Abbie (Diana 06-044) - From Brood to Guide Dog Trainer
- Learn more about thunderstorm phobia management
- And meet our newest Extraordinary Golden - Mason

Mr. Buddy from Turkey!



Current and Upcoming Events



Dizzy enjoying the ride!

Our third annual GRR Golden Gala at the Stone House Vineyard on Lake Travis.

When: Saturday October 1st

Where: 24350 Haynie Flat Road Spicewood, TX 78669

Time: 6:30pm - 9:30pm

See the next article for more details

Dogtoberfest

When: Saturday, October 15th

Time: 10:00 - 4:00 pm

Where: At the Domain Austin (11410 Century Oaks Terrace) Austin, Texas
(between Dillard's and Dick's Sporting Goods)

Every year, Dogtoberfest Austin holds two events in the Domain. DogtoberTROT, a 1k walk for two-legged and four-legged friends, kicks off the festivities. Dogtoberfest happens directly afterward, and includes a

Silent Auction, Canine Costume Contest, Wiener Dog Races, pet-related demonstrations, and more. For more information, please visit the [Dogtoberfest](#) website. Join us as we kick off another year of helping local dog rescue organizations and visit our Gold Ribbon Rescue booth!

Annual GRR Member Meeting

When: October 29, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: The Patio at Upper Crust Bakery 4508 Burnet Rd, Austin 78756
Update GRR activities, financials, and proposed changes to the GRR Bylaws
Members only. No dogs. Refreshments available for purchase.

San Antonio

Two Bros. BBQ Meet

When: November 5th

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Where: [Two Bros. BBQ Market](#) 12656 West Ave San Antonio, Texas

Large wooded area for the 4 leggeds and a playground for the young two-leggeds, oh, and great BBQ. Join us for a wonderful afternoon in San Antonio!

Educational Seminar “Developing the Well Socialized Dog”

When: Saturday, December 3, 2016

Time: 12:30 - 4:30 PM

Where: [The Canine Center](#) 11400 290 West
Austin, TX 78737

More details soon.

The Third Annual GRR Golden Gala - October 1st!



Please plan to join us for our third annual **GRR Golden Gala** at the [Stone House Vineyard](#) on Lake Travis.
24350 Haynie Flat Road
Spicewood, TX 78669
6:30pm - 9:30pm

[Map Directions](#)

Exceptional wines and wine tastings
Fabulous Italian dinner by [Food! Food!](#)
Live and silent auctions
Music and dancing
Golden friends and friends of Golden friends

Tickets are \$65.00 per person. Space is limited and pre-paid reservations are required for this event. Visit our [website](#) to purchase tickets or [donate](#) if you can't attend.

We hope to see you there!

Our live and silent auctions need items for donations. Examples are:

Art
Airline miles (travel or hotel)
Sporting event tickets

Golf related items
Restaurant gift certificate
Theater, movie or entertainment venue tickets
Boutique gift item or certificate
Wine basket
Jewelry
Golden Retriever-related items

Please contact [Paula Ellis](#) for more information about the auction items. The deadline for donating auction items is September 25th.



Meet Mason 16-090 - Our Newest Extraordinary Golden

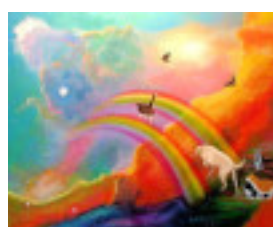




Only 10 to 12 months old, this gangly boy needs an expensive surgery on his leg and knee. X-rays have revealed a serious problem. Mason was almost certainly hit by a car several months back, before he even cropped up at the shelter, and the films show the aftermath of the trauma: “left femoral malunion with a secondary grade 4/4 patellar luxation.” In other words, the blow broke his left femur, which was then left to heal on its own. The bone knitted, but the two pieces are misaligned, with one of them twisted and angling inward. On top of that, his kneecap (patella), which should sit neatly in the groove at the end of his femur, is out of place; “grade 4/4” means it doesn’t move back into position even occasionally, but is actually stuck and fixed outside its normal resting spot. No wonder Mason is limping and can’t extend his knee without pain!

Luckily, there’s a solution: surgery to rebreak the bone, align it correctly with the help of pins and plates, and get his kneecap back where it should be at the same time. After that, he’ll need 8 full weeks of very strict activity restriction: no rioting, running, jumping, wrestling, or puppy crazies. And after that, another 8 weeks of gradually increasing gentle exercise to strengthen the new repairs. The price tag for the surgery is steep (\$2200 - even after our discount), and going slow will be a very tall order for a peppy young dog. Lots of mental stimulation and plenty of company will get him through it, and the prize will be a leg that’s just a little bit lame and working almost the way it ought to—certainly well enough to dance a jig. In fact, we’ll all be kicking up our heels in just a few months!

