



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas **October 2004 15th Edition**

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Letter from GRR's President – Maura Phelan

Year of Growth, Changes and Sad Goodbyes

As the year winds down, we think of all we have done and not done, those who have been there, and those we have lost along the way. This year has been an especially busy one and we've had to say goodbye to some very special Golden Retrievers. Such is the nature of things— as GRR grows "older" it's inevitable that we will see our rescues to the bridge.

Katie Harris was there from the beginning and so was her girl, Maggie. Maggie was one of the original "Tie a Gold Ribbon" rescue dogs— 90+ Golden Retrievers who were liberated from a puppy mill in South Texas. Katie and the entire Harris family took on this scared, pretty girl, who knew nothing of kindness or fun. Through their love and care Maggie turned into the wonderful girl who taught hundreds of GRR potential adopters and volunteers how to care for a Golden. We all miss Maggie— but nowhere near as much as

Katie does. Thank you for sharing her with us, Katie.

Another one that has been there from the beginning is our very own treasurer— Tim Tierney. Little did he know when he raised his hand to volunteer at that very first meeting that he'd be here for the long haul. Many of you may know him as a seemingly shy type, but let me tell you Tim has guarded the GRR accounts like a tiger while always looking for new ways to save costs. More recently, Tim has put in an enormous effort creating a GRR database that provides us with more information and statistics.

In our continuing quest for volunteers, Beth Freeman issued a plea which was met with overwhelming response! Thanks to each and every one of you that responded. The challenge is: how do we address all of the volunteers that

responded? We are so caught up in the day-to-day work of rescuing, that even breaking out the things that need to be done is a task in and of itself that requires time. So please be patient with us as we look for appropriate positions and duties that fit what you may have volunteered to do for GRR. Be sure that a call or email will be headed your way once we've found the perfect niche for what you'd like to do for GRR.

As always, foster homes are still needed. Especially if you're willing to work some new training ideas on a rowdy youngster! We seem to get quite a few surrenders of these young ones, whose prior owners didn't take the time to train their Golden and surrendered him instead.

Hope to see you all in October at my house! OOM-PUP-PAWS!

—Maura



OOM-PUP-PAW... OOM-PUP-PAW... OOM-PUP-PAW... OOM-PUP-PAWS!

The Swim Fest was such a success that the Golden Retrievers have been hounding us for another chance to

get together with their buddies, swim, play and raise some more money for GRR. So grab your chairs, towels and Golden Retrievers and come to our first annual **Oom-Pup-Paws Fall Fest** on October 23rd from 12pm to 3pm at Happy Hour Farms.

There will be lots of swimming and frolicking for the pups, an agility demo, and an area for you to take wonderful fall photos. Rudy's BBQ chopped beef sandwiches, Coca Cola and biscuits will be provided to revelers and we're asking that each family

bring a side dish to share for an old-fashion potluck lunch.

The Pet Blood Donor Bank mobile vehicle will be on site providing the opportunity for our Golden Retrievers to give the gift of life to other dogs in need.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to have your dog's blood type checked. For more information about our first Oom-Pup-Paws Fall Fest, please visit the website and make your reservation right away. Admission is only \$7 per person and of course unlimited dogs!



11 Victims Found by APD's Golden K-9 "Austin"

Editor's Note: Officer Jim Minton and K-9 "Austin" of the Austin Police Department have been featured guests at more than one GRR event, sharing some heroic search and rescue stories. This time they were called to duty when for the first time ever, the Mexican government requested the assistance of U.S. law enforcement. They and one other K-9 team were the only two dog teams in the U.S. to volunteer for this assignment. Though some of the details in the following story are a bit gruesome, it is reassuring to know that Officer Minton and Austin are on the job.


For more information about APD's K-9 unit and Austin, go to:
www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/k9austin.htm

Recently Officer Jim Minton and K-9 Austin, APD's Golden Retriever SAR (Search and Rescue) Dog, were deployed to the interior of Mexico, where drugs wars are taking place. The request for the team came from the Mexican government on behalf of President Vicente Fox, the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U. S. Customs (ICE) and the U. S. State Department. The mission was to travel into foreign territory and attempt to locate a person who had been brutally tortured and murdered.

The land surrounded a safe house owned by the Carrillo-Fuentes Drug Cartel. Before accepting the mission, Officer Minton made it very clear to Mexican and U. S. officials that his number one priority was the health and safety of his dog. K-9 Austin and Officer Minton were flown by private jet to the area.

During the search, several unexpected occurrences took place. While searching the property, K-9 Austin entered an area wired with improvised explosive devices (IEDS). K-9 "Austin" was immediately ordered into an "off" command and complied at once. Officer Minton then entered the area and assisted Austin out to safety. The team continued the search. Before being evacuated out of the country by U. S. Customs for their own safety, the team was responsible for locating eleven bodies. All eleven were victims of extreme violence and torture and were found buried bound and gagged. Three were encased in concrete slabs. During the operation, gunshots could be heard throughout the area. During the emergency evacuation, Golden Retriever Austin and Officer Minton comforted each other until they were safely back on U. S. soil.

Based on what K-9 Austin and one other dog team found, 52 people are under arrest for these international crimes. Two have committed suicide. Twenty-five were employed with the Mexican State Police force.

Even more recently, Austin and Officer Minton were deployed to a Third World country to search for more victims of extreme violence. 

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

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Austin searching near a fake explosive device!



Austin back in U.S. airspace after an exhausting mission.



