



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas Nov. 2005 19th Edition

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Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan

Seven Years Running and Still Going Strong

As we close another year, GRR has reached a major milestone: we are entering the EIGHTH year! For rescue organizations like ours, this kind of longevity is rare—and to be entering our eighth year rescuing more dogs than ever before is a tremendous accomplishment.

So far this year, GRR has already brought in more rescues than in all of the year 2004—a total of 160 as of October 31! (Last year's sum total was 141.) We've even brought in two litters of puppies (one including the mom).

So far this year we have had:

- 11 returns of GRR dogs from earlier years
- 149 new dogs (owner turn-ins, strays, shelter dogs)
- 16 euthanized (9 for health reasons, 7 for aggression)
- 116 adopted (many thanks to Heather, Jill, Sheila, and Colleen, our matchmakers!)

■ 28% of these were adopted by their foster homes—hence the need for more homes!

■ 2 dogs were made "permanent fosters": these are dogs who require ongoing support for health or behavior reasons, such as #05-081 "Granny" Reagan, a sweet 12-year-old with bad arthritis and skin allergies who will need special care for the rest of her life.

■ 26 dogs in foster care and awaiting forever homes

■ 10 dogs we could not accommodate, who were sent to other rescue groups for placement.

As always, we are so grateful to all the foster families who made this happen—we couldn't do it without you. Of course, since almost a third of our incoming dogs ended up staying with their foster families for good ... WE NEED MORE FOSTER HOMES. I know this is a constant plea, but it's also a continuous need: with so

many dogs, all our foster homes are often full up, and foster families get tired and need a break like anyone else. And of course, not every foster family can take just any dog—not everyone is up for a puppy or a young dynamo! But without new homes to fill the holes, GRR will grind to a halt. You've heard it a hundred times: please consider helping a Golden prepare for his or her forever home. Especially if you will be in town over the coming holidays, please think about helping out—give a Golden and his or her new family the best holiday gift ever. If you can provide respite for a dog already in care, that's great, too. We currently have 38 foster homes—and with our increase in numbers, we still need more. Now that we're 9 years old, here are just a few of our accomplishments:

■ we now have a large presence now in the San Antonio area as well as Greater Austin

Continued on page 2.



Photo courtesy of Gifty Idea (giftyidea.com)

The 5th Annual GRR Holiday Party *featuring a silent auction and raffle to benefit our goldens*

So much fun, even the puppies are trying to sneak in.

Saturday, December 10th, 7-10 pm

RSVP online at www.grr-tx.com/party/

To make a donation for the auction, email susie@grr-tx.com.



Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan**Seven Years Running and Still Going Strong** *(continued from page 1)*

■ there are more vets working with GRR than ever before

■ we have more volunteers than ever before

■ thanks to GRR, you'll rarely see ads in the Statesman for "free" Golden Retrievers

■ No GRs are left at TLAC: they all come to GRR. Some of these dogs are too ill or too old to save, but they get to spend their last days in the caring company of a GRR volunteer. And some are like Splash, whose family brought her to TLAC to be euthanized. TLAC called me, and a foster family collected her that very day. Her hips were so sore and her nails so long that she could hardly walk. With regular glucosamine, good food, and pain medication, she is now going strong!

■ Turn-ins are increasing. We get dogs when their owners encounter financial problems, must move out of state, have just had a baby and find there's no time for a dog, too—or just because the owners didn't realize that Golden Retrievers are not "born trained" and can't cope with young dog's energy and hijinks.

■ And the number of applications, questions, calls to the hotline and e-mail inquiries has increased, which allows GRR to educate and inform more of the public than ever before.

Of course, we would not be here or be able to do any of this without our selfless volunteers. People like:

- Jacki Mulkey, who is finding foster homes to take our incoming dogs—an incredibly important task!
- Mike Chamberlain, who keeps our vet expenses in check and coordinates medical care;
- Susie Schaffer, who organizes our wonderful fund-raising events and solicits donations all year to keep costs down and revenue up;
- the Intake Team, who take surrenders, talk to owners and shelters, coordinate transport, match incoming dogs to foster homes, and monitor each dog's progress in foster care; and
- the Adoption Team, who process hundreds of families to find that perfect home for each dog.

In fact, we are getting so many dogs that GRR is revamping its intake process to handle the load. Please watch for new volunteer positions to be filled!

Thank you all for supporting GRR over the years and getting us so far. Thank you for the lives you have saved, the families you have enriched, and the love you have shared. Thank you for the service dog you

helped to find his job, the family dog you helped to find her family, and the ailing dog you helped to get to the bridge with dignity and comfort. Thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do. Thank you from the Golden Hearts you help save.

Have a Golden Holiday!

—Maura

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

24-Hour Hotline:

(512) 659-GOLD

www.GRR-TX.com

Board of Directors:

Maura Phelan, Tim Tierney, Brenda Forsythe, Susie Schaffer, Emily Tuczowski, Jill Cravens

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Newsletter:

Brenda Forsythe, Becky LaBrum

send newsletter submissions to:

Brenda@GRR-TX.com

"Just the Ticket" for a Tranquil Estes Park Vacation Getaway!

Thanks to a generous GRR supporter, we are selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a 7 night stay in this tranquil, 3 bedroom/2 bath cabin that sleeps up to seven people. The Golden-friendly front porch looks out on tall pines and mountain peaks in Estes Park, Colorado. Located just over a mile from downtown Estes and two miles from the entrance to the Rocky Mountain National Park, this spot is the ideal getaway any time of the year.

Raffle tickets may be purchased online for \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00 at

www.grr-tx.com/party Wow! Wouldn't that be a fabulous deal?!

Raffle tickets may also be purchased at the Holiday Party. Winner need not be present to win. Good Luck!



Emails Full of Helpful Tips and a Few Chuckles

Day in and day out the emails are flying back and forth among our GRR community of volunteers. Typically the emails are communicating the day-to-day business of rescuing Golden Retrievers. But often we're sharing fun stories, happy adoptions, and downright helpful information. Oh, and they can get a little gross from time to time—case in point, the email below from Emily!

