

GRR Update

Challenging times dictate creative opportunities

by Monique Lenczycki

It has been a busy spring and summer for GRR. So busy in fact, the newsletter has been on hiatus as resources were needed for dog operations. I am happy to announce **Brenda Forsythe** has just become the new GRR Gazette Editor. She is responsible for this awesome edition. I am sure you will all join me in commending her for the new format and job well done. With Brenda at the helm, we should be back on the quarterly schedule—many thanks to those of you who patiently waited for your newsletter while we handled incoming dogs as a priority.

On the dog front, it has been another record breaking year, unfortunately. It seems the number of unwanted Golden retrievers increases every year. As of 8/15/02 we've cared for 105 dogs, an 18% increase over this time last year. We are getting a lot of heartbreaking surrenders of senior dogs whose families can no longer care for them due to family or economic problems. It has got to be really difficult to have a dog 8-10 years and then give it up.

We have also seen more unhealthy and neglected dogs than ever before. We speculate this is also due to the economic and unemployment situation in the Austin area. Many owners surrendering their dogs have let heartworm prevention, vaccines and routine health care go. Our average vet cost per dog has skyrocketed over the last year and is nearly double the adoption fee of \$200 for dogs 7 and under. The worst case of malnutrition we've ever had just came in—her name is Brittany and she was found by one of our volunteers just standing in a road almost too weak to move. She only weighs 34 pounds and is literally a bag of bones. We estimate her to be about 8-9 years old. Her toenails were so long she could not walk comfortably. She has been seriously neglected for a long time and we have no idea when or why her owners abandoned her.

The combination of more dogs with bigger healthcare needs and a decrease in donations to non-profit organizations has made for some difficult times for the GRR team. I am proud to say the dedicated and hard working volunteers are weathering the times well as each day brings new challenges and creative learning opportunities.

Our GRR Boutique has undergone reorganization and has been taken over by **Sandy Nordstrom, Jody Branson and Jane Parke**. Many of you will remember these

ladies as the providers of the excellent food at this year's picnic. We are thrilled they have taken over the boutique and look forward to their new offerings. Please check the website regularly for updates and new items in the boutique as the reorganization continues this fall. The Boutique should be back in full swing in September.

Based on the overwhelming success of our annual picnics, we have begun to schedule more GRR social events to provide an opportunity for GRR friends to come and meet others and share information on a regular basis. The next one is a human-only event on September 10th. See the back page of this issue for more information and join us as we learn about Tellington Ttouch, a system for communicating and bonding with your dog more effectively, particularly if your dog gets anxious in certain situations such as thunderstorms.

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Join us for Happy Hour!

September 10, 2002
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Crown Plaza
(Formerly the Sheraton)
Colorado Room
500 N. IH-35
Austin, TX

Featuring
Francine Morris—
Certified Practitioner of the
internationally recognized
Tellington Ttouch

Don't miss the fun, visit:
www.GRR-TX.com for
more information.

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GRR Health

Thyroid Problems in Golden Retrievers

by Monique Lenczycki

One of GRR's early experiences with hypothyroidism was Brooke. When she arrived at GRR, we believed her to be an elderly female in very poor shape. She was extremely lethargic (she wanted to sleep all day), had a terribly brittle coat, was cranky with other dogs in her foster home, and could not walk many steps without stumbling in her hindquarters (initially we believed this to be from arthritis). Muscles showed wasting all over her body. After two weeks in care, Brooke wasn't getting any better and a quality of life decision was in order. Several GRR volunteers met her and saw what looked to be a senior dog with all kinds of problems, but the part that didn't add up was her eyes. They reminded us of a younger dog and the look in her eyes did not tell us she'd given up. GRR took Brooke back to the vet and asked for more answers—and a Geriatric blood profile revealed low thyroid values.

Hypothyroidism is a common problem for dogs but rarely occurs in cats. Hypothyroidism occurs when not enough thyroid hormone is produced. The thyroid gland has a number of different functions but is most well known for its role in regulating metabolism.

Goldens most commonly show signs of this disease between 4-10 years of age, although it is not unheard of for it to occur in younger dogs and even puppies. It occurs equally in both sexes, but spayed females appear to develop it more often than intact females.^{1,3}

Hypothyroidism causes a wide variety of symptoms. It is commonly suspected in dogs with weight gain or obesity. While this is a classic sign, only 60% of hypothyroid dogs will show this symptom.¹ Common symptoms of hypothyroidism in GR's include repeated ear infections, skin and coat abnormalities such as a poor, thin coat, dullness, wiry feel, loss of hair or excessive shedding, thickening of the skin,

Clinical Symptoms for all dogs ¹	% of Dogs Showing Symptoms
High blood cholesterol	80
Lethargy/mental dullness	70
Hair loss	65
Weight gain/obesity	60
Dry hair coat/excessive shedding	60
Anemia	50
Hyperpigmentation of the skin - very common in GR's	25
Cold intolerance	15
Slow heart rate	10

dandruff, oily skin, roughing of the skin, development of a "rat tail", increased skin infections, increased scratching and hyperpigmentation—a darkening of areas, or spots of skin. Other symptoms include personality changes (lethargy, fearfulness, aggression, hyperactivity) and seizures. The earlier the disease is detected, the fewer symptoms the dog will display. A study on various breeds of hypothyroid dogs revealed the following information on the variety and frequency of symptoms seen with the disease (see table above).¹

Hypothyroidism is easy to diagnose with blood tests that check the level of various thyroid hormones. Many dogs suffer from a low thyroid hormone level for years without treatment. If your dog has chronic recurrent skin or ear problems, s/he may be suffering from hypothyroidism.¹ The most common blood test is called the T4 test. With respect to the T4 test, a result in the 'normal range' is not enough to discount hypothyroidism. At GRR we have found that many dogs with symptoms and a "low normal" test result are hypothyroid and need to be medicated for this disease. Experts state the blood values should be in the upper 1/2 to 1/3 of the laboratory normal ranges to successfully rule out hypothyroidism. Lower levels are suspect and may well be indicative of the early stages of thyroid problems, especially in

dog families (like golden retrievers) known to have thyroid disease.

One of the nicest things about this disease is that it is easily treated and the majority of the symptoms resolve after treatment is started. It takes 4-6 weeks for the dog's body levels to normalize and symptoms disappear over the next few months. The coat abnormalities take the longest to correct.

Treatment consists of putting the dog on a twice daily dose of synthetic thyroid hormone called thyroxine (levothyroxine). There are brand names of this drug as well as generics. Some vets recommend using brand names such as Soloxine® (Daniels) and Synthroid® (Flint) for initial treatment, especially with smaller breeds.³ There is evidence that the brand name preparations work better than generics in smaller breeds. We have not seen specific evidence of this at GRR and have used both brand and generic thyroid medications for several years.


A dog is generally placed on a standard dose for his weight and blood samples are drawn to check his response with the dose then adjusted accordingly. Follow-up testing after initiating treatment is usually performed after four to eight weeks of therapy. The blood sample should be taken



4-6 hours after the morning dosage. Correct therapeutic ranges after treatment is begun should be at the top 1/3 to 25% above the upper limits of the lab reference ranges (except for geriatric dogs where mid-range is adequate). Dosage should be adjusted accordingly to achieve optimum therapeutic range.

Thyroid hormones should always be given twice daily to obtain the best response. It is now known that the half-life of T4 in the dog is about 10-12 hours (much shorter than in humans).³ Thus, about half of the hormone is used and eliminated from the body within 12 hours, so twice daily dosing provides the most consistent results. Dogs on thyroid therapy should be monitored with complete panels on a regular basis (every 6-12 months).³

Once the long term dosage is determined, the medicine can be purchased in bulk quantities (250-1000 pills) to make maintenance more cost effective. Once therapy is started the dog will need to be on treatment for the rest of its life.

Ironically the initial thyroid test on Brooke was not a low as you'd have expected in a dog that symptomatic. It was somewhere just below the test normal range. GRR decided we had nothing to lose by trying thyroid medication...and the results were far beyond what we hoped for. Within six weeks Brooke was bounding through the yard happily chasing balls with her foster family. The crankiness went away, her coat and attitude improved, muscle function began to rebuild in her hips and those eyes were brighter than ever. Today, at 6½, she romps on the beach and has a wonderful life with her loving Dad. 

¹*HYPOTHYROIDISM*, Joe Bodewes, DVM
Veterinary Services Department, Drs. Foster & Smith, Inc
http://www.peteducation.com/article_print.cfm?cls=2&articleid=449

²*BEHAVIORAL CHANGES ASSOCIATED WITH THYROID DYSFUNCTION IN DOGS*, W. Jean Dodds, DVM and Linda P. Aronson, DVM
<http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/behaviorandthyroid.htm>

³*AUTOIMMUNE THYROID DISEASE: COMMON PROBLEM OF PUREBRED DOGS*, W. Jean Dodds, DVM
<http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/ThyroidDisease.htm>


GRR Update—Continued

Challenging times dictate creative opportunities

Also, watch the website and your mailbox for information on the annual Holiday Gathering, slated for December. As we get a larger events team we look forward to providing more social & educational opportunities for all. If you are interested in helping with events in any capacity, please e-mail **Sharon Mills** at Events@grr-tx.com. Please also feel free to e-mail GRR with your ideas and suggestions for future events you would enjoy. We are always looking for new and creative ways to spread the word about GRR.