Click [here](#) to read his full story and [donate](#) to our Extraordinary Golden Fund if you can. Thank you so much for any help you can give.



In Loving Memory - Lady (Marcella 12-034)

Coralie Pledger



August 15th

Lady (Marcella 12-034) was our first foster failure with GRR. I started fostering during a transition period after we lost our 15 year old family Golden, our children went off to college, and I was revisiting my work priorities. We fostered 5 dogs and treasured every one, but Lady was the one we couldn't let go. She was burdened by significant health issues from the beginning, but she had the sweetest, most loving disposition through it all.

Although she had had numerous benign tumors in the past, in late May she developed an aggressive mammary tumor that was clearly malignant and spread fast. We relished our time with her until we had to let her go this last week. Our hearts are broken but we are so grateful to GRR for bringing her to us. She lived almost 5 years with us and I know those were years of love and contentment she would not have experienced otherwise. Her health prevented her from coming to events like the recent Swimfest, but maybe our next GRR foster failure will. Thank you all.

Swimfest - Wow!!!!

August 20th 2016

Thank you to all who made it out to the GRR Swimfest on Saturday the 20th! We set a new attendance record of 132 two leggers and 87 four leggers! One of our amazing families (Candice Gourley) tried to capture as many attendees as possible and created this fabulous [movie](#). Have a watch and relive a joyous day!





Remembering Bob Dallas



On Friday, July 29th, GRR lost good friend and long-time volunteer Bob Dallas. Bob made an impression on all who met him and our memories, while varied, all carry the same theme: Bob was a kind, humorous man who loved life.

When Scott and I first met Bob and his wife Jan in 2006, we immediately hit it off. Maybe it was our mutual love of Golden Retrievers, the outdoors, or just having fun. Whatever it was, we forged a lasting friendship.

We spent the next 10 years enjoying long walks with as many as 9 dogs, even longer bike rides through the Texas hill country, many dinners, and one or two bottles of wine. Bob and Jan took care of our dogs when we went out of town and we took care of theirs. I don't know many people who thought nothing of having 9 dogs in the house and inviting a few of those furry guests to share their pillow at night. Bob always had a funny story to tell about his dog-sitting adventures.

Because of Bob, we have GRR # 08-064 Rusty. He transported Rusty from the Marble Falls Animal Shelter, and called from the road to tell me he had the dog we needed to foster. I didn't agree, but Bob saw something special in the big red boy and convinced me. We're so glad he did.

When they moved to Iowa to be closer to their granddaughter, Ruby, the miles didn't diminish the friendship. Unfortunately, cancer cheated us out of more years with Bob. We are thankful for the memories, but we sure are missing him.

- Scott and Sheila Thomas

Bob was one of those guys that GRR depended on. He was quick to step in for transports or fostering, or whatever needed done. He was fun and happy, and he loved to send silly emails. As our microchip coordinator, he signed his emails, "Chipmaster." He loved every Golden that he and Jan fostered, and he adopted many of them! He was well known in the Circle C neighborhood, as he walked 4 or more dogs simultaneously; he looked like the Pied Piper with all those dogs. He was a gentleman and a friend. We sure do miss him.

- Margo Biba

For Bob, a man who will always remain in my memory as having great compassion for everyone, a great love of family, which included many Goldens, and a wonderful sense of humor. He will be sorely missed. Somewhere, sometime, hopefully, we will all meet up again - and Rob and I will remind him of the many beers he still owes us. Cheers, Bob, and thank you for sharing your life with us.

- Emily Tuczowski

I remember when Bob hosted volunteer party at their home when they lived outside of New Braunfels. Lots of yummy snacks for the humans and drinks for adults. It was a fun event. The dogs got to play and volunteers got to visit. Bob was a generous man.

- Kathy Burton

Bob Dallas was a whole lot of things. A patriot (Navy pilot during Viet Nam), a loving husband, a great parent, a wonderful dog lover, and a really funny guy. He was also very empathetic. VERY. In my time knowing Bob, he sent me two lovely emails concerning our loss of our first GRR dog Riley (04-103) and later Dolly (05-028). We commiserated about his dog Rango and the nasal cancer that he suffered.

When Bob misidentified a dog's gender – the old Dolly to Jack mistake – he took a ration of well-meaning crap about it....but he owed me two drams of scotch and several Shiners to Rob Garcia. He was always gracious about it. Allegedly the shelter screwed up the paperwork.....yeah....that was his story and he was sticking to it.

Perhaps more importantly than his other considerable duties as an intake evaluator, transport driver, home visitor and foster parent to a host of dogs....was his role as the original Chipmaster (I think he coined that name for himself....but I could be wrong – though, like him, I'm rarely wrong!). Shortly after Chipmaster became a term, Supplymaster became Rob Garcia's "handle".