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:

Not sure if we have a suggestion section in the newsletter, but it might be worth talking about. Sorry, I have to bring this up... anal gland function.

I was having a dickens of a time with 05-039 Pollyanna, now Sadie, having to bring her in to have her expressed every 2-3 weeks. It was insane. We tried changing her food to no avail. Tried bulking her food up with fiber, again to no avail. Dr Culp offered up the advice to try Omega-3 Fish Oil pills.

Worked like a charm!

It's an awful thing to have to deal with, but it might be interesting to see what other things have worked with other dogs.

We've (ok, all 3 of the dogs, not me ... but I'm thinkin' about it!) been taking it and there have been 0% butt-scootin' issues and 0% allergy issues. As I told Margo, everybody and every dog is "allergy-specific" and not all things will work for everyone, but I'll swear by those Omega-3 capsules (1 a day for each) till the day I expire!

P.S. All 3 dogs have wonderful coats, wonderful skin and are within respectable Golden male/female weight limits! —Emily

Response from GRR:

Jean may chime in with this info too, but, you can get Omega-3 Fish Oil caps at Sam's. I have a huge jar of them—Sam's brand "Members Mark." There are 300 1000mg gel caps in the jar and I think it cost me \$13.00.

Also a comment on allergies and experience with ketoconazole and Atarax. Sierra is notorious for yeast infections of her skin and when she has been on ketoconazole, it's cleared right up! Also I've found that Atarax or the generic equivalent has worked best for her. —Beth

Response from GRR:

Emily, one comment.... EEEWWWWW!!!

It's so embarrassing—every time I take Simon to the vet's office he lets it rip! It's a standing joke that if we want Simon's glands expressed we simply walk him in to Lakeline! His vet has offered several times to show me how to express the glands myself. My response? Ah, NOthankyouverymuch! I'll give the Omega-3 Fish Oil pills a try. —Brenda

email to GRR:

This is a new one for us....

I poured myself a glass of wine tonight and headed upstairs to our family room. I put my wine glass on the end table and then headed to do one last email check in the office. Dale came in bragging to me about how good Freesia has been tonight – how far she has come since we first started fostering her, yada, yada, yada. He then walked out of the office and I heard him dying laughing.

I went to see the spectacle. Freesia was standing on the couch with her long puppy tongue daintily helping herself to my wine on the end table. I am shocked she didn't knock it over. She must have been a wine connoisseur in her past life. No spills – just dog slobber all over the glass and a very happy puppy.

Needless to say, we have found that wine puts puppy to sleep. She is asleep with a little puppy grin dreaming of vineyards and wine tasting.

—Tracy

email to GRR:

I am dutifully packing for my upcoming move. Today I came home to find that in her panic (t-storm, separation anxiety? You pick!), Dee Dee:

- tore up an ottoman
- knocked over a lamp
- rolled up the area rug (a favorite panic-time past-time) and...
- "unpacked" (read between the lines – shredded!) several boxes.

Of the items she removed and demolished from the boxes—a frame that delicately hangs by a tiny leash with a plaque that reads: "Good Dog" ☺

—Sandy



Golden Health

The Kindest Cut?

by Kathy Burton

My dogs didn't think so. When the nail clippers came out, they offered as much resistance as any creature without opposing thumbs can, running upstairs if I was downstairs, down if I was up, into the study and under the desk like they were being pursued by the Hound of the Baskervilles.

In quizzing family and friends, I'd found that their dogs—big or small—pretty much behaved the same way. Many dogs HATE having their nails trimmed, to the point where a lot of owners throw up their hands and always have the vet or groomer do the job.

Some people, of course, have better luck: the show owners who grind the nail instead of cutting it, the owners who start their puppies off right with lots of handling (though not even this always works!), the owners of those rare dogs who are naturally so relaxed that almost nothing bothers them. And I so envied these people! And then ... one day I was trimming the pads of our rescue Golden's feet with scissors. Emma will let you do pretty much anything to her without a huge protest, but her squirming was tedious and time-consuming, so I grabbed a palm-sized, battery-operated clipper and started to run it (turned off) over her pads. Hmmm, no protest! Let's try it turned on. Still no protest! The noise did not bother her; the vibration did not bother her. Could it be that here was a candidate for nail grinding with a Dremel tool instead of the constant struggle with clippers?

Why Dremel?

One big advantage of "Dremeling," of course, is that you run less risk of causing the dog discomfort by crushing the nail or clipping into the quick (see "Clipper tips," page 5). And while our dogs may have a very short

memory for most things (say, commands such as "stay" and "no stealing the Thanksgiving turkey"), they never seem to forget a painful nail trim—hence the evaporation act when the clippers come out.

Once I realized that Emma might do well with nail grinding, I did a quick Google search and came up with a link from the Greater Pittsburg Golden Retriever Club website (<http://homepages.udayton.edu/~merenski/oberdawn/dremel/dremel.html>). This led me to a piece written by a wonderful woman who has Dremeled her dogs' nails for years and has been generous enough to post the information online, complete with full step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and photos.

The article tells you just how to get your dog used to the Dremel. I followed the advice to the letter with Emma and discovered she was far more patient with grinding than she'd ever been with clippers. The biggest surprise, though, had to be my big, red male Golden, Bob, who had always required a two-person nail-cutting team: one to put him in a half-Nelson, the other to clip. Bob has taken to Dremeling, as well! I'm going slow with him, just as I did with Emma, but now it only takes one person to do the Golden nails in our household.

Not one to shy away from pushing my luck, I then approached our German Shepherd, Sam, who has never let anyone but a professional (our vet) touch his feet. No way! I promptly got a look that clearly said, "I'm no Golden Retriever, don't even think about using that thing on me." Oh well, two out of three dogs is not a bad conversion rate. We're happy, the Golden's are happy—and we hear a lot less "click, click, click" when doggie paws are crossing our uncarpeted floors.