We welcome your participation in GRR. We always need volunteers to serve in many different capacities. We gladly provide all necessary training for our operations functions in both the dog and adoption teams. We also have need for administrative, fundraising and technical expertise in various areas. If you have a little (or a lot) of time to help these wonderful dogs in need, please e-mail **Volunteer@GRR-tx.com** for more information or to sign up for our introductory training session on September 28, 2002 at 1:30pm.

We bid a fond farewell to **Jennifer Lassonde**, our Hotline Coordinator. She has done an outstanding job scheduling and mentoring our hotline team. Jen is moving to CA and we will miss her deeply. **Becky LaBrum** will be taking Jen's place as Hotline Coordinator. Becky is a GRR adoptive and foster home and has been on the adoption team for the last year. Please join us in wishing both of these ladies good luck in their new endeavors.

Lastly we would like to thank all of our volunteers and supporters. Without you, GRR would not exist. 445 dogs have been cared for by GRR in our 3½ years of operation. Over 400 families have been completed by the addition of a furry golden into their midsts. Each and every one of them thanks you from the bottom of their Golden hearts. 

Gold Ribbon Rescue PO Box 956 Austin, TX 78767-0956

Contact us—

24-Hour Hotline:

(512) 659-GOLD

www.GRR-TX.com

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Golden Success Stories

Editor's note: For this edition of the GRR newsletter, we highlight two special goldens that entered our program as strays and worked their way into the hearts of two very active volunteer families for GRR. We honor the dogs for the humor they have brought all of us on the team—we frequently laugh until we cry as we celebrate these dogs' new lives without fear or neglect (even when they manage to get into all kinds of trouble!). And, we honor their families for the extraordinary patience and love they have provided to these special dogs.

Kristy Kessler is the Foster Director for GRR. She is responsible for keeping track of foster families and coordinating foster placement of our dogs when they arrive. Kristy and her husband Craig adopted Cricket in March, 2001. They are expecting their first child in November and we hope he is easier to raise than Cricket.

Beth Freeman-Hoesman is the Intake Director for GRR. She oversees the process of getting a dog into our care from the first contact to GRR is made. Beth and her husband Clark share their lives with Sage (a 9 year old GR), Sierra (an 10 year old GR mix), Duke (a 5 year old GRR dog), and Caesar (their incredibly cool and collected Maine Coon cat).

We hope that you will enjoy their stories as much as we did!

Raising Cricket

By Kristy Kessler

I grew up with Goldens. My brother and I both learned to walk by pulling ourselves up on Whiskey and toddling behind as he patiently made his way through the house. Misty and Surf stayed with my parents when I left for college. I hadn't the foresight at 18 to realize that they would, at 12, not be living when I finished school. They died when they were 14, within weeks of each other, and broke my heart.

For years I anxiously awaited having a house with a big enough yard, and having enough time to add a dog to my life. I applied to GRR literally within an hour of the offer on our house being accepted.

My husband and I adopted Cricket Blue about eighteen months ago. She was about 14 months old at the time and had been found stray with her sister in San Antonio. My husband and I drove to Dallas to meet and adopt her and I was so happy I cried at the meet. We brought this sweet little girl home to Austin and she became our baby. We call her Princess Cricket for two reasons—she is spoiled rotten, and she wholeheartedly believes in her own Royal Lineage.

Cricket is a loving dog with boundless energy. She loves to play and has a variety of comedy acts that she can perform, and does so often. She is sweet, friendly, and funny. She loves other dogs, and she thinks the whole world is her best friend. But she is also afraid of loud noises, garbage cans, and her own shadow! She will play hide and seek with me endlessly—waiting in the foyer while I hide, and then maniacally running through the house to find me (and her treat!). She thinks stuffed toys are a gift from the Gods. Upon receiving one, Cricket will promptly disembowel the poor creature. Her favorite these days is a duck she received for Christmas. Within 10 minutes, she had almost entirely decapitated it, removed all the stuffing and at last, located that annoying squeaker. When I said, "Oh Cricket, you've killed Ducky!" she looked at me with the lifeless cloth body on her mouth, smiling, as if to say "I SURE DID!" Now she carries it everywhere.

I managed to convince the principal of the school where I teach that she would be a great classroom addition. So for the second half of one year, she was a school dog. She came with me everyday. The kids loved her and she loved them. Every morning when I said, "Let's go to school!" she would run to get her stuffed toy and sit impatiently by the door. The kids brushed her, ran with her at recess, and would lie on the floor during silent



Cricket and Lily (formerly Licorice, another GRR dog from the Black Gold litter).

reading time petting her and reading their books. Last year we had a new principal who wouldn't let her come to school and she moped by the door everyday when I left. Oh, the guilt!

Cricket has had her fair share of trials and tribulations, as any dog will. Last summer I decided it was time to foster for GRR. I brought in Chester, who was a sweetheart. My sweet, docile, timid Cricket turned into a raving lunatic. She wouldn't allow Chester to have a toy, stared him down as he ate, and gleefully pounced him flat to the ground proclaiming, "I am the Mistress of the Universe!" After a few weeks, Chester decided he really wanted the Buster Ball and he was not going to give it up, no matter what. A fight ensued. The same thing happened with Joey a few months later. I just couldn't believe my wonderful dog could be such a bully. We contacted a behaviorist, who came out and spent some time with Cricket and us. She gave us good ideas to make Cricket feel more secure. Now we usually foster males, who tend to ignore her prissiness. But just to be sure, I usually put away toys when I have visiting dogs. Which I guess is what led my little genius to discover the razor blade.

I had another dog here and for safety purposes, I collected the toys and didn't give Cricket her usual nighttime Kong full of peanut butter. My husband was out of town, so I was a little more sensitive to



strange noises than I would normally be. This explains why, at 3 a.m., my eyes sprang open to the sounds of crunching. Panicked, I switched on the light. What to my wondering eyes should appear, but Cricket Blue on the floor, happily munching on a plastic razor. I discovered she had broken the head of the razor, and I found one loose blade on the carpet. I checked the package and confirmed my fears: it was a double bladed razor. The second blade was nowhere to be found. I checked her mouth; no bleeding and she didn't appear to be in pain. I called the emergency vet, who said I could bring her in in the morning, but to watch her for the next few hours. I sat up and hovered over her, and she finally got so annoyed with me that she huffily went off to sleep in the closet. I dropped her off at 7 a.m. at our animal hospital, where she was x-rayed. The doctor called later to tell me that the razor had passed through her stomach and he felt it was more dangerous to operate than to see if it would just pass through. BUT... in the course of the x-ray he also discovered a foreign object about the size of a silver dollar in her stomach! I picked her up that night with strict instructions to check her poop for remains of the blade.

It's difficult to describe how fun it was at 9 p.m. to be in the backyard, squatting over a pile of fresh laid dog feces. My flashlight balanced between my knees, and a bandana was tied around my mouth as I dug through the pile with sticks looking for a 3 cm x 1 cm, thin as paper, razor blade...gagging and coughing the whole while! My neighbors must have enjoyed the show. I found the blade, now in 3 small pieces, and was relieved that it hadn't cut up her insides. However, she still needed the surgery to remove the silver dollar-sized 'object'. So, \$1000 later, I hold in my hand a piece of ceramic pottery that I have never seen before. Who knows how long it was there.

Soon after, we had another major catastrophe. I have a duffel bag that I use for my GRR home visits. In this bag are toys and treats to share with prospective dog owners. I had gone to work, and Cricket

decided to drag the bag off of the chair it was on to see what kinds of wonderful things were in it. Later, I was able to completely reenact the crime scene.... She pulled out the toys, pulled out the bones, threw them around a bit and went back for more. She discovered at the bottom of the bag the most amazing thing. A fountain pen! Who needs dog toys when such incredible treasure is available? She plopped down in the middle of my carpet and proceeded to systematically remove all plastic components from the pen. Apparently, she learned her lesson about eating weird things, because we found every single part piled neatly by the enormous blue stain on the expensive Berber carpet. Then, with her front paws saturated in ink, she decided to pirouette throughout the house, gleefully leaping and prancing, leaving the most adorable azure footprints everywhere. \$60 dollars worth of cleaning products later, I still had blue footprints on the carpet and went rug shopping the following weekend.

I have a non-dog person friend who, after hearing of Cricket's latest escapades, asked me, "Ugh! What makes it worth it to have her?"

What makes it worth it? She's destroyed my shoes. She's cost us a fortune at the vet. She gleefully drops underwear from the hamper on the laps of my guests. The grass in my yard has been torn to shreds. My house is constantly coated with leaves and dirt. She terrorizes the cat. She's ruined the carpet.

