



Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas February 2005 17th Edition

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Letter from GRR's President – Maura Phelan

Hundreds of Golden Hearts Beat Because of You

Happy 2005!

Now that everyone has made it through the holidays, it's time to take stock and shine up those resolutions! Whether or not you'll be keeping them....

As for GRR: with your help, we were able to rescue 134 dogs in 2004, and we have rehomed nearly all of them. As always, we are staying a bit too busy. As I write this letter, we are already bringing in our 15th dog of 2005, with about eight others waiting in the wings.

The new year has brought many changes to our board and major players as well. Laura Reed and Beth Freeman retired from a long, successful, and much-appreciated term as matchmakers. Our new matchers are Heather Smalley and Tracy Gundy, who have done such a great job with adoption direction (Heather) and volunteer/home visit coordination (Tracy). Jill Cravens is our official new Adoption Director (a job she has actually been doing since last summer!), Emily Tuczowski has taken over as Volunteer Coordinator, and Beth is now our Home Visit Coordinator.

Kathy Burton left the board to focus on her "real" job (the nerve!), but remains very involved in many aspects of GRR. Becky LaBrum has also left the board to devote more time to her second college education, but she's still helping with intake and follow-up. Heather and Gina Totah (our new Intake Director, who is

doing a spectacular job) have stepped up to fill the open positions. Continuing to serve are Beth, myself, our financial wizard Tim Tierney, our events planner extraordinaire Susie Schaffer— and Brenda Forsythe, who, in her non-existent "spare" time, somehow manages to pull together a fantastic newsletter, time after time, and edit webstories and pictures too.

We thank all of these great people for what they have done and what they continue to do. Without them, we couldn't make it work. Thank you! We don't say it enough.

Another new project for GRR is our fledgling Building Fund. We will be raising money to establish a location (or multiple small locations) so that GRR will have a home base. Any contributions or ideas for fundraising are greatly appreciated! And, perhaps, someone to head up the effort? Visit www.GRR-tx.com/buildingfund.htm.

This year has also seen some truly extraordinary GRs come in (for more on our Extraordinary Golden, see page 6). Honey Boy has diabetes and low thyroid.... and he was blind, but after cataract surgery and loving care by his fosters Cathy Vance and John Bird, he is now svelte, stable, and SIGHTED! Chewie is a cheerful charmer who instantly developed a huge fan club; he arrived in care with horribly infected ears, but surgery has fixed this wonderful gent up, too. A recent arrival to GRR is Bunny, a girl

born without eyes. She is adapting well in her new foster home and is loved by all. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to help these special Golden.

Then there were the oldies rescued from shelters and neglectful homes and tenderly cared for at Biba Acres by Margo and Gary Biba. Some of these were in such bad shape that, after a few days of bliss, they had to be helped to the bridge. Margo and Gary, knowing this possibility from the outset, continue to take in these old Golden over and over again. I think they are angels on earth. Thank you. And thanks to all our foster homes and other volunteers: every year, hundreds of Golden hearts beat just because of you and bring joy to hundreds of families. Wishing you (and GRR) a prosperous New Year!

—Maura



Upcoming Events:

Gold Ribbon Rescue Training:
Saturday, February 19, 2005

(12pm to 4pm at Ultimate Imaging
2020 E. St. Elmo Road, Austin, 78744)

GRR's Annual
"Golden Afternoon in the Park:
Saturday, April 9, 2005

(Zilker Park—rain date: April 16th)
Check website: GRR-TX.com for more info.



A Golden Tribute—Kathy Burton

She's Been Everywhere, Saved So Many

by Becky LaBrum

While visiting my dad at Christmastime, I kept seeing a car ad on TV: an SUV barrelling briskly along, up hill and down dale, with a Johnny Cash song playing in the background:

*"I've been everywhere, man—
Crossed the deserts bare, man
Breathed the mountain air, man
Travel— I've had my share, man
I've been everywhere... I've been to:
Houston, Brenham, Canyon Lake, San
Marcos, San Antonio, Kirby, Helotes, Shiner,
Kerrville, Bastrop, Blanco, Wimberley,
Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Waco..."*

OK, OK, those are all Texas cities and not the ones mentioned in the actual lyrics, but the song and the speeding SUV immediately reminded me of GRR's **Kathy Burton**, intrepidly crisscrossing the state and picking up many a lucky dog along the way.

Kathy has stepped down from the Board of Directors after two years on the job, but fortunately for us she isn't really leaving—she has simply joined the advisory board, and she'll continue to be a foster coordinator, home visitor, intake evaluator, and invaluable resource on dog health and behavior (whenever a foster dog is acting up, we all say, "Call Kathy!"). But we wanted to take the time now to give her just a little of the tribute she deserves for all she has done for GRR. In fact, Kathy and I were in the same incoming "class" (June 2001), and when she whipped out her wallet photos of Golden's Jacy and Bob and shepherd mix Sam, I knew I was in the presence of a kindred spirit! But I didn't really get to know her until she took over as Intake Director at the start of 2003, with me as her assistant. We were on the phone constantly, figuring out where to put which dog, and that's when I really came to appreciate Kathy's incredible skills with our surrendering owners. We've received e-mails from grateful folks who did NOT give up their dogs, because after talking to Kathy they realized:

"Oh, I didn't know Golden's actually preferred being inside. We made her a housedog and she's not tearing up the yard any more."

"We went to the vet like Kathy suggested, and we are trying some meds and a DAP diffuser, and her thunderstorm problems are way better now."

"We consulted with a trainer and put him on the 'no free lunch' program, and things are going great. He isn't knocking us over any more."

And even: "We knew she was old and ill and should be put to sleep. I think we just needed to hear it from somebody else. Now we know it was the right thing to do. Thank you so much for your sympathy and advice."

I don't think there has ever been anyone better at counselling owners about doing what's right for their dogs.