An unclipped nail.



The pretty one!

May I have this paw for grooming?

Sam's reaction got me thinking, though. Why ARE some dogs so much more sensitive than others when it comes to this nail-trimming thing? On doing further research, I discovered it's not so much having their nails touched that bothers them as having their paws gripped firmly. In the wild, having a foot pinned down puts an animal at risk of severe injury or worse; it's a matter of survival. Our house dogs, of course, don't have to worry about subsistence living in the forest, but some instincts die hard. In any case, this may explain why some dogs really resent having their feet touched—so for safety's sake, never try to clip or grind nails on an adult dog who shows a lot of resistance to it until you've got him comfortable with having his feet held.



With most dogs, this is accomplished one step at a time, with a treat reward at each successful step. To make it more enjoyable, try sitting with your dog and having someone lightly lift the paw as you give a treat (unsalted popcorn works well with a lot of Golden Retrievers). Then, touch one toe and give a treat; grasp one toe as you would if you were going to clip or Dremel it, and give a treat again. Repeat until your dog doesn't resist when you take her paw in your hand and lightly squeeze.

Clipper tips

If you prefer to stay with clipping, make sure the tool you use is the proper size (Med-Lg for most Golden Retrievers) and that it has a very sharp cutting blade. If it's been dulled by use, it will slightly crush the nail before cutting it, and that's very painful for the dog. This pain probably accounts more for a dog's resistance to nail-trimming than "quicking" the nail blood vessel and attendant nerve. I've actually hit the quick

a couple of times and didn't realize it until I saw the blood. The dog did not scream in pain or even pull the paw away; I applied a drop of Kwik-Stop Styptic Gel to stop the bleeding and all was well with the dog. (I, however, had to go lie down for a moment—felt a bit faint.) After clipping, it is nice to then smooth off any rough places with a professional groomer's dog nail file. You can also cut the nail back as far as you safely can using scissor or guillotine-type clippers, then use a Dremel to shape the nail to make the quick recede farther for the next time foot-grooming is due. This seems to work especially well with dogs who haven't had a pedicure in a really long time, resulting in long, talon-like nails. If you're a puppy owner, make a point of starting nail-trimming early on, using small-size clippers. Hold off on nail grinding until the dog is old enough to have a hard shell formed around the fleshy part of the nail.

... while our dogs may have a very short memory for most things (say, commands such as "stay" and "no stealing the Thanksgiving turkey"), they never seem to forget a painful nail trim—hence the evaporation act when the clippers come out.

Just do it!

When you keep your dog's feet well-groomed and his nails nice and short, you can avoid some of the everyday hazards any active dog faces—such as knee injury due to slipping on grass if pads are not properly trimmed, or painful broken nails requiring a trip to the vet's office. But whether you clip or grind, whether you do the job yourself or have a vet or professional groomer do it for you, the important point is DO IT! Your dog will be more comfortable and healthy with nicely trimmed feet—and he'll have a neat, pretty "cat-paw" look that you can be proud of.



Gold Star Volunteers

We have a network of over 70 dedicated volunteers who keep

this rescue organization growing strong. Most of us give our time—as family and work obligations allow. And, then there are those like Emily Tuczowski and Colleen Gutierrez who both go beyond the call of duty to help out. These are our Golden Stars.

Emily Tuczowski

Now here's a volunteer who has done just about every job under the sun for GRR—and done it well! In addition to her full time "real" job, Emily is a Foster Coordinator, our Volunteer Coordinator, helps with Home Visits, Intake Evaluations, Intake Direction, works the

Hotline rotation, keeps the foster list up to date and recently joined the Board of Directors. Wow—and, that's not all. She helps mail out the canine meds to our foster families.

Last summer we were in a desperate situation—foster homes were needed and needed quick. You may have received a call from Emily during this time, as she personally went through our GRR community list and recruited many new foster homes. Thanks to Emily, the new homes, and the entire Intake Team we've been able to bring in a record number of rescues. (Not that we try to break records, mind you—but how can you turn away a Golden in need? Emily couldn't either). Thank you Emily.

Colleen Gutierrez

Colleen has been volunteering for GRR for quite some time. She's always there to lend a hand at our events. She's a foster parent who has taken on some challenges—such as sumo-size Mulligan, who lost 20 lbs. in her care! She's a Foster Coordinator extraordinaire, always willing to step up and help another family through the fostering experience. And she's recently joined the matchmaking team, helping to find that perfect Golden for the perfect forever home. Thanks for all you do, Colleen!



Rescued, Fostered & Adopted

In our last newsletter we listed the Golden Retrievers that had found their way into GRR's care and on to their forever homes from January thru early June of 2005. The following list covers mid-June thru October 31st, 2005! As you can see, it's been a busy year. Lots of happy Golden Retrievers and lots of very happy adoptive homes. It takes a team of dedicated GRR volunteers to make this happen—from the people on the Hotline, through Intake and Fostering and into the capable hands of our Adoption Team. And, finally, it takes our adoptive families—those of you willing to give a forever home to these deserving Golden Retrievers. Thank YOU!