What makes it worth it? Well, maybe it's the way she wags her tail so hard her whole body shakes when I come home. Maybe it's the way she prances through the neighborhood on our daily walks, head held high, her body swaying to the beat of "I'm a princess, I'm a princess, I'm

a princess..." Maybe it's the comedy of watching her chase her tail or throw her lifeless duck around the backyard. Maybe it's the joy of having someone to always play hide and seek with on rainy days. Maybe it's the way she follows me everywhere or curls up on the couch with me, nuzzling as close as she can get. Maybe it is the endless kisses, or that she is my constant, loyal companion who listens earnestly to my secrets and dreams. But in truth, I think it is because in raising Cricket, I have found immense joy and warmth that transcends all the disaster. The Princess is like my child and I cannot remember my life without her. The other night I was lying on the couch and she was next to me on her back, duck in her mouth, snoring like a freight train. I looked down at her and wondered for the millionth time "you were a stray....How could anybody have possibly let you go?" and then I thought, "But I am forever grateful that they did." 🐾



Cricket and Lily (formerly Licorice, another GRR dog from the Black Gold litter), who are best friends. They play together daily, often to the point of complete exhaustion!



Golden Success Stories

Editor's note: Duke came to GRR in August, 2000, from the now defunct San Antonio golden retriever rescue. He was surrendered by a family that was moving and no longer wanted him. GRR adopted him to a wonderful family (the story below was written at this time), but Duke was returned to GRR after proving himself to be obsessed with moving cats. Beth's cat Caesar doesn't move if Duke tries to play with him, and all live in harmony. Beth and Clark decided that they could not give Duke up again, and adopted him in January, 2001.

Duke's personality continues to shine. He recently ate a 13X9 pan of hot brownies, and after being forced to return it with hydrogen peroxide, he presented Beth with a golf ball from somewhere within. Beth and Clark don't play golf, they don't have golf balls, and Duke hasn't been to a golf course with them. The ball may have been in him for years. Fortunately, unlike Cricket, Duke donated his golf ball without a surgical bill!

The following is one of our favorite stories about Duke, and led to his appearance at GRR's annual picnic. We're sure that Hollywood will be calling his agents soon.

Duke is a Dancer

Beth Freeman-Hoesman

Every dog has his day, but not every dog has his day at dance class. In fact, I bet there are very few dogs that have ever visited a dance class, much less actually participated in one!

Duke was our third foster dog. He was a big handsome red fellow, extremely smart, very loving, and occasionally as stubborn as could be. We fell in love with him, but we didn't think we were ready for three full-time dogs and a twenty-pound cat. Duke was scheduled to be adopted by an incredible family the following Saturday, so we only had a few days left together.

I have the good fortune of being a dance teacher at a middle school here in Austin. I'm also lucky enough to have my own building that serves as my dance studio. On the last Wednesday that Duke was to be with us I came home for lunch as usual. As I was getting ready to head back, I decided that Duke should come along. I asked him if he was interested in attending dance class that afternoon.



He answered with a big "WOOF" and a sloppy kiss on my face.

At the studio, Duke roamed around sniffing the stereo equipment, checking out the room, and looking for things to play with. Once he found an empty water bottle, he was quite content to hold it in his mouth and settle down next to my desk. When the time came for class to begin I went upstairs to meet the girls in the locker room and left Duke on his own. He was still resting quietly when we returned. But once he saw my twenty-two girls dressed in leotards and tights ready to dance, he hopped up and ran to greet each one of them. It was almost as if he were saying, "Welcome to my studio!"

Dancers start each class by warming up, stretching out all the muscles of their bodies. It was obvious that Duke knew something about stretching because he walked from girl to girl making sure each was using the proper technique. When someone was not pointing her toes Duke would put his nose right on her foot. I can't think of a better way to get a dancer to point her toes than to have an 87-pound golden retriever resting his nose on her foot!

After warm-ups were completed, it was time to work on the dance the students were perfecting for an upcoming



Duke and his dance troupe performed his dance to "Who Let the Dogs Out" at GRR's annual picnic in April 2001. He was loudly applauded by dancers and audience members alike!



performance. This dance used pom-poms as props and Duke thought these were about the coolest toy he had ever seen. Every time the students performed arm movements Duke's head would follow the motion. His head was bobbing up and down, back and forth, round and round. Soon every time the music started Duke's head bopped along. It didn't take him long to master that part of the dance.

Now he was ready to add the footwork. He was no longer sitting in front of class watching the dancers; he was walking in between them as they danced. Well, walking isn't exactly the right word; he was dancing. As he moved across the floor and wove his way in and out of the dance lines, he was

performing the best high step I've ever seen. His front paws were prancing, his head was bobbing, he was moving to the music and he was even pointing his toes. As the girls moved into a vertical line Duke pranced right up to the front and sat down waiting for them to perform one particularly difficult section of the dance. With the big finish coming up the girls arranged themselves in a circle. Duke moved into the center of the circle, and as the dancers hit their ending pose, Duke sat tall and proud in the middle of it all with silver pom-poms surrounding him. The girls and Duke waited for my direction to recover from the ending position. "Recover," I said. The girls fell out of the pose and showered Duke with hugs and kisses.

Once Duke and I returned home, he told Sage and Sierra about his day at dance class and had a little after-school snack. He was exhausted from his dance workout so he retired to his special place next to the sofa and took a long and well-deserved nap. I sat next to him and rubbed his soft silky ear. I kissed his nose, told him how much his foster dad and I loved him, and how much we would miss him. Of all the memories Duke gave us, of all the funny and loving things he did, I will always picture him in the middle of dance class, prancing and pointing his toes. After all Duke is not just a dog, Duke is a dancer!



Funny 'Tails'

A client brought a litter of golden retriever puppies to my veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups squirmed over and under one another in their box, I realized it would be difficult to tell the treated ones from the rest. So, I turned on the water faucet, wet my fingers, and moistened each dog's head when I had finished. After the fourth puppy, I noticed my talkative client had grown silent. As I sprinkled the last pup's head, the woman leaned forward and whispered, "I didn't know they had to be baptized, too."

Speaking of Dogs....

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?

Golden Retriever: The sun is shining, the day is young, we have our whole lives ahead of us, and you're inside worrying about a light bulb?

Border Collie: Just one. And I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code!

Dachshun: I can't even reach the stupid lamp.

Toy Poodle: I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he's finished rewiring my house, my nails will be dry.

Rottweiler: Go ahead! Make me!

Shi-tzu: Puh-leeze dah-ling, let the servants.....

Labrador: Oh me, me, pleeeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I, can I??

Huh, huh, can I?!

Malamute: Let the Border Collie do it. You can feed me while he's changing it.

Cocker Spaniel: Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.

Doberman Pinscher: While it's dark, I'm going to sleep on the couch.

Mastiff: Mastiff's are NOT afraid of the dark.

Hound Dog: ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ.

Chihuahua: Yo quiero taco bulb.

Pointer: I see it , there it is, it's right there....

Greyhound: It isn't moving, who cares?

Australian Shepherd: Put all the light bulbs in a little circle.....

Old English Sheep Dog: Light bulb? LIGHT BULB? That thing I just ate was a light bulb?



Together Everyone Achieves More

by Beth Freeman

I've been a dance teacher for nineteen years. For eighteen of those years I've been a dance team director. For eleven years I directed an amazing high school team in Plano. That was followed by four years working with the incredible Southern Methodist University Pom Squad and the past three years have been spent forming and directing a young yet talented middle school team here in Austin. As I look back on the success of the years and the outstanding accomplishments of the teams I worked with I realize that the single most important thing these girls had in common was teamwork. Individual talent notwithstanding, teamwork is what put us over the edge. It's the one ingredient you can never omit. A poster once hung on the bulletin board in my office that read "There is no I in T E A M." Just as my dancers always pulled together for the good of the team and put forth whatever effort was necessary to insure our success, Gold Ribbon Rescue does the same. The only difference is we don't do pirouettes, we save goldens.

If you look inside GRR you will find a team of volunteers who work in unison just as a dance team does. This team has a common goal, finding loving forever homes for goldens, and each team member contributes a special piece of the puzzle that ultimately culminates in that goal.

We start with the surrendering owner, a *Good Samaritan* or a *shelter* that calls our Hotline and leaves a message asking for our help. Our **Hotline volunteer**, who as been recruited for a week of Hotline duty by our **Hotline Coordinator**, returns the call and interviews the caller getting as much information as possible about the dog. She then submits this information to our **Intake Director** who in turn evaluates the information and assigns the surrender to an **Intake Evaluator**.



One of our Goldens, Darcy, was picked up as a stray and the volunteer team went in to gear!