Of course, hundreds of Golden's did come in with Kathy at the helm... which is where we get into that song. Not only has Kathy been everywhere, she has done everything, too: from evaluating incoming dogs to finding foster homes for them to providing door-to-door transport. Lots of happy GRR Golden's have started their new life by barking into Kathy's ear for miles, sharing her Starbucks cappuccino (or trying to), and sightseeing out the window as the road rolled by. And if there was a worthy Golden we were just too full to take, Kathy managed to get him or her placed with one of the other Texas rescues. She's still on the move all the time, always ready to meet incoming dogs and handle emergencies—as she did late last year, when young "Cobee" was in danger of being put down at a shelter near San Antonio. Before the day was over, Kathy had sped 40 miles his rescue and 40 miles back, settled him in for the night—and the next day delivered him to his foster home in Wimberley. It's no accident that so many of our foster families know Kathy so well: she has more than likely been the one driving up with a Golden in tow.

Of course, on top of everything else, Kathy and Bill have provided an amazing foster home for a succession of Golden's.

"We like the project dogs," she says—and many a dog who walked in the door with a complex or two has, after a shorter or a longer stay chez Burton, waltzed off to a new home happy and well-adjusted. There is so much more I could say, but the above at least touches on the main points. GRR is so lucky to have somebody like Kathy, so from all of us: THANK YOU for everything!

And while I'm at it, I'm going to add just a few words in honor of Kathy's "Golden American Princess" **Jacy**, forever the queen of her heart, who passed away last year at the age of 15. Jacy wasn't a GRR dog, but she was a gracious hostess to every foster dog who entered her home, and she had such a personality! Kathy was rather naïve when she got Golden #1 and picked the dominant pup in the litter. Oops. "There's a reason why she was so much bigger than her six brothers and sisters," Kathy commented ruefully. "She was shoving them all out of the way and getting all the food." Jacy scorned baby gates and would laboriously haul herself to the top like a tiny, fat, furry rock climber, teeter there for a second, and then crash triumphantly to the floor on the other side. Fearing that Miss Bossy would break a rib, Kathy removed the baby gates. As an old lady, Jacy was still the queen bee: I can remember Kathy imitating Jacy and the morning walk: "She'll look me up and down and then decide—maybe I will grant you the honor of taking me for a walk, and maybe I won't. You can just stand there with the leash while I make up my mind."

When Jacy was diagnosed with lymphoma, the illness progressed quickly. Kathy and Bill made a date to take her to the vet and let her slip away. The day before the appointment, however, Kathy heard a soft bark and sigh from Bill's office—and rushed in to find that Jacy had quietly passed away. Doing things on her

Continued on Page 3



A Golden Tribute– Beth Freeman and Laura Reed

Tireless Dedication to GRR

by Brenda Forsythe

Picture this... I'm at Town Lake Animal Center for the very first time, meeting Beth Freeman to receive my first foster Golden, Darcy. We went there for the one Golden, but left with two! Beth had walked the shelter and found yet another Golden in need of rescue and she nabbed him on the spot. Had there been any more, I'm sure she would have put them all in her Mercedes and taken them home. So off she went with Rufus in the backseat bouncing all over the place because he couldn't quite contain his excitement and good fortune. That's Beth. Her passion for saving these beautiful, neglected dogs was so inspiring.


Now enter Laura Reed. Laura was also working the intake side of things— among numerous other duties—and had gone out to evaluate a Golden whose owner was chaining the dog to a tree in the backyard to keep her from escaping. When Laura got there, the owner informed her that the dog had gotten out again – was gone—and frankly she didn't care if the dog came back because she was headed out for vacation and couldn't be bothered. Laura came prepared. With a leash and breakfast taco in hand, she called out to Megan who immediately came running right up to her

and jumped in the back of her SUV. With Megan secure in the back, enjoying her breakfast taco, Laura called me on her cell phone to ask if I could foster Megan. How could I refuse? How could any of us refuse a request from Beth or Laura? To know their passion and the personal sacrifices they made for GRR was enough to get an affirmative out of me.

Beth and Laura met while both volunteering for GRR and forged a friendship that will most likely last forever. They have both seen and done it all when it comes to volunteering for rescue— from fostering, to intake, to matchmaking, to serving on the Board of Directors—and everything in between. They are also responsible for inspiring so many others to volunteer for GRR. Phone interviews and home visits provided the opportunity for foster and adoptive families all over the state to get a first hand look at how much rescue meant to both Beth and Laura. Friendships made with so many GRR families were icing on the cake. And nothing made either one happier than to see a rescued Golden in the arms of a loving adoptive home.

Beth and Laura have stepped back from their volunteer work with GRR and handed

the matchmaking torch to a new team. Beth will continue to volunteer for GRR as she balances her new role as “mommy” to Dillon. And Laura, too, will be spending more time with her daughters as their school and extra-curricular activities keep that SUV running about town.

We'd like to express our sincere appreciation to both these ladies for their tireless effort and passion that has helped build GRR into the organization that it is today. There are literally hundreds of Golden out there that owe their lives to Beth and Laura. Nice job, ladies. 

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Austin, TX 78767-0956

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

24-Hour Hotline:

(512) 659-GOLD**www.GRR-TX.com**

Board of Directors:

Maura Phelan, Tim Tierney, Beth Freeman, Susie Schaffer, Gina Totah, Brenda Forsythe, Heather Smalley

Advisory Board:

Margo Biba, Jean Steensma, Kathy Burton, Cindy Moss, Linda Willard

Intake Director: **Gina Totah**

Matchmaking Team:

Heather Smalley, Tracy GundyAdoption Director: **Jill Cravens**Hotline Coordinator: **Becky LaBrum**Events / Fund-raising: **Susie Schaffer**

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Newsletter:

Brenda Forsythe, Becky LaBrum

send newsletter submissions to:

Brenda@GRR-TX.comA Golden Tribute– Kathy Burton *(continued from page 2)*

own terms, as usual! Now, it just so happened that a new family was coming to meet Kathy's foster dog that day. You can imagine her state. Grief stricken over her Jacy but having to put a cheerful face on things, and then of course... "Great, Jacy," said Kathy, hysterically amused despite herself, "really nice going. What am I supposed to tell these folks... Pleased to meet you, just ignore the dead dog in the den?!" Well, she discreetly closed the den door and got through it.

