



Gold Ribbon Rescue

FEBRUARY 2008 24TH EDITION

DEDICATED TO HELPING GOLDEN RETRIEVERS AND THEIR OWNERS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan

Ten Years of Rescue and Still Thriving

With the Super Bowl just around the corner (or perhaps just past by the time you receive this newsletter), I can't help but reflect on January of 1998. Up to then, I had been a one-person Golden rescue show. I picked up (or turned down) all the dogs, took them to the vet (I only had one), fostered them at my house, screened and matched the families, and footed the bills. Then I picked up the phone on Martin Luther King day and it all changed—rescue took over my life!

Five days later, on the Saturday before the Super Bowl, I was in a convoy headed to El Campo to pick up 90+ Golden Retrievers and 8 Yellow Labs. People from all over—vets, trainers, technicians, breeders, groomers, and just plain volunteers—put their whole day aside to rescue, transport, document, bathe, groom, assess, and give medical care to these dogs in need. Remembering the look in the eyes of the dogs still makes me cry. And those dogs went on to great accomplishments: Zena, who works with autistic children and was featured on 20/20; two others who were service dogs for Texas Hearing and Service; and at least three who became therapy dogs.

And the people! They all came together with a single purpose, donating time, expertise, room in their homes, and money. We made the news and the magazines and took over Linda Willard's Highmark Kennel for over ten months. It was the "perfect storm" in the best way: so many things went right, through only the grace of God. The dogs were wonderful but scared, not one was beyond saving, and only two were so close to whelping that they had to deliver. It was an all-consuming, overwhelming event.

And out of the chaos, Gold Ribbon Rescue was born. While I dreamed it would last, I cannot believe that TEN YEARS later it has not only lasted, but thrived! We rescue nearly 200 dogs a year, cover all of central

Texas, and do it well! We are a model for other rescues and respected by vets and agencies throughout Texas and beyond.

And it is all due to the volunteers. The selfless many who give their time, their homes and themselves to help this loving and noble breed and through doing so, make families happy, educate the community, and provide service animals to those in need over and over again. You are the backbone of GRR, and without you there is no rescue.

So, thank you. Without all of you, it could never have happened.

—Maura



**PLEASE JOIN US
SATURDAY
MARCH 22, 2008
FOR GRR'S ANNUAL
GOLDEN AFTERNOON
IN THE PARK
ZILKER PARK
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

**SEE WWW.GRR-TX.COM FOR MORE
DETAILS AND RAIN DATE.**

From a “Spooky” Good Time to Toasting the Holidays—Our Friends are Golden Too!

submitted by Susie Schaffer

A very special **Thank You** to **Jody Branson** and **Dave Baker** for hosting a Halloween party fund raiser on October 6th. We had a spooky good time and feasted on Dave's fantastic brisket and drank wonderful wine from their cellar. We were able to raise approximately \$1,400 which all went to our EGF (Extraordinary Golden Fund). Special thanks goes to **Susan Stoker** and **Jim Stiles** for donating the \$5.00 raffle item, which was a weekend stay at their Cloud Dance Log Cabins, where Bubba, their Gold Ribbon Rescue dog, will welcome you.

We would also like to thank **Peter Flad** and **John Holland** for hosting our Holiday Party on December 9th at their beautiful home. We enjoyed lots of food from Rocco's Grill, champagne, wine and homemade desserts donated by **Jody Branson/Dave Baker**, and **Peter Flad/John Holland** and **Kathy Hidajat**. Our boutique—with many wonderful golden items—was again provided and donated by **Sandy Nordstrom** and **Bob Ashenbrenner**. Thank you all for all you do for Gold Ribbon Rescue. With everything donated we were able raise a whopping \$3,300!

Extraordinary Volunteers

All of our volunteers are the greatest, but there are some who deserve extra recognition...

With nearly 200 dogs coming in each year, you can well imagine how complex the job of Medical Coordinator is: it's a full-time occupation. During 2005 and until December 2006, we were lucky enough to have **Mike Chamberlain** doing the job (in addition to home visits, transport, fostering, intake evaluations, and interviews!). Mike was just amazing, and we lost an incredible asset when he and his family moved to the Washington, DC area last year. Fortunately for GRR, **Suzette Coen** stepped up to take over the job, and how lucky we are to have her. Always ready to discuss every foster dog's health with foster families and vets alike, Suzette is crucial in keeping our organization afloat. THANK YOU (please imagine this as a banner being pulled across the Central Texas sky behind an airplane!!) ... we couldn't do it without you.

All of us like to keep tabs on our GRR dogs after they move to their permanent homes. **Tricia Medlock**, **Terri Ross**, and **Patti Davidson**, our follow-up volunteers, put in lots of time calling adoptive families, reporting on how our Golden Retrievers are faring, and alerting us to any questions or concerns the new homes may have. Thank you! We all love reading those reports.