Our Intake Evaluator makes an appointment to meet the dog and evaluate his behavior. If the dog passes muster the Intake Evaluator gives the Intake Director the thumbs up and the search for a foster home is on. This is where our **Foster Director** comes in. She searches our list of foster homes and determines where this new dog will

best fit in. She then contacts the **Foster Coordinator** for that particular foster home, shares the information on the incoming dog and asks the Foster Coordinator to contact the potential foster home. Once the **foster home** is secure the Intake Director is notified and arrangements are made for the dog to come into GRR care. Often times the dogs we help are outside of the immediate Austin area, this means the Intake Director contacts our **transport team** to find a member who is willing to give the dog a ride to Austin. Without fail the transport team always comes through. The dog is delivered to the foster family and the love affair begins. Our foster family will take him to one of our **veterinarians** where he will receive a complete check up, all the necessary vaccinations and any other needed medical care. Our foster family will give him medicine, see him through heartworm treatment if necessary, clean his ears, bathe him, brush him, trim his nails, pick out burrs, do whatever it takes to make him handsome and to let him know he is loved and he is safe. After a stay of at least 10 days in foster care our foster family knows a match for their beloved foster dog may be coming soon.

How does a match happen? Well first you must find potential adoptive homes. This is where our **Adoption Team** comes in. Our **Adoption Director** receives an application, reviews it and decides if the family meets the GRR requirements to move forward in the adoption process. She assigns the family to a member of our interview team, and the process begins. The assigned **interviewer** will contact the family and ask them many questions about



becoming a forever home. Again if the family meets all of the GRR requirements the Adoption Director moves them on to the next phase of the process, the Home Visit.

A GRR volunteer on the **Home Visit team** makes a trip to the potential adoptive families

home, with his or her golden in tow. More question about being a forever family are asked, a lesson in grooming ensues, and a discussion about proper and safe toys follows. If the family meets all of the GRR requirements in the final step they are approved to adopt a golden. Now don't get me wrong, that doesn't mean they will get a dog right away. It might take a week, a month or several months before the perfect dog comes along for this family. Or the perfect dog may be waiting at one of our foster homes at the very moment our Home Visit volunteer drives away from our newly approved family's home.

Now that the family is approved they move to the matching phase



of adoption. Our **Matchmaker** reviews all of their interviews, looks at what type of dog they are hoping for, considers all of the dogs in our program and calls the family to discuss a match. Our family now has the chance to meet one of our goldens. They travel to the foster home, meet the dog, fall in love, and go home empty handed. Why empty-handed? Because the family must think about it for 24 hours before they can officially adopt the dog. We want the decision to be made with their hearts and their heads. In most cases less than 24 hours passes and the adoptive family calls to let us know they are completely in love and they can't wait to pick up their new furry family member. The next day our adoptive family is back at the foster home, they sign an adoption contract, and off they go, filled with love and joy. They have a new golden to love and one of our goldens has a family that will love him and care for him for the rest of his life.

One family adopted one dog and it took all of these people to make the adoption possible: **Hotline Volunteer, Hotline Coordinator, Intake Director, Intake Coordinator, Foster Director, Foster Coordinator, Foster Home, Transport Volunteer, Veterinarian, Adoption Director, Interviewer, Home Visitor, Home Visitors Golden Retriever, Matchmaker, and Adoptive Family.**

Is this the same as a dance team performance? In many ways it's even better. After a dance performance you are left with the memory of the moment. You can savor it and relive it in your mind time and time again.

But you can't reach out and hold it, oh but with GRR you have given someone something they can hold and love day



Darcy with her new family. "It's all good!"

after day. Not the memory of a moment, but the love of a lifetime.

Join our
Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

TEAM members needed:

Foster Coordinators

Intake Evaluators

Foster Homes

Interviewers

Home Visitors

Hotline Volunteers

Visit www.GRR-tx.com or send an email to Volunteer@GRR-tx.com. We'd love to hear from you!



Darcy gives her foster brothers "thank you" kisses for the love and comfort she's enjoyed.



Dog Friendly Austin

Looking for some great places to take your pooch? Listed in the table below are some 'leash free' parks. Other places include events such as Mighty Texas Dog Walk, Eyeore's Birthday, 4th of July Fireworks, outdoor shows (Zilker Rock Garden), and many more...

ALWAYS check out the park to make sure

1. You and your dog will be safe from other dogs, people, or traffic.
2. That it is a leash free and fenced park.
3. Always keep a copy of current vaccinations on hand when going out.
4. Do not take puppies under 16 weeks as they are still susceptible to parvovirus.
5. Make sure you can still control your dog as not all dogs in the park are friendly.

Check out www.texasoutside.com/austin-frames/DogOffLeashZones.htm for more information.

Restaurants - Patio Areas Only

Remember that although the restaurant and stores may allow dogs, not all patrons are dog lovers. Make sure your pet does not beg or steal food from others. Also clean up any mess your pet might make. Call ahead to make sure that restaurant policies haven't changed or do what I do—just carry your pet in and see if anyone makes a fuss.

■ **Central Market** 4001 N Lamar Blvd
Austin TX (512) 206-1000

■ **BB Rover's Pub and Grill** 12636
Research Boulevard, Suite B101 Austin TX
(512) 335-9504

■ **Spider House** 2908 Fruth St. Austin TX
(512) 480-9562

■ **La Madeline**

■ **Mozarts** 3825 Lake Austin Blvd Austin
TX (512) 477-2900

■ **Chuy's** 10520 N. Lamar Boulevard
Austin TX (512) 836-3218 and



11680 Research Boulevard Austin TX
(512) 342-0011

■ **Austin Java** 1206 Parkway Austin TX
(512) 476-1829

■ **Taco Shack** 4412 Medical Parkway
Austin TX (512) 467-8533 and
3901 Spicewood Springs Road # C Austin
TX (512) 418-8900

■ **TCBY** multiple locations

■ **Texas Land and Cattle** 1101 S MoPac
Expwy Austin TX (512) 330-0030 and
6007 N IH-35 Austin TX (512) 451-6555

■ **Crown and Anchor Pub** 2911 San
Jacinto Blvd Austin TX (512) 322-9168

■ **Whole Foods Market** 2201 N Lamar
Blvd Austin TX (512) 481-0235 and
9607 Research Boulevard Austin TX (512)
345-5003

Park Name	Address	Area of Park
Auditorium Shores	920 W. Riverside Dr.	from South First to Bouldin Avenue
Bull Creek District Park	6701 Lakewood Dr.	area of the park behind the restroom (100 yards in length) all the way to the creek
Emma Long Metropolitan Park	1600 City Park Rd.	between City Park Drive, the west park boundary fence, Turkey Creek and the top ridge of the bluff line overlooking Lake Austin
Far West		Far West Boulevard right of way between Great Northern Boulevard and Shoal Creek Boulevard
Northeast District Park	5909 Crystalbrook Dr.	between Crystal Brook Drive, the rail road right of way and Decker Lake Road
Norwood Estate	IH35 at Riverside Drive	on the north end of Travis Heights at the northwest corner of Riverside Drive and IH-35 (fenced in)
Red Bud Isle	3401 Red Bud Trail Unit Cr.	whole park
Onion Creek District Park	6900 Onion Creek Dr.	located at the North end of the greenbelt
Shoal Creek Greenbelt	2600-2799 Lamar Blvd.	between 24th and 29th Streets
Surplus Property		between Old Manor Road, Manor Road, Lovell Drive and the airport fence
Walnut Creek District Park	12138 N. Lamar Blvd.	between Cedar Bend Drive, Walnut Creek and the east and west park fences
Zilker Park	2100 Barton Springs Rd.	soccer field area, between Great Northern Boulevard and Shoal Creek Boulevard



- **Ginger Man Pub** 304 W 4th Street
Austin TX (512) 473-8801
- **Old Alligator Grill** 3003 S Lamar Blvd
Austin TX (512) 444-6117
- **Dog and Duck Pub** 406 W 17th St
Austin TX (512) 479-0598
- **Ruta Maya Coffee House** 218 West 4th
Street Austin TX (512) 472-9638
- **Amy's Ice Cream** multiple locations
- **Back yard Burgers** 2505 W Parmer Ln
Austin TX (512) 719-4580
- **Boar's Head**
- **Dirty Martin's Place** 2808 Guadalupe St
Austin TX (512) 477-3173
- **The Green Mesquite** 1400 Barton
Springs Rd Austin TX (512) 479-0485 and
7010 W. Highway 71, Suite C-1 Austin TX
(512) 288-8300
- **Magnolia Café** 2304 Lake Austin Blvd
Austin TX (512) 478-8645 and
1920 S Congress Ave Austin TX
(512) 445-0000

Local stores and other locations

- **Home Depot**
- **Whole Earth Provisions** 1014 N Lamar
Blvd Austin TX (512) 476-1414 and
2410 San Antonio St Austin TX
(512) 478-1577
- **Lowes**
- **Petsmart**
- **Petco**
- **Recreational Equipment, Inc.** 9901 N
Capital Of Texas Ste 200 Austin TX
(512) 343-5550
- **Groovy Dog Bakery** on Northland at
2222 and Mopac
- **The grave of Fred Gipson** (author of
Old Yeller) at the State Cemetery—You
and your LEASHED pooch can continue
the tradition of leaving a doggie treat
there for him.

Go ahead—grab the dog, the leash, some extra biscuits for the road—and have some fun!