Golden Health

What is Hypothyroidism?

by Kathy Burton

Most of the time, it's a good thing that our dogs can't actually "talk" to us. Can you imagine: "Is it time to eat? Would you throw the ball? Can I have a biscuit? I sure do love that ball. Wanna go for a walk? Did I mention I wanted a snack? Wasn't sure if you heard me. Oh, and pet me please." But even if he tell us what was bothering him healthwise, chances are if it was a thyroid problem, he wouldn't know it.

Underactive thyroid—hypothyroidism—can manifest in a variety of symptoms that may easily be dismissed as allergies or laziness. Some symptoms include:

- weight gain without an appetite increase
- hair loss (especially on the trunk or tail)
- fuzzy "puppy coat"
- poor hair growth, and/or dry brittle coat
- dry, dark or flaky skin
- chronic ear or skin infections.

Hypothyroidism is a disorder in which the thyroid gland (a small, butterfly-shaped two-lobe gland at the front of the neck) secretes insufficient thyroid hormone. The thyroid gland regulates the metabolic rate but has other influences as well—if it is underproducing it can affect other important chemical functions in the body and brain of the dog.

In most cases, hypothyroidism stems from the dog's own immune system attacking the tissues of the thyroid gland. This condition is called *autoimmune thyroiditis*. The dog's own system attempts to compensate for this at first by secreting more and more of the thyroid hormone, but eventually the gland is unable to keep up with the attacks on its tissue, and that's when the symptoms begin to develop.

Thyroid dysfunction may also be the root of behavioral changes and should be tested at the onset of:

- sudden aggression or fearfulness
- anxiety-related or compulsive behavior.

If your otherwise healthy, young or adult dog experiences sudden behavioral changes or the physical symptoms listed, consult your vet and check for an underlying thyroid imbalance. She or he will look for the presence of thyroid auto antibodies and low or borderline levels of total T4 and T2, which can be determined by a simple blood test. A TSH test is no longer recommended, because only the thyroid reserve is measured, which can test normal in the early stages of thyroid disease.

Since the physical signs of hypothyroidism develop gradually and vary from dog to dog, the disorder often goes undiagnosed. Veterinarians have found that hypothyroidism is more common in certain breeds, including Golden Retrievers, and typically develops after 2 years of age. But no longer is it assumed that a dog is too young to have hypothyroidism, because in some cases it can present post-puberty as a result of genetic predisposition (around 9 to 12 months of age). The test results may show a low range of normal.


While all owners should be on the lookout for changes in their dog's appearance or behavior, most vets will recommend—at minimum, even without obvious symptoms—testing as part of a senior health examination beginning at age eight.

Hypothyroidism isn't life threatening, and once diagnosed, the disorder is relatively easy to treat with a daily dose of synthetic thyroid hormone, called thyroxine (levothyroxine). Especially in the initial stages of treatment, blood will need to be drawn periodically to assess the effectiveness of the dosage and make any adjustments necessary. Once thyroid

hormone levels have stabilized within a normal range, your veterinarian will likely check the levels every 6 to 12 months.

Once treatment begins, most hypothyroid dogs are increasingly active and show fewer behavior problems within a week. Hair growth typically accelerates in about a week, too, although bare spots or a poor coat may take months to fully recover. Most dogs begin to lose excess weight within 2 to 4 weeks of starting treatment.

While there is a genetic predisposition for thyroid disorders, environmental factors such as pollutants and overvaccination may play a role as well. Switching the dog to a hypoallergenic "natural" diet, that is preserved with vitamins E and C, and free of chemical preservatives or coloring (e.g., lamb and rice based, lower protein), is highly recommended.

With regularly scheduled check-ups to ensure correct dosage, your dog should be mostly symptom-free for the rest of his life. The treatment for hypothyroidism is straightforward, and the medication is relatively inexpensive. Hypothyroid dogs who receive proper treatment have a normal life span and are able to maintain good health well into their golden years. So even if he can't "tell" you directly what's wrong, his body and behavior will. Hypothyroidism may not be easily diagnosed by physically looking at the dog, but the testing and treatment can be very easy. If you sense that something "just isn't right," chances are it isn't! Have him tested. He'll thank you for it, do a little happy dance, and most likely ask in his own way, "Throw the ball, the ball, the ball! How about that biscuit, now?!" 



A Special Tribute

You Know When You've Been Touched by

Golden leaves. The changing of a season. It's like nature has a way of making a final, brilliant splash of color before the leaves fall making way for the new growth that will shade us in the spring and summer months. To coin a cliché—it is the circle of life. No matter how rationally we can agree with the nature of things, it doesn't make the heartache any easier to bear when we have to say goodbye to a Golden companion who has meant so much to so many. So it goes that we had to say goodbye to some very special Golden's this year— Maggie, Savannah and Special Agent Cooper.

Many of you will remember Maggie Maine Harris— she and Katie made literally hundreds of home visits to benefit Gold Ribbon Rescue. And more times than not, families would plead with Katie to let Maggie stay with them. She was an original "Tie a Gold Ribbon" Golden—one of the dogs for whom this organization was founded and named. Katie and Maggie both gave countless hours to GRR and provided help to Golden's and owners alike. Maggie passed away earlier this year and will be greatly missed by so many of us who remember her charm and good spirit. Katie, thanks for sharing her with us.

Maggie's Hugs...

by Becky LaBrum

I met Maggie Harris at my first GRR orientation, in summer 2001. When I walked into the room, I thought, "I must be in the wrong place. Where is everybody?" And then... oh, there they are. All clustered in the corner paying court to a dainty little blonde. To a room full of Golden lovers, this petite gal was the equivalent of the world's most powerful tractor beam! Who could resist that smile and that "pet me" aura?