GRR #	Name	Age*	GRR #	Name	Age*	GRR #	Name	Age*
04-014	Oakley	3 yrs.	05-075	Lucille	1 yr.	05-103	Sunny	10 yrs.
05-026	Kate	2 yrs.	05-076	Ethel	1 yr.	05-105	Bridget	9 mos.
05-029	Brando	2 yrs.	05-078	Redford	3 ½ yrs.	05-107	Maddie	10 mos.
05-040	Doc	10 yrs.	05-079	Mulligan	7 yrs.	05-110	Jacks	7 yrs.
05-042	Miles	1 yr.	05-080	Shelby	1 yr.	05-111	Bear	2 yrs.
05-043	Max	9 yrs.	05-083	Freesia	7 mos.	05-112	Willard	3 yrs.
05-053	Spice	5 yrs.	05-084	Luke	11 mos.	05-113	Linc	1 ½ yrs.
05-057	Conan	3 yrs.	05-085	Griffin	4 yrs.	05-115	Cypress	1 yr.
05-059	Clifford	5 yrs.	05-086	King Louie	4 yrs.	05-118	TJ	1 ½ yrs.
05-060	Fernando	1 yr.	05-088	Poppy	3 yrs.	05-120	Hank	9 mos.
05-061	Caroline	4 mos.	05-089	Rush	5 yrs.	05-121	Paja	7 yrs.
05-062	Skip	1 yr.	05-090	Chewie	8 ½ yrs.	05-122	Mackenzie	1 ½ yrs.
05-065	Hopper	4 yrs.	05-092	Honey	7 yrs.	05-123	Kaycee	4 ½ yrs.
05-066	Cooper	6 ½ yrs.	05-093	Jazz	3 mos.	05-124	D'Jay	2 yrs.
05-068	Zeke	4 yrs.	05-094	Tucker	3 mos.	05-126	Patty	6 yrs.
05-069	Waffles	9 mos.	05-095	Hercules	3 mos.	05-127	Missy (CJ)	6 mos.
05-070	Remy	3 yrs.	05-096	Pink	3 mos.	05-131	Fern	2 yrs.
05-071	Bandit	5 yrs.	05-099	Rocky	1 yr.	05-139	Buddy	2 yrs.
05-072	Sandy	5 yrs.	05-101	Kelly	7 yrs.			
05-074	Kojak	1 yr.	05-102	Willie	2 yrs.			

**Some ages listed are approximate.*

A Dog's Bill of Rights

— author unknown

1. I have the right to give and receive unconditional love.
2. I have the right to a life that is beyond mere survival.
3. I have the right to be trained so that I do not become the prisoner of my misbehavior.
4. I have the right to adequate food and medical care.
5. I have the right to fresh air and green grass.
6. I have the right to socialize with people and dogs outside my own family.
7. I have the right to special time with my people.
8. I have the right to be foolish and silly, and to make my person laugh.
9. I have the right to earn my person's trust and to be trusted in return.
10. I have the right to be forgiven.
11. I have the right to die with dignity.
12. I have the right to be remembered well.



“Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul—chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!”

—Anne Tyler

Success Stories

"Tanner Man" Fills Void in Forever Family's Hearts



As we come upon the one-year anniversary of the loss of our Miss Katie, we wanted to share with you the new relationship we have with Tanner. We adopted "Quincy" (GRR#05-007) in February and although we liked the name, it didn't seem to suit him. We renamed him Tanner and lovingly call him "Tanner Man."

When we first met, Tanner was shy, a calm, timid dog who really didn't care to interact with our other golden, Hemi. Well, all that changed after the first week he was home. Tanner Man is an extremely loving, outgoing, energetic type of fellow that, at times, makes you think the name Brutus would have been more appropriate. He loves getting new "talky" toys and can manipulate them in a way that allows him to speak to you. The red heart that says "I love you" every time he bites it is, of course, my favorite.

He is a huge fan of the sprinkler system (thinks it's his own private water world) which provides us with equal entertainment. His relationship with Hemi is one of brothers that have been together since birth. Although it has only been a few short months, we feel as though Tanner has been with us always.

He is a wonderful addition to our family and has filled a large void in both our and Hemi's lives.

We can not thank you enough for the honor of allowing us to adopt him and want you to know that he will be with us forever. Tanner has had a microchip inserted for his/our protection, and his future care, should something happen to us, is already willed to his grandparents. We love him so much and look forward to many years together.

—Debbie & Brent McKinney



French-speaking, Cajun-singing Bailey Featured on KOOP Radio

When we adopted Bailey from Gold Ribbon Rescue in 2002, we had no idea what unique talents we would uncover. Yes, it's true. Our dog, Monsieur Bailey, is the only French-speaking, Cajun-singing Golden Retriever in Austin. At just five years old, Bailey has become one of the top Zydeco vocalists in his field.

Bailey made his debut on the radio on October 26th as a featured artist on the Fais Do Do program with host and accordion accompaniment, Tom Mahnke. Folks tuned in to Austin radio 91.7 FM KOOP or called up www.koop.org to hear live streaming audio of Bailey's performance.



After the show Bailey pawed autographs for his fans. If you missed him this time, be sure to catch him at next year's SXSW festival here in Austin where he will host his own CD release party and sing many new hits.

—Proud Parents, Tamara Gunter and Patrick Boicourt



Extraordinary Golden Fund

Helping a Golden to a Better Life—Priceless

by Becky LaBrum

It's been a record year for GRR: as of October 31, we've already rescued 149 dogs! All of them get a soft bed, good food, and lots of love—but some of them need a little (or a lot) of medical care, too. To help dogs like these, we turn to our Extraordinary Golden Fund. A contribution made especially to "GRR-EGF" goes straight to the care of Golden retrievers like Wyatt, Lacey, and any other GRR dogs who need some extra care before they find their forever homes. Thank you!

