

About Gold Ribbon Rescue

Gold Ribbon Rescue, Inc. (GRR) was founded in 1998 to provide:

- 🐾 a network for sheltering, rehabilitating and placing Golden Retrievers in permanent home
- 🐾 public education on responsible dog ownership and, in particular, about the Golden Retriever breed; and
- 🐾 a forum for Golden Retriever fanciers to meet.

Supporters share their knowledge and experience and also trade those all-important stories about their dogs. Who but another Golden owner can appreciate one's fondness for that special dog? GRR supporters assist each other with advice and information about training, health problems, and local dog activities. We sponsor dog-friendly and human-only social activities that give GRR supporters and friends a chance to meet and enjoy the company of Golden Retrievers.

Gold Ribbon Rescue is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is recognized as a rescue organization by The Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc. Member dues, adoption fees, fund raising activities, and donations finance its activities. Gold Ribbon Rescue is an all-volunteer organization. Donations are tax deductible.



GET INVOLVED

There are a myriad of volunteer opportunities including:

- Providing foster homes
- Transporting dogs
- Answering phones
- Conducting home visits
- Fundraising
- Data entry and record keeping
- Helping at special events
- Maintaining the website

Memberships start at \$40 per year. We welcome your interest and encourage you to visit our website for more information at www.grr-tx.com.

WHAT ARE RESCUE DOGS LIKE?

No two dogs are ever alike. Our rescue dogs are friendly dogs that need love, attention, and a second chance at life. Most are housebroken and some have had obedience training. Most rescue dogs are between 1–10 years old. A common misconception that older dogs are “untrainable” is not true. Golden Retrievers are so eager to please that they are easily trainable at any age. They may actually learn more quickly when they are more mature and less “puppylike.”

Many of our rescue dogs come from owners who will no longer care for them. Sometimes people buy a cute, fluffy puppy without realizing it will soon be a large, hairy, adult dog that needs lots of time, training, love, and attention. But occasionally owners have to surrender their Golden Retrievers because of circumstances beyond their control and through no fault of the dog. The rest of our dogs come in as strays from shelters in the Central Texas area.

Please note: We do not place known biters. Any dog will bite if provoked enough, but any dog we know to be aggressive is not placed through our program.

WHAT SERVICES DOES GRR PROVIDE ITS DOGS?

GRR accepts dogs that are identifiable as Golden Retrievers. All dogs that come into GRR care are taken to a licensed veterinarian to receive a thorough check-up including inoculations, medication, heartworm treatment or preventative, flea/tick preventative, and worming. Gold Ribbon Rescue provides any additional care that a dog requires, including surgery, veterinary specialist, orthopedic care, treatment for skin, ear, and eye issues, and behavioral assessments. Intact animals over 6 months old are spayed or neutered. All dogs must be in foster care for a minimum of two weeks or until health issues have been addressed. Dogs remain in foster care until the right adopting home is found.

Rescued dogs are offered for adoption to qualified families. The adoption fee helps cover the costs of care. The adoption fee is \$350; \$200 if the dog is age 8 or older. An adoption application fee of \$25 will go towards the adoption fee.

AM I READY FOR A DOG?

Golden Retrievers demand love from their owners, and a rescued dog often needs extra patience and affection to overcome problems created in its earlier life. They must be groomed regularly, exercised daily, and trained to be good citizens. A busy household, where people are gone 10+ hours a day and always in a rush, is not a good home for a sociable Golden Retriever.

AM I PREPARED?

The Humane Society estimates that it costs owners about \$1,500 per year to feed and provide basic care for a dog the size of a Golden Retriever. Every dog needs year-round heartworm preventative, an annual check-up by a veterinarian, and inoculations. The cost can increase significantly when the dog develops health problems that require continuing medication or surgery. All dogs deserve a healthy diet of well-balanced dog food formulated for their needs. They also need a collar, leash, comb, brush, toys, and food and water bowls. Owners must license their dogs according to local regulations. GRR strongly recommends that the adoptive family attend obedience classes, as necessary, with their Golden, as it will greatly improve the quality of life for both pet and owner.

IS MY HOME RIGHT FOR A GOLDEN?

An adult Golden of 60–80 pounds is a big hairy handful! They shed their beautiful coats, sometimes profusely, and are not suited to the immaculate housekeeper. Golden Retrievers are happiest living in the house, with the family, so they must be housebroken and trained to obey the house rules. **Owners must be willing to keep their dog in the house while they are away.** Golden Retrievers need regular exercise to stay healthy. For young, energetic dogs, this means daily walks of a few miles. **For the health and safety of the dog, GRR requires that all adoptive homes have a fenced area for their Golden. Please be aware that a Golden can jump a 3 or 4-foot fence.** Exceptions are considered for those adopting senior dogs age 8 or older. **Gold Ribbon Rescue does not adopt dogs to families with children under the age of 8 years old.**

HOW DO I ADOPT A RESCUE DOG?

The first step is to fill out the adoption application on our website at www.grr-tx.com. Prospective owners are carefully screened before they are allowed to adopt a dog. GRR has a two-step interview process consisting of a phone interview and a home visit. We want to make sure that a Golden Retriever is for you—they are not for everyone! We encourage you to read about the Golden breed prior to making a decision to adopt. Many books are available and we recommend *The Golden Retriever* by Jeffery Pepper and *Second Hand Dog* by Carol Lea Benjamin.

GRR Volunteers are always available to offer assistance and advice to help the adoptive family and rescue dog adjust to each other. We work very hard to ensure every GRR dog's second chance will be a happy one!