The meeting began, and, after checking out the buffet table in a ladylike fashion— just to make sure that all was in order— Miss Maggie expertly worked the room, gliding around silently beneath the big conference table



Maggie at a GRR Orientation.

and soliciting pets. You could tell just where she was by watching everyone's facial expression: a dotting smile and glazed look would appear on the face of the "targets," they'd tilt to the side... farther... farther.. and then their heads would disappear from view as they leaned all the way down to deliver a tummy rub. Maggie knew how to get everyone to pet her. She was a true master of the Power Slap and could deliver the Big Paw like none other. Just try to stop petting her after that!

Maggie was GRR's Grooming Demo Dog par excellence— with just one flaw: she was responsible for giving dozens of us a false impression of how easy it is to groom your Golden. As Katie trimmed and clipped and combed, Maggie instantly fell into a trance, eyes closed, allowing herself to be rolled here, there, and everywhere. "Wow, this grooming stuff is really easy," I thought naively, inexpertly wielding the slicker brush. When I paused, one soft brown eye opened halfway: "keep brushing!" Three years later, as I sneak up on Lulu when she is sleeping so as to trim just one paw at a time, I still find myself muttering, "why can't you be like Maggie!"

Maggie came to our home visit, walked in confidently and made herself right at home. Noticing that Lulu was allowed on the futon, Maggie promptly hoisted a paw and began

to clamber on herself. "When in Rome..." she obviously thought. Clever girl! Katie said she'd head to the door and wait expectantly when the home visit bag came out... "Come on, Mom, time to go make another convert!"

Maggie was a poster child for rescue dogs everywhere. Like so many of these dogs, she showed us how to live: by forgiving and forgetting, letting the past go, and living for the pleasures of each day. She spent years as a breeding bitch, chained by the throat, confined in a dark barn... yet nobody ever had a sunnier outlook.

Maggie is gone in body now, but her sweet spirit will always be in the hearts of all who knew her. Just the other day, I met a newly adopted GRR dog, another tiny girl with a sad past, a big smile, and a trusting heart. "Oh, she reminds me of Maggie," I thought. There couldn't be a better compliment than that.



Savannah wearing her bonnet.

Savannah Smiled...

Savannah was Beth Freeman's first "real rescue"— she describes the day she spotted an abandoned, stinky, matted Golden on the dock at Emerald Bay on Lake Travis. She scooped her up and brought her in to GRR's care. A "permanent" foster home was



Pure Gold

needed for this sweet gal, as she was diagnosed with mammary cancer and her prognosis was not good. She was given just 3 to 6 months to live.

On the other side of town, Laura Reed had just raised her hand to volunteer for GRR, and she took Savannah in for what she thought would be a short time. But Savannah defied the odds and lived on for three more years—much to the delight of the Reed family. Savannah was Laura's connection to GRR, and as she described it in an email to the group, "I have dear friends because of Savannah and have been able to help countless dogs because we decided to give her a place to call home."

Savannah was famous for her patience and loyalty—whether it was playing "dress-up" with the girls or teaching new foster dogs the proper way to get along in their new foster home. Her sweet smiling face will be missed, but her legacy will live on through the friendship and bond she created in Laura and Beth, and the extraordinary contributions they both have made to GRR.

Special Agent Cooper...

We are sad to report that our old sweetheart, Special Agent Cooper, FBI 00-02 is gone. We put Coop to sleep at an estimated age of 14+.

Monique and I rescued Cooper in January 2000. We anticipated slipping over to the trailer house in South Austin for a 7:00am look-see, and then climbing back into our respective beds for a few more hours of shut eye. Instead we found Cooper, frantic and wide eyed, practically shouting at us, "Get me out of HERE!" The trailer smelled of urine, several other dogs and a cat were already in residence, and our elderly hostess was obviously confused. "I saw an ad in the newspaper for this lost dog, and I thought he was my dog. I don't drive, but my friend took me to see this dog. I wasn't sure it was

my dog, but he could have been." We pieced the rest of her story together: She took Cooper to the vet, who explained that 10 year old, dark red Cooper was not this woman's 5 year old, gold colored dog. The vet charged her \$29 and sent the woman to rescue. Cooper raced us to the car and moved into Biba Retirement Acres—won our hearts, and that was that.

We nursed Coop through heartworm treatment, and over the years, we battled severe allergies, heart problems and liver issues. Every time Coop took a turn for the worse, his vets pulled him through with help from his Doggy Dermatologist, Holographic Repatterning, Reiki and Psychological Kinesiology. I secretly thought that Cooper chose to keep living...his happiness kept him here. It took Laryngeal Paralysis to stop the old soldier...muscles which opened the upper airway were paralyzed, and breathing became impossible.

Cooper was our optimist and adventurer, a traveling man and a pacifist; our Cowardly Lion. Puppies terrified Coop the most—those erratic creatures chasing him across the yard and through the house, pulling his tail as he tried to escape upstairs to Gary's office. It wasn't until little Natalie moved in that Coop grudgingly admitted that for a puppy, she might be all right. When Cooper was happy, he twirled and whirled and bounded across the yard like an impossibly enthusiastic elk. The highlight of his day was the 5:00 dog drive; 6 Golden in the Explorer, windows down, 15 mph. Cooper was the kind hearted friend of 70+ foster dogs who shared our home since his rescue. We watched him develop crushes on Zydeco the Springer Spaniel, and Golden Mrs. Robinson & Brittany Biba. All 3 of those ladies are gone now too, and we can only imagine that they were among the crowd that greeted our boy as he entered Dog Heaven. We loved him so much.