Bailed out of the San Antonio shelter this past April, handsome red-headed **Wyatt** immediately charmed everyone he met. First order of business was a trip to the clinic for a check-up and neuter, and—"He's wonderful, but..." reported the vet, "I'm afraid he has heartworms." For 2-year-old Wyatt, that meant spending another few weeks at the clinic (and establishing an enthusiastic fan club, of course) before heading to his foster home, where he was pronounced a "Dream Dog"! With a personality like that, it wasn't long before Wyatt found a forever home ... but within a month, his family was back at the vet's. Wyatt was bleeding from his penis. The bad news: the diagnosis was transmissible venereal tumor (TVT), a type of tumor spread by simple physical contact and common among groups of strays and in shelter situations. TVT isn't usually malignant, but in immunosuppressed or young dogs like Wyatt, it can spread in a cancerous fashion. The good news? TVT is highly treatable with injections of a drug called Oncovin (vincristine). GRR chipped in to help cover Wyatt's chemotherapy, and he's now cancer-free and loving his new life! **Neuter, shots, heartworm treatment, chemotherapy: \$1,300.**

"I'm taking her straight to the vet!" said foster mom Julie. She had just collected **Bridget** from the shelter ("wants too much attention," said her family) and was alarmed at the large wound on the dainty one-year-old girl's back. "It's as big as the palm of my hand and looks really nasty." The diagnosis: chemical burn. Someone had poured or spilled a caustic liquid on little Bridget. The next day, with Bridget under anesthesia, the wound was thoroughly cleaned—and the healing could begin. Oh, and those infected ears needed help, too! Through it all, the petite Golden girl amazed everyone with her sweet spirit and positive attitude. "They're all special, but this one is way more special than most," said her foster mom and dad. **Wound débridement and cleaning, antibiotic therapy, treatment for ear infections: \$435.**

We've had more than the usual number of puppies this year, but **Jackson** is definitely extra-special. Just 12 weeks old when he came to GRR, the adorable blond was born with a badly twisted forelimb (probably the result of malpositioning while he was still in the womb)—so twisted, in fact, that he simply didn't use it. To our relief, the problem was fixable!



Jackson wore a cast for a few weeks to gently, progressively straighten the twisted limb, and now devoted foster mom Katie is taking him for three-times-weekly PT sessions on an underwater treadmill to strengthen the weak leg. How to describe Jackson now? Says Katie, "Where to start? Climbing into the chimney to pull out the firewood? Pulling undies out of the laundry and gleefully racing by the humans for maximum effect? Or melting our hearts when he's worried by climbing in our laps and trying to convince us that he really is a lap dog? He's very sweet, and he is ALL active Golden puppy."

Check-up and splinting (our wonderful vets are donating Jackson's physical therapy): \$180.

At the San Antonio shelter to meet another Golden, GRR Medical Coordinator Mike Chamberlain ran across **Lacey**, too. The sweet, gentle six-year-old was delighted to meet a friend and very unwilling to go back into her cramped, dirty cage—but by the next day, she was out of jail for good! Mike noticed a limp, and sure enough, Lacey had a torn ACL. As soon as she recovered from her spay and got a little strength back, it was off to the clinic for knee surgery. Lacey's recuperating well,



Our puppy, Jackson, shown at left in his cast and above during a physical therapy session in an underwater treadmill to help strengthen his weak leg.



and she fits in so beautifully at her foster home that she's been made a permanent family member. Says her new mom, "I just can't let her go to anyone else. She's already matched herself here." **Spay, shots, treatment for ear infections, knee surgery: \$680.**

Handsome **Magnum** has had quite a time of it! Another veteran of the San Antonio shelter, the auburn-haired 3-year-old had not only heartworms, but a condition known as "cherry eye"—his third eyelid was so enlarged, swollen, and inflamed that it looked as though he did indeed have a cherry stuck in his eye. Minor surgery fixed that, but before we could get going on the HW treatment, Magnum came down with a terrible case of dog flu. He's still mending from that—fostering with your very own vet makes recuperation easier, of course!—and then we'll deal with the heartworms. If ever there was a real trooper, it's this friendly fellow.

Neuter, shots, eye surgery, flu treatment: \$1,112; heartworm treatment (coming up): \$500.



Splash

It was a Sunday afternoon when Maura got the call from Town Lake Animal Center. "Someone's just dropped off his 15-year-old Golden for euthanasia. Are you interested?" A quick chat with the vet, and Maura said "yes, we want her!" **Splash** was old and very lame with arthritis, but still wagging her tail and able to get up for a treat. A phone call later, foster parents John and Liz drove to the res-

cue. They found a filthy, smelly, matted sweetheart with badly infected ears, claws so long they curved under her feet, and hips so weak she could barely stand up. After a few days of intensive grooming, vet visits, and high-nutrition food, the wonderful old gal was determinedly tottering around the yard and even attempting to hop into the car—what an attitude! Three months later—now happily settled with "permanent foster" parents Eileen and Sam—Miss **Splash** can walk for nearly a mile at a time, plays with her foster brother Rusty, loves her sterilized bones with Velveeta, and looks like a million bucks. **Check-up, shots, and treatment for ear infections, hookworms, and low thyroid (Splash has heartworms, too, but she's too old to treat): \$450.**

Emaciated, injured, frightened, in heat—little **Goldi** used the very last of her strength to drag herself into



Goldi

the Good Samaritan's carport. Some instinct must have led her to just the right place: when they found her there, the loving family at once took the skinny one-year-old to the vet. "She wouldn't have lasted for more than another day or two," he said, as he cleaned and bandaged the cuts and abrasions on her paw pads, forelegs, and chest. "It looks like she was thrown from a car or dragged behind one." Settled into her foster home, **Goldi** soon became healthy enough for spay surgery. Now this glamour girl with the world's longest eyelashes is enjoying her puppyhood at last! **Spay, rear dew claws removal, vaccinations and treatment of urinary tract infection: \$380.**



Hunter

Hunter and his yellow Lab yardmate were scrawny, dirty, neglected outdoor pets whose owners had finally decided to find new homes for the two dogs. Both were covered in ticks that were literally draining away their blood—**Hunter's** gums were so pale they looked grayish white, and when he arrived at the clinic, the vet said, "he's so anemic his blood is almost like water." In fact, **Hunter** was pretty close to death, and sadly, as we later learned from another rescue group, his Labrador friend was too weak to survive. But 18-month-old **Hunter** is pulling through—he's putting on weight, his blood count is climbing, and he's loving every minute. Foster dad Mike says, "What can I say? I am so very proud of this dog. He has come a long way from a nearly dead lump of fur in a backyard. He's a happy boy—has lots of energy but he listens and controls it well. When he cuddles, he makes a funny purring sound, almost like a cat! He is going to make somebody a great pet." **Check-up, shots, treatment for severe anemia, neuter (coming up): \$376.**

With a cheery personality to match his name, **Sunny** was surrendered by busy owners who were having a hard time handling the four-year-old boy's epilepsy.

