



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas March 2006 20th Edition

Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan

Size, Color Vary—but Temperament Is Always Golden

In February I was in New York for the Westminster Dog Show. After enormous problems with weather and transportation, I finally arrived ringside to watch two of my dogs perform. As I looked at all the Golden show dogs, with their variations in color, type, coat, size, and expression, I thought about the ways they both resemble and differ from our rescued Golden Retrievers.

Golden Retrievers have a “breed standard”: a written description of what defines a Golden as established by the

Golden Retriever Club of America and accepted by the AKC. You can find this online at <http://www.grca.org/StandProgs/standard.htm>—and as you’ll see, the standard is lengthy, covering not only appearance and coat, but also movement and temperament. In fact, it specifically sets forth that temperament should be “friendly, reliable, and trustworthy” and states that “quarrelsomeness or hostility towards other dogs or people in normal situations”—that is, any kind of aggression—is unacceptable. Shyness or

timidity is less of a problem, but if unwarranted or excessive, it too is out of line with the standard.

Golden Retrievers range in color from almost white to a deep mahogany red, but the standard calls for a “rich, lustrous golden of various shades,” with extremes being undesirable. However, this particular standard leaves plenty of room for interpretation and is leniently construed, making it possible to see both red and cream Golden Retrievers in the show ring (and out of it, of course!).

More specific are the size requirements: 23 to 24 inches at the withers (the shoulders) for boys, 21.5 to 22.5 inches for girls, with just a 1-inch deviation in either direction. Many of our rescue dogs fail to meet these requirements. That is, while people think of Golden Retrievers as a large breed, they’re actually supposed to be medium in size (as reflected by the standard)—and the weight range of 65 to 70 pounds for boys, 55 to 65 pounds for girls reiterates this point. Now, what about our rescue dogs? If you look at our website and think about your own GRR Golden (and your fosters), you can see how they deviate from this standard! We get mini-models and truly BIG dogs, 40-pound females and 100-pound males. Are they still Golden Retrievers? Yes! Well-bred? Well, probably not. For a good discussion of the Golden Retriever, the standard, and the history behind the development of the breed, I suggest *The New Golden Retriever* by Marcia Schler (you can usually find it at Half Price Books).

Continued on Page 2.



GOLDEN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK
SATURDAY APRIL 1ST*
11AM – 2PM

At the Polo Picnic Area in
ZILKER PARK

SIT. STAY. EAT. PLAY!
 Bring your Golden Retrievers and enjoy...

Doggy Dancing
Grooming Clinics
Yummy Food
Spring Photos
Boutique
And the annual parade of Golden Retrievers!

For details visit
www.grr-tx.com

* In the event of rain, the picnic will be held on April 8th in the “Rock Garden”

Gold Ribbon Rescue

PO Box 956
Austin, TX 78767-0956

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

24-Hour Hotline:
(512) 659-GOLD
www.GRR-TX.com

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Newsletter:

Brenda Forsythe, Becky LaBrum

send newsletter submissions to:

Brenda@GRR-TX.com

Want to volunteer?
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Rescued, Fostered & Adopted

2006 started out with a bang as many of our rescued Golden Retrievers found their forever homes. A BIG THANKS to all our foster families—especially **Colleen Gutierrez and Sherry Keller** for their incredible patience. And, a super loud, round of applause to our awesome matchmaking team—**Jill Cravens, Colleen, Sheila Thomas**—willing to go the extra mile to ensure that each and every one of our Golden Retrievers have found the perfect family suited just for them.

GRR #	Name	Age*	GRR #	Name	Age*
#05-082	Duke	10 yrs.	#05-166	Julius	3 yrs.
#05-085	Harley (Griffin)	5 yrs.	#05-168	Lily	7 mos.
#05-108	Merrie	9 yrs.	#05-169	Mickey	7 yrs.
#05-109	Brandy	2 yrs.	#06-002	Praise	1 yr.
#05-130	Maximus	5 yrs.	#06-003	Ranger	1 yr.
#05-136	Lady	5 yrs.	#06-004	Saffy	4 yrs.
#05-137	Shooter	3 yrs.	#06-005	Daisy	3 yrs.
#05-151	Sandy	5 yrs.	#06-006	Carter	1 yr.
#05-158	Belle	2 yrs.	#06-009	Caesar	11 mos.
#05-160	Sherman	1.5 yrs.	#06-010	Alfie	6 yrs.
#05-161	Tucker	9 yrs.	#06-011	Lacey	3 yrs.
#05-162	Oakley	5 yrs.	#06-012	Aldon	4 yrs.
#05-163	Murphy	1.5 yrs.			
#05-164	Chip	2 yrs.			
#05-165	George	8 yrs.			

*Some ages listed are approximate.

Letter from GRR's President — Continued from Page 1

The standards I've just discussed, and my interpretation of them, explain why I breed the show dogs that carry my Happy Hour kennels name—and why I founded GRR. Part of our mission is to let people know what a Golden should look like and, just as important, what he should act like. Through education, we can improve the breed, get the word out on how best to care for and appreciate these wonderful dogs, and make better Golden owners and happier pets. This is why we provide information and training to volunteers and adopters, and why our adoption process is so involved. We want to be sure that people wanting a Golden know what they are getting, and that a Golden is actually the right dog for them.

Screening homes, educating the public, and (most important!) fostering rescue Golden Retrievers is hard work, but it's VERY rewarding. Our fosters take in dogs that someone else has given up on, give them the care, love, and training they need to become good citizens, and then make the

supremely rewarding sacrifice of placing that dog with its forever home.

If you have never fostered, please consider doing so. We always need foster homes, and you can help another family find the love you've found with your GRR dog.

Please also consider a donation to the EGF, to help out our special-needs dogs (see pages 8-9), and to the GRR building fund—we're trying to establish a "home" for GRR, with a place for training, education, a library and community outreach, as well as a place for dog transfers or meets and maybe a few kennels where incoming dogs can stay when we are extra-short on foster space.