— Margo & Gary,
Madeleine, Chili, Tag, Ace, Buster



Special Agent Cooper, FBI

Silent Auction Items Needed for Holiday Party

Mark your calendars now – Saturday, December 11th at 7pm – for our annual Holiday Party. Another wonderful opportunity to get together and enjoy the company of our fellow Golden owners. The website will soon have more detailed information, but in the meantime we are seeking donations for our Silent Auction. If you have an item or service that you think will "fetch" a bid, please consider donating as soon as possible. Contact Susie Schaffer at Susie@grr-tx.com or if you don't have email please call the hotline (659-GOLD) and leave a message. Thank you!

GRReat Ads

If you have a business or service that you'd like to advertise to the best readers in Central Texas—then advertise in our next issue of the GRR Newsletter. Contact Brenda@grr-tx.com (or call our Hotline 659-GOLD) anytime.



It's Automatic, It's Easy, It Saves Lives

Make Your Monthly Contribution to GRR: It's Fast, Easy and Automatic at <http://grr-tx.com/monthlydonor>

In just about every issue of our newsletter, at every fundraising event, and even on the home page of our website we're asking.... "please donate." You've heard it all before, and we've begged in every way we know how... almost. We are so excited to offer this automatic, easy new way of donating. Now, when you hear our pleas again, you can say, "Got it covered, I'm saving a Golden every month!" And the beauty is, you won't have to remember to send in a check or visit the website to make a donation online. Easy. Done. And the rescue of Golden retrievers continues in your name.

Here's how it works...


You write one check to GRR and authorize us to draft your checking account on a monthly basis for any amount you deem appropriate. Or you can easily set it up to

draft your Visa or Mastercard. That's it! It's completely secure. You may opt to stop automatic drafts at any time, or you may even set it up as a "bill pay" through your own bank. Whatever you can give—automatically.

Here's what you receive...

A life is saved! A Golden is safe and smiling. The good work of Gold Ribbon Rescue continues because of YOU. And of course you'll get a tax-deductible receipt from GRR for tax purposes. And as a monthly donor, the first \$40 received can automatically be applied to your membership—another "forget about it, it's done" convenience.

For more information about this easy, automatic way of saving Golden retrievers, please visit our website right now. Why wait? In fact, just writing this article has inspired me—I'm making my automatic donation to GRR now! Special thanks to Sheila and Scott Thomas for being our very first Monthly Donors.

Editor's Note: Tim Tierney, GRR's treasurer, works tirelessly behind the scenes of this organization in constant search of ways to stretch each and every dollar donated to GRR. If there is a grant available, Tim is the one who finds these opportunities, writes and submits the applications on behalf of GRR and follows up with the correspondence necessary to ensure the award. Tim is the one behind the cash register at all of our events—always willing to sacrifice his "fun time" to work. If it has to do with the exchange of monies—post office fees, veterinarian payments, expense reimbursements—Tim is our "go-to" man. In addition to his treasurer responsibilities, Tim also takes care of our website, is an active member on the board and we'd be remiss if we didn't mention the overwhelming amount of time and energy he spends on our database management. We are so fortunate to have Tim and his amazing passion for saving Golden retrievers on our team. Thank you, Tim! 



Margo Biba

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Success Story

And Then Came Bess...

submitted by Kathy Wheeler

Having become addicted to our two-year-old golden retriever, Buddy, we began searching.... okay, "I" began searching for another pup to raise! Had I lost my mind or was I trying to fill the void that was imminent with the departure of our college-bound son??

I scoured breeders...searching as far as Arizona on the phone and the Netherlands on the web. Yet, I always included a visit to GRR's website. The idea of rescuing was nothing new to us...as strays have always had an uncanny ability to find our home. Then, one day, one of those rare puppies appeared on the GRR website and I was hooked. It was time to move forward... from "just browsing" to commitment. Checking for approval from my spouse, I submitted our application and called the hotline. We were excitedly hoping to move the process forward...but we discovered the puppy had already been adopted.

Still, some driving force kept us interested in GRR. Time ticked by and we completed the telephone interview. We forfeited our 4th of July plans so that a home visit could be incorporated and thoroughly enjoyed our time with Kathy Burton and her husband. We were approved for either fostering or adoption and began what we thought might be quite a wait. Several days later, we were notified of two females at the shelter who were in need of fostering. It seems summer is a busy season for GRR. Hmmm...as they say, curiosity killed the cat. We immediately drove to the shelter to visit our prospective fosters. (Probably not protocol but, hey, the doggies would love us.) Big mistake! We were back—day after day after day—loving both girls, but drawn to the gentle blonde in #228. We even picked out a name for her— "Bess."

We held our breath hoping the owners would not reclaim her...all the while

absorbing the Foster Manual. Much to Buddy's dismay, the manual provided great refreshers on who really is the alpha! We also educated ourselves on shelter procedures and GRR procedures. We were continually asking questions and they were patiently answered by Becky LaBrum and Maura Phelan. We anxiously checked with the shelter; had she been evaluated by the vet tech? Had she had her vaccinations? Okay, confession time: "We" = "I". As soon as we discovered the blonde was processed, we were there in a flash and joyously drove home with our new foster. "Yes, honey, she would just be a foster and yes, she did look quite a bit older than 5, and yes, honey, I know we wanted to wait for one of those rare puppies...and, she sure does potty a lot..."

Our poor blonde endured hours of grooming and cutting golf ball-sized mats out of her coat, her tail wagging all the while. We worked over her without hearing a single complaint. At last, she was clean, happy, well fed and ready for a long nap in the crate. Exhausted, we wondered who on earth could let go of such a gentle creature—even if she had never been housebroken! The next day proved to be pivotal as we discovered our blonde really enjoyed the company of Buddy, and even kissed our kitties! No longer were we thinking in terms of "foster" and "puppy." It was more like: "Okaaaay! Let's adopt!"