Like every rescue group, we're chronically short of foster space. **Kathy Robbins** has gone the extra mile and then some to find slots for incoming dogs...starting with calling every single family on our master foster list to make a truly current listing, and continuing with calling and e-mailing tirelessly until each dog has a place to stay. Thank you Kathy! New volunteers **Nadene Morning** and **Lynette Brannon** are working hard on all kinds of ideas for recruiting foster homes, especially those outside the immediate GRR family—from flyers to neighborhood newsletter ads to e-mail campaigns. And a special thank you to **Kathy Simmons**, our adoption director, who has had GRR vests made for her Golden Retrievers... turning them into walking rescue posters wherever they go.

Laura Shimer has been an amazing asset to us this past year, finding respite care for foster dogs when their families head out of town for a few days or weeks. And many, many thanks to **Vicky Hastings**, who has agreed to take the job on for the coming year.

Pat Capin does it all... transport, intake evals, home visits, interviews, maintaining our foster list... oh, and fostering and adopting, of course! Now she has taken on one more GRR job and is joining the matchmaking team. Thanks a million, Pat!

Gold Ribbon Rescue

PO Box 956
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, Susie Schaffer, Emily Tuczowski, Sheila Thomas, Margo Biba, Sandy Balch

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Volunteer@grr-tx.com

How can you help Gold Ribbon Rescue?

It's as easy as posting a flyer!

Gold Ribbon Rescue is in desperate need of foster families to help transition our rescued Golden Retrievers to their forever homes—and we need your help to get the word out. Please post a GRR flyer in your church, school, grocery store, favorite coffee shop, or place of work to help us find foster homes.

A flyer is on the back of this page. Simply tear out this page, separate the contact tear-offs with scissors, and post it on a public bulletin board. It's just that easy.

Flyers are also available on the GRR website Resources page:

<http://grr-tx.com/about/howhelp.htm#flyer>

Recognizing Our Foster Angels

A stay in a foster home is one of the first steps for the many Golden Retrievers who come into GRR. Since our organization began in 1998, hundreds of families have opened their homes and hearts to Golden Retrievers in need—that's over 1,200 dogs in all, and still counting! Many families can remember each and every one of their foster dogs, and a handful of homes have fostered a long, long list of dogs. Some of the numbers are truly amazing!

GOLDEN ANGELS

Families who have fostered 30 or more Golden Retrievers:

Margo and Gary Biba —117
(including GRR In Nebraska, Margo and Gary Biba's grand total is 166!)
Jean and Kyle Steensma —107
Pam and Dean Phillips —79
Maura Phelan — 42
Nancy and David Luscombe —30

SILVER ANGELS

Families who have fostered between 10 and 29 Golden Retrievers:

Sharon Perry
Barb and Ken Drabik
Lacy Browning
Kathy and Bill Burton
Kelly Hay
Deb Alme
Laura and Ryan Reed
Beth Freeman and Clark Hoesman
Tamara Gunter and Patrick Boicourt
Gina and Bill Totah
Julie and Todd Talkington
Mike and Deb Chamberlain
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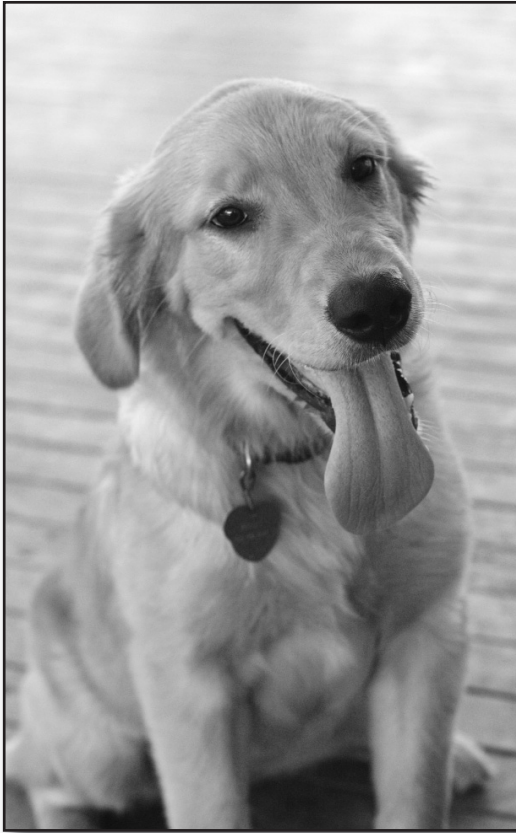


Joyce Grapes
Emily Tuczowski
Rob and Priscilla Robinson

Did we miss you on this list? It's entirely possible, since some of our GRR foster records are incomplete. If so, please contact your foster coordinator or email fostercoord@grr-tx.com so we can update the records.