Bob "loved" to chip dogs, especially puppies. He would step in front of you to get to do that – NOT! Like me he hated to chip any dog, but by God he did it, because it was the right thing to do. And that's the mark of a man. That 14 gauge needle is terrifying.

And, Bob never managed to chip himself. That's a feat when you are dealing with a squirming puppy. Had he ever managed to chip himself, he would have registered the chip to the manufacturer.

Bob is at The Bridge, greeting his fur kids, and mine and all of ours – because that's the Bob Dallas I know. And when we get to The Bridge to claim our fur kids, he will be there cheering us on. And he will still owe me a couple of drams of Scotch!

As Margo would say, "Bob Victorious". But my heart is breaking. Love to his family and remaining fur kids. (including the felines!)

- Pat Capin and Ted MacLean

I loved his approach to life, with his amazing ability to keep things low key, without stress. I remember one GRR conversation in which people were talking about their technique when introducing new dogs to each other. His response was something to the effect of "I just throw them together and let them figure it out. They're dogs, they know what to do!" I loved the simplicity of his approach, and his confidence that things would work out. Every dog that entered his home settled in quickly, probably because it knew instantly that it was loved.

He always had a smile on his face, a warm hug, and willingness to do anything asked of him. He always thanked people for their efforts, and made them feel special. He never worried about getting credit for the things he did, the knowledge that he was helping someone was enough for him.

His quick wit always kept me in laughter, and I just felt calm and content when I was in his presence. I remember when he did the micro-chipping for one of the litters we raised. No one likes to chip puppies, but he had such a calming effect on them that it was like a non-event! I had been dreading it, and he just made it so simple. He just had that special ability to handle whatever came his way.

He was an amazing person and friend, who touched the hearts of everyone he met.

- Donna and Arne Larson



When Your Dog Is Afraid of Storms

[Pets WebMD](#)



Lonni Swanson's storm phobe...

It can be heartbreaking to watch: Even before the first clap of thunder, otherwise well-behaved dogs begin to pace, pant, cling to their owners, hide in the closet, or jam themselves behind the toilet. In severe cases, they'll claw through drywall, chew carpets, or break through windows in their escalating panic. Thunderstorm phobia in dogs is real, not uncommon, and shouldn't be ignored, experts say.

"Most of the time they don't grow out of it on their own, and many will get worse with time if nothing is done," says Matt Peuser, DVM, a veterinarian at Olathe Animal Hospital in Kansas.

Why does storm phobia happen, and what can you do if your dog suffers from it?

Storm Phobia Triggers

Veterinarians don't know all the triggers but suspect the dogs are set off by some combination of wind, thunder, lightning, barometric pressure changes, static electricity, and low-frequency rumbles preceding a storm that humans can't hear. According to one theory, dogs experience painful shocks from static buildup before the storm.

The anxiety often gets worse throughout the season as storms become more frequent.

Dogs often start having storm-related panic attacks seemingly out of nowhere, says Barbara L. Sherman, PhD, DVM, associate professor of veterinary behavior at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a past president of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

What to do?

1. Reward calm behavior year-round.

Many owners make the mistake of trying to console and pet a fearful dog that's whimpering or climbing on them, but that just encourages the panicky behavior, Sherman says.

"We absolutely don't want owners to scold their dog, but we don't want them to reward the dog for being clingy because that will increase the clingy behavior," she says.

Instead, practice getting your dog to settle on command. Sherman advises clients to put a special "inside" leash on the dog and practice having the pet lie at their feet while praising the calm behavior.

"They should practice when there is no storm, so the dog learns the routine," she says. "When the storm comes up, then they put on the leash and say, 'Come on and lie down here,' and the dog still

knows what to do."

During the storm, you can also try distracting the dog by offering its favorite toy, playing fetch, petting it, and feeding treats as long as the dog remains calm, Peuser says.

"What you're trying to do is get them to forget about the storm and replace [the fear] with something positive," he says.

2. Give the dog a safe place where he can go in a storm.

That might be an open crate, a basement where the dog can't hear or see what's happening outside, an interior room with music playing, or a bathroom.

Let your dog decide: Notice where he goes during a storm, and if possible, allow access to it.

Be sure your dog can come and go freely, since some animals become more anxious if confined. Sherman treated one golden retriever that was confined to a garage and, in an attempt to escape during a storm, scratched through the drywall of the door leading to the house.

3. Consider a snug garment.

Snug-fitting shirts and wraps especially designed to calm anxious dogs are worth a try, says Sherman, who has consulted for Thundershirt, a so-called pressure garment that is said to have a calming effect similar to swaddling a baby. Some dogs also respond to wearing a metal fabric-lined cape marketed as the Storm Defender, which claims to protect dogs from static shocks.