A trip to our vet reconfirmed Bess was heartworm positive, both ears were infected, both eyes had beginning cataracts, her skin had a reaction to mosquito bites, a urinary tract infection was in full swing, and... oops...probably more like 7 to 8 years old. The list may get longer as time ticks by. Hey, wait a minute...if we foster, GRR will handle her medical costs and then prepare her for



Miss Bess

adoption. That's quite a commitment from the organization on her behalf. But, could we bear to part with her when the time came? And, who else could give her such a good home and all the TLC she could stand? Could we dig deep and still make this commitment? One look into those dreamy fringed eyes and we all melted...including the vet. "Okaaaay! Let's STILL adopt NOW!" And we said we wanted a puppy!!!

Our heartfelt thanks go out all the wonderful volunteers at GRR. We are looking forward to a great future together with Bess and with GRR. By the way, have I recovered from my addiction yet? NAH!

Postscript: As we go to press, another GRR dog, Joshua, has already joined the Wheeler household—a genuine puppy this time! Those addictions can be hard to shake...



“Like many other much-loved humans, they believed that they owned their dogs, instead of realizing that their dogs owned them.”

—Dodie Smith



GRR Emails— From Stink to Pretty in “Pink”

Editor's note: We kicked this "GRR email" feature off in the last newsletter and heard from several of you that this was indeed a "good idea." As I wrote before, email is a vital part of our everyday operation within GRR and believe me when I say that our inboxes are never lonely! Emails from our Foster Coordinators, the Surrender Team, the Adoption Team, foster families and some from our adoptive families often share knowledge and helpful hints on topics such as health care, diet, behavior and sometimes just silly, fun stories and pictures.

If you have questions you'd like answered or helpful hints to share with the GRR community, please feel free to add another email to my inbox! Send emails to:
brenda@grr-tx.com

email to GRR from Foster Mom:

...He likes to bring me little presents of poop! He marches up to the back door with large poops hanging from his mouth. He looks so happy like he has killed it and it is his prize. I have told him I do not like these presents. Foster mommies would rather have flowers. I hope to curb this little habit before he is adopted ;-)

Reply:

An article in the Purina Breeders magazine addressed this issue, said some dogs just LIKE the poop taste and some eat it from habit or boredom. Correcting the behavior and just redirecting to a toy or prize and being diligent about picking up the poop are the only ways known to change the behavior. Try to keep plastic grocery bags or a scooper close by for quick pick up. (I like the grocery bags for recycling and because when you tie them shut you cut off the poopy smell).

Reply:

You can try putting pineapple chunks in the dog's food. The dogs love the taste of it and pineapple has enzymes that are good for them. From what I understand it is the enzymes that give the poop a bad smell and taste which deters any further interest. You can get huge cans of it at most HEB's—in their bulk food area.

email to GRR Foster Coordinators:

About thunderstorms—while we were in Nebraska, I stayed with Jackie (used to breed & show Goldens, helped start Nebraska's GR rescue). Her Murphy, age 13, has always been terrified of thunderstorms. Jackie heard about putting tight tshirts on thunder-phobic dogs & tried it with Murphy on 2 recent, bad storms. Both times Murphy settled immediately when they put on the t shirt, and slept through the rest of the storm. :-) Jackie used a small/medium adult shirt. Worth a try!

Reply:

There are also what's called "Anxiety Wraps" for dogs. It works on the theory that nerve endings just under the skin are over-stimulated by the electrical field preceding a storm or stress, or prior abuse or just genetic timidness, etc., and the pressure of the swaddling soothes the dog (like tight wrapping soothes a baby because it mimics the womb—basically the same effects of the nerve endings).

You can find more information from the woman who developed it (also can purchase one on-line, but I'd try the tee shirt first). A web search on "Anxiety Wrap for dogs" will pull up a number of sites.

For those of you who asked what is it made of, how does it look, Shadow graciously agreed to be the model for the Anxiety Wrap, and he also volunteered to be a "test dog" to see if this is effective for thunderstorm phobia. Shadow is not a "tear down the curtains, crash through the plate glass window in the living room," type of phobic but they do upset him if you are not in the room with him.

I still need to do some adjustments with it on him but you get a sense of what it looks like. It's made of a light spandex type material, hand washable in cool water, line or tumble dry, appears well made, not hard to put on or take off. I think he looks very fetching in it, in a Jack Lalanne kind of a way :)

Too soon to tell how much effect it will have with the weather anxiety (he's not really phobic, just highly anxious so you'll pardon me for coining a new description of the syndrome for him). I will say he seems to visibly relax more when it's on and does not try to lick or chew on it and after just a few moments it's like it not even there as far as he's concerned. —Kathy.



GRR Foster Family Spotlight

Phillips Phoster Phamily is Phantastic!

Editor's Note: We have so many fantastic foster homes—of course we're always begging for more—but there is one foster family that has come through for GRR more times than any other. Meet Pam and Dean Phillips. I begged Dean to write something up for this issue because: one, they never say no to a foster in need; and two, just reading his foster reports makes me giggle out loud! 43 foster dogs and still counting... they are truly amazing!

In addition to their tremendous contributions to fostering, Pam and Dean are involved in other areas of GRR work as well. Pam's decorating business—Decorating on a Shoestring—has taken charge of decorations for the last few GRR holiday parties; and Dean is an active Home Visitor. So the next time you see Pam and Dean at an event or strolling along Town Lake with Sam and yet another GRR foster, give them a pat on the back!

submitted by Dean Phillips

"Danny the Wonderdog" started it all. We had every intention of living a dog-free existence, but Danny was the first Golden Retriever we had known up close and personal. We GRR foster dog-lovers had been accustomed to a relatively docile life as Basset Hound owners, and decided to be dog-free after our last hound crossed over the bridge. In fact, we purchased white furniture, light carpeting, made lots of travel plans, and lived dog-free for about four years.