Many thanks go out to these outstanding ANGELS and to all of our GRR foster families!

Earn your wings—foster another Golden Retriever today!



Foster Homes Needed NOW!

Save Lives and Have Fun Too!

Please visit **www.grr-tx.com** for more information on how you can begin fostering a Golden Retriever today.

Simply fill out an online adoption application clearly stating “FOSTER HOME”.

We'll rush your phone interview and home visit.

Dogs must be indoors while you are gone and leashed when outside a fenced yard.

Why should I become a foster parent to a Golden Retriever?

Foster care will culminate in a new beginning for a deserving Golden Retriever. By fostering a dog, you get to know the dog. Since you know the dog best, you help us determine the best new and final home for that dog. Each time you

help match a displaced Golden Retriever with just the right family, you will know you have done something good, caring, helpful, and lasting. You will have been the major player in helping a wonderful Golden Retriever find a happy life.

What will I need to do?

GRR provides all vet care, and a crate if you need one. As a foster home, you'll be responsible for the daily care of your foster dog, including:

- Feeding ■ Socializing ■ Exercising ■ Brushing and grooming as needed
- Observing behavior and temperament ■ Providing love and security to a special Golden Retriever in need
- and having fun!!

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Helping Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

www.grr-tx.com Hotline 512-659-4653

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From the Intake Team...

*by Margo Biba
Intake Coordinator*

As I write, GRR is deluged with incoming dogs awaiting foster homes. Several Golden Retrievers are stashed at vet clinics, several are at shelters, and the non-emergency owner surrenders are in a holding pattern, waiting for up to a month to enter our program. I don't like it one bit that young Titan is living outside during this 28-degree cold snap, or that sweet girl Cassie, a 7-year-old former indoor dog, is tied out in an unfenced yard day and night. I can't imagine how lonely and uncomfortable they must be. GRR is ready and willing to help, if only more families step up as foster homes.

In 2007, GRR provided care for 178 Golden Retrievers. Of these dogs, 154 were new intakes and the balance were returns from 2001+. That means a Golden needing a foster home arrived almost every other day, all year long.

Gold Ribbon Rescue is highly respected in the rescue community. We are a passionate all-volunteer team. We go the extra mile to provide quality vet care, including expensive treatments and surgeries. We pay our bills. Our team members are intelligent and professional. We seek and implement behavioral and training information from experts. We are investigating additional educational options for our foster families, adoptive families, and team members, so that they can gain more skill and dog knowledge. We work together harmoniously, making sound decisions and seeking the highest possible good for our dogs. We stand behind GRR dogs with a lifetime commitment. We welcome new team members, providing information, training, and mentoring. We have fun.

GRR consistently has 30 to 50 Golden Retrievers in foster care at any given time. Who would have imagined that our organization would continue to grow at such a rate that even more foster homes would be needed? As internet access has improved, we are approached by shelters, veterinarians & individuals from far outside Austin—all seeking help for Golden Retrievers in need. Our dogs come from as far away as Abilene,

Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Waco, and towns in between; recently, young Emma (our very last 2007 dog) arrived from Altus, Oklahoma when closer rescues were unable to help.

I remember when, as a fledgling rescue back in 1999, we made the heartbreaking decision to euthanize an ancient stray named "Hey Boy." He was heartworm positive, flea ridden, and had a worn rope tied to his neck. At that time, GRR did not have the luxury of long-term foster space nor the funds to pay for his vet work. If Hey Boy came to GRR now, we would find a way to pay his vet expenses, even though our medical costs have almost doubled in the last year. And I strongly suspect that a foster family would open their home so that the Oldster could live in comfort. Oddly, an adoptive home might prove very difficult to find. Please step forward to adopt GRR's oldest dogs, who flourish with medical care and love—and have a lot more liveliness and spunk than you might think! By adopting an Oldster, you clear foster home space, allowing GRR to help more incoming dogs.

Twenty-one Golden Retrievers tested heartworm positive last year. (We are lucky to live inland, as the Houston rescues see higher percentages of heartworm positive dogs.) Heartworm treatment is fairly easy for foster families to manage. The key is to limit exercise and play, to keep the dog's heart rate slow and steady. To help with exercise restriction, GRR of course provides crates—and we often add baby gates for busy households. For those of you who have never taken a dog through heartworm treatment, consider adding it to your repertoire.

We pulled 76 Golden Retrievers from shelters last year. These are our take-action-fast surrenders. Often we have only a day or two (and sometimes only a few hours) to arrange an intake evaluation, photos, a veterinary plan, transport, and foster care. For safety's sake, we do not put dogs with unknown histories in foster homes with young children; but if you have no kids or if your children are over age 10, you may be a perfect candidate for fostering shelter dogs. We can't guarantee much advance

notice, but that rush of excitement when we call "Help!" can't be beat. Shelter dog foster parents truly are life savers, as animal controls and shelters are overflowing and euthanize dogs constantly.