The foster boy had a great meet and found his new home. But Jacy was Jacy to the very end. There'll never be another like her... but there IS a new Golden girl in the Burton home. This past December, Kathy and Bill took in a foster dog who won't be moving out. Kathy often proclaimed that she would never keep a foster— but it took Miss Emma about 2 days to engineer a change in that attitude. Jacy just made the house seem incomplete without a Golden girl! Everybody is smiling— Kathy, Bill, Bob & Sam, Emma, and probably Jacy, too. 



Golden Health

Those Pesky, Itchy, Hot Spots

by Becky LaBrum

Nearly 10 years ago, Eric and I got our first Golden, Lulu, from Helen Dorrance. "What health issues are we likely to encounter?" we asked. "Hot spots and skin allergies," she promptly replied. She was right! I don't think there's a Golden owner on the planet who hasn't had to deal with the dread hot spot on at least a few occasions. For those of you lucky enough not to be all too familiar with the problem: a hot spot is a sore place, usually raw and seeping, that a dog makes from biting or scratching at herself. Hot spots range from dime-sized to enormous, and they can appear in their full glory literally within a few hours, much to the horror of the owners, who feel they must somehow have missed some earlier, less nightmarish stage. If the hot spot goes unattended for long, the whole nasty mess of blood, serum, saliva, and wet, matted fur can pack down and form a hardened plaque on the skin, creating an ideal moist, airtight environment for bacterial growth and skin infection.

So, what to do? Preventive techniques are many, and we will get to those in a minute. As for dealing with a hot spot that is already there—here are some ideas from all of us.

From Kathy Burton: "We've used 99% pure aloe vera gel on it (after trimming an area the size of a quarter)."

From Becky LaBrum: "Groom your dog often and run your fingers back and forth under her fur, not forgetting the insides of her legs and her tummy. This is a good way to find hot spots before they get too far. If you find one, shave or clip the fur over and around it. When the sore place is fully exposed to air, it often dries up, scabs over, and heals very quickly. After clipping, gently clean with a mild antiseptic soap. While it heals, treat as needed with a cooling or anti-itch spray. We generally use Genta-vet (gentamycin spray). Genesis is another good product.

Finally, if it already looks really horrible when you catch it, head for the vet. Sometimes antibiotics are needed."

From GRR president Maura Phelan: "I have used Gold Bond Powder and a hot spot cool spray from the people who make Travel-Ease with good results. Bathing the wound with chlorhexiderm or betadine first, to clean, then drying with a blow dryer (as hot as they can stand) and dusting with Gold Bond or spraying with the hot spot spray (which contains witch hazel) works well. Remember, I am trying to NOT take off the hair for my show dogs."

What about prevention? Good diet is critical. Feed a high-quality food and give supplements such as salmon oil caps, Derm Caps, Lipiderm, 3Vs, Vitacoat—there are many on the market. The idea is to keep the dog from getting dry, itchy skin in the first place. Some people have good luck with allergy meds at particularly "itchy" times of year; you can start with Benadryl (works for some dogs, not at all for others) or Tavist. If nothing seems to help with the fierce scratching/biting that can generate hot spots in a hurry, talk to your vet. Atarax is a prescription antihistamine that has helped my Golden Donna; Beth Freeman, whose Golden mix Sierra used to turn herself into hamburger, has had superb results with Atopica (expensive, but a lifesaver for this dog). A low dose of prednisone for a limited time can also help break the cycle. Emily Tuczowski has had excellent success with flaxseed oil. She adds a tablespoon to Sweet's evening meals on a daily basis, and there has not been a re-occurrence of hot spots in over 18 months. Says Emily, "it's probably true that dogs, like humans, are prone to different reactions to different things. And similarly, what resolves a problem in one may do nothing for another, *so just keep trying!*"

Lick granulomas

We've probably all seen our dogs occasionally licking their paws. In some cases, though, the licking becomes obsessive, to the point where all the fur is gone and the dog creates a raw, spreading area of raised, thickened skin with an ulcerated center. In especially bad cases the dog also chews, and can deepen the lesion almost to the bone. The area is often infected. Cam Snyder, frequent GRR foster dad, recalls his foster dog Duke: "Duke was a wonderful dog who would occasionally chew on his left back leg, right above his foot. I was never able to identify what triggered it. He didn't have any other abnormal behavior, at least that I noticed. The first couple of weeks he was here, nothing happened. Then I came home one day and he had chewed almost to the bone. We went right to the vet, and returned the next day for a recheck. Margo met us there, and can verify it was not a pretty sight. The daily treatment was to clean the wound, apply a topical antibiotic like Mycitracin, cover it with a sterile pad and then wrap gauze around his leg to hold it on, secured with tape. Then put a layer of bitter apple on top. I ended up keeping an eye on him when I was home, and he wore an Elizabethan collar if I was going to be out. Even so, he still would chew. His wound would get smaller and start to close, then he would open it again, although never as bad as the first time."

About the only thing that became clear to me after several days reading the tons of information to be had on the subject: there's no one cause, and (*as Cam's account illustrates*) the problem is extremely persistent and frustrating to treat."

Continued on Page 7



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GRR Emails: Photos, Funnies and Info

Editor's note: If you have a remedy, funny story or photo you'd like to share, or have a question you'd like answered by our GRR experts, send an email to brenda@grr-tx.com. Space is limited in the newsletter, so it may not appear in this column, but it's sure to be answered by folks that know their Golden Retrievers. Tap in to the wealth of experience and knowledge within the GRR community. Our charter is to help Golden Retrievers AND their owners in the Central Texas area. So don't hesitate to ask us about training, unusual physical symptoms, behavior issues, or even questions about diet. We're here to help.

email to GRR:

Uh-Oh! Toby was sprayed by a skunk and stinks to high heaven. What can I do??