GRR Treasury Update

As many of you know, *Tim Tierney* has been the GRR Treasurer and bookkeeper since February 1999. Tim has done an outstanding job with the often tedious task of making sure our bills were paid on time in addition to his other GRR roles. As of May, Tim got the pleasure of handing off the comptroller function to *Jennifer Cavell*. Jennifer has a background in business finance and IT. Jennifer has been diligently working to convert GRR books to an updated system and provides much needed reporting metrics. Tim is happily still with us and retains the Board Treasurer responsibilities in addition to the Wysong dog food sales program, special projects and web editing. Please join all of us in welcoming Jennifer to her new and vital role with GRR!

By Groceries at Randall's or Tom Thumb?

You can help GRR raise money by buying your groceries at Randall's/Tom Thumb Food Stores. Their "Good Neighbor" program helps non-profit organizations like GRR raise much needed funds. Next time you visit one of these stores, ask them to put Gold Ribbon Rescue as the designated charity on your Randall's card.

Our number is 8583 (write it on the back of your card to help remember).

For every dollar you spend, they will credit GRR. We need to meet a minimum level of activity to receive the donation, so please tell your friends, family and coworkers. It will help so many of our goldens and doesn't cost you a cent. Thanks!!

Wysong Dog Food.....

Gold Ribbon Rescue is a distributor of Wysong premium dog food. Help support Gold Ribbon Rescue by purchasing Wysong dog food and biscuits from us. Please visit our web site at www.grr-tx.com/food/food.htm for more information.



Membership Updates.....

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter to see your current Membership status. Your membership is \$25 per year. Membership fees help contribute to the overall operation costs of our non-profit organization. Your membership is renewed by quarters. February-April, May-July, August-October, November-January. If your membership is expired, you can send in your dues to:

***GRR Membership, PO Box 956, Austin TX 78767-0956 or online at
<http://www.GRR-TX.com/membership/info.htm>***



www.GRR-TX.com.....

We are constantly updating portions of our web site with current information. Please be sure to visit our web site (www.GRR-TX.com) to keep up to date with our current events.



Adoptable Goldens

Baja

Six year old Baja is a big, lanky counter surfer whose name fits him perfectly. He has a magnetic personality and a happy-go-lucky attitude.



That got him nabbed by the dog police and he landed in Town Lake animal shelter. They immediately observed he had all his original equipment, and they divested him of it before we picked him up. He still has enough hormones to be "head dog", and that, plus his size, earns him respect in our house. He learns quickly. He did not know "sit" when he arrived, but now he does it for treats, and also to please us when his tail threatens to clear the coffee table. On walks he learns commands quickly, and can "stay". He would be a wonderful only dog, and would be good with older children.

Jones

When we first met "Too Tall Jones," —a two year old male— we were greeted by a big smile, a lot of tail wagging, and many licks, even though he had been holed up in the shelter for the past couple weeks. He



was thrilled to be leaving and on the way home, he looked out the window, running from side to side, and stared down the people sitting behind us at the red lights as if to say, "hello, I'm out of

doggy jail, do you need a medium to high energy, very lovable, occasionally goofy two year old? Pick me, pick me!"

Too Tall J is very athletic. He loves to fetch and will bound across the yard or room to get whatever you may be throwing. He's a bit of a comedian with his toys! He looks like a dog who would excel in agility work—he just needs a little training.

Abby

Abby is about 3 years old and comes to us from Good Samaritans at the humane society in the Fredricksberg area. Here is her foster update:

Isn't she a beauty—where do I begin? I couldn't ask for much better for my first foster. Abbey came to me house trained, swims like a champion, has the energy of a 1 year old but is mostly a pretty



mellow girl, except having a thing for birds. She fetches, plays with all toys, loves riding in the car, and does not get car sick. Back to the water, she outplayed both me and my Buff. Unfortunately she went after some ducklings and I'm afraid she would have swum the lake to have caught up with them. She's very adaptable to all her surroundings, showed no inhibition to the house, yard or my other canine and feline. As for training, she came knowing how to sit for treats, she was pulling on the leash, but after two nights of walking she quit that, she's learning other manners quickly.

She's not a jumper. I have been showering her with hugs, kisses, pats—she adores grooming—has no resistance to being touched anywhere and loves the attention. Overall, she is extremely sweet.



Molly

This three year old female is just about as sweet as they come. When she first greets someone her tail is going like crazy and she's quick to give kisses. She's small in stature and her coat is gorgeous—thick and soooo soft.

She's well trained —she knows sit, stay, down and she politely lets us know when she needs to go outside for a little business. She goes into her crate without a fuss. Whether we are inside the house or outside, Molly likes to be wherever we go.

This girl is awesome on the leash. What a pleasure it is to take her on a walk or jog. She's always checking to make sure that she's keeping pace with you. OK, an occasional stop to sniff something delightful, then on she goes. Her greatest pleasure —beyond lovin' all over you is to play in the water. No matter what the activity—running, walking, swimming, playing ball or simply relaxing with a book —she's right there with you. Sweet Molly. So beautiful and so willing to give love and receive love. She will make someone's home so full.



Indy

Indy is adorable and beginning to come out of his shell. He came to us as a scared boy who would only lay on the ground and hide in the back of the kennel— never anything but passive. After one week, he now plays with my "pack", goes in and out the door without having to be carried, and will even eat in front of me.



He is just now beginning to stop the cowering in the kennel, and last night he barked and howled! The first sounds he has made! He is beginning to take treats from my hand and respond to praise. It will take a while more, but he will be a great dog.

Maggie

Maggie is a ten-year old girl with a white face and dark eyes. We have nicknamed her "Panda" because of her cute



facial features. We also call her "Magpie" because she's as sweet as pie. She is very affectionate,

and frequently does the typical Golden maneuver on your hand to get you to start petting her. She loves to be smothered with kisses and attention.

She is very calm and not afraid of much. She is fascinated by our cats and can spend hours watching them, but has been very gentle around them. She also loves to watch "Animal Planet", especially *The Planet's Funniest Animals* show and any show about wolves, dogs, or bears. She entertained the whole family one night as she watched a Dog Show with rapt attention. Maggie is just a happy, cuddly girl with a lot to give. She'll make a fine family member.

**Landry**

Landry is a 2 year old boy who comes to us from Austin. He is a sweet boy who is enjoying his new life as a house dog.

Landry had been seen wandering around an Austin neighborhood for about a week when a good samaritan noticed he was getting skinnier each day. She started feeding him and he returned to her front porch every day. She couldn't find his owner, nor could she keep him so she called Gold Ribbon.

Once he came home with us, he seemed relieved to be in a house. He slept the whole night through on the floor next to our bed.

Although he's only about 2 years old, he's very mellow and easy going. He is well-mannered and takes treats very gently. He's a hardy eater, won't leave his bowl until it's wiped clean. He doesn't beg at the dinner table and has never been caught counter surfing! He's totally housebroken and doesn't touch a thing while left alone in the house. He loves walks, rides in the car and water.

He knows the word "no" and the commands "down" and "sit" (this one he does much quicker with a treat in your hand). He'll fetch the tennis ball a few times, sometimes he'll drop it, and he loves to play tug-of-war with us or our dog. We haven't had a chance to see how he is around kids and cats, but, judging by his good nature, we're sure he'll fit in any household as long as there is lots of love and time to spend with him.

This healthy, happy, beautiful boy will be a super addition to his forever home.

Rufus

Talk about a blonde bombshell—meet Rufus! He's a fun-loving puppy, yet very well mannered for his age. He's housebroken, loves to chew on his bones, enjoys walking and going for jogs in the neighborhood and hanging out with our family. He gets along very well with our older golden, and loves to get her going in some good old doggy play. We call him "Rufus the Goofus"! We're still working with him on jumping up on people, although he doesn't do it much at all anymore. He occasionally counter surfs, but has yet to capture a prize! He's not into jumping on the furniture and listens better than any dog I've seen. If he's toying with getting into potential trouble of some kind, a simple "Rufus???" will stop him in his tracks. Then, he continues to happily follow you around the house.



He loves water—jumps at the sprinklers in the yard, laps up the water from the hose as you're watering the plants, and runs into water puddles. He has yet to jump into our pool for a swim, although he fell in once and easily made his way back to the steps.

He's a beautiful blonde and has the prettiest little face. He sleeps well through the night and loves to give you a little kiss on the cheek when the alarm goes off in the morning. Whoever adopts Rufus is lucky indeed!

**See our other Adoptable
Goldens:
Lucy and King in the
Extraordinary Golden Fund
section on page 20.**



More Adoptable Goldens


Celeste

On July 17th, someone abandoned Celeste at the door of a vet clinic. The 8-week-old Golden pup was sick with ringworm & roundworms & tapeworms & a urinary tract infection. She sat quietly at the bottom of a cardboard box, until the morning crew discovered her, frightened and alone. Pam the vet tech took charge of the 9# puppy. She called Rescue, and she arranged for the medications which would make Celeste healthy again.

These days, Celeste is healthy and thriving. A few weeks in foster care have given her body time to heal, and her mind time to grow and learn. Celeste is proving to be a WONDERFUL little girlie.