When we moved from the DFW area to Austin in 1997, we moved into an apartment before selecting Austin as our permanent retirement location. There were dogs in the apartment complex, but none in the Phillips abode. Then Danny arrived with his owners, and he adopted Pam, or vice versa; Danny won't say. He was a beautiful, smart 3-year old boy who became part of two families.

We decided that Austin was going to become home, so in 1999 we moved into a new house in southwest Austin. Danny's family, the Egley's often brought



Danny over to visit, but they were transferred to Phoenix. No Danny, no dogs! The new house seemed to be missing something.

The next spring we attended a pet picnic at a local park and met GRR. They asked about fostering in order to "try" living with a Golden. Our first foster dog arrived in August 2000, and it was fun. Our second foster dog had been abandoned at Mansfield Dam and arrived at TLAC with only three working legs. GRR reviewed his case and decided to provide surgical repairs because he was such a beautiful 3- to 4-year old boy. In October 2000, after neutering, extensive orthopedic surgery for a torn ACL and medial meniscus, and before treatment for full-blown heartworms, "Sam" was placed in our care (probably because GRR wanted a foster home that wouldn't over-exert him). He was the perfect convalescent patient. Always a smile, a gorgeous disposition and beautiful personality, Sam soon won a place in the Phillips household. He cemented his position by "retrieving" the newspaper from the end of the driveway each morning and bringing it to the kitchen pantry where the "cookies" were kept. GRR matchmakers tried to adopt him out to another family, but Pam convinced them to let us adopt him. It's worked out really well for everyone.

A total of 41 other dogs have fostered at

Pam and Dean Phillips pictured at last years' Holiday Party.



the "Phillips Phoster" house and received training by Sam—and our three cats! Including Sam and his predecessor, that's 43 GRR foster dogs we have cared for

and hosted over the last 48 months. Many have learned to retrieve the newspaper; many learn to stop at intersections on walks until they're told it's okay to cross; and lots of them had to be taught to swim. Sam showed them his favorite spots on Town Lake, Zilker Park or Barton Creek. And all the foster dogs needed lots of love and time living indoors.

It's hard to give up a wonderful foster dog, but knowing our "kids" are going to loving forever families is the best reward. We've been tempted to keep some of our favorites, like Suburban or Cisco or Rex or Gabby. But if we kept a second dog, any subsequent foster dogs would be the "odd man out." Besides, how could we deprive someone else of the love of those fantastic foster goldens?

Some dogs have stayed with us for up to six months, and others have been in our home for only several days. But all of them had stories; and all of them received our love. Both of us, and Sam too, are "recruiters" for GRR every time we go to Town Lake or meet people on our walks.

What about Danny the Wonderdog? The Egleys still live in Phoenix, and we're planning to visit them in the next six months or so. What a fun reunion!





Golden Circle Membership Level \$500-\$1000

Michael Chamberlain



Gold Medalist Membership Level \$250-\$499

Lon Badgett

Marla McClain & Ed Hamel

Terre & Cindy Michaels

Susan Roehm



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for being our very first member of our
"Gold Ribbon Monthly Donor Club"!

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Golden Friend Membership Level \$40-\$99

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Myrna Rochelle

Gary & Susie Schaffer

Jennifer & Kirk Schell

Bonnie Simmons & Ralph Young

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Golden Gifts

"Donation for Molly"—Ken Hilla

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"I earned this money dog sitting for a neighbor."—Drew Nellie

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Extraordinary Golden Fund Donors:

Pam Phillips—Decorating on a Shoestring, Inc.

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Nancy Todd



Golden Memorials

In memory of JoAnn L. Dealing

**"Ginger's much loved
Grandma"**

Nancy, Sabrina & Molly Martin

In memory of

Special Agent Cooper

and the family that loved him— Margo &
Gary Biba and the rest of the "gang".

Kathy Burton

In memory of

Joan LaBrum

Laura Reed

In memory of our beloved Golden,

Tucker

Paula & Bruce Alexander

In memory of

Jacy

Kathy & Bill Burton

In memory of

Cooper Biba

Nick & Ann Nichols

In memory of

Special Agent Cooper, FBI

for the joy he brought to this world and in
honor of Margo & Gary Biba for the love
they give to the homeless senior GRs lucky
enough to find a final forever home at

Biba Retirement Acres.

Anita & Tom Moore

In memory of

Cooper Biba

Cam Snyder

In memory of

Cooper Biba

Dr. Nairn, Dr. VanBrunt, Dr. Boehnke

Century Animal Hospital

In memory of

Savannah Reed

My special Savannah-fanna-bo-banna girl

Beth Freeman

In memory of

Savannah

from Dr's & Staff of Century Animal
Hospital



In memory of our sweet

Savannah

The first GRR dog to steal our hearts. She
is deeply missed. The Reed Family

In memory of

Barton Garbutt

Amy Zeinner

In memory of our beloved

Gracie

Sept. 5, 1989 - June 23, 2004

Lonnie Swanson

In memory of

Cody

Loved by Lori Marcun, family & friends
Kim McLeod

Golden Honors

In Honor of

Jean Luc

Stephen & Emily Schultz

In Honor of

Pete & Ann Lyon

Linda Saenz

In Honor of

**Suzanne Schreve, Olivia &
Goodyear**

Becky LaBrum

In Honor of

Todd & Julie Talkington

Becky LaBrum

In Honor of our

Pepples Birthday Party

Leesa Benenhaley

In Honor of

Chipper

Carol Freeman

In Honor of

Thunder

John & Liz Horne

In Honor of

Maggie Maine Harris

Thanks for the hugs.