About half of our dogs are owner surrenders, turned in by families who cannot care for their dogs any longer. Those families work with GRR, providing valuable information and sometimes transport or donations toward veterinary care. They are extremely thankful for the valuable, compassionate service we provide, and we appreciate their support and assistance.

If you have adopted a GRR dog in the past and would consider fostering, please contact us. Or perhaps you have a friend or family member who may be interested? Fostering even once is so valuable: it saves one more Golden. Fostering information is on GRR's website, www.grr-tx.com.

To date, Gold Ribbon Rescue has rescued over 1,200 Golden Retrievers. That success is thanks to people like you, who not only make generous donations, but give the invaluable gifts of your time and space: you evaluate our dogs, transport them, foster (and adopt) them, screen homes, and do the many jobs that collectively build a strong organization. Because of you, we can continue to rescue Golden Retrievers. We need you, and we appreciate you.

Just so you know...

There is a wealth of information on our website ranging from health to how-to articles at:

GRR-TX.com/resources

Some of the resourceful articles:

- Canine Heartworm/Prevention
- Traveling with Your Dog
- Trimming Your Dog's Nails
- Thunderstorm Phobia
- What Should I Feed My Dog?
- Dogs & Children

The Lives of Extraordinary Goldens

by Becky LaBrum

It's been nearly seven months—and about 100 dogs!—since our last newsletter, and in that time we've certainly seen our share of incoming Goldens with some pretty steep health challenges. To help cover their expenses, we turn to our Extraordinary Golden Fund: an account set up expressly to pay for surgeries, unusual diagnostic testing, and the like. Here are just a few of the Goldens who have benefited (or are benefiting right now) from your contributions to the EGF.



Lizzie

Lizzie

She had AKC papers and show-dog baby pictures, but nobody would have pegged Lizzie as a pedigreed Golden. Fleabite allergies, untreated low thyroid, and a lifetime as a yard dog had given the 8-year-old girl a barrel body, yeast infections in both ears, and all-over hair loss—her poor tail was almost bald! Fortunately, Lizzie turned out to have a guardian angel—a caring neighbor who rescued her from her “all outdoors, all the time” existence, took her to the vet for vaccinations, started her on thyroid meds and high-quality food, and called GRR to help find the auburn-haired senior a new home. Our first order of business: get Lizzie spayed and remove two big lumps, including a plum-size lipoma on her chest. Lizzie's tubbiness made the spay a tough one, and the location of the big lipoma made healing difficult—it was at a stress point, and sure enough, a few days later the incision pulled open so deeply that Lizzie had to be rushed back to the vet for another go-round. After that, though, things started looking up. As chubby Lizzie began to streamline and relax in her new home, she proved a friendly, playful, talkative girl with a real

pendant for games of fetch. Today the chipper miss is happily settled in with her forever family, and we're all waiting for photos of the former fattie as a svelte sylph with a luxurious new fur coat! **Exam, ear medications, spay surgery, lumpectomies, repeat surgery to resuture chest incision: \$875**

Trixie

Little Trixie has had some tough times, for sure. Last December, a vigilant volunteer at the San Antonio pound e-mailed us photos of two Goldens. “Both young females. One of them has an injured leg and won't bear weight on it. The other one seems to have had pups very recently. She's still leaking milk. Has a vaginal discharge... maybe infection?” Both dogs were slated for euthanasia the very next day, but the volunteer posted “hold for rescue” on their cages. Tragically, when GRR arrived the next day, the lame girl had already been put to sleep... a heartbreaking mix-up we've seen before in San Antonio. But Trixie was still there. “Scared and sweet... possible shelter shock? I have our name on her.” A day later, the 2-year-old mom headed for the clinic, where the vet confirmed pyometra (a uterine infection) and at once started Trixie on antibiotics, with spay to follow a few weeks later. Unfortunately, Trixie's HW test came back positive, but we're confident she'll leap that hurdle, too—after all, look what she has already overcome! She's winning raves at her foster home: sweet, friendly, wags her whole body, “practically perfect.” **Exam, treatment for infection, spay surgery, heartworm treatment (to come): \$600**

Reggie

Eight-year-old Reggie seems to have discovered the fountain of youth! A creaky little old man when he arrived in care a month ago, this redheaded boy is getting younger every day. He'd been found stray by a family outside San Antonio, who kept him in their yard for a couple of months before surrendering him to a local shelter. Volunteer Tracy met him, and found a scrawny, wobbly, filthy guy with cysts (resulting in infection) in both eyes, the worst mats she had ever seen (it took her close to three hours to make the first