Continued on Page 13





Golden Memorials

In memory of

Shadow Tuczowski,

*Golden Gentleman Extraordinaire,
and what would have been his
11th birthday.
Emily Tuczowski*

In memory of

Toby

*(Carol Lear & Lynn Kelch)
Mike, Patty, Sheridan, Tabetha & Jason*

In memory of my dear sister

Judy Ann Curran

*and her beloved Abby.
Connie Horn*

In memory of

Abby Browning-Biba

Nick & Ann Nichols

In memory of

Maggie

*Brian and Lynn Powell
recently had to let her go after an illness.
Kelly Holmes*

In memory of

Brooke Doyle

Maura Phelan

In memory of

Frazier Lehmberg

Drs. Nairn, Van Brunt, Poremski & Boehnke

In memory of our beloved Golden

Retriever

Max

*who we lost to cancer on 9/15/2005.
He would have been four on 10/31/2005
Tracy & Michael Wencka*

In memory of

Tag Biba

Nick & Ann Nichols

In memory of

Sunny

*whose name described him so well and
who brought so much
happiness in so little time
Robert (Bob) Valentine*

In loving memory of

Tasha

*beloved friend of Angie Adams and Kathy
Heck. We will see her at the bridge
Love, Jenn & Jackie*

In memory of

Tasha

*who will be greatly missed by her parents
Kathy and Angie, her sisters and all her
friends she met along the way
Kiesha Fischer*

In memory of a dear friend's Golden.

Thank you for all you do!

Meredith Taylor

In loving memory of

Marjorie Manning

*Kailie Manning-Nichols and
Nick & Ann Nichols*

Heartwarming memorials may be found on our website.

Visit: <http://www.grr-tx.com/memorial/memorial.htm>

Golden Honors

In celebration of

Harley's 5th birthday

Debra & Adrian Pylyec

*We love **Rocky** so much.*

He has certainly enriched our lives

Dave & Connie Stulman

In honor of

Katie Harris

Jackson is so lucky!

In honor of Jill's cat

Cleo

Beth Freeman

In honor of

Sandy Balch

Susie Schaffer

In honor of

Beth Freeman

Heather Smalley

*for their service on
GRR's Board of Directors*

In honor of

Cooper's 2nd Birthday

Joan & Jeff Lava

In honor of

Simon

Three fun-filled years and counting!





Golden Circle Membership Level \$500-\$1000

*Sandy Nordstrom &
Bob Ashenbrenner*



Gold Medalist Membership Level \$250-\$499

*Joanne Clem
Terre & Cindy Michaels
Susan Roehm
Carolyn & Fred Whitten*



Golden Nugget Membership Level \$100-\$249

*Camille & Brett Alexander
Stephanie Coley
Megan Kraatz
David & Sharon Mills
Jacqueline Mulkey
Ann Nichols
Paul & DeeDee Stoner
Kathy Wheeler
Doug & Anne Williams*



Golden Friend Membership Level \$40-\$99

*Margo Biba
Adelaide Brigga
Paula Britton
Sue & Robert Brown
Mike Chamberlain
Mary Faloon
Nancy Fowler
Lori Goodpasture
Jack Gomez
Colleen Gutierrez
Denise R. Haley
Steve & Brenda Hampton
Christina Helmerichs
Nancy Hohengarten
Jean Johnston
Bill Keith
Sherry Keller
Jan Kuhl
Kenneth & Brenda McGuire
Harry Mallard
Dea Malone
Cindy Moss
Mia & J.C. Poole
Sandy & Patrick Rasavage
Dale & Robin Richard
Susie & Gary Schaffer
Jennifer C. Schell
Stephen Syputa
Julie Talkington*

Gold Ribbon Donor Club

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Shirley Colton
Lisa Savage
Heather Smalley
Michael Steding
Scott & Sheila Thomas*

Check the website to see how you too can become a monthly donor, or simply mail us a check in the amount you wish to have drafted each month and put "Donor Club" in the memo field of your check. We can also draft your Visa or Mastercard.

As always, thank you for your support!

Golden Gifts

*Sue & Robert Brown
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Kelly Holmes (NI Matching Gift)
Corine McCray
Nancy McGowan
Steve Mackie
Lynda & Carl Millican
Paul & Tamra Ratner
Kurt Schwake
Teresa Shinski
Mark C. Stevens
Aislynn Trubee*

DELL EMPLOYEE MONTHLY DONORS

*Maria Badgett
Gregory Brill
Elizabeth Nersesian
Nora Roden*

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 Or, via check or credit card—mail to:

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



Adoptable Goldens

Missy, age 8 months

Mermaid-in-training, doggie Rhodes Scholar, and all-around peppy Golden puppy, clever little Missy is looking for a high-energy home to match her puppy high spirits. She's a super Golden girl already and will make some lucky family the very best dog ever!



Sassy, age 4 months

Rescued from Town Lake along with her mom and four siblings, little Sassy was just three days old when she came to GRR. Now she is a big girl of 4 months and 20+ pounds and enjoying the

wide world, which includes: playing with her two Golden friends and the two bunny rabbits (!) at her foster home; going for her first swim; cuddling up on car rides; learning to fetch; taking a quick nap in her crate when it all gets to be a little too much; and of course, bowling everyone over with her puppy charm!



Ace, age 18 months

It's all about THE BALL. Good-looking, lean, and athletic, Ace is looking for a family with some strong throwing arms and lots of energy and time to run and play. He'll fetch until YOU wear out—and then he'll look for another play partner! He's a happy, cheerful boy who gets on great with adults, children, and other dogs. He'd love to do agility or any other sport that lets him show off his running and jumping and fetching skills. If you want the perfect exercise partner—here he is.