So ... run out and measure your Golden Retrievers, put them on the scale—and then just love them for their variations and help GRR to help more of them!

—Maura



Golden Health

Do You Have a Shy Dog?

by *Kathy Burton*

GRR Director of Education

with special thanks to the foster families, adoptive families, and wonderful Golden Retrievers who have taught us so much about shy dogs and how to help them:

*Allie,
Jenny,
Sallie,
Gidget,
and Brandy.*

In volunteering for Gold Ribbon Rescue, we get to hear about, read about, and meet a lot of dogs. They come to our organization from owners who surrender them to us, from shelters that work with us, and from Good Samaritans who hear about us and ask, "please, can you help?" We probably encounter more dogs in a year than most pet owners do in a lifetime.

And occasionally, we'll meet a Shy Dog. What is a shy dog? She's that little puppy who seemed timid from the start, a little less confident than the rest of the litter. Sometimes, there's a genetic basis for shyness: it's theorized that a dog may inherit a "shy gene" from one parent, usually the mother. It's also possible that shy pups don't actually inherit their personality: they simply model a shy mother's behavior. External factors can also play a role, though the idea that shyness typically results from abuse is a common misconception (in fact, this is only rarely the case).

So where does shyness come from? Most often, it simply stems from a lack of good socialization during early puppyhood. If a dog isn't properly socialized from birth to approximately age 17 weeks, he can turn out to be a "scaredy cat," frightened of anything new or unfamiliar. Frightening things can be something as simple as a child's balloon—and the fear can then extend to the child holding the balloon. New people entering the house can be scary; new noises can be scary. Some dogs

will bark madly, some will hide behind a piece of furniture or their owner, some will roll over on their backs, display their bellies, and "leak" slightly (submissive urination). All these responses are typical shy-dog reactions to something new or strange. And "new or strange" doesn't necessarily mean "never before encountered": for reasons not well understood even by the experts, a person your dog may have seen a hundred times can remain "strange" each time he comes to visit. Maybe your brother-in-law shows up like clockwork twice a week, but to your shy dog, he's a complete stranger every time he knocks on the door.

Not all shy dogs exhibit these traits in puppyhood. They probably weren't the boldest pups of the group, but they may have seemed just a little hesitant with new things and new people. Real shyness commonly doesn't show up until the dog is approaching puberty; in a spayed or neutered dog, it may not even appear until some point between 12 and 18 months old.

What can be done to help a dog like this? The answer to that question depends on the degree of shyness. A dog who's just a little shy typically assumes a belly-up position with some submissive urination when a guest arrives. The best way to handle this kind of dog is to keep things low-key. Everyone who walks into the house should pretty much ignore the dog. No eye contact, no petting, no leaning over the dog, no excited greetings. (I know this one is hard for most people!) You and your guests should just go about your business and let the dog come to you. I think of this as playing "invisible dog." Please don't tell the dog "it's OK" and try to console her—by essentially confirming her feeling that she DOES have something to fear, you will reinforce the very behavior you want to change.

All canines operate by repeating behaviors that get them what they want and avoiding those that don't. What's more, most dogs are less reactive if they are engaged in something they enjoy, like getting a treat (or taking a walk, or playing with a favorite toy). So work on getting your dog to think, "New person equals something good!" As you practice the "invisible dog" approach, keep some yummy treats at hand (and let your guests take some, too) and reward the dog—casually, not with wild excitement!—once he works up the courage to approach the humans. (You can operate more or less the same way with scary THINGS—if your dog cowers when she even sees the vacuum cleaner, for instance, try leaving it out in the room, festooned with treats, so she's automatically rewarded for approaching it.) Take it slow, be patient, and have faith: what a puppy should have learned to make him a confident, calm dog can still be instilled into an older dog. Of course, the younger the dog, the higher the likelihood of success, but all dogs can benefit from behavior modification training.

For dogs who are extremely shy and fearful, the help of a good trainer can be invaluable. And if you EVER feel your dog could become fearful enough to bite, seeking professional help is essential—the sooner, the better. There are many ways to re-socialize a dog; just be sure to pick a trainer who uses positive reinforcement. You can find a few of GRR's recommended trainers on our website under <http://www.grr-tx.com/links/links.htm>.

Do remember that what may appear to be a behavior issue could have a physical cause, so always get your dog a thorough physical exam before starting behavior modification on your own. Most owners of shy dogs tell me how sweet and wonderful their dog is when she's at ease, and I've met

Continued on Page 4



Golden Health

Do You Have a Shy Dog? —continued from Pg 3.

many of these Golden Retrievers can attest to the truth of that claim. So don't give up! With time, almost every dog can gain the self-confidence and self-control to show the same happy, relaxed face to the rest of the world as she does to her nearest and dearest.

Resources:

Comfort Zone® reduces or completely stops stress-related behaviors such as barking, whimpering, whining, chewing, and anxiety-induced urination and defecation. It is not a drug or a tranquilizer; instead, it mimics a naturally reassuring pheromone produced by female dogs when nursing. To use, simply plug Comfort Zone into an outlet in the room most used by the dog. Odorless and nontoxic, it does not affect humans, covers an area of 500-650 sq. ft., and lasts about 4 weeks per bottle. Available at PetsMart or Petco.

SENSE-ation® Dog Harnesses: the shy dog who may react negatively to a leash attached to a standard flat collar may have no problem adjusting to a harness. The Sense-ation harness has a D-ring at the lower chest area for leash attachment; it puts no pressure on the neck. Available at www.softtouchconcepts.com.

Rescue Remedy is a combination of flower essences created to address stress, whether due to a crisis situation (moving day, roadwork and a crew of hardhats right outside the front door) or something as simple as a visit to the vet. For the everyday stress of people coming and going, put 4 drops in the dog's water bowl. A couple of drops can also be rubbed into the leathery underside of the ear for situations where a faster effect is needed. Rescue Remedy will not interfere with other medications and has no toxic dose level. Available at Whole Foods, Sun

Harvest Farms, and most other health-food stores; can also be ordered online.