She's rowdy, yet a cuddler and when she wakes up from her afternoon nap, she is ready to run through the yard, rounding the crepe myrtle, flashing past the Live Oak then veering between mounds of boxwood...Puppy Frenzy! Celeste is an amazing retriever! How about 26 consecutive retrieves?! She now thinks she is too big for only tennis balls, and tries to fetch anything that looks like tennis balls. And boy does she love to swim.

Zippy puppy, polite young lady, shoestring puller, torturer of potted plants, tennis ball retriever, flaming extrovert, nap-taker extraordinaire...that's Celeste. 

Special Adoptable

Brittany

Touching Brittany was overwhelming. The feel of fur over skeleton, no padding, no cushion, was fragile beyond imagination. Her hip bones jutted out and so did her spine. Her ribs were clearly visible from across the yard. How did concentration camp victims survive? How did Brittany survive? We struggled to find a place where we could pet her without fear of damage. Sides, back, legs, rear were totally without padding. All fat & most muscle were gone. Brittany weighed 34 lbs, but she should have weighed 55.

We use Brittany's neck as her cuddle spot. She loves it when we rub her and whisper in her ear. We ask how she got lost, but she doesn't say. We surmise that the red haired matron has been on her own for a long time, and that she would surely have died if Bill hadn't spotted her along the road.

Brittany gives clues to her past. She is housetrained, so she must have once lived indoors. She understands the difference between human possessions and dog toys. Brittany knows how to eat bites of cereal off my spoon, so someone


must have indulged her. She enjoys car rides. She is wonderful with other dogs, so she must have had canine friends.

Why didn't Brittany's owners value her enough to provide a collar & tags?

Brittany is a prime example of why Gold Ribbon Rescue exists. She absolutely needed us to survive.

As I type at the computer, I glance to my right. Brittany is slightly behind me, asleep on the cool tile floor. Her front legs cross as she lies on her side. The pad of her foot twitches; she's dreaming. Brittany's tummy is full, she's clean, fleas & parasites are gone. Rescue will protect this charming girlie. We'll keep her safe and we'll

fatten her up. Brittany will heal and grow strong, and we'll never let this horror happen again.

Who will be Brittany's new family? Who will love her and protect her, and hold her in their arms? She is waiting... 



Golden Memorials

**In loving memory of
Sampson Reed**

Beth Freeman

**In memory of
Ginger, Janet & Neil Martin's
Dog**

*Linda Hall & the 9am choir at St.
Teresa's Church*

**In memory of our dog
Calvin**

Heather and Kevin Shuvalov

**In memory of our
Sara Bear**

Arden Mycue

**In loving memory of
Albert "Alby" Einstein
—our loyal companion.**

*Tim, Brenda, James and Alex
Forsythe*

**In memory of
Bailey Ploegar**

Katie and Mark Harris

**In honor and memory of
Rocky Ping Pong Biba**

Sharon and David Mills

**In memory of
Brandy**

Patricia Gray

**In memory of
Holly
beloved GR of Pat & Joe
Nahas**

Janet and Neil Martin

**In memory of
Maverick & "Spiker"
Kruegar and
"Martha" Groves**

Nancy Martin

**In memory of
Darwin**

Emily Tuczowski

Golden Honors

**In honor of
Tammy Saxon's Birthday**

Susan and James Karolik

**In honor of
Tammy Saxon's Birthday**

Chloe Moore

**In honor of
David & Mandi Humann**

Aaron & Lee Anne Wilde

**A Christmas gift honoring
Barbara Culhane Bennett**

Jerry & Betty Culhane

**In honor of
Betty Culhane's Birthday**

Sam & Barbara Bennett

**In honor of
Barbara Bennett's
Birthday**

Jerald & Elizabeth Culhane

**In honor of
Anita & Tom Moore**

Sharon Ogilvie

**In honor of
Tag Biba**

Sharon Ogilvie

Golden Memorials, Honors and Dedications may be made to memorialize, thank or pay honor to a special person, Golden or pet of any kind. You can make your donation on line at www.GRR-TX via a check or credit card or you may mail your donation to:

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Attn: Golden Honors

PO Box 956

Austin, TX 78767-0956

Remember to include the following information:

- for whom the donation is being made
- your name, address and phone number
- words of personalization.

A handwritten acknowledgement will be sent shortly thereafter and your memorial will appear in the next Gold Ribbon Gazette. Questions? Call (512) 659-GOLD



GRR Thanks!

GRR would like to extend our most heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Without your caring and generous support, the work we do would not be possible.

Extraordinary Golden Fund

These funds are used specifically to cover atypical medical expenses that our adoption fees and discounted vet services can not cover. Thanks to:

Dr. Mary Anderson
Country Kennel in Bangor, Maine
Mary Faloon
Meiko & Ippei Hamada
Donna Hart
Marla McClain
Shenna Neisen
Cam Snyder
Brian & Melissa Tyler

May Fund

The May Fund was established to help two very special dogs that needed joint surgery. Andre & Dahli did wonderfully with their knees and thank each and every one of you for your support!

Tamara Batts
Christine Fisher
Ippei & Meiko Hamada
Donna Hart
Katherine Hidajat & Toga Hartadinata

Susan King
Katie Koch
Greg Korycki
Rebecca Labrum
Monique & Chris Lenczycki
Donald & Marilyn Mehaffey
Sharon & David Mills
Laura Reed
Carol Sammons
Lorie Schlichte
Cam Snyder
Mary Solis
Teresa Szostak
Deborah & Micheal Wattenbarger

Donations to GRR

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

Austin Golden Retriever Club
Bruce & Lisa Phillips
Bruce Rossiter
Clark & Jenny Lutz
Corinne F. McCray
Corinne McCray
David & Lana Lopez
Dean Phillips
Debra Biba & Robert Everts
Diana Davison

Eda Ballinger
Elaine Flores
Elizabeth & John Horne
Far More Shade
Gretchen Ellis
Herbert Lyon
J.L. & Bette Langston
Jean Stokes
Laurence Henry
Linda James
Lisa Potapa
Lon & Maria Badgett
Lorraine Thirion
Marla McClain
Martha Hale
Mary Langen
Max Ploeger III
Michelle Leasure
Nancy Martin
Paul & Rebecca Mascot
Sandra Swanson
Sharon Mills
Sharon and Robert Ogilvie
Stacy Smoot
Steven Moss
Susan Roehm
Yvonne Badoni



Thanks to our Vets!

Gold Ribbon Rescue wishes to thank the following Animal Clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. Without them there would be no rescue. They give us discounts, provide education and medical guidance, squeeze us in at the last minute, board dogs short term when there's no foster space available and generally make our job much easier.

Please give them your business and support!

ATA (Animal Trustees of Austin) –Central Austin

Barton Creek Animal Clinic – Westlake

Central Texas Vet. Specialty Hospital – North and South locations

Century Animal Hospital – So. Austin

Crossing Animal Clinic—NW Austin/Cedar Park

Deerfield Animal Hospital – San Antonio

Emergency Animal Hospital of

Northwest Austin – No. & So. locations

Griffith Small Animal Clinic – Cedar Park
Oak Springs Veterinary Diagnostic

Hospital –So. Austin

Prairie Creek Animal Clinic – Plano

Rowlett Animal Hospital – Rowlett, TX

Suburbia North Animal Hospital –

Houston

White Rock Veterinary Hospital –


Pflugerville

Can you help with Silent Auction and Raffle Items?

In order for Gold Ribbon to provide continuing assistance to the community, we need your help in raising funds. We often get dogs with unexpected special medical needs that require substantial unbudgeted funds. Having frequent, successful fund raising activities allows Gold Ribbon to continue to provide extraordinary medical services to these dogs.

Last December, Gold Ribbon Rescue hosted a very successful Holiday Party where we raised money on approximately 25 silent auction items. To have another successful event this year we need donations of auction items.

If you have any items or services you can donate, or would agree to purchase for this purpose, please contact events@grr-tx.com. As a 501c3 non-profit organization, we will happily provide you with a tax receipt for your donation. Examples of items from last year were one night stays at a local bed and breakfast inn, bottles of wine, signed children's books, free nights of boarding at a local kennel, toys and airline tickets.

Also, if you have any single large item that can be used for a raffle ticket for next year's spring picnic we would be very interested. This year we raised over \$1000 on the raffle tickets and offered three wonderful prize items. 

Noteable Quotes

"Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant."

—Unknown

"A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down."

—Robert Benchley

"I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult."

—Rita Rudner



Extraordinary Golden Fund

Many dogs with atypical medical expenses find their way to Rescue. Our \$200 adoption fees can't cover the costs, even with generous discounts from area veterinarians. Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden Retrievers with high medical costs, we created the "Extraordinary Golden Fund." Donations towards this fund go directly to the care of Golden Retrievers like these...

Rooster

Rooster was a handsome, 6-year-old big red male who came from the shelter. He was severely heartworm positive and developed a front limp a couple weeks into care. Seems the big boy had also gotten himself on the wrong end of a gun.



Rooster

He was found to have been shot in the shoulder at some point in his prior life. Again, the bullet fragments could not be removed and he was destined to a quieter life. \$827 worth of heartworm treatment, blood tests, x-rays and medications bought him a wonderful life with a devoted owner and her young daughter. The best part of his new life is the joy he brings to others daily. His owner works at a skilled nursing facility and the big red boy is an honorary member of the staff, checking on patients and cheering them up— now his "daily rounds" bring smiles instead of gunshots!