Every donation—large or small— makes a huge difference in the lives of these rescued goldens. Your donation is fully deductible as a non-profit donation. Keep in mind, however, that membership dues and adoption fees are not tax deductible, as you receive "something" for your spend— whether it is the loving Golden at your side or a voting place within the GRR organization. Adoption fees and membership dues alone do not cover our expenses, so we depend upon the generous donations of Golden lovers everywhere. Please consider our "Golden Monthly Donor Club". It's fast, easy and automatic. 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**



Adoptable Goldens



Dakota, Age 7

This handsome red Golden might be 7 years old, but he has the delightful disposition of a young pup. He loves to meet new people and really enjoys kids of all ages. His foster family will surely miss this awesome boy when he finds his forever home.



Trooper, Age 2½

Trooper really lived up to his name— he hung in there even when all he could do was lick his food due to a painful cracked tooth! Once extracted, Trooper jumped for joy. His ideal day is one full of chasing balls, capped off by a good belly rub and a nap.



Emma, Age 4

Ahhh, sweet Emma— loving, gentle and so thankful that GRR has brought her into care. She had spent her whole life outside and has blossomed in her safe, loving foster home by showing impeccable manners and a constant smile.



Genesis, Age 2

"Genny" was surrendered to GRR because her owner developed allergies. Not knowing any better they shaved this beauty. Genny is a wonderful, young, beautiful Golden who loves the water— she puts on a show chasing and jumping at water from the hose.



Kikki, Age 2

This guy can play hard and sleep hard. He's just an awesome athlete— loves to swim and retrieve the ball. He's smart, eager to please, well behaved and completely loveable. What more could a family ask for?



Rupert, Age 5

What's this? A dog that shares his toys with the kitty? Yes, that's our Rupert. Rescued as a stray from TLAC, Rupert is a handsome, friendly fellow who's thrilled to have new friends and regular meals. And he even likes his crate!



Tiger, Age 2

When Tiger first came to GRR, she didn't even know what a treat was! Poor sweetie-pie. Tiger is a darling Golden girl with a beautiful face and gorgeous smile.



Bogie, Age 4 months

With a vertical leap a pro basketball player would envy, young Bogie was just too active for her elderly owners! Now this pretty girl is looking for a lively family to appreciate her puppy hijinks and help her blossom into a wonderful pet.



Augie, Age 5

Lovable, outgoing Augie was found stray near Mansfield Dam— bony, tired, and with lots of recent scratches and bite wounds on his face. After a month in care, he's looking better all the time, and though he's a grown-up dog, he's got puppy energy to spare.



Frankie, Age 2½

Now here's a guy who's intouch with his kitty side! He also loves to play with her foster brothers and sisters. He was a little shy when he first came to GRR but his confidence is building everyday.

Continued on page 14. For more details and pictures of all of our adoptables, check our website and click on "Adoption." Sometimes by the time we get the newsletter printed and distributed, the featured foster dogs have already found forever homes. New adoptables are posted on the website regularly, so be sure to check back often.

www.GRR-tx.com



Extraordinary Golden Fund– Update

Heidi on Three Legs– A Beautiful Sight

Editor's note: In our last issue we wrote about Heidi and her battle with cancer. And, now... for the rest of Heidi's story...

by Heather Smalley

After being with our family for less than two months, Miss Heidi went in for surgery on May 27th to amputate her left foreleg in order to remove a large cancerous tumor. I dropped her off with the fantastic staff at the Central Texas Specialty Veterinary Hospital that morning with lots of tears, not knowing what to expect the next time I would see her. Two days later, after lots of communication with the vet, we went to reclaim our princess. I had been warned that the sight would be a little shocking, and it was. Heidi was walking, but she had about a quarter of her fur shaved and a LARGE incision where her shoulder had previously been attached to her side. She was so happy to see us, and we were overjoyed to see her. I was sobbing with a

mixture of joy and sadness (and probably hormones, as I was 8 months pregnant at the time). I was overwhelmed that the surgery had saved her life, but I had never dealt with a dog who had lost a limb before.

The recovery was challenging for the first week. We kept Heidi separated from our other two Golden Retrievers in order to give her plenty of time to rest and heal. We had to keep Heidi leashed for potty breaks, and my husband built a temporary ramp off the back porch to help us navigate her in and out of the backyard. While she was still on pain medication, you could tell there were times when Heidi still hurt and was really sore from now having to shift all of her weight onto her remaining front leg.




Heidi snuggles with her "sister" Elise.

Heidi never stopped smiling, though, nor did she stop wanting to follow us from room to room as we went about our days.

Exactly one week after surgery, Heidi turned the corner and began acting as though this was how she had always been— a three-legged beauty.

Today Heidi is as full of fun and love as she ever was. She charges with the other dogs to chase squirrels in the backyard, jumps on and off the porch, and is bossed around the house from one pretend situation to the next by our two-year-old, Elise. Walks have had to be shortened as they wear her out, but fetching and playing house haven't changed one bit for her. Heidi has also taken on a new role— nanny for our infant son. She has fallen 100% in love with Owen and watches over him wherever he is.

Thanks to everyone who supports Gold Ribbon Rescue, Heidi now has a life full of excitement ahead of her! 