Reply:

Here's the recipe to deskunk your dog that appeared in the paper:

One quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide

¼ cup baking soda

1 tsp. liquid soap

Wash your dogs in the solution—careful of eyes and ears. Rinse with tap water. Mix up a new batch every time a spray happens. It cannot be stored safely. —Beth

Reply:

Also Nature's Miracle has a deskunk product that rated 4 stars (best of all) from Whole Dog Journal's review. I've seen it at Petco. —Margo

email to GRR:

Subject: Chloe's Debut

Here is a picture of Chloe's (GRR# 04-019) stage debut with Rachel (my 3rd grader) at the Kiker Elementary School musical called "Callin the Dog." It is about an old time tall tale and Chloe was the prize for the person who could tell the tallest tale. Chloe went to 5 rehearsals and then was perfect on the stage last night.

—Gina



Extraordinary Golden Fund

Chewie and Honey Boy: Two Extraordinary

*Many of you are familiar with our **Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF)**, an account we keep expressly to help Golden Retrievers who need hip replacements, spinal surgery, or other extensive, out-of-the-ordinary procedures. In the past month alone, we've broken the bank!— Chewie needed a delicate operation on both ears, and Honey Boy had cataract surgery. Please help us help more Golden Retrievers like these two boys by specifying that your next contribution go to the EGF. GRR and all the Golden Retrievers will be forever grateful!*

Honey Boy: The Future Looks Bright

In summer 2004, a Good Samaritan found a weak, skinny Golden near a Houston highway, straying into traffic. She collected him on the spot and headed right to her vet for a check-up. "Honey Boy" (as he was soon named for his sweetness of spirit) proved to be severely diabetic, emaciated, virtually blind due to extensive cataracts on both eyes— and only about 5 years old. GRR was contacted, and we set to work. First order of business was getting the diabetes under control, and what a long haul that proved to be! Recurrent infections and bouts of diarrhea plagued Honey Boy, but with the help of our vets and a great foster family unfazed by the daily insulin injections their Golden boy required, the loving dog finally stabilized, put on some much-needed weight, and became strong enough for a long-postponed neuter surgery. Next up was a trip to the eye doctor. "The cataracts are operable!" was the verdict.

On Friday, January 21, 2005, Honey Boy's cataracts were broken up and removed. Reports his foster dad, "On Saturday morning, he was still a little swollen, but in good spirits. Sunday was better, and Monday has been great. We played a little fetch (indoors). He can't be too active yet, but he can see! Everything seems to be healing well... he is still

getting used to seeing the world again."

Eye exam and cataract surgery for a "foreseeable" future: \$1,334.

Chewie: No More Earaches, Ever

by Margo Biba, Chewie's Foster Mom

Chewie's original owners discarded him in the overnight drop box at Town Lake Animal Center. He was itchy and loaded with fleas. With his saggy tummy and sparse coat, Chewie wouldn't have made much of an impression, if it wasn't for his big, bright-eyed, happy grin.

In foster care, Chewie snuck below our radar...integrating seamlessly into our gang of six Golden Retrievers...slipping behind us onto the couch...curling up in the Lazy Boy recliner in my office... melting into the crowd for the 5:00 dog drive. It was as if he had lived with us before— he was so familiar and comfortable and easy to be with. Chewie made sure to keep an eye on me at all times...positioning himself nearby wherever I was, following me from kitchen to office to laundry room and back again, eyes sparkling & smiling widely.

Ten-year-old Chewie nudged the pantry door open, slipping his hefty body into the dimly lit space, unaware of his human audience. We watched as the 87-pound Golden Retriever surveyed his bounty,

focusing on a Hershey's chocolate ready-made pie crust. The old boy zeroed in, using his front paws to hoist himself toward the overhead treasure. "Chewie!" we scolded softly, and he startled. "Curses, foiled again..." he muttered. Chewie is always game for a road trip, rocketing into the Explorer, slamming into the front seat, my sidekick. We run errands for hours and the old boy is enthusiastic at every corner and every stop. Chewie is a joiner, a traveler, an opportunist and all-around pal. With Chewie, every event, every activity is interesting and fun. Chopped brussels sprouts and carrots for lunch... "Oh how delicious!" Watching TV at night... "A chance to snuggle!" A trip to the vet... "They are so interested in me!"

There was just one cloud in Chewie's happy new life. Chronic, neglected ear infections had literally squeezed his ear canals shut and made it impossible to heal the infection beneath: no air or medication could even get through. The stoic old fellow was in constant pain— waking us up at night as he moaned softly and rubbed his ears against the floor, shaking his head hard enough to cause hematomas (blood-filled swellings) on his outer ears. After checking his progress over his first few weeks in care, Chewie's doctor got to the point. "Chewie needs surgery on those ears! The canals have improved a bit, but not enough. There is pus in there. There is probably pus and infection all the way down to his middle and inner ear. There is calcification of the external ear canal because of life-long infections that weren't treated. I can't even get an ear scope in to take a good look. The only thing to do is an ear ablation: removing the entire ear canal (taking it out and sewing it up). With all that infection and inflammation gone, he'll be pain-free at last. He has suffered enough!"



Chewie



Goldens

On January 13, Chewie headed to the hospital for the operation. It was a success! After a few days of observation at the clinic (during which time the entire staff and all the vets fell in love with him, of course), he returned to his foster home and his favorite perch on the Lazy Boy. He's recovering nicely now and not a bit bothered by his bad haircut!

Cost of a pain-free future for Chewie:
\$1,735. 🐾

Chewie modeling his new "hat", haircut and that infectious smile.