So far, the benefits of these garments are anecdotal. A 2009 study found "there was a trend toward the Storm Defender performing better" than a placebo cape, but the results were statistically insignificant, said study author Nicole Cottam, MS, behavior service coordinator at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. Tufts researchers are currently performing a study sponsored by the makers of Anxiety Wrap, another compression garment.

4. In the winter, desensitize your dog to the sounds of a storm.

Play a CD of thunder recordings at low enough levels that don't frighten your dog, while giving him treats or playing a game. Gradually increase the volume over the course of several months, stopping if your dog shows any signs of anxiety. The goal is to get your dog used to the sound of thunder, and associate it with good things, Peuser says.

Experts caution that desensitization can have limited success in an actual storm because you can only recreate the noise, and not the other factors that may be bothering the dog, such as the static electricity or changes in barometric pressure.

5. Ask your veterinarian for advice.

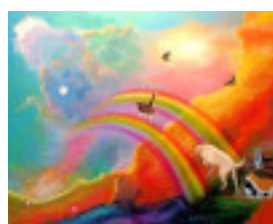
The doctor may have more ideas for behavior modification and can assess whether medication may also be needed.

"Not every dog needs anti-anxiety medication, but dogs that are in a horrible state of high anxiety will really benefit," Sherman says. In severe cases, owners will keep their dogs on the medication for the whole season, while others give their dog medicine in the morning if there's a chance of a storm later on.

A 2003 study by veterinarians at the University of Georgia found that 30 out of 32 dogs with storm phobia showed significant improvement when given medication combined with behavior modification and desensitization.

"We have our best luck with a management plan that includes changing some features in the environment, applying some behavior modification techniques, and often some anti-anxiety medication," Sherman says. "Work with your veterinarian to come up with a treatment plan."

16-074 - Tyrion - When chewing a bone, one must ensure proper ventilation at all times.



In Loving Memory - Tanner Man (Quincy 05-007) and Miss Bailey Rae (Cora 08-029)

Debbie McKinney

[The early days...](#)



March 2016

I wanted to share with GRR that we have lost our two beloved Goldens, Tanner Man (Quincy 05-007) and Miss Bailey Rae (Cora 08-029).

We adopted Tanner in 2005 and Miss Bailey in 2009. While Tanner was totally and completely smitten with Bailey, their initial relationship was more than a bit standoffish. Bailey was not going to love him just because he wanted her to; she just wasn't that kind of girl. Fast forward all these years later and you couldn't separate the two of them if you tried. It was a love made in Heaven and unfortunately for us, the Lord wanted that love returned to Him this past February. While we had been preparing our hearts for the eventual loss of Tanner due to his age, we never expected to lose Bailey this soon. We celebrated Tanner's 14th birthday on February 10th singing and dancing to his favorite birthday song, 50Cents "In Da Club". The next day Miss Bailey suddenly took ill. Our race to the hospital was in vain. We heard the doctors say something about pancreatic cancer. We'll never really know for sure; she passed in my arms as I tried to tell her everything would be ok.

The next few days were heartbreaking for all of us, but obviously more so for Tanner. We can only guess that he didn't want to stay behind without his love and so he didn't. Five days after losing Bailey, Tanner passed quietly at home in the loving arms of his father.

Our grief remains great, but the outpouring of love and support from our most treasured friends and family has helped to make it bearable. That, and knowing Tanner and Bailey are together again, as it should be.

Below is a quote from each of their obituaries.

Miss Bailey Rae McKinney: A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than she loves herself. "The thing to remember is that dogs are very much in the moment. They don't dwell on the sadness like we do. Take care of them, do what you can, and let them find their way...they loved you enough to hang out with you all these years, and they are complete". -**Will Clark**

Tanner Man McKinney: "A dog is like an eternal Peter Pan, a child who never grows old and who therefore is always available to love and be loved". -**Aaron Katcher** Though his birth year would date him to fourteen years, Tanner was and will always remain the quintessential two year old in his heart, mind, and spirit and in ours as well.

Writing this has been one of the hardest things I have done since losing my babies and it's taken me well over a month to do so.

[My last photo of them...](#)



Another GRR Miracle - From Brood to Guide Dog Trainer

Beth Morton



Abbie (Diana 06-044)

We adopted Diana, now Abbie in 2006. She has just turned 14.

We had to pick her up to put her outside. She wouldn't walk out front because she was afraid of the cars passing by. She was terrified to ride in a car, she didn't know how to run, she didn't like strangers, and she didn't make one sound, not a whimper, for the first two years we had her. She still has never whined in pain, but she loves to bark at passers-by. Her safe place is on the stair landing. She finally would let out a baby growl and then she'd run upstairs to hide. She does a bit more now. We're told she sounds like Rottweiler.

Our other Goldie at the time taught her how to run. Abbie's version of running was basically to walk straight-legged really fast. She would watch Sarah, then try to mimic her. The first time she actually galloped in a natural way, she scared herself and she never really did it again.