Reggie

pass!), and wildly overgrown toenails—one dewclaw was so long it had actually grown into a paw pad, which was painfully swollen to the size of a golf ball and would require surgical intervention to repair. Reggie could hardly stand without assistance, tottered when he walked, often fell, and as for the stairs—forget it. But what a difference a few weeks of loving care can make...now, Reggie actually RUNS up and down steps to the yard. He wags his tail nonstop. He plays! His choppy “bedhead” hairdo is growing out and getting glossy. He always has a smile on his face and is clearly relishing every minute of his new life. Heartworm treatment is in his future... but that future still looks pretty bright. **Exam, shots, surgeries to remove eye cysts and treat swollen paw, heartworm treatment (to come): \$650**

Benedict

Benedict is a true rescue dog. A Good Samaritan saw him by the roadside far out in the country and turned her car to find him... but the skittish, frightened dog (wearing a collar with a broken chain attached) had disappeared by the time she reached the spot where he'd been. A week went by, and there he was again—he'd somehow made his way to her subdivision and was lying on the ground by the mailboxes. Exhausted, dehydrated, and almost too weak to stand up—he whimpered when he tried to walk—Benedict needed help, and fast. His skin was in such bad shape that his rescuer worried about mange, and feared that if she kept him in her home, he'd infect her other dogs. The local shelter couldn't help; given how sick he was, they'd just put him down, she learned. Determined to save

him if she could, she contacted GRR, sent us a photo (it shows a thin, big-boned, anxious-looking fellow), and then made the long drive to a GRR clinic. Said the vet: "Two or three years old. Skin is terrible. Yeast/bacterial/moist dermatitis basically all over. He has 4 or 5 incisors that are down to the pulp and the root is showing—they need to come out immediately. Wear pattern is consistent with chewing and biting himself. Left ear has a thru-and-thru laceration, probable bite or fence cut. Lameness is likely due to the skin lesions. A real nice, big, sweet boy. A teddy bear." Medicated baths and antibiotics are helping Benedict's skin, but it will be some time before he's back to normal. But he's on his way! **Exam, shots, HW testing, neuter, tooth extractions, medications: \$650**



Jitterbug

Jitterbug

Named for the "happy dance" she does to greet new friends, 9-year-old Jitterbug is one happy camper. The genial, curly shelter girl is revelling in the indoor life and enjoys a gentle game of tug and a walk around the block. Mostly she just "LOVES people. GREAT with my cat and GREAT with my other dog," says her foster mom. Of course, a fox-trotting life spent hitting the dance clubs at all hours doesn't come entirely free, so very occasionally Jitterbug gets a bit too stiff to do the cha-cha-cha. She also arrived in care with about six different lumps and bumps of varying sizes, but the suspicious ones have all been removed—and proved to be entirely innocent. Now, Jitterbug is ready to rumba her way into your heart! **Exam, lumpectomies: \$550**

Melody

With a nature as harmonious as her name, sweet Melody was a hit in her foster home from the very first day. She arrived in late December, when a local shelter called: "They have a 3-year-old spayed female and need her out of there urgently due to no kennel space. She was an owner turn-in. Owners said they also had an older dog and Melody wanted to play with her all the time. Older dog wanted to be left alone so they took Melody to the shelter." We suspect there was more to it than that... the owners had turned in her vet records, too, and Melody was noted as having heart trouble. Her foster family soon noticed that she was a little bit TOO calm for a 3-year-old and tired very easily, and an exam at a GRR clinic in fact revealed a severe heart murmur. Melody saw a cardiac specialist a few weeks ago, and the diagnosis was confirmed. This serious congenital defect means that Melody has a limited life expectancy, but her actual lifespan is unpredictable: she could live for a few more weeks or a few more years. In the meantime, she has started on a beta blocker to help ease the load on her heart, she's thriving in her new home—and her foster family and GRR have agreed to make her a "permanent foster" there. Says her foster mom, "She's a sweetie with impeccable manners. I just want to do anything I can to make her life comfortable and happy." **Exam, cardiac consult: \$350**

Princess

They say that life is not a fairy tale, but we're hoping you can help Princess get the happy ending she deserves. The 4-year-old girl was picked up stray a few months ago by a wonderful family who already had lots of little dogs, but nonetheless made room for one more; but when Princess showed up badly lame after escaping the yard and going on a four-day "road trip," they contacted GRR for help. The volunteer who met Princess commented that she didn't think the injury could be too bad—after all, Princess was all smiles, wags, and good cheer. So you can imagine our shock when an X-ray revealed that her shin bone was not only broken, but shattered and smashed into so many pieces that there was no way to reassemble it. (She'd probably been hit by a car.) She'd need