For more details on these adoptable Goldens and many others, visit:

www.GRR-tx.com

As of this writing we currently have 29 dogs in foster care and many more will soon be looking for foster space. If you'd like to foster or help out in any way that suits your availability, please send an email to Volunteer@GRR-TX.com. Thank you!

Timmy, age 7 months

Little Timmy is pint-sized (just 34 pounds) but has a great big personality. He can be a little shy at first—but once he relaxes, wow! What a bubbly boy. Loves to play, loves to snuggle on the couch, loves to romp rough-and-tumble with the big dogs, loves to apply his freezing nose to the backs of your bare knees—yipes! He's learning to ride in a car and walk on a leash. He had a tough start in life as a frightened stray, but he's in clover now and having a wonderful time every day.



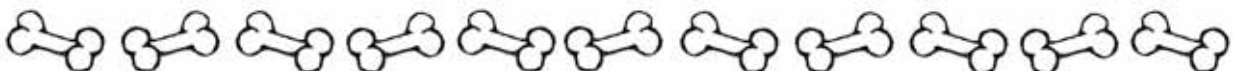
Jack, age 5

Wow, what a lot of changes for handsome Jack! He'd spent his whole life as a yard dog, but he's learning house manners fast. Crate-training, housebreaking, you name it, he's figuring it all out. He knows how to "wait" at the door, to "sit" when told to do so, and to walk nicely on lead. What's even more impressive is that he's learned all his new commands in English, and he's not even a native speaker (Spanish is his first language). Of course, he's been great from the start at getting and giving lots of affection. Loving looks from big brown eyes, tail wags, belly rubs, and chin scratches require no translation.



Abby, age 6

"She is a DOLL. So sweet, easy, and good-natured. Gets along with everyone." That's what Abby's foster mom has to say. Is there anything else to add? This blonde cream-puff is a true Dream Dog—the kind of girl that anybody would love to bring home!



Extraordinary Golden Fund**Helping a Golden To a Better Life—Priceless (Continued)**

Check-ups, blood tests, medication adjustment—Sunny was doing well, and after a month in care he was ready for adoption. Around that time, though, the seizures started coming more frequently. More vet visits and med changes—he'd do well for a while, then seize again. Finally, one Friday night, he fell into a series of violent seizures that even the emergency vets could not break. With his



loving foster dad Bob at his side, sweet Sunny was put to sleep. *Check-ups, medication, emergency care: \$735.*

Good Samaritans found 7-year-old **Opie** wandering down their street one hot summer day. Realizing that the gentle red boy needed more attention than they could give, they called GRR. Opie was in bad shape, with ear infections, skin infections, no measurable thyroid function, fluid in his lungs, and a racking cough due to a heavy load of heartworms. Hoping to get him healthy enough to go through HW treatment, we set to work with antibiotics, diuretics, medicated shampoos, and of course an indoor life with a loving foster family. But sweet Opie's heart was already too badly damaged. When his cough worsened, his appetite vanished, and he became almost too weak to stand, we made the decision to help him painlessly slip away. *Check-up, shots, medications, X-rays, emergency care: \$705.*

Extraordinary Golden Fund:

Adelaide Briggs
Michelle & Thunder Leasure
Eric Moxham
Pam & Dean Phillips
Susie & Gary Schaffer
Mark C. Stevens

Many dogs with atypical medical expenses find their way into our care. The \$250 adoption fees often do not come close to covering the costs, even with generous discounts from area veterinarians. Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden Retrievers that are in need of expensive medical treatment, we created the "Extraordinary Golden Fund." Donations towards this fund go directly to the care of Golden Retrievers like those you've read about on pages 8, 9, and 13. Thank you for supporting Gold Ribbon Rescue and these very special Golden Retrievers in need.

GRReat Vets!

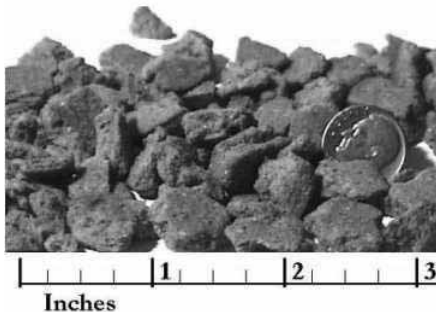
GRR wishes to thank the following animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. They provide GRR with discounts, education and medical guidance, squeeze us in at the last minute, board dogs short term when there's no immediate foster space available and generally make our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

Animal Trustees of Austin**Castlerock 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
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Does Your Golden Have Food Allergies?

If so, you may want to try Flint River Ranch dog food, specifically formulated for dogs who are allergic to wheat, corn, and/or chicken. The company uses top-quality, all-natural ingredients, blended with special care and enriched with essential vitamins and minerals, and the food is oven-baked.

In addition to the Lamb, Millet & Rice Formula for dogs with food allergies, Flint River Ranch also offers premium products for puppies, adults, and seniors. You'll find a comparison of Flint River Ranch to other foods right on our website at www.GRR-TX.com.



Flint River Ranch is one of the highest-rated pet foods on the market today.

Two other reasons to try it:

1. The company delivers right to your door via UPS (delivery included in price).
2. GRR benefits with every purchase made from our website.

You can purchase small, sample-size bags of food and treats for your Golden to try. Chances are he's going to love it! Thanks for supporting GRR.



Oom-Pup-Paws—Oktoberfest GRR Style

by Susie Schaffer

If you happened to be in Munich during the month of October, you may have been one of the millions of people who drank about 5 million liters of beer. But if you were here in Austin, hopefully you raised your glass of orange juice in a toast at GRR's annual Oom-Pup-Paws Festival held at Happy Hour Farms.



It was a sight to see: dozens of bobbing Golden Retriever heads swimming, splashing, retrieving and having the time of their life. We had a great turnout and I want to thank all who came and supported GRR at this event. We raised \$966.00 and every cent is going to GRR, because of generous donations made by companies like:

- **Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q**—donated 90 big bbq beef sandwiches
- **HEB**—donated a gift certificate to buy needed supplies, and
- **Brown Distributing** provided the beverages.