Books:

Help for Your Shy Dog by Deborah Wood. Available at www.dogwise.com and from other book sellers.

The Cautious Canine: How to Help Dogs Conquer Their Fears, by Patricia McDonald. Available through www.dogwise.com and other book sellers.

On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals by Turid Rugaas. A wonderful little book for any owner, but especially useful for owners of shy dogs. It provides a guide for reading a dog's body language to detect signs of stress—and shows how you can use your own body language to help calm a dog. Available through www.dogwise.com and other book sellers.



Adoptable Golden Retrievers

At press-time we have 11 Golden Retrievers in foster care and five Golden Retrievers listed on the adoption page at www.GRR-TX.com/adoption/index.html

But chances are that by the time this newsletter hits your mailbox there will be many more. Visit the website often to read these heartwarming stories and see the wonderful photos. We are always in need of foster homes. If you've adopted a Golden from GRR, won't you please consider fostering a Golden in need? Just think of the wonderful gift you will be providing—not only to the Golden but to his forever family as well.



Molly, Age 8



General Hood, Age 1



Butkus—hanging out with his foster brother and sisters in the home of Laura Reed. Just how many treats must she have been holding to keep them still long enough to snap this picture?!





Gold Star Volunteers

From intake to adoptions—our volunteers are vital to the success of this rescue organization. Please join us in a big round of applause for our Gold Star Volunteers who have opened their hearts, homes and yes, even their cars!

Pete & Eyan Rubio

Back in July of 2005, GRR received a call about Brandy, a 2 ½-year-old Golden whose family wanted to surrender her to our group. Typical story—no vetwork, no training, outdoor dog. A quick call to Pete and Eyan, one of GRR's foster homes, secured Brandy a place to stay. But things were difficult from the get-go: Brandy was terrified of getting into the car for the ride to her foster home, and once there, terrified of getting out. Once Pete and Eyan finally got her into the house, she hid in a corner, scared of new things and new people. A leash and collar scared her stiff and made her shut down both emotionally and physically. For almost 5 months, Pete and Eyan showed nothing but love and patience to this sweet girl. Together, they laid the foundation for Brandy's recovery, helping her rebuild her confidence and realize that new things and new people are nothing to fear. Five months. Not too many people would be willing or able to work with a timid little dog that long. But they stuck with Brandy, knowing that she deserved that chance. Brandy was recently adopted, and that wouldn't have been possible without the endless patience and devotion that Pete and Eyan so willingly offered. Pete and Eyan, a golden thank-you for all that you have done!

Jacki Mulkey

What a difference a year makes, both to Jacki and to GRR. Jacki started volunteering for us last year and, for a while, she was pretty much our entire transport team! Many of the dogs who came in during 2005 got their introduction to GRR through Jacki—if someone needed to move from point A to point B, you could bet that Jacki was right there, offering her services as personal canine chauffeur. Jacki's love for our furry friends is boundless, as is her desire to help them in any way she can... so it wasn't long before she took on more responsibilities: recruiting new foster families, doing intake evaluations, and—probably most important of all—finding incoming dogs that nice, warm landing spot in one of our foster homes. Jacki has done a magnificent job juggling dogs—and anyone who has ever worked on the intake side knows just how crazy it can be. Last year we rehomed an unprecedented number of Golden Retrievers (you may have figured that out just by the number of phone calls from Jacki asking if you could take on another foster!). Jacki's can-do, bring-it-on (and persuasive!) attitude became, and remains, a huge asset to GRR. Great work Jacki! (Now, about those seven Golden Retrievers who are all coming in today... do we have spots for them all? Just kidding!)

John & Jane Robinson

Time after time, John and Jane Robinson have come through when we most needed them—opening their home to an incoming rescue needing a loving foster home. Just a few months ago, a

surrendering owner called us on a Thursday and needed a place for his year-old Golden by early Sunday morning. Uh-oh, panic stations! Luckily for GRR, John and Jane agreed to take on a sturdy red 80-pounder without a moment's hesitation. Whew! It's families like these that make the intake director's job so much easier—she knows that if the Robinsons can help, they will, and if they can't, they're probably out of town. In addition to fostering, John helps behind the scenes preparing our tax documents; and Jane helps keep our donations, memberships, memorials and honors in order for the newsletter publications. In addition, Jane writes all of our thank-you notes and mails them to our generous donors. The Robinsons have made a tremendous difference in the lives of many adopted Golden Retrievers (in fact, they have two GRR dogs of their own!) and GRR families. Hats off to John and Jane!



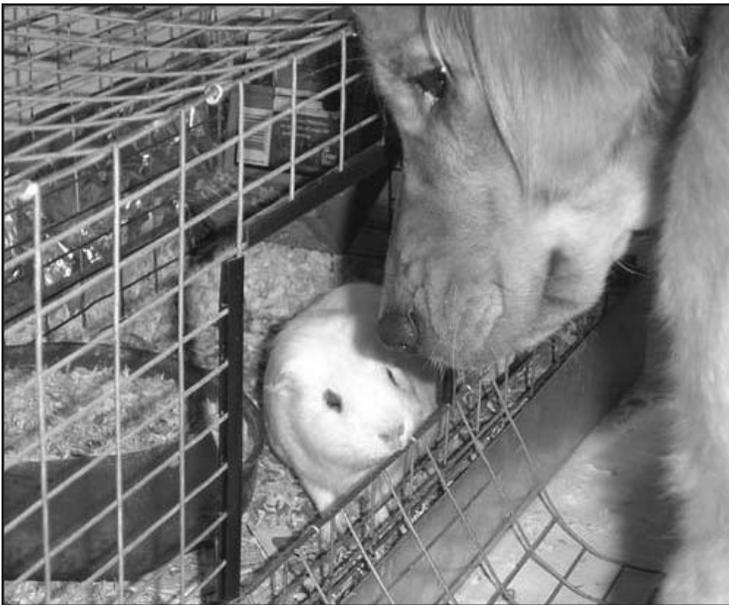
“I used to look at [my dog] Smokey and think, ‘If you were a little smarter you could tell me what you were thinking,’ and he'd look at me like he was saying, ‘If you were a little smarter, I wouldn't have to.’”