Princess

surgery and a plate in her leg, and the sooner the better. Everyone who knows Goldens knows how stoic they can be, maintaining that happy spirit even when they're ill or in great pain... and Princess is an outstanding example of that! The surgery went perfectly, and Princess is now in rehab. Her foster mom says, "This is such a NICE dog. Everything a Golden Retriever should be. She is a solid girl who takes everything that comes her way. Wonderful personality and attitude." In another 6 weeks, she should be ready for her permanent home. For more on Princess, see www.grr-tx.com/adoption/to_adopt/princess_08-004/princess.htm. **Exam, shots, X-rays, surgery, follow-up visits: \$1,700**

Gold Ribbon Donor Club

Giving every month to GRR:

Deborah Alme

Shirley Colton

Julie Jerabek

Lisa Savage

Heather Smalley

Pam & Michael Steding

Scott & Sheila Thomas

Thank You!

Check out the website to see how you too can become a monthly donor.



Golden Circle

(500 - \$1000)

Dave Baker & Jody Branson
Marla McClain & Ed Hamel
Mary F. Martinez



Golden Friend

(\$49 - \$99)

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Gold Medalist

(\$250 - \$499)

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Gold Nugget

(\$100 - \$249)

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Cynthia Shelmerdine
Kathleen Simmons
JC & Cathy Smith
Melanie Strybos
Sarah Svec
Barry & Marsha Thweatt
Brian Prewitt & Nhi Tran
Fred & Carolyn Whitten

Temple Inland Foundation Matched
Donations: Brent Coen
United Way: Toga Hartadinata
Karen VanLoo
Susan White

Extraordinary Golden Fund—

Jody Branson & Dave Baker
Rob & Sue Brown
Liz Buchanan
Allen Caldwell
Robin Caldwell
Pat Capin
Jill Cravens
Peter Flad
Lainey Garcia
Holly Green
Pete & Barbara Guttery

Bernard & Joan Lechner—on behalf of
Magaret & Scott Fitzgerald
Dennis R. Meals Charitable Foundation—on
behalf of Denise Meals Carr and Brandy
Medicus Insurance Company—in memory of
David Chapman
Jessica Mitchell
Nadene Morning
Dean & Pam Phillips—for Ranger's
(GRR #07-081) OCD surgery
Susan Resendez
John & Jane Robinson—for DJ's (Chance -
GRR #06-168) heartworm treatment
Lisa Savage—for Homer (GRR #06-157)
Susie Schaffer
Irma Scholler—on behalf of Kathy Heck
James Smith
Janet Stasney
Thomas & Suzanne Stege
Mark Stevens
Susan Stoker & James Stiles
Cliff Visel

Bodie's Crate Fund—

Sandra Balch
Robin Caldwell
Sandy Clark
Dana Dean
Jessica Mitchell
Nadene Morning
Sandy Nordstrom
Susan Resendez
Lisa Savage
Anne Schmidt
Sue Wiley
Teresa Williams

*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*

The Golden Years are Truly Golden



Ellie Grace



Jane



Marta



Homer

Margo Biba, GRR Intake Coordinator

Scanning the foster home list, I chuckle. "We prefer older, easier dogs... We want calmer dogs... No wild youngsters... Seniors only, please." People in the know—families who foster repeatedly for GRR—have it figured out. Dogs over age 8 are pure pleasure.

What's not to like? Seniors are laidback and relaxed, and they usually don't require crating. They are past the "chew it up, spit it out, demolish it" stage. At our house, I'm not into jogging or wrestling. My idea of a good time is relaxing on the couch with a good book and as many good dogs as can squeeze next to me... or taking a measured stroll around the block, not getting hauled along like Ben-Hur at the chariot races! How about you?

I have fostered and adopted many GRR dogs over the years. They consistently live to age 14+. Why the long lifespan?

- High-quality food, as suggested by the monthly newsletter Whole Dog Journal. Locally available varieties include Wellness, Nature's Variety/Prairie, Eagle Pack Holistic, Innova, Fromm, Merrick, Solid Gold, Flint River Ranch, Canidae, & Wysong.
- The addition of cooked vegetables to their food, especially leafy greens, carrots & winter squash.
- Switching from synthetic pesticides and herbicides to organic pest control for lawn and garden.

- Reduction in the types & frequency of vaccinations, as suggested by Whole Dog Journal, in-the-know veterinarians and researchers.
- 1,000 mg. fish oil daily

Although our foster homes realize how truly wonderful moderate-energy seniors are, adoptive homes tend to shy away. That means that our oldies stay in foster care for an extra-long time—and that means far fewer foster homes for dogs waiting to come in.