We salute these companies for supporting small but ever-growing organizations like ours. Golden Retrievers and their people always love a good time at Happy Hour Farms. Thanks Maura!

Fuddruckers Event

Thanks to all that showed up for the fundraising events at Fuddruckers on September 15th and 22nd. GRR received 20% of the Gold Ribbon dinner receipts for a total of \$267.28. In addition, several attendees made generous donations.

www.texasloanretriever.com

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"We believe that everyone deserves to have a home of their own. We can help you get there."

The retriever shown here and on texasloanretriever.com is Emma adopted from Gold Ribbon Rescue. As an expression of our gratitude we will make a donation to the Extraordinary Golden Fund, for every loan that is closed through Emma's "mom" Kathy Burton, Residential Mortgage Consultant. Referrals always welcome and very much appreciated.



The Dreaded D-I-E-T

by

Lexie Stark as told to Debbie Stark

Note from Debbie: We've all been on a diet or two at some time in our lives—some successful, others not. Many of our Golden retrievers have to watch their weight, too, and whether you're a human or a dog, it can be a tough process. Lexie, an 83-pound red Golden rescued in 2000 (GRR# 00-012), is here to tell you all about it. She's 12 years old, and very spry for her age and size.

When my forever family adopted me, I was a little heftier than I should have been. I think the papers said 96 pounds! I'm sure that must have been a clerical error—although, considering my love for good food (OK, any and all food), I guess I might have put on just a few pounds here and there. But I certainly didn't think any of those "overweight" words applied to me! ... words like "heavy," "chunky," "fat," and that awful "obese" —that one stays with you for a long time.

Over the past few years, I've been on many diets (I guess you could compare them to the fad diets so many people try), and although I'd lose a bit of weight, I was always able to get someone to sneak me a treat. But too many treats pretty much stop any and all weight loss. So one day, Mom decided it was time to diet for real. Looking back, I think I can pinpoint when everything changed for me: the treats started coming out of the refrigerator instead of the cabinet, and they were called "baby carrots." I came to a frightening conclusion: "Oh my God, this time she's really serious."

Other changes soon followed. More vegetables were added to my bowl in an attempt to cover the fact that there was less food—did she think I wouldn't notice? I knew exactly how many pieces of kibble I got at each meal. How was I to keep count now? Did a green bean count the same as a kibble? More important, could

"...oh, whoopee, who's going to get excited about a baby carrot?"

I even exist on that small amount (based on my measurements, of course)? My cute looks and even my pitiful eyes didn't make a difference. Mom didn't budge. I heard her give others stern reminders that carrots were the only treats I could have—oh, whoopee, who's going to get excited about a baby carrot?? (Well, I confess, eventually I did, but that's only because I was starving and, even though I wasn't sure if carrots even counted as "food," I ate all that anyone gave me.)

Yes, it clearly spelled out D-I-E-T, and a real one this time. Next, Mom added walks around the neighborhood, and at first I got pretty puffed—I doubt any of you have seen your own tongue double in size the way mine does! It's not a pretty sight. To keep my "fun walks" (as she called them) consistent, she hired two boys we know to walk me. They did seem to make the time pass faster, and my mom always told them to watch me, although I'm not sure what for.

Then there were the "weigh-in" days at the vet's—talk about pressure! While the other ladies were making jokes and laughing, Mom was serious, so I knew this part was really important. When I got on the scale, sometimes the numbers would bounce around and be five or six pounds apart. As soon as the tech (a man, of course) hollered out the high number as my official weight, my Mom stopped him, and loudly, too! She opened her purse and out came these tiny, magic, delicious-smelling treats. She held one close to my nose and whispered "wait, wait" until I sat really still and the number on the scale

stopped moving. In the end, we always got the lowest number, and I got the tiny treat and a baby carrot, too.

I admit that I have weight to lose—I'm not blind, after all! For the moment, I only allow photos of my side view. I know I'll get slim eventually, but it's slow going; I seem to lose weight in tenths of a pound, even when I work really hard at it. My mom keeps telling me, "That's OK, girl, at least it wasn't a gain!" So if she's happy, I guess I am too (still hungry, but happy!).

One reason I decided to write about my "real diet" experience was to help other families with Golden retrievers who, like myself, have a tendency to gain easily. It's important to catch that extra weight early, because staying in shape helps us dogs live a longer, happier, and less painful life, with less stress on our joints and maybe even fewer medications. Any excess weight we carry makes day-to-day living lots harder! Those folks who sneak food and treats to us aren't helping in the long run, because let's be honest, a dog isn't going to say "no thanks, I'm slimming"—I'll eat everything that's offered to me, and I imagine your pet will, too. Every human family member needs to be on board for the diet to be successful.

Last year, I had several serious medical problems and ended up needing surgery. Those were very scary times for my Mom and me, and I nearly died. That makes Mom more determined than ever to keep me healthy by helping me stay trim. So, I'm afraid the times of "easy pickins" are gone, and things will remain tough around here for a while—but I know if Mom didn't really love me, she wouldn't make me keep to my diet.

*With love,
Lexie Stark*



GRR 2006 Calendars Now Available!!

Thanks to everyone who pre-ordered the Gold Ribbon Rescue Calendar, and to those who entered their Golden in the photo contest. We received so many outstanding photographs! In fact, we used a photo of each Golden that was sent our way in the calendar (just sorry there wasn't room to put in all the multiple photos!). There are two additional images on each monthly page as well as a wonderful collage of the entries found on the last two pages of the calendar.



If you haven't already ordered your 2006 calendar—it's not too late! Simply go to ***www.GRR-tx.com*** and place your order today. Calendars are \$12 each or two for \$22. They make wonderful gifts and all of the proceeds go directly to Gold Ribbon Rescue. Special thanks to Ultimate-Imaging Printing for printing the calendars.

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