Golden Health— Hot Spots and Lick Granulomas *(continued from page 4)*

Possible culprits include:

- Skin allergies;
- Bone or joint pain: the dog's attention is drawn to the aching area, which he then licks in an attempt to soothe it;
- Low thyroid;
- Boredom;
- Separation or other anxiety: one theory is that the pain from the chewing causes the release of endorphins, the body's feel-good chemical, so that the behavior becomes self-reinforcing.

As far as treatments go, if you do have an idea about causes, you can at least start on the road to management— by addressing the allergies or treating arthritis pain; by adding thyroid supplements; by giving the dog a more interesting life (walking him more to vary his environment, or leaving toys and food puzzles for him when he's home alone, for instance); by trying low doses of anti-anxiety meds such as amitriptyline, clomipramine, or prozac. But as anybody who has dealt with lick granulomas can attest, once the licking has become a habit, it is really hard to break. For dealing with the persistent lesions, some sources advocate physical barriers: bandaging the area and spraying it with bitter apple or Tabasco sauce, or even

wrapping the limb in a plaster cast enclosing barbed wire! Others say that these tactics don't do much. Once collars are removed, for instance, the whole business may start up again; or the dog may lick above and below a cast. For really drastic cases, surgical excision (by traditional, laser, or cryosurgery) is sometimes recommended to remove dead and infected tissue and seal off nerve endings. But even here, the dog may lick at the incision line or the healing area, and... back onto the merry-go-round we go.

The latest wisdom from some vets is a long course of antibiotics (from 3 weeks to several months) to eradicate the deep-seated infection so typical of these lesions. This was the approach recommended for Scout, an 8-year-old girl who arrived at GRR this fall. She went on 3 weeks of cephalexin, and was also prescribed a topical treatment, Synotic Solution with Banamine & DSO. Synotic is a topical solvent for thick, dense connective tissue, often used for horses; it absorbs quickly and helps deal with the thickened, granular skin of the lesion. Banamine is an anti-inflammatory.

Susie Schaffer, Scout's new mom, comments: "Sometimes the spot looks like

it is gone and other times I see a little area that needs attention. Her fur is still a little discolored on that area of the paw. She likes to lick at her paws and I'm always getting after her. I wash the area with Malaseb [an anti-fungal shampoo] and leave it on for 10 minutes a couple of times a week. I have cut a sponge in fourths and just put a dab of shampoo on the area and rub it in with the sponge. If I see that she is licking more than usual then I spray bitter apple on the area."

This is one of those cases where vets and owners aim for management above all, because we're unlikely actually to achieve a cure. It's a case of working with your vet, trying to pinpoint the triggers, and having faith that eventually you will find something that helps your particular dog.

Web sources. You'll find dozens of web articles on doggie skin troubles. A few links to try:
www.dogstarr.com/hotspots.htm;
www.aztecanimalclinic.com/lick_gran.htm;
www.thepetcenter.com/exa/lick.html;
www.2ndchance.info/acral.htm;
www.skinvet.com/diseasedetail.asp?index=2;
www.nzymes.com/tests.htm (non-pharmaceutical approaches for various problems). 🐾



Success Story

From “Disposable Dog” to Frisbee Phenomenon: This is Annie’s Story

by Jill Cravens

In late fall of 2003, we made the decision to adopt from Gold Ribbon Rescue. Like many a “mom-to-be” waiting for that call from the GRR matchmakers, I used to visit the website daily and read all the stories. One girl brought a tear to my eye every time: her name was Charity, and she had the most beautiful eyes and the sweetest face! Yet her original owners had dumped her at a vet’s office to be euthanized—they hadn’t kept up with her puppy shots, she’d come down with parvovirus, and they didn’t want to pay for the treatment. The vet, however, had other ideas. He decided that the 5-month-old girl was worth saving and treated her at his own expense. The little dog also had another medical problem—a rather unusual one. Her tail was just a little curlicue that turned right around and dug into her back end. You couldn’t even get a towel underneath it to dry her off after a bath, and the vet predicted problems with infection if the tail remained (in fact, as he learned, it was already infected from the inside out). It had to come off. The surgery was complicated, but a success!—and after a few weeks of recovery, Charity was ready to go to her forever home.

GRR figured that nobody would care about Charity’s “defect” (it might even be an advantage: no worries about one swipe of a tail clearing an entire coffee table!), but she stayed up on the web for quite a while. When I spoke with the matchmakers, I wondered why someone wouldn’t want this wonderful, sweet girl— but it seems tailless Golden Retrievers just weren’t in demand! Laura Reed found out more about Charity from her foster home, and it turned out she would do fine with our family of two kids, a cat, and a peppy Australian shepherd. We met her and

adopted her on the spot! Her name is now Annie, inspired of course by that other little orphan Annie with wavy red hair.

But there’s more to Annie’s story. Not only is she a wonderful pet for my children and a best friend for our other dog Shelby, but Annie has a talent: she loves playing frisbee. Shelby had been playing and competing for 3 years, so we took Annie along one day, not expecting much. Were we in for a surprise! In less than a year’s time, Annie has already competed in local and national frisbee tournaments. In October, she attended the UFO (United Flying Dog Organization) Major in Houston, and claimed a bronze medal in the intermediate class, placing third out of 22 competitors—and the gold and silver medalists were former world champs! She has also done demonstrations for schools and other organizations. Only cattle dogs, border collies, and Australian shepherds typically make it in this sport, so everyone is really surprised to see a tailless Golden out on the field. She’s a crowd favorite. Everyone cheers the loudest when Annie goes out for a frisbee! Whenever she wins, we proudly share her rescue story with the



Annie claims the bronze medal at the UFO Major in Houston.

crowd. Through Annie and her accomplishments, we hope to encourage more people to turn to rescue groups for their pets.