Abbie wouldn't come and socialize on her own, so we gated off the stairs and gave her a quiet corner. We eventually put pillows in the back of the corner so she had to be closer, and we kept on slowly until she started to socialize on her own. I was told that when she was rescued from the puppy mill, where she was a brood, that she was afraid to walk on the grass. She must have had a door slammed on her once as well, because she won't go through a door if you're standing near it. It's something we've never been able to desensitize.

Oh boy, but now? She's a totally different dog. Even our vet has said she's recovered in ways he didn't think were possible. She learned to run (sort of) from our older dog, though she never really was able to run like a "normal" dog. She learned to bark, which was a lesson in confidence, and learned to love her walks. She became confident enough to greet strangers at the door and take treats from people. She was even a reading tutor for a third grade class for a while. She still likes her privacy and her quiet corners, she loves sleeping on the stairs landing because it's quiet and she can see the front door. She never saw a stuffed toy she couldn't destroy in 5 minutes.

We raise guide dog puppies for Guide Dogs of Texas and she's amazing at teaching puppy manners. "Yes,

you can play gentle, now you need to stop." Her corrections to them are firm but gentle. It took a three or four years for her to really come out of her shell, and she continues to grow. She's really become an amazing dog. She's still too timid to bring to a major event, but it would be fun to see the people who worked to give her a better life than the one she had in the puppy mill. Thank you GRR!



Abbie and then Guide Dog in Training, Dusty. Dusty went on the become a Buddy Dog to a young boy who had a visual impairment.



Abbie with 10 week old Cassie. Cassie was Abbie's first puppy to raise. Cass has been matched and will go off to class in October.

GRR Shirts, Caps, Beds...and So Much More

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When you're looking for the
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Make your shopping dollars count and use Amazon Smile to ensure GRR receives extra funds today!
Click on [Smile Amazon](#).



In Loving Memory - Charlie

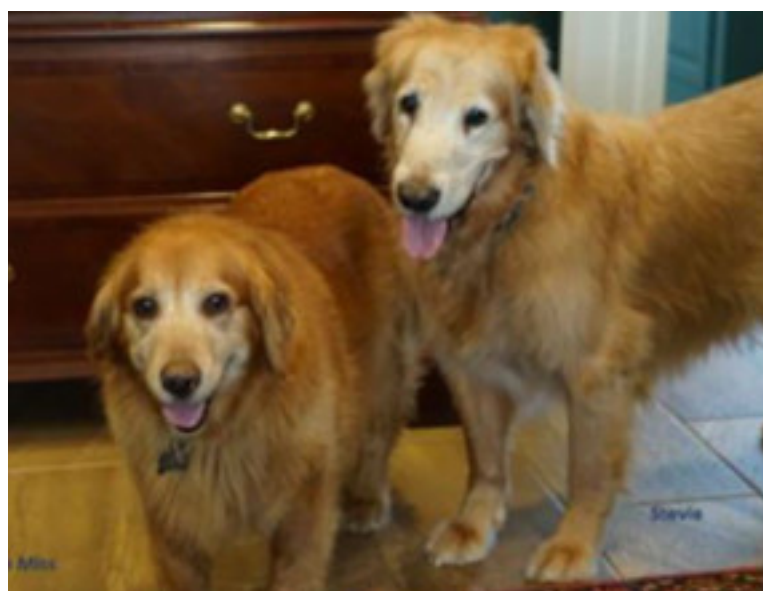
Summer Blaise Rose



August 14th

We lost our dear, goofy boy last Friday. I adopted him 10 years ago before marriage, kids, etc. He gained a GRR brother, coincidentally, when I married a fellow adopter. Charlie loved everything and everyone and our family has lost our happiest and silliest member. We will miss you immensely, Charlie.

Looking For a Forever Home - Stevie (06-152) and Little Miss (11-002)



Little Miss is an 8 year old female and Stevie is an 11 year old male. They are very bonded, so we want to place them together. They adore going to the park, playing with other dogs and hanging out with their foster dad. If you are looking for a sweet pair of seniors, these are the beauties for you. See the full story about both of them [here](#).

Living in a Dog's House - Los Cuatro Amigos - The Gourley Pack



Left Picture: Frodo & Mitzi; Right Picture: Willow, Frodo, Mary

How many dogs allow you to live with them and what are their names? GRR has informed me that because four dogs live here in Temple in this house - and allow me to privilege of going to work in order to buy them food and treats - that I officially qualify as a pack. Who knew the magic number! I have not informed Mary, Willow and Frodo that the Tres Amigos, in and of themselves, did not qualify. But, apparently, Frodo (13 yo, Aussie), Willow (9 yo, 15-051, GR), Mary (2 yo, 15-147, Pyr/Husky) and Mitzi (12 yo, 16-087, GR Mix) do.