—Fred Junglaus



Success Stories

Zoey and Sam the Guinea Pig



submitted by The Thomas Family
I've read a lot of the "Success Stories" and everyone is so pleased and happy with their new family members. Well, so are we!

First of all, we changed her name from "Nina" to "Zoey". That took all of a day for her to respond to her new name. Having half the kids on our street come visit her on her first day home and call her Zoey probably expedited matters. As with our previous dog, I'm training Zoey to obey by voice commands and corresponding hand signals. So, in less than a week, she sits before she goes out a door and sits while I get her food. She was quick to learn she couldn't beg at the dinner table. We put her bed in eye shot and she lies down till we're done eating.

I took her out for some leash training. Again, she was a quick learner and did great. Our front door has a lot of glass so she likes to look out and see what's going on. She sees her new brothers, our sons, going out that door. There's a ton of kids that play in our cul-de-sac and a funny looking dog named "Shiner" that she wants to play with. She's had "play dates" with a couple of other Golden Retrievers already.

She hadn't gone up or down stairs before, so all that was new. At first she was a little timid with our deck stairs but it's the only way to get to the backyard. Now it's a breeze. After a lot of coaxing, we got Zoey to go upstairs inside our house. She went to the game room where Sam, our Guinea Pig, has his cage.

I thought Sam would really be scared to see Zoey. But much to our surprise, they both like each other! Sam came up and they were nose to nose. We typically leave the cage door open because Sam doesn't jump out.

And Zoey just puts her whole head in. She also whines to get Sam out of the cage. I don't know if she thinks it's one of her pups or what, but she really likes Sam!

She has incredible house manners. She's very quiet in the house. But we quickly discovered that she doesn't like it when my son practices playing his trumpet! When we get ready for bed she goes in her crate that's in our bedroom. Now we leave the crate door open and she doesn't come out till I wake up. She loves sitting still to get her hair combed. She loves to "play fight" with the boys. She's very gentle and the boys love it!

She's really incredible and a very gentle soul. Everyone that has met her thinks she's wonderful. We feel we are very lucky and blessed. She fits very nicely in our family.

Thank you GRR! Y'all do a wonderful job and she was very much worth the wait!



Hey From Joey—Life is Grand

For those of you who haven't heard, I've gotten my name changed from "Oakley" to Joey. My parents figured that since I'm handsome, charming, and an all-around great buddy, they would name me after Joey on "Friends". *How you do'in?*

I'm doing great! I live in Corpus now, and my forever family has a dad, mom, an 18-month-old girl, and three sister cats, who are all four years old—one of them hissed, one of them let me sniff its nose and the other two... well I think they're still hiding.

I love living with a little girl. She likes to play outside, which is fine with me! We play in the backyard a couple of times a day. Sometimes, she'll carry a ball to the back door, and I'll go over with my Kong ball, and we just give Mom that "Please? Please?" look until she takes us both out.

We have a really cool playground in our neighborhood, and we go there almost



every day. Mom got me a Chuck-it ball thrower, and she brings it to the playground, because there is a huge field there, and I can run really far to play fetch (remember how I love to fetch?). I have met a couple nice kids at the park, and



Once Neglected, Dakota Finds Forever Love

Dakota was surrendered to GRR in April 2003 by owners who did not have time for him. Because they considered him too "hyper" for their children, he spent most of his time alone in the backyard. When he arrived in foster care, we found he had chronic, severe, painful infections in both ears that had gone untreated for years. Several courses of strong antibiotics didn't help, so eventually he had surgery on his ears (he was one our featured EGF Golden in our June '03 issue). He spent a long while with a wonderful foster family, recuperating from his surgery, getting treatment for skin infections (another chronic and neglected problem!), and learning to be a house dog—and then he found his forever home.

Dakota's mom sent us this update:

Dakota is FINE now ... more than fine! We adore him and he adores us (at least those lovely brown eyes look that way). He has a great home ... run of the house ... loves peanut butter, eggs, bread (that boy loves bread!), and treats, especially those duck & potato treats! Actually, he'll eat anything so we have to watch the calories!

He goes with us everywhere (well, a few exceptions!) and loves the trips to the feed store in La Vernia where we buy his dog food. We go to the Post Office, to the pet store, to the golf course, to the park, for rides with the windows down so he can use that great sniffer of his (I need a convertible). John took him to Corpus where Dakota wasn't very impressed with those friendly gulls but loved the trip.

Dakota will lie by the patio doors watching for the squirrels that run through the trees and across the fence top. He moans and barks when he sees one and dances like a deer until we let him out. He actually caught one in the backyard! Bounded down the steps and caught it! He didn't kill it, just stood there and licked and nudged it—poor squirrel was stunned! Called the vet and he laughed. Pretty fast tracks for an old dog!!!

He loves Bach, Wagner, The Eagles, and Willie Nelson. I sing, he puts his head on my lap and sighs. (Well, I'll admit that sigh

might not necessarily be love for my singing!)

He is John's little boy and he is my baby and we love him dearly. How on earth could anyone not have loved him? How could they have stashed him in the yard and denied him the love and play of children? He loves our grandchildren—he cuddles with them and follows them around, crawls into their laps, lies by them in the evenings while they watch TV or play a game.

I can't express words enough to describe how much we love him. I just can't. He is wonderful.

—Shirley

Thank you, Shirley—you expressed it beautifully. To read more about Dakota and many of our adopted Golden's, check out the Success Stories on our website at www.GRR-TX.com



they get really excited to watch me fetch. They all want to try the Chuck-it. And when they see me run or catch the ball in mid-air, they say things like "Cool dog!" and "I wish I had a dog like Joey!" This makes my mom and dad really proud. And the best thing about living with a toddler? The SNACKS! She drops tidbits from the table, and I'm allowed to clean them up. I've tried Cheerios, scrambled eggs, hamburger . . . one day, she dropped a whole Jell-O fruit cup! It was yummy, but hard to lick up. In exchange for her generosity, I have taught her two new words: "sit" (she says that to me a lot now) and "gog". Okay, the last one is really "dog"—I am still helping her with the pronunciation.