Editor’s note: I didn’t know a thing about frisbee competition, so I asked Jill to explain it to me. Here’s what I learned: In the intermediate class of competition (in which Annie medaled), the dogs have one minute to get in as many throws and catches as they can; they score higher for catches at a greater distance and for those made in midair. Freestyle competition features a variety of tricks, all choreographed to music. The dog might do a flip in the air, vault off the person throwing the frisbee, or jump over his back to catch it.

Sound like fun? Want to know more? Visit the Austin Airdogz link: austinairdogz.org. Austin

Airdogz has practices every month, and Jill’s husband Dan even offers classes for people interested in teaching their dogs to play. It’s a great way to have fun with your pooch, get some exercise, make new friends—and cheer Annie on to greater heights, of course!



A Note from GRR's Treasurer:

Spring is right around the corner! While you start your spring cleaning, please think about making a donation to Gold Ribbon Rescue. If you have a crate you are no longer using, we could use it for our foster homes. Should you need a new crate, please consider buying one from GRR.

As of the first of the year, all new adoptees receive a year free membership to Gold Ribbon Rescue. Please check the back of this newsletter (above your address) to find out when your membership expires. If you are not yet a member, please join today. Your membership pays for our hotline, the printing of our newsletter, shipping costs of medications and general costs that keep us afloat. Our adoption fee covers typical expenses (veterinary care, shots, heartworm and flea preventative). And, then there are our Extraordinary Golden who have atypical medical issues that require more than our fees can cover. Please consider making a donation in Chewie or Honey Boy's name. You can do it on-line on our website or send a check directly to GRR noting the funds to our Extraordinary Golden Fund.

Sincerely,
Tim J. Tierney
GRR Treasurer

Holiday Party—Good Cheer, GRReat Funds

by Susie Schaffer

It was a festive and joyful gathering at GRR's 2004 Holiday Party, held December 11 at the home of **Jody Branson** and **Dave Baker**. About 60 Golden-loving partygoers feasted on a gorgeous buffet, featuring ham, turkey, meatballs, cheese, and numerous yummy deserts. Our \$5 raffle item this year was a real winner for one lucky couple: a gift certificate to the Four Seasons Hotel for Sunday brunch and a relaxing massage. Thanks to **Vance Sack** for donating this wonderful gift—it brought in whopping \$769 for Gold Ribbon Rescue! We also offered an array of beautiful boutique items and, thanks to our generous donors, some delightful and unique gifts at our silent auction.

Overall, the party was a huge success, netting us \$3,400—not a bad way to finish off one year and start out the next! Many, many thanks go to Jody, Dave, and Golden hostess Allie, for opening their lovely home to us; to Dana McGill, for handling the silent auction table; and to Sandy Nordstrom and Bob Ashenbrenner, for all their help with the boutique. Sandy Balch, Jan Kuhl, Chris Miller, and Pam Phillips deserve a big round of applause for bringing the food and organizing the party. And of course, as always, a heartfelt "thank you" to Tim Tierney, who once again manned the cash register and kept track of all the profits.

If you missed this party, do be sure to make up for it by enjoying other social activities this coming year. First up is our Golden Afternoon in the Park, scheduled for April 9 at the Polo Picnic Area in Zilker Park. It's a great way to meet new friends, visit dozens of wonderful pooches, and learn more about volunteering for GRR.



Editor's Note: We were all saddened to hear that our Golden hostess at our Holiday Party, Allie (GR# 01-111), passed away in January. She greeted us at the door of Jody's home and was so sweet—allowing us all to pet her soft head. She was adopted by Jody and Dave at age 9 and spent the last several years in the best forever home any Golden could have asked for. Sweet Allie—she will be missed.



Sleeping Fosters at Biba Acres:

Margo emailed: "These foster girls had waaaay too much fun. :-)"

The cast of characters:

Couch Left:

#04-108 Scout, adopted by
Susie and Gary Schaffer

Couch Right:

#04-65 Cheerio, adopted by
Cheryl Croft

Floor Center:

#04-96 Goldie, adopted
by Deb Alme





Golden Circle Membership Level \$500-\$1000

Lorraine Thirion



Gold Medalist Membership Level \$250-\$499

Sharon M. Davis
Steven Moss
Kelly Topfer

Golden Gifts

Kara Anderson
Bianca Hoffman & Ruth Applin
Margo & Gary Biba
Adelaide Biggs
Gregory Brill
Pamela Buchanan
Deena Gutierrez
Alan Higginson (Bayer Health Care)
Jessica Kalimon
Kert & Stacia Kveton
Marilyn Loder
Steven Moss
Petco Foundation
Dean & Pam Phillips
Sam & Danny Phillips
Madeline Renbarger
Leslie Rubenstein
Margaret Sheehan
Bryan & Heather Smalley
Michael & Pamela Steding
Don Warner
Kelley, Michael, Madison & Rutger Worden



Golden Nugget Membership Level \$100-\$249

Jay Doyle
Mindy Fahnestock
Peter Grudzinski
Susan & Charle Mayfield
Daniel Sanchez
Kathy Simmons
Cam Snyder



Golden Friend Membership Level \$40-\$99

Kathi Beer
Adelaide Biggs
Kathryn T. Burton
Janet Copenhaver
Elaine & Michael Flores
Diane & Browne Goodwin
Colleen Gutierrez
Peggy Hannon
David Huter
Jessica Kalimon
Marilyn Loder
Dana McGill
Lynda Mullican
Joseph J. & Patricia A. Nahas
Robert & Kimberly Rogers
Leslie Rubenstein
Mark Salmanson
Mike & Judy Sohn
Mark C. Stevens
Samuel Stone
Teresa & Paul Szostak

Gold Ribbon Donor Club

Scott & Sheila Thomas
Heather Smalley

If you would like to support GRR on a regular monthly basis, consider joining our Gold Ribbon Donor Club. Your monthly donations help assure that GRR continues to save deserving Golden Retrievers in Central Texas. To join the Gold Ribbon Donor Club, please check the website for details; or simply send us a check in the amount you wish to have drafted each month and put "Donor Club" in the memo field of your check. Our mailing address is:

Gold Ribbon Rescue
PO Box 956

Austin, Texas 78767-0956

As always, thank you for your support!