Dog Rules

BARKING: *You are expected to bark. So bark—a lot. Your people will be very happy to hear you protecting their house. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. Remember, volume is a good thing.*

LICKING: *Always take a BIG drink from your water dish immediately before licking your human. Humans prefer clean tongues. Be ready to fetch your human a towel.*

DOORS: *The area directly in front of a door is always reserved for the family dog to sleep. This includes the refrigerator door. With any luck, something will fall out.*

THE ART OF SNIFFING: *Humans like to be sniffed. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family dog, to accommodate them.*

DINING ETIQUETTE: *Always lie under the table at dinner, especially when there are guests, so you can clean up any food that falls on the floor. It's also a good time to practice your sniffing.*

HOUSEBREAKING: *Housebreaking is very important to humans, so break as much of the house as possible, then lie with your head on your paws and practice looking sad.*

COUCHES: *It is perfectly permissible to lie on the new couch after all your humans have gone to bed,— or to work,— or school.*

RETRIEVING: *If you lose your footing while fetching the ball, use the flower bed to absorb your fall so you don't injure yourself.*

CHASING: *When chasing cats or squirrels, make sure you never— quite—catch them.*

“I marvel that such small ribs as these can cage such vast desire to please.”

—Ogden Nash



GRR's Annual Swim Fest— A Splashing Good Time



Above: Maura watches on as Todd Harrison suits Bert up for the Wet Tee shirt contest.

There were Golden Retrievers everywhere! Swimming in the lake, fetching balls and having a grand time. Special thanks to Susie Schaffer for organizing this and all of our wonderful fundraising events. And thanks to Maura for allowing us to frolic once again at Happy Hour Farms for this event and the upcoming Oom-Pup-Paws on October 23rd.



Right: Emily Tuczowski gets a "hoping" audience while enjoying brunch.

Dr and Sandy Weeks— Red's Angels

As Kathy Burton often says, "Every dog has their own Karma", and it sure is ringing true for our 7 year old foster girl, Red. She was surrendered to GRR because her owner wasn't physically able to care for her anymore and it was reported that Red had never had any veterinary care.



This poor baby had a horrible flea infestation, her skin was completely covered with a bacterial yeast infection, her coat was sparse, her ears were

inflamed and thickened with infection, her upper and lower incisors (teeth) had been worn to the gum line from chewing on her hair and skin, she had not been spayed, and you guessed it... she is *heartworm positive*.

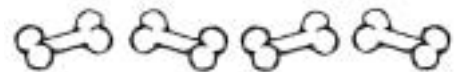
Enter **Sandy and Scott Weeks, DMV**— Red's angels of foster care. Scott Weeks, is a veterinarian in San Antonio and Red is now receiving the medical and emotional care she desperately needed. GRR is extremely grateful to Dr Weeks for the fiscal discount provided for the care and treatment of Red— and to the entire Weeks family for keeping her safe, warm and loved during her recovery. Red has been improving a great deal these past two months and is currently undergoing her heartworm treatment.

From receiving no veterinary care in seven years, to fostering in the home of an expert in animal care— every dog has their own karma, and Red is no exception. Thank you Sandy and Scott Weeks!

Thanks to our Vets!

GRR wishes to thank the following animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts.

Animal Trustees of Austin
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Lakeline Animal Care
Pets First – San Antonio
Pet Medical Clinic—San Antonio
 (Dr. Scott Weeks)
San Marcos Vet Clinic
Town and Country Animal
Hospital
White Rock Veterinary Hospital



Adoptable Golden Retrievers (continued from Page 12)



Missy, Age 2

Missy can be so funny! She loves to play with woobies. She approaches the toy with glee, and then gets startled every time it squeaks! She is a happy, playful, beautiful Golden girl.



Chips, Salsa, Guacamole and Goldens!

We've had one of the mildest summers on record, but we picked one of the few really warm, humid evenings this year—August 19th, to be exact—for our latest event. But the heat didn't deter our GRR volunteers from hosting a wonderful evening at Taco Cabana in Austin. This was a great fundraising event as a portion of every meal sold that night was donated to GRR. We raised over \$1,000! That included raffle ticket sales and generous donations made by some of our adoptive families—thank you to all!!

The best part of this event—like so many others—is the opportunity to visit with adoptive GRR families and catch up on how our Goldens are getting along. From the recently adopted to the “old-timers,” we never tire of hearing how much joy and love they are giving and receiving. Some folks drove in from quite a distance (Ann & Nick, it was great to see you both!) and others came directly from the office to join in the fun and cause.

“Miles” McGill served as our official greeter in the patio area and was subsequently joined by other GRR dogs: Berkley, Sugar and Scarlet. As Kathy Burton described the scene, “Seeing the dogs lounging out on the cool tiles of the patio, gave it that French Café feel.. The dogs were all so well mannered, I think a lot of people just coming in for some fast take-out on their way home from work were very impressed. I saw a couple of little girls there with their parents, petting the dogs—probably went to bed that night begging their parents for a Golden Retriever.”

Many thanks to Susie Schaffer for organizing this event, Chris Martin for the awesome posters, Sandy Balch for manning the raffle table and creating the GRR display board, Jan Kuhl and Dana McGill for set up and take down and to Brenda Forsythe for being our “break the rules in the name GRR Greeter”. 



Stay Informed

If you haven't received an email from us lately, it's likely that we do not have your current email address in our database. You could be missing out on all kinds of good information and notifications of our upcoming events! Visit <http://grr-tx.com/vlist.htm> to update your email address. You may also opt to receive this newsletter via email, thereby saving us the cost of printing and mailing. Every saved dollar counts!

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GRR Calendar

GRR Volunteer Orientation—Saturday, September 25th

11am - 2pm at Crestview United Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow, Austin, TX

Annual Membership Meeting—Tuesday, October 5th

Did you get your invitation? Be sure we have your email and address updated.

Oom-Pup-Paws—Saturday, October 23rd

12pm - 3pm at Happy Hour Farms, Manor, TX

Annual Holiday Party—Saturday, December 11th

More information to come.

Visit **www.GRR-TX.com** for more information on these events and more.

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