I am quick to pick up on the new rules. I am so well-behaved—no jumping, no counter-surfing, no inappropriate chewing—that my parents have started letting me stay out of my crate when they go on

short trips. But they have to make sure the bathroom door is closed, because I am very interested in those tub toys. Have you ever seen a rubber duckie? They are so bright and squeaky! But Mom and Dad say they are just for my little girl, not for me.

My family and I want to send great big thank you's to our matchmaker, Jill, and to my foster parents, Julie and Todd. Thank you so much for helping me get here. My dad and mom say they are so lucky that I joined the family. They can't believe I came so close to being put down at that shelter. Mom says I never have to worry about that again. I love having a forever family. I hope all of the "gogs" who still waiting find great homes like mine. Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

—Love, Joey Moore



"I got a dog the other day... I named him Stay. It's fun to call him... "Come here, Stay! Come here, Stay!" He went insane. Now he just ignores me and keeps typing."

—Steven Wright



Extraordinary Golden Fund**Miss Holly Golightly Abandoned, Saved***by Becky LaBrum*

In every newsletter, we try to devote a page or two to our Extraordinary Golden Fund dogs—those who need more than just routine care to become healthy and adoptable. A contribution made especially to “GRR-EGF” goes straight to the care of Golden Retrievers like Holly, Sherman, Murphy, Belle, and any others who arrive in our care needing some extra help. (As you’ll read, in the past few months we’ve had quite a few Golden Retrievers with dog flu, a nasty & persistent bug that has been causing real problems for shelter dogs.) Thank you so much!

**Holly**

In late November, a Good Samaritan noticed little **Holly** hanging around an empty house down the block. He first saw her with a man doing renovations on the place, but eventually realized that she always seemed to be there, whether or not anyone else was around. Finally, he approached the new homeowner: “Is that your dog?” NO, came the answer. When the original owners moved away 3 weeks earlier, they’d left behind EVERYTHING they didn’t want: trash, broken furniture, and their 10-year-old Golden. Not knowing that her family was gone for good, the little dog patiently waited for their return, living outdoors through the bitter freezes of early December, getting a bite to eat when the new owner

happened to drop by to do a little work on the property. But once the Good Samaritan realized what had happened, he called GRR. Foster mom Cindy promptly named her new houseguest “Miss Holly Golightly”: “Holly” for the Christmas season, “Golightly” because she was so thin and light she almost seemed to hover above the ground. Holly was way too skinny—at least 15 lbs. underweight, with every rib and her spine showing. She has heartworms. And because she was so debilitated, she developed a noncontagious form of mange that will take a while to get rid of. From the start, though, her personality has won raves from her foster family. “She is such a joy to have around. It breaks our hearts to know someone could abandon this sweet girl. I am so glad GRR found her! She sleeps in our room on her bed and doesn’t move a muscle all night. She is eating great, though I guess it will take a while to see any difference as she is so thin. She loves to be brushed. She gets along so well with our other two dogs. Fantastic with kids, perfectly housebroken. I wish all dogs that come in could be as wonderful as Holly!” **Check-ups, treatment for mange, HW treatment (to come): \$773.00.**

Bounced from one owner to another to another, 2-year-old **Jodie** finally wound up with a vet who just happened to know a GRR volunteer—who called our Intake Team for help. This girl is BIG: “an Amazon!” says her foster dad. “She is at least 4 inches taller and a foot longer than her two Golden foster brothers, and at 85 pounds she is skinny.” Just one thing wrong with this gorgeous red “house horse”: a heavy load of heartworms. The first injection was rough on Jodie, as she had a bad reaction to the medicine and had to go stay at the vet’s for a day or two. Shot #2 has been easier, and Jodie is really looking forward to the end of all

this activity restriction and lots of play in her new home.

Check-up, shots, heartworm treatment, spay: \$772.00.

**Belle**

Young **Belle** came to us last November from the Waco shelter. The staff there was worried: she just lay in her kennel and didn’t want to move. Once out of the slammer, she perked up only a little—not acting like a 2-year-old should. So, it was off to the vet pronto. The diagnosis: cough & fever due to upper respiratory infection, plus a moderate to heavy load of heartworms. One thing at a time! Two weeks of antibiotics, then a little rest, then the standard course of heartworm shots, and finally spay surgery. Healthy at last, Belle is a refined, affectionate blonde who enjoys the quiet life and likes to recline with her front legs elegantly crossed, for all the world like a fashion model!

Check-up, shots, antibiotic treatment, heartworm treatment, spay: \$469.00

Arriving in care just a few days after Belle, young **Sherman** was another shelter dog ... and a real mini-model. (At just a year old and a bit over 30 pounds, he probably has something else in his background besides his red-Golden genes.) He started out perky and playful, but within a few days it was clear something was far



wrong: vomiting, fever, racking cough. "Upper respiratory infection," said the vets, and Sherman started on meds. But 2 days later, his condition worsened so dramatically that his foster family rushed him to the ER at 3 in the morning. The infection had settled in both lungs and turned into severe bilateral pneumonia. Sherman was in for a long haul of IV antibiotics, overnight stays at the emergency room, nebulizer treatments, activity restriction ... but his youth and natural high spirits, and the devotion of his foster family (who even cancelled a holiday trip to care for him), pulled him through. By January, he was running, playing, and wrestling with his foster brother Oliver (never mind the 40-pound difference in weight!), and a few weeks ago the spunky little dog headed off to his forever home.

Emergency care, X-rays, daytime therapy and boarding, antibiotics, inhalation therapy, neuter: \$650.00.