Andre

Andre came from loving owners who got him from the shelter as an 8 week old puppy. The sweet fluff ball kept growing, and growing, and then began limping. By his first birthday he was a whopping 110 pounds and was diagnosed with subluxating patellas, a knee problem where his kneecaps were too loose and popped out of place giving him the limp.

The happy giant had learned to live with his painful problem and took it in stride. When it happened (frequently) he'd hobble over to you and hold out his leg. You'd say, "Andre let me fix your knee" and he'd obligingly hold it out for you to pop the kneecap back into place. Then off he'd go to play with a nuzzle in thanks. His former owners got his first knee fixed and were saving up for the second. Just after his 2nd birthday they got unexpected military transfer orders to HI and Andre the giant, weighing in at 132#, could not go with the family. The airlines would not let him ride in the passenger cabin due to his size and he couldn't go in the cargo hold due to heat restrictions in the summer. The tearful owners called GRR asking if we would take this loving dog with a knee problem.

They had not been able to save the money yet for the second operation and there was no where else for him to go. Andre the gentle giant had his knee surgery and is now a happy bounding boy once again. Cost \$1200 - \$8.39 per pound!



Andre

Dahli

Dahli had the same subluxating patella problem as Andre and came in about the same time. Difference for this girl was her former owner didn't even know it. We noticed she had a limp and couldn't play with the other dogs—she tried hard but ended up lying down and watching instead. A trip to the vet revealed the one year old had lived her entire life neglected in the yard, without anyone to fix her knees when they popped out of place. Both of Dahli's knees were repaired at the same time and she is finally the happy, pain free puppy she should be. \$1600 for both knees done at once gave Dahli the chance to play with other dogs as a puppy should and a bright future with her new family.



Dahli



Lucy

Lucy arrived from an owner quite bowlegged, with a strange looking wound on her neck. "I don't know what it is. It started when she was a puppy and just kept growing..." the former owner vaguely said of the 3½ year old. She had a long standing infection and a biopsy revealed it needed 90 days worth of a very expensive antibiotic to heal. Her bowlegs were



Lucy

also examined by the vet surgeon and found to be un-fixable. The pretty girls back legs just grew at a funny angle and nothing can be done. She gets along fine on daily Rimadyl and Glucosamine which will hopefully delay arthritis setting in from her unusual gait. Diagnostics, antibiotics and medications for the sunny, sweet natured blonde were nearly \$800.

King

King arrived from the shelter where he'd landed one too many



King

times. His owners kept him in the yard and he kept getting out finding people to play with—imagine a GR doing that? They didn't want to pay the fines to get him out any longer so GRR was called.

Upon arrival in foster care a limp was noticed. Seems this guy had a bad walkabout at some point and found people that did not care for friendly dogs looking for attention. X-rays revealed King had been shot awhile ago. Shrapnel fragments were in the tissue surrounding his knee area and a biopsy found an infection deep in the joint. The shrapnel were too deep and too old to be successfully removed. King's infection did well with antibiotics and he lives life just fine on Glucosamine. Uncovering the mysteries of his prior life cost \$600.

Roscoe

Roscoe came to GRR emaciated and weak from the San Antonio shelter. Happy with any attention he could get, he snuggled happily up to all at the vets for his intake exam. The news was not good—he was malnourished, severely anemic, had heartworms and the tick disease Erlichia. Medication for the tick disease and proper nutrition to add a few pounds was ordered to get him well enough for heartworm treatment. Roscoe was happy to finally have a home, food and a great new life that included all the tennis balls he could chase. 3 weeks and several good meals later, Roscoe began to limp. A trip to the vet found the 3 year old had arthritis in his front elbows. Even worse was the suspicion that the Erlichia had caused it. Roscoe did well initially on Glucosamine and Etogesic (an anti-inflammatory for dogs similar to Rimadyl) for the limp, but the blood test were not improving from the tick disease despite the antibiotics he'd been taking for 30 days. A couple weeks later, he began having bladder problems and kidney disease was suspected, again secondary to the Erlichia.

85 days into care the foster family regrettably called with their painful news: "Roscoe is not having a good life any

more." The limp was now constant despite the drugs, the kidney problems were not resolving and he had no energy left to chase his beloved ball. His blood tests had not improved despite the medications, and more systems were beginning to fail. Roscoe had spent 3 wonderful months with a loving foster family. However, the sad reality that neither love nor money was going to save him from the ravaging late stage Erlichia finally set in. 89 days and \$740 after Roscoe came to rescue, the dreaded tick disease won the battle.

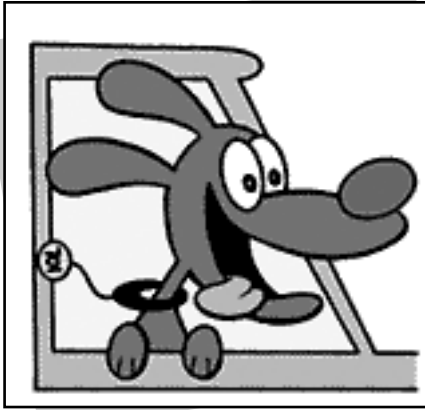
Roscoe went humanely and lovingly to the Rainbow Bridge with his foster dad by his side. Goodbye Roscoe.



Roscoe

*The Extraordinary Golden Fund earmarks donations specifically towards medical care for Golden Retrievers like these. Mail your tax-deductible contribution to: **Gold Ribbon Rescue, PO Box 956, Austin TX 78757-0956**. Include a note designating it toward the Extraordinary Golden Fund. Then visualize the gentle look of gratitude in a Golden's eyes, or a sloppy wet lick on the elbow. Thank you.*





By Kelly Hay

The despicable green travel bag was out and there was an arrant attitude about the house. The two dogs had found their respective sulking spots, the bathroom tile and the master bed; both with their red-gold backs turned our direction. They were even hard-pressed to rise up to meet the challenge of their daily walk, that is, until the unthinkable happened. They saw their food bowls and leashes being packed into the back of the car. YES! Not only were they going, but the food bowl accompaniment signified they were going for awhile!

After two and a half years in Texas, we decided to take a road trip to South Padre Island. The "kids" were so excited once they realized they were going that Shelby, our five year old female, kept hopping into the back of the SUV prematurely. Apparently the 100+ degree garage was not enough to thwart the efforts of a dog with her "out to meetcha" collar on.

We loaded a variety of toys, leashes, balls, dog food, dog snacks, dog towels, and doggone' it there was barely enough room left for us! We left at night with the intention of having everyone under 100 pounds sleep until we arrived, uh-huh. We passed through small Texas towns like Odom and Edroy, at which point the dogs began questioning their early gusto. We observed some big floppy ears flatten when we mentioned several times that we hoped to "Beat Bertha" on this trip, evidently all the dogs could think was "that Bertha must be a really bad dog."

A Golden Getaway

That was about the time everyone settled into their travel mode, which was to stand at the rear window panting and staring East. We pulled into our first official rest area, and to encourage composure, looked for a spot "where no dog had gone before."

As a side note, is it just us or does everyone think a big bowl filled with some water in the rear of the car is a good idea, and that through some miraculous, divine intervention it will someday, somehow work?

We arrived at our destination around 1:00 a.m. The streets were desolate, and we were excited, so I made the grand decision to let the dogs out to follow "Dad" straight up the stairs to the duplex where we were staying. Seeing as "Dad" was laden with a baby and endless equipment, all he could do was holler when the dogs sprinted past him on the deck of the duplex, straight down the stairs on the other side. Oh yeah, those sometimes have two sets of stairs. After about 15 minutes of ring around the bozo (guess who) I tackled our 4 year old male, Sherman, and pushed his ample rear into the duplex. Thankfully this portion of the vacation only resulted in one strained ACL and a tarnished sense of what it really means to have a trained Golden.

We had rented a "Pet Unit" complete with lime green carpet and couches from circa 1965. No matter, we wouldn't be inside long. We thus ventured out early the next morning, intent on a couple hours of beach-lounging, bird chasing, and ball-retrieving. There is a "leash-law" in effect there, but on an empty beach way off the beaten path, who really uses them? That is of course, until you find yourself in the middle of what is apparently a well-trodden horse-trail. At least those horses were trained.

One hundred ocean dog-dives later, we were ready for home. As we headed to the car (yes, on a leash) poor Sherman stopped for a "break-time" in some

nearby seaweed (no worries, we had plastic scoopers at the ready,) and thanks to some mistakenly swallowed saltwater, that little "break-time" went for about a 100 feet. Yep, we were THOSE people...the ones with the off-leash, energetic dogs, now sick and making what can only be called a trail of malcontent all the way to the car. Once home, the still wet, sandy, and possibly sour-stomached dogs slept soundly on the couch. Mental note to self, says the reader, don't ever rent your place to the Hay's.