Your monetary membership and contribution will help care for the dogs we foster and prepare for new homes. In addition to the smile that your contribution will bring to a healthy dog, your donation is fully deductible as a non-profit donation— we are a 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the IRS.

All donations, large and small, do make a big difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted GR's in Central Texas. Thank you for your support.

You can make your donation online at:

www.GRR-TX.com

via check or credit card— mail to:

Gold Ribbon Rescue
PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767

Extraordinary Golden Fund Donors:

There are so many golden retrievers in the Central Texas region that need our immediate love, time, and veterinary attention— like Chewie and HoneyBoy. Many of these dogs have extensive medical needs. Please consider giving of your time and/or making a financial contribution to GRR.





In memory of
Jacy

*forever in our hearts
Waiting at the bridge for
Bill & Kathy Burton, Sam and Bob*

In Memory of
Shadow Tuczowski
Winn Biesele

In Memory of
Whitney
*who brought such joy.
Paula Britton*

In Memory of
Rosa Bean
*who brought love, sunshine & joy.
Raezel Poplawski*

In Memory of
Rosa Bean
*a special lady
Beth Freeman*

In Memory of
Harold E. Martin, Sr.
*Anita Moore
Lou Nell & Charles Alexander
Dr. James Hughes
Sharon & Bob Ogilvie*

In Memory of our son
Dustin Bralish
*"dogs never lie about love"
Reina & Gary Bernfeld*

Golden Memorials

In Memory of
Shelby Snyder
Century Animal Hospital

In Memory of
Our Charly
*(Sutter Creek Cherokee Charly)
who was very loved & will be missed
tremendously.
Sandy Nordstrom & Bob Ashenbrenner*

In Memory of
Vinnie & Sophie
*who lived with Nancy Fair, Bud Fair
& Kathy Goeckel
They were typically perfect Golden.
Daniel A. Kahn*

In Memory of
Blackie (Mr. Blackwell)
*our lovable little "pound puppy"
who was a Golden at heart.
We miss him so much.
John, Jane, Tommy & Laura Robinson*

In memory of
Allie
*who was loved by everyone who met her,
but expecially by her family,
Jody and Dave.
Sandy Nordstrom and Bob
Ashenbrenner*

In memory of
Tucker
*a rescue from GRReat in Virginia and a
great friend to me for 10 of his 15 years.
Nell Carroll*

Golden Honors

In Honor of GRR girls
**Tasha (class of '93) and
Kelly (class of '03)**
*now Perfect Blend's Kelly Belle,
CGC, AX, AXJ
Kathleen Heck*

In Honor of
Shadow & Oatey
*both rescued and much loved
John & Jane Robinson*

In Honor of
Kara Anderson's Birthday
*Barbara Burnett, Patricia Goetz,
Darlene Harper, Ruth Prowning, &
Elizabeth Taylor*

In Honor of
Morgan
*rescued by Joan & Mark Blankenship
Linda Jackson*

In Honor of
Rick & Peggy Fitzgerald
Margaret Fitzgerald

In Honor of
**Margaret, Scott & Zack
Fitzgerald**
Bernard & Joan Lechner

In Honor of
Kathy Burton & Becky LaBrum
*Rescue Volunteers Extraordinaire!
From all of us who wear GRR#d tags.*

In Honor of
Beth Freeman & Laura Reed
*We love you!
Simon & Rusty Forsythe*

There is a wonderful Memorial page on our website paying tribute to many of our Golden friends. visit: <http://www.grr-tx.com/memorial/memorial.htm>



GRR Training– Educational and Fun!

On September 25th, 2004 Gold Ribbon Rescue held our semi-annual volunteer training in Austin. We had 12 new people come to learn about our organization, volunteer opportunities, and of course about Golden Retrievers. The next volunteer training session will be held on Saturday, February 19th. If you're not able to make that date, check the website in "Events" for the next scheduled training session. Join us for an afternoon to learn about this remarkable breed and what you can do to join in our effort to re-home these wonderful dogs.



*Above:
New volunteer, Annette Munzer with her service dog, Wrigley.*



Becky LaBrum with two of our trainees giving some tips on evaluating a Golden Retriever.



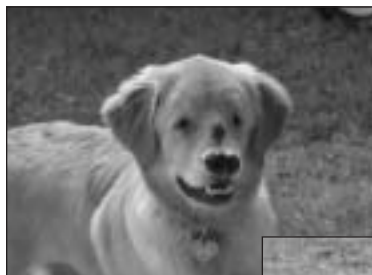
Winn Biese and CeCe—our "grooming demo-dog."

Right: Tracy Gundy, Winn and Beth Freeman (seated) demonstrate how to groom a Golden. CeCe made it look like a breeze!



Born Without Eyes– Our Bunny Will Need Special Placement

A typical madcap puppy, 7-month-old Bunny is a high-energy blur of paws, ears, and pure affection. She'll need a very, very special home, though: she was born without eyes and is completely blind. Surgery has taken care of her cleft palate and lip (another birth defect), but because she will never be able to see, she'll need extensive training and lots of patience as she matures into the wonderful dog we know she can be. If you are interested in a cute blonde who's a puppy and then some, please contact us. We would love to talk with you about Bunny.



Bunny



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Adoptable Goldens



Chilipepper— Age 1

A wonderful Good Samaritan found this beautiful red boy dumpster-diving in Brownsville— and brought him all the way to San Antonio so GRR could help him. Chili LOVES people and wants nothing more than to be a 60-pound lapdog. Right now he's attending "charm school" to learn the fine points of indoor living, but in a few weeks he'll be ready to move into YOUR home.