Describe feeding time. Um, well, we are still working on this. Mostly because our newest addition, Bitsie Mitzi, is such an enthusiastic eater. Meaning that she can hardly stand waiting for dinner, so she starts wiggling around as soon as I pick a dish up from the counter with the intention of putting it on the floor. I cannot make her sit, because sitting is pretty tough on her. So, here's how it APPEARS things are shaking out: Willow gets her pink bowl of food first. Then, because Mitzi is, by this time, so excited she can hardly contain herself, she gets her aqua food bowl. Next, is Ms. Mary with the purple dish, who always, before bending her head to eat, regards Mitzi (snorting by now as she eats) with some disdain. Mary is a very dainty eater. Finally, my guy Frodo backs up and gets his royal blue dish. I always take time with him to give him some extra pets for being such a patient guy. If anyone has read past newsletters about OTHER packs who are very organized and civilized, please picture the opposite for us. Therefore, use my description as a cautionary tale.

What does your welcome home committee look like? As I get out of the car, I can usually hear several paws scratching at the door. Then, I open the door, and there are several blurs of fur who spill into the garage. The ONLY thing I probably do right in this situation is walk calmly through the hoard and into the kitchen. Then, when I am in the kitchen, I say hello to my fuzzy people. Lots of bowing ensues, and usually Frodo and Mary have things to tell me about their difficult day.

What happens when you want to take a vacation? Well...when I had two, Kimberly Thomas would babysit. Last time - when I only had three, I boarded them, but it stressed me out. This was also the time of the Unauthorized Shaving Incident perpetrated on Mary and Willow. Thus, now, I have a couple of names of people that friends have used who come into your house and walk, play and even sleep with the dogs. That is what I'll do when I next go out of town.

Does your housekeeper come daily? No the housecleaners come every other week. I try to brush the dogs regularly, which cuts down on the fur balls floating under furniture. But, it's just four dogs and me, so that makes it a little easier than say, if I also had a human family here too.

What are some of your favorite cleaning products for the several Chihuahuas of dog hair shed daily? I brush their hair regularly, and if needed, I just run a Shark vacuum over the carpet. More importantly, with having fosters and senior dogs (and puppies running through the house), I invested in a professional level carpet cleaner. That is the best thing ever. However, just like many, I am going to have all my carpet pulled up in the next couple of months and will replace it with tile or hardwood. If needed, will just vacuum and mop in between housekeeper visits.

How do you take everybody for a walk? Oh sheesh. When I had three? Frodo walked on the left, Mary in the middle and then Willow to the right. They are all really good on a leash, and now that I have a Martingdale collar for Mary, I don't worry about her slipping out of hers and romping around the park. Mitzi cannot walk very far at all, so right now, when she and I walk, we walk separately. The wailing and gnashing of teeth that occurs back at the homestead is the stuff of legends - even though Mitzi and I really only walk for 5 minutes or so, max.

If you have two hands and 4 dogs, how do you handle all of the nuzzling and competition for loves and petting? This is the eternal quandry, isn't it? Because one would think that having two hands and two feet would be helpful, but my dogs are not helpful and do not position themselves accordingly. Rather, they prefer full on hand scratching. What often occurs is that I gather them in a huge hug, encompassing all four, and then each gets several kisses on their head. Also, I will try to spend 1:1 time with them at quiet moments...Mitzi sleeps in the bathroom, so in the morning, I visit her there. Frodo sleeps behind my knees and gets cuddles. Mary stands next to me, nose to nose, and plants her feet so that I have easy access to her belly. Willow sleeps beside the couch, and so I'll lie sideways and give her gentle pets. I think you just have to find opportunities to let each one know you love them individually.

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

That would only be 65 pounds of dog, known as Willow. But, she's getting better. Even the storm we had the other night - thunder made the windows shake it was so loud - she just crawled up on the couch and buried her head under my body. She did not need medication. Other than Willow, Mary, Frodo and Mitzi do not seem to respond. In fact, Frodo and Mitzi do not mind going out in the rain.

Does an unfamiliar being more than two inches long ever approach within 20 feet without you knowing about it? They are all very friendly and curious and as soon as something -or someone - appears in their line of sight, I know it. People are a little nervous of Mary, because she's a big dog, but they love Willow. Willow is probably the most effective at getting people to stop and pay attention to her. And let's face it, who wouldn't want to pay attention to Willow the Pillow? She of the soft fur and big brown eyes.

Bitsie Mitzi



Volunteer Spotlight - Tracy Wencka



Tell us a little about you and your dogs.