What can you do to help? Please adopt dogs over age 8. Look over the seniors available for adoption on GRR's website, www.grr-tx.com. At press time, they include:

- Nora, 8 ■ Sammie, 8 ■ Abby, 8 ■ Marta, 8
- Jitterbug, 9 ■ Homer, 10 ■ Ellie Grace, 10 ■ Jane, 12

When considering your next adoptive Golden, please linger over our seniors' web stories...you are likely to spot exactly the friend you've been longing for.

See all of our Adoptable Golden:
www.GRR-TX.com

GRRreat Vets!

GRR wishes to thank these animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. Please show them your support and tell them "Thanks for helping GRR!" next time you're in one of their offices.

Austin and surrounding area:

Bastrop Veterinary Hospital
Belton Small Animal Clinic
Buttercup Creek Animal Hospital,
Cedar Park
Castlerock Pet Hospital,
Georgetown
Central Texas Veterinary Specialty
Hospital
Central Texas Veterinary
Ophthalmology
Century Animal Hospital
Forest Creek Animal Hospital,
Round Rock
Griffith Small Animal Hospital
Hiway 620 Animal Hospital
Lakeline Animal Care
Loop 363 Animal Hospital, Temple
Tanglewood Animal Hospital
Town & Country Veterinary Medical
Center, Killeen
Veterinary Cardiology & Medicine
Service, Dr Charla Jones
White Rock Veterinary Hospital,
Pflugerville
Wimberley Vet Clinic

San Antonio and surrounding area:

Affordable Pet Care North
Comal Animal Clinic, New Braunfels
Deerfield Animal Hospital
Guilbeau Station Animal Hospital
Lincoln Heights Animal Hospital
Pedernales Veterinary Center,
Fredericksburg
Pet Medical Center of San Antonio
Pets First Veterinary Clinic
San Marcos Veterinary Clinic
Town & Country Animal Hospital,
Kerrville
Universal City Animal Hospital

Thank You!

Goodbye to Milly

And if you should survive to a hundred and five,
 Look at all you'll derive out of being alive...

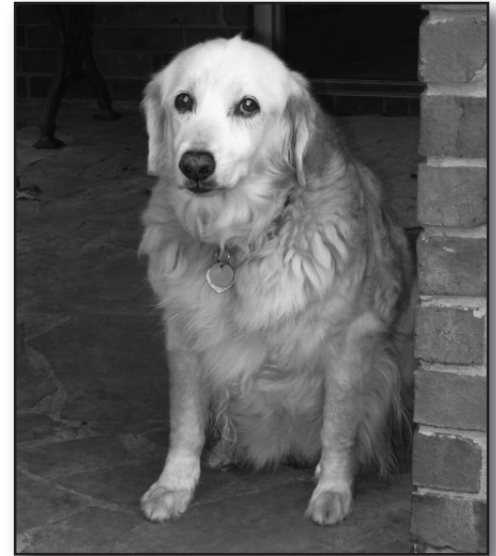
And here is the best part—you've had a head start
 If you are among the very young at heart.

—from "Young at Heart," by Johnny Richards & Carolyn Leigh

by Becky LaBrum

Many of you will remember Milly, GRR #05-156, our EGF poster girl for the 2005 winter holidays. She came to us from the Waco area, where she'd been picked up stray and in sad shape—horrendous bladder infections, many mammary tumors, low thyroid, obesity. The biggest tumor was nearly fist-size, but benign—and the vets said, "Leave it while she gets healthier." Well, she DID get pretty healthy at her first foster home, and began making mischief! As the family figured out much later, a little neighbor boy was slipping into the backyard to use the trampoline, then leaving the side gate open...and Milly decided to take advantage. She'd go out into the yard, and the next time they looked—poof! Gone. The first time, the adventurous senior actually managed to cross a busy highway and spend the afternoon with some nice folks on the other side before her frantic foster family tracked her down. The second time, she was nabbed closer to home, having a pleasant tea-party with the next-door neighbors. The third time... counting her new gray hairs in the mirror, her foster mom decided her nerves could not stand a third time. She also admitted that, when scolded, Milly would give her a bland, noncommittal look that she found somewhat unsettling... "ornery," she called it! And besides, right around then, Milly's health began dipping again; she'd be off-and-on droopy, unable to get up, refusing to eat or drink. The vets thought they felt a new, likely cancerous tumor, and figured that the old gal did not have much time left.

And so, Milly moved to Margo and Gary Biba for what everyone thought would be a few weeks of hospice. But Milly bounced back... and those few weeks stretched to nearly two years! Milly had a blast at Biba Acres. The upstairs! The downstairs! (The kitchen!!) The coming! The going! The new friends! The nightly dog drive! What heaven for a busy little dog. The backyard gates were secured like the entry to Fort Knox, but given how interesting it was to be bustling around indoors, Milly decided against staging any breakouts. Her nickname was Ladybug, and she sure flitted around like one. She was a welcoming mentor to new foster dogs, a



willing play pal for the youngsters, a comfy companion to the other seniors... er, make that "to the seniors" and scratch the word "other," because 15-year-old Milly, while truly ancient for a Golden, certainly did not consider herself a senior! She was always young at heart and impressed everyone with her sociability and lively personality.