We debated Sunday morning about whether or not the dogs should have one more round at the water, and decided that as nice as it would be, what we didn't need was a 5 hour drive with overheated, odiferous dogs.

Really the highlight of our trip home occurred when we decided we needed to stop and give the dogs a break. We looked for a decent gas station with some grass nearby. At this point, we were in a small town somewhere near Bee, Texas. We waited close by, again with plastic at the ready, and let them "do their business." Suddenly, a booming voice from the closest house yelled, well, I can't really say what he yelled, but it was something remotely like, "Well hello folks, are those big, beautiful dogs currently eliminating near my house?" Now, I have never been one to turn down an invitation for some verbal sparring, and as I prepared to shout something equally friendly back to him, my husband reminded me that we were most definitely in the "back-country" and that any retort could quickly result in Mr. Back-Woods coming right back out with a shot gun. Needless to say, we made a Bee-line for home.

Overall, we had an entertaining and relaxing vacation. Having the dogs along for the trip made it even more special, and we never had to worry if they were being walked and fed back at home. They will absolutely be with us next time too.



Of course, experience breeds wisdom, and we did learn a few key things:

- No matter how much you love them, big, wet dogs still smell.
- There is a reason pet units charge a deposit.
- Water bowls in the back of the car don't work.

And one more thing, if you're ever in Bee with your dog(s), please be sure to find the Diamond Shamrock and let them go to town.



Some Pet Peeves About Humans

1. Yelling at me for barking...
I'M A DOG!!
2. Taking me for a walk, then not letting me check stuff out. Exactly who's walk is this anyway?
3. Any trick that involves balancing food on my nose...stop it.
4. Yelling at me for rubbing my butt on your carpet.
Why'd you buy carpet?
5. Blaming your farts on me...not funny.
6. Getting upset when I sniff the crotches of your guests. Sorry but I haven't quite mastered that hand-shake thing yet.
7. Dog sweaters. Have you noticed the fur?
8. Any haircut that involves bows or ribbons. Now you know why we chew your stuff up when you're not home.
9. When you pick up the poop piles in the yard. Do you realize how far behind schedule that puts me?
10. Taking me to the vet for "the big snip", then acting surprised when I freak out everytime we go back.

GRR Wish List...

If you can donate any of these or other items, please e-mail Tim@GRR-TX.com or call our Hotline at (512) 659-GOLD. We will be happy to arrange pickup and provide you with a tax receipt.

Thank YOU!

- Heartgard, Sentinel, Interceptor for all size dogs
- Frontline & Advantage for all size dogs
- Glucosamine with and without Chondroitin
- Medications, if you have any of these medications leftover in labeled containers, please consider donating them to the rescue dogs: Rimadyl, Drontal Plus, Cephalexin 500 mg capsules, Doxycycline, Baytril, Cipro, Otomax, Etogesic.
- 36" to 48" Wire mesh dog crate—new or used
- Gift certificates to local vets listed in this newsletter
- Gift certificates to local copy shops for printing of GRR adoption packets and dog records
- Postage Stamps
- Copy paper
- 10x13 Envelopes to hold adoption packets and dog records
- Science Diet D/D dry dog food for dogs with food allergies (available from your vet)
- Long Distance cards for our intake and adoption teams
- Digital Camera for dog photographs—new or used

Small donations make a big difference!

We are extremely grateful to all our donors, large and small. You can, and do make a difference in the lives of homeless and neglected Golden Retrievers in Central Texas.

- If everyone who receives this newsletter donated 1 tube of Frontline or Advantage, we'd have enough to treat all the rescue dogs for 2 years!
- If half of the people receiving this newsletter sent in \$5, we could examine, provide shots and spay/neuter 10 dogs!
- If a quarter of the people who receiving this newsletter volunteered 5 hours of their time a month, we'd have a program unsurpassed in quality and could do so much more in terms of education and fun events!
- If 1 out of every 10 people receiving this newsletter volunteered to foster a needy Golden once every 4 months, we'd never have to turn away another dog due to lack of space!..... Just something to think about.



GOLD RIBBON BOUTIQUE

These are only a few of the great items we carry in our on-line Gold Ribbon Boutique. Shop us in September at www.GRR-TX.com All funds raised support the rescue and educational activities of GRR.

GRR is delighted to be a distributor for the quality fleece products from Masterpiece Pet Products. Known around doggy circles as the famous "HA-HA" beds and toys:



Ha-Ha Dog Bed—Item #1

Reversible Plush Pile. Size 26X40. Machine wash/dry. Very durable. Great alone as a floor bed or they make a nice mat in the crate. \$43.25/ea

Ha-Ha "Rings" Toy—Item #2

Such a simple concept, yet such a delightful toy. Plenty big enough for a couple of GRs to share. Large: \$14.75/ea Small \$10.75/ea



Ha-Ha "Squeaky Tail" Toy—Item #3

Soft, mouthable fleece with no stuffing to pull out! Great for tug or individual play. \$11.75/ea



Ha-Ha "Kitty Tail Toy"—Item #4

Five Squeakys throughout the length of this toy means fun for your GR every time he/she grabs it. \$11.75/ea



Undercoat Rake—Item #5

Undercoat Rake, Regular Designed to remove "Thatch," or undercoat, leaving

the top, or guard hair, undisturbed. All black, teflon-coated teeth. Wood handle. \$7.99/ea

Andre Tisserand Thinning Shears—Item #6



30-Tooth Double Blade, 6 1/2", made in France of ice tempered high carbon steel to make the cutting edges last longer and stay sharper, 22 karat gold plated handles, blued steel blades. \$59.99/ea

We also accept orders via mail. Send in your order today!

Item#	Description	Size	Qty	Unit	Price	Total

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Phone _____ email _____

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Check _____ Money Order _____

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TX residents add 8.5% sales tax _____

Shipping & Handling: \$3.50

Total Due: _____

Make remittance payable to GRR and mail to:
Gold Ribbon Rescue
Attn: Boutique
PO Box 956, Austin TX 78767-0956



Volunteer Training Classes


Have you ever seen the commercial with the person standing in the rain next to a broken-down car? A stranger comes by and gives them an umbrella, and the tag line is something like, "If you can't do it all, do what you can."

You may be someone who at one time or another has been interested in volunteering, but didn't due to any one of a number of factors. You might think you don't have the time or the energy to take on yet one more thing. Many of us feel like if we can't devote numerous hours or loads of money, why bother? BUT...here is the thing. Gold Ribbon has all sorts of types of volunteers, from people who spend a few hours every day to people who spend a few hours every year. Each and every person contributes in their own way to the rescue and well-being of these wonderful dogs. We need people willing to do just a little every bit as we need people willing to do a lot.

There are so many ways to volunteer with us. Really, the best way to figure out what you might be interested in is by attending our training on September 28th in Austin. You will spend a couple hours getting a "behind the scenes" look at rescue. Plus, you'll meet other dog lovers and even some of our Goldens!

We do offer training quarterly in case you aren't able to make that particular date, check our website occasionally for updates. If you would like to find out how you can help even sooner, please email us at volunteer@grr-tx.com.

Remember, every hour you devote to Gold Ribbon Rescue gets another Golden Retriever a bit closer to his or her new "forever" home.

You might not ever get a thank you from them, but in your heart you'll know they are in a better place, thanks in part to you. 

Mark your calendar:

GRR Training

Saturday, September 28, 2002

1:30pm to 3:30pm

University Presbyterian Church – Fellowship Hall

2203 San Antonio St.

Austin, TX 78703

Directions: Take Mopac to the Windsor Exit (24th St) and go east towards UT. Go past Lamar. Take a right at Nueces (one way street). Go down one or two blocks to 22nd and turn left. Go one block to San Antonio and turn left (one way street). The church is on the NE corner of the intersection. There is a parking lot across the street from it and there is parking on the street. *Be sure to park in the Presbyterian parking, for if you park in the Baptist lot you will be towed.* As you stand and look at the church, the sanctuary is on the right, a fenced courtyard is in the center and there's a wing at the left—go in the doors of that wing to the left of the courtyard and Fellowship Hall is to your left.

Please RSVP so we can send your training materials to you in advance.

Call 512-659-GOLD for more information.



Join us for Happy Hour

Featuring

Francine Morris — Certified Practitioner of the internationally recognized

Tellington Ttouch

September 10, 2002

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Crown Plaza (Formerly the Sheraton) Colorado Room

500 N. IH-35

Austin, TX

This wonderful opportunity to learn about the *Tellington Ttouch* program and to mingle with other GRR volunteers is available for a small donation of \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP by September 5, 2002 and visit our website for more information at www.grr-tx.com.

The *Tellington Ttouch* is a specialized approach to the care and training of our animal companions. Developed by internationally recognized animal expert, Linda Tellington-Jones, this method based on cooperation and respect offers a positive approach to training, can improve performance and health and present solutions to common behavioral and physical problems.

Payment in advance is preferred to help Gold Ribbon Rescue defray upfront expenses. Checks can be mailed to GRR Happy Hour, PO Box 956, Austin TX 78767-0204 or payment can be made via check or credit card online. Hope to see you there!

Gold Ribbon Rescue
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