I live in Schertz outside of San Antonio with my husband and GRR boys Tucker (11) and Calvin (4.5). Since 2005, my husband and I have fostered too many dogs to count. The most recent being Lady Bird, one of the Turkey dogs. Tucker was my first dog adopted from GRR. He healed my heart after I lost my first Golden, Max, to cancer at 3 years old. He is slowing down a bit now but still loves his balls, walks and cuddles. He is definitely a "Mommy's Dog". Calvin is a sweet, goofy, handsome boy and while he doesn't like chasing balls he likes to chase Tucker as he runs after the balls. They are both very "people focused" and love to meet new humans and dogs.

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I have been volunteering with GRR since 2005 when we adopted our boy Tucker. While I am not near as active as I have been in the past since my husband retired, I still keep an eye on the GRR Facebook page and Weekly Summary for opportunities where I think I can be of assistance. Back in the day, I enjoyed Matchmaking and serving on the Board of Directors, doing Intake Evaluations, Transport, and whatever else was needed.

What is your favorite part above all?

The absolute magic is that GRR's team can work as a whole when there is a dog in need. It is amazing how the "yes" domino happens when someone is asked to help. The GRR family of volunteer's jump in to do transport, foster, or whatever is needed. I have seen this team of people work miracles.

Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position. Fostering is always interesting and most of the times cute and even funny. You never really know what you are going to get. We usually preferred the youngsters and being that we didn't have small children we were able to help

with the shelter dogs who have no history. One of the funny stories that I can recall is about a sweet, skinny girl that I did an intake on at San Antonio Animal Control. She was tall, blond, and cute, and I was so surprised that the owners were not looking for her. So, I did an intake on a Friday then picked her up Saturday to take her to the vet to get her ready for her foster home. I named her Hannah. She was calm and sweet and I settled her in to the back seat and headed across town. A few miles into the ride, I looked in the back rear view mirror and saw her staring intently out the front windshield. I kept looking back and she did not move a muscle, just kept staring out the window. I stopped at a red light and in a flash, Hannah was flying between the seats into the passenger seat next to me. By the time I registered what was happening, the dog hair was flying! Hannah snatched a stuffed animal that I had on my dashboard and happily settled into the seat next to me, grinning like a fool. At the time, my son was in high school and their mascot were the Buffaloes and I had one in a permanent spot on my dashboard. I guess she felt like she really had to have that buffalo. I still remember thinking she was going to fly out the front window and I was going to have to explain how I lost Hannah. After she got her prey, she never moved all the way to the vet.

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

Have fun with it. If you have time, try to spend time with as many positions as you can. It really gives you a good overview of what we do. Ask the "oldtimers" questions. They have so much to share...I learned everything from them. Oh, and have a good sense of humor.

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

Fun, rewarding, eye-opening, and most of all...ADDICTIVE.

Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance



Recent Rainbow Bridge:

Rest in peace, our friends and companions...

Honey Bear 16-145

Tequila 03-057

Tanner Man (Quincy 05-007)

Miss Bailey Rae (Cora 08-029)

Charlie

Lady (Marcella 12-034)

Abbie (Diana 06-044)

Trey

Listen to the beautiful hymn and video of [A Child's Prayer](#) by Candice Gourley's Mary and Willow, a tribute to our Goldens and other furry friends we so love and miss.

[Honey Bear 16-145 - shown below - rest in peace.](#)



GRR Monthly Status Report: July 25th 2016 - August 26th 2016



Came into care: 16-085 Oakley, 16-086 Sadie, 16-087 Mitzi, 16-088 Princeton, 16-089 Duchess, 16-090 Mason, 16-091 Blue, 16-092 Tristan, 16-093 Sadie, 16-094 Vera, 16-095 Cotton, 16-096 Shiner, 16-097 Jenny

Adopted: 16-005 Hazel, 16-052 Ziggy, 16-067 Beasley, 16-082 Weezer, 16-075 Cha Cha, 16-089 Duchess, 16-072 Penelope, 16-059 Seneca, 16-060 Shilah, 16-068 Shi-Fu, 16-013 Shirley, 16-023 Quincy, 16-042 Hunter, 16-053 Daisy, 16-081 Levi

Currently in Foster Care: 52 dogs: 17 Available/Available Soon, 23 Foster-Pend-Adopt/Matched, 12 Permanent Fosters

We Want to Hear from You!

Dawn Marie Rae



Pictured above: Sam (Shilah 16-060)

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 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.



Pictured above: Princeton, Peyton and Sadie

Help Wanted

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 [here](#).