Davie— Age 9 months

With super-soft fur and a soft, sweet personality to match, this trusting young boy charms everyone he meets. He's a wonderful companion for people and dogs, too, and is enjoying everything about his new life. One of his special skills is doggie yoga— his foster mom says he must have rubber bones to get into the funny poses he does as he settles down for a nap!



Ki— Age 3-½

This sweet-natured boy gets along so well with everyone. He's a very giving Golden and loves to bring you presents— when the alarm goes off first thing in the morning, he finds a toy and brings it to you in bed. Same for when you first come into house after

being gone. He hears the door open, grabs a toy, runs to greet you. Such a happy, happy boy! Ki's waiting for his forever home and is hopeful that his new family will enjoy tossing the ball for him once in a while.

Tonka— Age 1

Named after the toy truck... and this boy can really GO. Tonka turned up stray at a shelter in Seguin, and when nobody came looking for him, he motored right up to Austin. A bouncy, high-energy busy-body with a heart of gold, Tonka is looking for an active family with lots of time for exercise. He wants everyone to know he just LOVES hamburgers and fries, so a weekly trip to Burger King would be just great!



Jackson — Age 1

Anyone looking for 75 pounds of gorgeous blond fun? Happy-go-lucky Jackson came to GRR from owners who realized that a young Golden needs more time than they had to give him. Favorite hobbies: playing, getting petted, playing some more, quick nap, playing

again... get the picture? if you need a play-pal, look no farther.

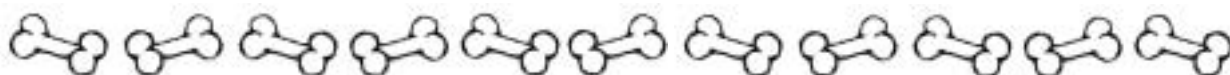
JJ — Age 2-½

What a sweetheart! JJ will melt your heart. He comes to us from a wonderful, loving owner who could no longer care for him. He's settled right into his foster home and quickly wound Mom, Dad, and his two Golden foster sisters right around his paw... and he's sure to do the same to you. He's the one in the back, patiently awaiting his treat.



*For more details and pictures of all of our adoptables, check our website and click on "Adoption."
New adoptables are posted on the website regularly, so be sure to check back often.*

www.GRR-tx.com



A Little Mud Bother Goldens? No Way!

The Oom-Pup-Paws held back in October was a wonderful success. The Goldens had a great time frolicking in the pond and shaking their tail feathers for a Fall Foto. Special thanks to Sue Rostvold and Allan Little for taking such awesome snaps! And thanks also to Dana McGill and Nick Nichols for capturing the day in photos. To view images captured, visit: <http://www.grr-tx.com/events/OhmPupPaws/Ohm-Pup-Paws.htm>

Thank you Susie for organizing this event and Maura, for allowing us—once again— to frolick in your mud!



GRR Crates On SALE!



If you know someone who is getting a young pup, or if your adding to your family of pets, please take a look at what GRR has to offer before paying the department store price.

36" crate (40-75 lb dog): \$75 (+ tax)

42" crate (50-100 lb dog): \$95 (+ tax)

visit: www.GRR-tx.com/crate.htm or call 512-659-GOLD (4653). Crates may be picked up in Manor or downtown Austin. Your shoes, furniture and pup will thank you!

Thanks to our Vets!

GRR wishes to thank the following animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. They provide GRR with discounts, education and medical guidance, squeeze us in at the last minute, board dogs short terms when there's no immediate foster space available and generally make our rescue efforts possible. Please show them your support and tell them "Thanks for helping GRR!" the next time you visit any of these vet offices.

Animal Trustees of Austin

Castle Rock Pet Hospital

Central Texas Speciality Veterinary Hospital

Century Animal Hospital

Country Hills Vet Clinic

Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin

Griffith Small Animal Clinic

Lakeline Animal Care

Lincoln Heights Pet Hospital— San Antonio

Pet Medical Center of San Antonio – Dr. Scott Weeks

Pets First – San Antonio

San Marcos Vet Clinic

White Rock Veterinary Hospital



The Dog's Dictionary

Dog Bed: Any soft, clean surface—such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

Sniff: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply. Repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

Deafness: A malady which affects dogs when their person wants them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly, running in the other direction, or lying down.

Thunder: A signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms. It is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and attempting to sit on their heads.

Wastebaskets: A toy filled with paper, tissue, and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the trash all over the house.



Sofas: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating, it is polite to rub up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

Bath: A process by which the humans drench the floors, walls, and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

Love: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return. 🐾

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Hypnosis is not meant to be a substitute for psychological or professional counseling services.
For ongoing mental health problems, please consult a professional licensed by the State of Texas.




Enjoy a Golden Afternoon in Zilker Park with GRR

Saturday, April 9th 11am-2pm

(rain date: April 16th)

GRR's annual Golden Afternoon in the Park will once again be held at Zilker Park's Polo Picnic Area. Don't miss it! The picnic gives all of us the opportunity to meet dozens of rescued Golden Retrievers and the families who have opened their hearts and homes to these wonderful dogs. There's nothing better than looking out over that golden sea of smiling faces and wagging tails! It's great to see and pet the dogs you may have read about on our website, and— for you foster families— even better to reunite with your former foster dogs and see how happy they are in their forever homes.

There will be fun for the whole family. *Austin Airdogz* will be there to entertain us with some friendly Frisbee competition. We'll have food and drinks, gift items from our boutique, a raffle, and, of course, the traditional *"Golden Retrievers on Parade."* If you have adopted a Golden from us, just sign up when you arrive at the picnic to have your dog recognized by name in the rescue parade.

We need volunteers to help set up and take down, man the raffle and boutique tables, help watch dogs, and do lots of other things. Please help— just send an e-mail to events@grr-tx.com. For directions and more information, visit our website at www.grr-tx.com. Remember, all dogs must be on leash at this event. 

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

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