Murphy

"Oh no, not again." No sooner had Sherman come down with pneumonia than it was **Murphy's** turn to get sick. The little gold shelter boy had just settled into his foster home in San Antonio when... cough, fever, lethargy... yes, same song, third verse. Like Belle, he was first treated for infection, then for heartworms... and as a variation, the poor boy also got a hard bite on the nose (requiring four stitches!) from a not-very-nice visiting dog. Ouch! Today, though, Murphy is a typical high-energy, inquisitive pup who

gets along great with everyone. Says his foster dad, "He thinks he's a lap dog. If you're lying on the couch, he will climb on you and squirm around until you pet him or shove him off!"

Antibiotic treatment, heartworm treatment, neuter, "nose job": \$696.00.

And just when we thought we were done with respiratory problems, one-year-old **Ranger** came down with severe pneumo-

nia! Like Sherman, he required hospitalization and intensive care from both his vets and his foster family to fight his way back to health. You can read his full story (and see him in person) online, at: www.grr-tx.com/adoption/to_adopt/ranger_06-003/ranger.htm
Emergency care, X-rays, daytime therapy and boarding, antibiotics, inhalation therapy, neuter: \$1,613.95 

Generosity Overflows for Our Extraordinary Goldens

Back in December we put out a plea to our GRR community to help raise funds that would give Milly a new lease on life. So many of our generous friends came through in a BIG way! Thanks to the generosity of those listed below, Milly was able to get all the care she needs. For more about Milly and other EGF Goldens visit:

<http://www.grr-tx.com/about/egf.htm>

Diane & Dale Barkalow

Cynthia & Martin Berdan

Susan Braun

Robin Caldwell

M. Patricia Capin

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Robert & Heather Chestnutt

Judy & Al Couvillion

Joe Danz

Denise Mendez-Fitzgerald

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John & Jamie Steinberg

Mark Stevens

Paul & DeeDee Stoner

Teresa & Paul Szostak

Bryan Tyler

Leslie Wehr

Sue Wiley

Doug & Ann Williams

Drew Winters



Golden Honors

In tribute and celebration of
Kelsey and Jetson
Robert Hamm

In honor of **#05-129 Jackson**
GRR has made this family very happy.
Katie & Mark Harris

In honor of the **Evans Family**
Alice Gunter

In honor of
Pumpkin (Jazz) GRR #05-093
Charles Joubarne

In honor of our two GRR dogs,
Shadow and Oatey
John & Jane Robinson

In honor of **Jan and Cliff Kuhl**
Laura Evans & Margot Marshall

On behalf of **Denise Meals Petronio and
her Golden, Brandy**
Pinki Meals

Secret Santa gifts in the names of
**Alex, Victoria, Luba and
Nadia Pylypec**
Debra Pylypec

For Jack—You're finally home!
Jill Cravens

In honor of **Dave and Jody Baker**
Leslie Wehr

In honor of **Cody** and in memory of
Ginto, who was not a Golden but was
raised by a Golden and had the gentle
heart and soul of a Golden.
Sue Wiley

For **Rick and Peggy Fitzgerald**
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fitzgerald

On behalf of our friend
Layla—Lisa and Jason's Golden
Denise Mendez-Fitzgerald

On behalf of
Margaret and Scott Fitzgerald
Bernard Lechner

For **Heidi Herndon**
Lin Herndon

In honor of
Shadow and Donna's courage
and the families who love them.
Brenda

In honor of **Lilly Parish Dickson**
Priscilla Dickson



In memory of
Maggie Whitman
my beloved friend.
Susan Whitman

In loving memory of
Marjorie Manning
Kailie Manning—Nichols and Nick & Ann
Nichols

In memory of
Donovan Beer
The Nichols Family

Golden Memorials

In memory of
Richard T. Edmonson
Harriet & Byron Warren

In memory of
Jackson, Beau & Molson
Robert Hamm

In memory of our special Golden furball,
Rusty Wayne Hulley
(Oct. 9, 1996—Dec. 16, 2005)
who brought love and happiness to all of us.
Raymond, Rachel, Kimberly, Candy &
Mocha-Bean Hulley

In memory of
Mango
a loving Golden girl, adopted by Joyce
Lauck and Laura Estes. Donated on their
behalf on their 20th anniversary together,
12/10/2005. Pam & Dean Phillips

In memory of our Golden Retriever,
Tripper
who passed away December 11, 2005 at
the age of 14 yrs. 8 mos. He will always
be remembered as the best dog we have
ever loved.
Paul Mason

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





**Golden Circle
Membership Level
\$500-\$1000**

Sandy Nordstrom &
Bob Ashenbrenner
Mike & Kaye Keliher
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Carolyn & Ed Galle
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Darrin Ovelman
Laura Reed
Amy Story
Leslie & Ray Sullivan

Please check your membership renewal date listed on the mailing label of this newsletter. You can renew at www.GRR-tx.com!

**Gold Ribbon Donor
Club**

Deborah Alme
Shirley Colton
Lisa Savage
Heather Smalley
Pam & 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!



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UNITED WAY DONORS

Toga Hartadinata
Kurt Schwake

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



GRR Holiday Party—Fun, Funds and Festivity



Sandy Nordstrom

What a way to kick off the holiday season and head into 2006! Our annual party helped raise an impressive \$5,756.41—not a bad way to wind up another rescue year! Jody Branson and Dave Baker hosted another great evening for us in their beautiful home. About 55 Golden-loving partygoers enjoyed a wonderful buffet, including Dave's very special brisket (made from his very secret recipe) and a selection of yummy desserts, among them Jody's delectable bourbon balls.

Our \$5.00 raffle item this year was donated by Lonni Swanson: a full week at her cabin in Estes Park, Colorado. Thank you, Lonni, for this super gift—it brought in \$1,345.00 for Gold Ribbon Rescue. Many thanks also to Sandy Nordstrom and Bob Ashenbrenner for making the boutique a big hit, as always—and another heartfelt “thank you” to all those who made or bought the wonderful and unique items for our silent auction. Susie Schaffer, Sandy Balch, Jan Kuhl, Chris Miller, and Pam Phillips did a wonderful job of designing the menu, buying supplies, and organizing the whole party, and Tim Tierney manned the cash register—thank you, everyone!