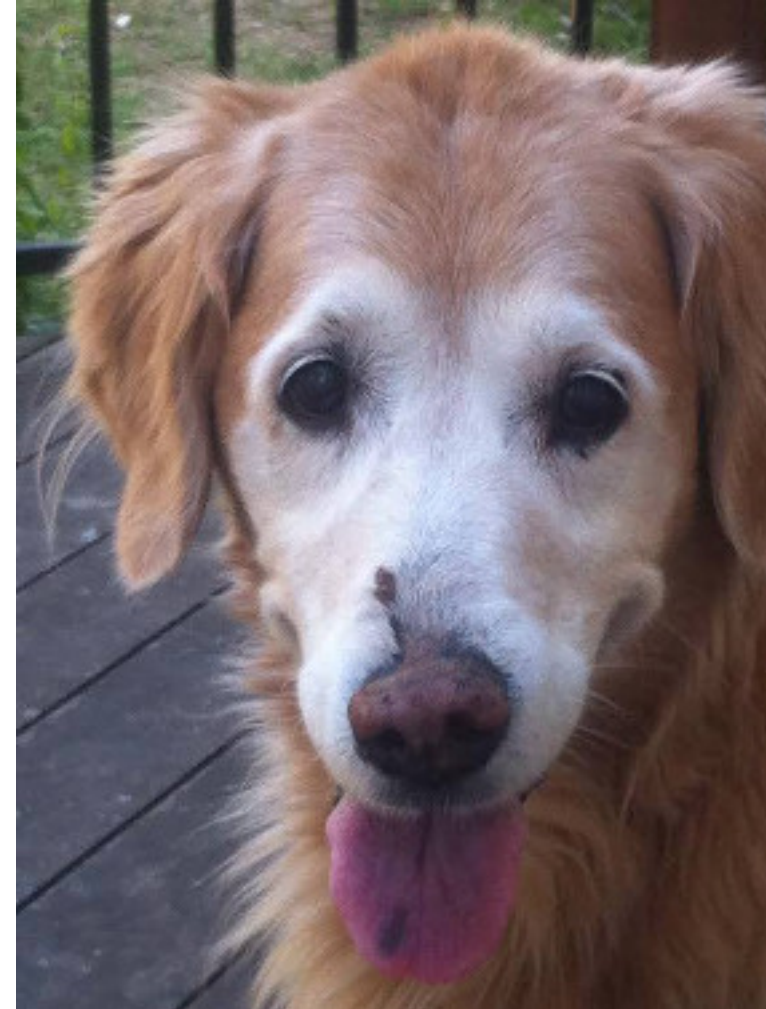
Web Developer:

Developer needed for content updates, new pages, special promotions and fundraisers. Skills must include Drupal, CSS, JavaScript, and HTML. Approximately 10 hours or less per month. Please contact [Dawn Marie Rae](#) for more information.



In Loving Memory - Tequila 03-057

Emily Tuczowski



You come to a fork in the road where your dog needs to leave you behind, and where you can only wish them well and hope to be re-united again.

Fourteen years ago, GRR received a call from an owner, in stage 4 breast cancer, who needed to find a home for her 6 month old female Golden, as she was not able to care of her anymore. I offered to foster this girlie, in our home with my first Golden, Shadow, and GRR Sweet, both of which were boys.

On the way to pick her up from South Austin, the owner called me to "make sure you stop by to pick up some pads". Pads?!? Apparently, Tequila had gone into her first heat. Do you remember my saying I had 2 boys?? Intros were a non-issue, as each vied for "her intentions" over and over - both were MORE than happy to include her into our pack. Funny enough, she played the role of "tramp" quite readily. Those were a really fun several weeks (sarcastically from me, but enthusiastically a 2 paws up from each of my 2 boys).

My Tequila, ... or "Gila" ... or "Gila monster" ... or just plain old "Monster " gave me another 14 years of joy since then. (Not so much to the boys, after she was spayed).

We battled Mast Cell cancer twice and looked the "big bad C" successfully down twice.

This past May, she was diagnosed with liver cancer. Maybe the "big bad C" had come back or what was owed "him or her". Can't hate the "big bad C" enough.

Tequila passed away on July 31st, comfortably and in her sleep, while I was away on vacation with my elderly parents. It breaks my heart that I was not with her when she passed, but I am ever grateful that she passed away peacefully, and in the company of my dear friend, Winn.

Over 14 years, she was a generous foster mom to many, many GRR foster puppies over the 14 years - teaching them respect, while always being the first to welcome them into our home. She was one of those "bomb-proof" dogs, the only like of which I experienced with my first Golden, Shadow. She got along famously with everyone but was judicious with setting readily accepted boundaries.

If you believe the age charts, she will have reached the ripe old age of a 100 in human years when she passed. Still too far early for me, but, respectfully, more time with her than most of us here have been given with their own Golden Angels.

Many years ago, we had our Swimfests out at Maura Phelan's place in Manor. At one of our functions, someone took a picture of my first Golden Shadow, GRR Sweet and GRR Tequila and it was up for bid at our Christmas party that year. Of course, I bought it, and it is framed, and posted in my living room. I take comfort that the 3 original "amigos" are back together again.

Monster, until we see each other again love you always, always, always.