This past month, the big mammary tumor began to grow, and got large enough to bother Milly; and a new, more suspicious lump appeared in her groin. A lump on her foreleg also needed immediate removal—"That one HAS to come off," said the vet. On January 23, Milly had surgery to remove her lumps. She came through fine and headed home; but late that evening, she went downhill. Margo and Gary rushed her to the ER, but she slipped away. Milly's spirit was eternally young and strong, but in the end her heart just couldn't quite keep up.

We don't know Milly's early history at all—but from November 2005 until she left us, she had a cheering squad of GRR volunteers and vets who gave her the gift of a worry-free life with tons of fun. And what a gift for us, to share her adventures and thrill in her incredible zest for each new day!

Kick up your heels, Ladybug, until we meet again.



GOLDEN MEMORIALS

In memory of Grady, the Golden Retriever of Dave and Lisa Savage, who died May 14, 2007.

–Anita Glickert

In memory of Harley and Gus Croft.

–Kathy Burton

In loving memory of Morgan Spot Lightfoot, our friend and companion for almost 16 years.

–Helen Lightfoot

In memory of Grady.

–from the office staff and friends of Lisa Savage

In memory of Bubba, the best chocolate Lab ever (and forever fiancé of Frances, the Golden).

–Theresa & Paul Szostak

In memory of Grady Savage

–Patrice Biskynis
Elizabeth Houser
Dr. Mousumi Chandra Kim
Ann Epstein
Austin Urological Associates
Austin Endometriosis
Dr. Roberta Braun

In memory of our beloved Hailey and Spikey. You were the best dogs ever. You will always be in our hearts.

–the Alexander Family

In memory of Butkus “Bucky” Reed. There will never be another dog like him. We miss him dearly.

–the Reed Family

In memory of our dear Tucker (GRR name ‘Clark’) who was a beloved member of our family for 7 years. Tucker, we love you and will miss you!

–love, Ruth, Michael, Esther, Jacob, Rachel, Madi and Lizzie Malinas

In memory of Grady Savage.

–Lisa Savage

In memory of Margo’s sweet Madeleine. Please direct to EGF. I’m sure Madeleine would have wanted that.

–Emily Tuczowski

In memory of Madeleine Biba.

–the Nichols Family

In loving memory of our buddy, Lacey LuLu. We’ll see you again when we all cross that bridge.

–Love, Anne & Joey Bolgert

In memory of Golden Retriever Sam who shared his life with Virginia and Milton Bucklow.

–Carlynn & Lis Slavely

In memory of Lacey, adopted by ‘foster mom’ Deb Alme

–Jean Alme

In memory of Susie & Gary’s beloved Scout.

–Jody Branson & Dave Baker

In loving memory of ‘Preacher’ Pierce 2007.

–Bethany Meister

In memory of my sister, Judy Curran, and her beloved Abbey.

–Connie Horn

In memory of Tasha and Kelsey.

–Kathleen Heck

In memory of my two golden boys, Buddy and BJ and in thanksgiving for the wonderful years we had together.

–Jan Wallace

In memory of Cannon Thomas.

–Bill & Deanna Hoisington

In memory of David Chapman and to honor Magnolia.

–Clara Heironimus

In memory of Reagan (GRR #05-081) – to EGF.

–Carolyn & Fred Whitten

Golden Honors

In honor of Miles Tolany’s 4th Birthday. Happy Birthday Miles!

–Dillon Hoesman

In honor of Ben Craven’s First Birthday.

–Beth Freeman

In honor of Ashley Gundy’s First Birthday.

–Beth Freeman

In honor of the Webb Family.

–John & Anita Joy

In honor of Rachel Suzanne Linder, June 1, 1978 – November 20, 2007, for her love of animals.

–Bob & Karen Linder



Come.
Stay.
Be a
Golden's Hero.

We have many different volunteer positions available: transport, fostering, organizing files, special events coordination, hotline coverage, interviewing applicants, home visits, grant writing, fund raising, ... the list is endless. No matter what your available time or interests, we can find a place for you!

It's fun and easy, and all training is provided.

GRR Austin Training Session

February 23, 10am - 1pm

Windsor Park Library

For more information on this session or training sessions in the San Antonio area, please visit www.GRR-tx.com

Mark your
calendar for
our annual
Golden
Afternoon in
the Park
March 22nd!

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

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