Margo
Biba



Susie Schaffer and Todd Harrison

If you missed this party, please try to join us for other social activities this year. Coming right up: our annual Golden Afternoon in the Park, scheduled for April 1, 2006, at the Polo Picnic Area in Zilker Park. It's a great way to meet new friends (both canine and human!) and learn about the many opportunities for volunteering with GRR.



Golden Afternoon in the Park—April 1st!

It's bound to be a fun-filled afternoon and you simply won't want to miss it!

We still need a few volunteers to help with set-up and take down, food booth duty, raffle ticket table and a parade assistant. If you can help, please email Susie@GRR-TX.com.

Children are welcome to assist as well by watching or walking dogs while their owners are busy helping elsewhere.

You may purchase raffle tickets online at www.GRR-TX.com/events for your chance to win some awesome prizes. You need not be present to win. Good luck!

Event Schedule:

11am—2pm	Food Booth & Boutique Speed Alley with Greyhound Rescue Dog Massage Demonstrations
11am—1pm	Spring Bunny Photos Grooming Demonstrations
12 noon	Bailey, the Singing Golden Retriever
1pm	Parade of Adopted Goldens and Group Photo
1:45pm	Raffle and Prizes Awarded



Funny Bones.....

Letters to God:

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it still the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the "Chrysler Eagle" the "Chrysler Beagle?"

Dear God: If a dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad dog?

Dear God: We dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

If I did not have dogs:

1. I could walk around the yard barefoot in safety.
2. My house could be carpeted instead of tiled and laminated.
3. All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of dog hair.
4. When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like the NCDL kennels.
5. When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through dog bodies who beat me there.
6. I could sit on the couch the way I wanted, without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable.
7. I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree—like dog bones, stuffed animals or have to answer to people why I wrap them.
8. I would not be on a first name basis with three vets.
9. The most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out", "sit", "down", "come", "no", "stay", and "leave him/her/it ALONE".
10. My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers.
11. My pockets would not contain things like poo bags, dog treats and an extra leash.
12. I would no longer have to spell the words B-A-L-L or F-R-I-S-B-E-E or W-A-L-K or G-O-O-K-I-E-S.
13. I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside.
14. I would not look strangely at people who think having their ONE dog ties them down too much.
15. I'd look forward to Spring and the coming of rain instead of dreading "mud season".
16. I would not have to answer the question "Why do you have so many dogs?" from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get.
17. How empty my life would be....

GRRreat 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

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of Northwest Austin

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Hospital

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Lincoln Heights Pet
Hospital— San Antonio

Pet Medical Center
of San Antonio — Dr. Scott
Weeks

Pets First — San Antonio

San Marcos Vet Clinic

White Rock Veterinary
Hospital



THANK GOLDENS FOR EMAIL!

I have received emails from folks near and far sharing experiences, asking health-related questions or seeking guidance (dog jokes and funny photos, too!). Ruth's email below (and the subsequent string) is a bit lengthy, but worth the read (would you believe I edited out about half!). It was an extremely timely question from Ruth (see Kathy's article on Shy Dogs, pg. 3) and worthy of sharing with the GRR community. Thanks for writing and feel free to add another email to my inbox! Send emails to: brenda@grr-tx.com

email to GRR. Subject: Help! Sally (excerpts):

Dear Brenda:

I am not sure I am writing to the right person, but if not, am hoping that you can direct this e-mail to someone who can give us some advice.

We have two Golden Retrievers that we have adopted through GRR and need some advice concerning the second one. We love Sally dearly but have been unable to correct some behaviors that we thought might get better as she aged. With us, she is sweet, loving and playful. She will sit at my feet while I work or needlepoint, just wanting to be close. She follows our 12 year old daughter like a shadow. When we got her, we took her to an obedience class. She did not do well with other dogs in the room. She acted frightened. We noticed when we walked her in the neighborhood, that she reacted strongly to any stranger, which made walks often unpleasant. She barked and barked, but acted more scared than aggressive. That has gotten somewhat better after we spent time walking her and "feeding her for breathing" whenever someone approached, but walking her can still be difficult. When ANYONE comes through the front door she barks and barks. Even if it is one of the family, she barks. If it is a stranger, she often squats and pees while barking madly. She reacts very negatively to men in baseball hats. For example, when our son or my husband comes in wearing a hat, you'd think she never met them. We took her to a trainer for an evaluation and he told us she was a "soft dog." The "leaking" when I came home stopped after I followed the trainer's advice and ignored her when I first came in. After a minute or so, she would relax enough to let me pet her without leaving a puddle.

What has us perplexed is that she does not act aggressive in the classic sense, although she sometimes looks and sounds aggressive when she is barking so persistently.

As I said, we love her dearly, but it is painful to see her so distressed at times. We are NOT writing because we are fed up or don't want her, but rather, because we want her to feel better. The contrast between the two dogs is striking. If I were to "personalize" the two dogs, I would say that Tucker is like a gentle "granddad" and Sally is like a child with severe ADHD or post-traumatic stress disorder.

We got Sally as a companion for Tucker and that has worked out wonderfully. She has kept Tucker very active as he has aged, which has helped arrest some early hip dysplasia (along with medication prescribed by the vet). Sally grooms him and plays with him throughout the day. We would like some help in analyzing the behaviors and coming up with strategies to reduce them.
THANKS! —Ruth



Replies from GRR:

Hi Ruth,

Well, first off I want to thank you for caring so much for both Tucker and Sally. I am copying Kathy and Margo as they both have the most experience with behavioral issues and may be able to shed more light on this situation and offer you some behavioral modification techniques. It sounds to me that in addition to being timid and soft, Sally may also be displaying a protective response with her barking and general reaction to people (family members too) coming into the house. The trainer gave you good advice about ignoring her peeing and waiting for her to calm herself before you gave her attention. I'd also add that you should not give in to her behavior (by petting her or telling her "it's OK") but to stand firm (showing her that you're fine; you're not afraid or threatened) by putting her in a sit-stay, or down-stay position.

I have had a few foster dogs in the past (both females) that displayed similar behaviors (puddling, afraid of men, and frightened of strangers). Both of these dogs have been adopted and adjusted well after a relatively short amount of time. We adopted Simon who came to us a pitiful mess physically and mentally. He was so afraid of strangers—men in general. Simon would freak out when people came over—cower and pee—though he was never a barker. Our other Golden was a wild child when people came to the door, jumping and acting like a darn fool, which in turn would freak Simon out even more. Whenever our doorbell rang it was complete chaos. So we trained them both to go to the foyer and sit when anyone knocks or rings the bell. We practiced this over and over—my husband going outside to ring the doorbell or knock while I gave the command and then a tasty treat as a reward. We also recruited our neighbors to help us out! After about a week, the dogs had it down pat and to our surprise Simon actually stopped peeing, stopped cowering and was so excited about getting the treat that any stranger could now come to the door and he was fine. Now that was just the door. It did take about a year for Simon to feel good enough about himself and his situation to greet all strangers and situations with a tail wag and a hope for a pet instead of fear. The key was ignoring his "fearful" behavior and praising when he sat quietly.

Thanks for letting us know about Sally. Hopefully with this group of Golden lovers we can come up with some help. —Brenda

Hi Ruth,

You know what else I would do? Take Sally to the vet for a complete blood workup, including their most thorough thyroid test...that would be #1 in case the problem is as simple as low thyroid which can cause behaviors like this. If everything comes back good & normal, at least we'll know there is probably not a

physical reason for the problem. Also if the kidney & liver values come back normal, a low dose of amitriptyline along with behavior modification could do wonders...the amitriptyline would take the edge off her fear enough for her to learn new behaviors.

I like Brenda's behavior modification suggestions. You can start those immediately. Additionally, start practicing sits & praise her profusely for them, including giving her excellent treats. Do this maybe 30 times a day. It will do 2 things—get her to automatically sit when she doesn't know what to do (harder to run away), and it will give her self confidence because suddenly she is a huge success who does everything right! In fact, point out & praise all the many things she does right throughout the day, and mostly ignore the behaviors you want to go away. ;-) —Margo

email to GRR:

Brenda, Margo, Kathy,

I thought it was time for an update. I found the rescue remedy on Friday and started it the next day. I took Sallie to the vet on Monday. The results of a full screening panel were all normal. He is starting her on a low dose of an antianxiety drug. In addition he gave me "DAP" which stands for dog appeasing pheromone. It is made of pheromones from a lactating female dog. The vet says it makes the dog feel as though mama is near. He said to give everything (including the rescue remedy) 3-4 weeks to see how she does. We have also been working on getting her to go down and stay. I'll keep you posted. I'm just so glad to be doing something instead of feeling helpless.

Thank you all so much for the support and suggestions!!! —Ruth

Ruth,

First thing I do with a new foster dog is plug the DAP infuser right by their crate, wouldn't be without it. Don't remember if I suggested it but there is a wonderful book written by a woman who has and is for shy dogs called: *Help for Your Shy Dog: Turning Your Terrified Dog into a Terrific Pet* (Paperback) by Deborah Wood.

Got great reader reviews and you can preview parts of it, if you haven't already and be sure to view the back cover for glowing endorsements from dog experts.

Please keep us updated, Sallie temp fostered with us before going to Carolyn Whitten in Fredericksburg, we really liked her. —Kathy

We have received a few more updates from Ruth regarding Sallie's improvement. We are so pleased with her progress and Ruth's diligence in finding the right treatment to help Sallie be the Golden girl she is meant to be. Please see Kathy's in depth article on Page 3.

email to GRR:

This was forwarded from Carolyn, FC for *Sunny's* foster family. It is just so cute, shows even a dog 11.5 years old can still bringing a lot of fun to a new family. —Kathy

Thought you would enjoy this picture of the world's friendliest sheriff! :) He is doing wonderful! Thanks again!

—Amy George



email to GRR:

I wanted to give a big thumbs up to Kathy Burton's article on nail trimming. After reading her article "The Kindest Cut?" I went out and bought a Dremel with the sanding attachments. Dremel even makes a kit that is specifically for pet grooming; we saw this at Fry's and online at Amazon for about \$20. Our permanent foster Splash had very long nails and even with frequent small trims we couldn't get her nails to a good length, partly due to her squirming but mostly due to our squeamishness. We didn't want to trim too much and risk getting her quick. Just in the first week of Dremeling I've been able to grind down a significant amount of nail without any danger of snipping the quick or drawing blood. And with a few treats during the process Miss Splash is a happy camper. Our boy Rusty would run when he saw the old guillotine trimmer appear but he tolerates the Dremel very well and appreciates the extra treats.

I wanted to pass along one piece of advice my sister shared with me recently about trimming dark nails with guillotine or scissor type trimmers. I haven't had any problems with the white nails but would always start to sweat when I had to trim the black nails. Her advice was to point a flashlight through the end of the nail and you'll be able to view the quick in dark and opaque nails.

A huge thanks to Kathy for her article. It's helped alleviate stress from a necessary evil.

Thanks!! —Eileen (on behalf of Rusty and Splash)

"A happy dog means you're living right"—Kinky Friedman



Row Row Row Your Dog
in a kayak on Town Lake

April 22nd
 Session 1: 10-12pm
 Session 2: 1-3pm

Limited space available.
 RSVP today to reserve your kayak! For details visit
www.grr-tx.com

**Golden
 Afternoon in the
 Park
 GRR's Annual
 Spring Picnic
 DATE CHANGE**

Please note that our
 annual spring picnic
 date has changed to
Saturday, April 1st.

No foolin'! Go to
www.GRR-TX.com for
 details.

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