



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Rescuing Golden Retrievers in Central Texas for over Fifteen Years

Sarah 14-111

FEBRUARY 2015

From Margo, GRR President



This month I'd like to spotlight our many **donors** who generously contribute to this organization. I've said it before and I'll say it again --- you make an immense difference! We placed 147 Golden Retrievers in 2014 and did it thanks to your gifts and endowments.

We often get dogs straight from the shelter – depressed, sick, fearful -- and we joyously get to watch them come out of their shell, learn to trust and start feeling better. What a blessing. The words of thanks absolutely fail my true sentiments.

Upcoming Events

Annual Valentine's Party
hosted by the Zoom Room
February 15
Austin
[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Training
March 7
Austin
Contact [Sheila Thomas](#)

Spring Splashfest at the Quarries
April 11
Stay tuned!

You make a difference to every dog we bring into our family --- every single one of you. Donating for the care of these kind and beautiful animals is the quintessential gift.

Please see our list of generous donors at the end of this newsletter. Best, Margo



Austin Comes Together: Amplify Austin 2015

On March 5th, the Austin community will come together to raise money for local non-profit organizations, including Gold Ribbon Rescue. Amplify Austin has raised more than \$8.5 million for Austin non-profits by offering donors a marketplace of causes and a user-friendly online platform for giving. March 5th is a 24-hour celebration of giving that resonates throughout the Austin community. GRR will be participating for the first time this year. For more information, see the Amplify Austin [website](#). Stay tuned for more details.

Mark Your Calendar: Amplify Austin ---- 6:00 pm March 5th – 6:00 pm March 6th 2015



GRR Valentine Party



You and your four-legged friends are invited to the **Annual GRR Valentine's Party** hosted by the Zoom Room on February 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm

There will be fun activities for you and the dogs as well as 'puppy pottery painting' brought to you by Brush Strokes Pottery. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. Cost is \$10.00 per dog. Please register using this [link](#), and of course all proceeds will benefit Gold Ribbon Rescue!

The Zoom Room is located at 7739 Northcross Drive, Austin, TX. [Map](#)

A Golden Success Story – Contributed by Suzanne Shreve



Amber (12-063), Maggie (09-068) and Chester

Join GRR:

Your
Membership
Expired or
Expires on
\$expires\$

or

Become a
Member. Click
this [link](#) to
access the GRR
Membership
page



Connect with
Gold Ribbon
Rescue
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Amber was a Williamson County Shelter dog that was a frequent visitor to the facility. After several appearances, the owners declined to bail her out and GRR took her in.

Amber had previously undergone surgery on one of her hind legs and it had healed incorrectly -- the leg just kind of 'stuck out like a baseball bat' and caused Amber a lot of discomfort. So GRR had it amputated. Suzanne said, "I had some concerns about caring for her after the amputation, the first being that if I have to look at a "new" amputation site I will pass out cold on the floor!" Not only did Suzanne deal with the amputation like a pro, she also had to rush Amber to the ER when the amputation site became infected. Good news: both Amber and Suzanne were fine.

Amber is a real character. Once when Suzanne was trying to leave for work, Amber ran outside to a mud puddle and sank to her mid-leg. "Amber was having a great time when I tried to get her out and then I sank ankle deep," said Suzanne. "Amber is obsessed with mud!! I couldn't budge her so I went to get her leash. When I came back, Amber was standing under the sprinkler! She finally gave up and I was able to give her a bath, which she loved. Then I went in and took a 2nd shower and got dressed again!" Life with dogs! Amber gets around at top speed on her three legs and has a blast.

Maggie was a breeding dog all of her life. A young couple was looking for a puppy but adopted Maggie instead. The couple wasn't impressed at the looks of the pups they saw at the "breeder" and asked if he had any older dogs that were past the puppy stage. The breeder led them to four-year old Maggie and said, "I'm done with this one." So they rescued her. The couple loved Maggie but she was more than they were able to handle medically so they surrendered Maggie to GRR. Suzanne fostered Maggie through her medical issues and adopted her. Today, Maggie has blossomed and is a happy, social girl. Maggie says "Thank you, Suzanne. Thank you."

Volunteer Spotlight: Kerstin Arnold



Kerstin with GRR Billy-the-Kid and Jessie

How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I've been volunteering with GRR since early 2013.

What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

I wanted to help out with the organization that helped me get my wonderful dog, Billy. I attended a volunteer orientation, and everyone was so dedicated and friendly that it was easy to get involved.

What volunteer position do you hold?

I started out doing telephone interviews, and then in the summer of 2013, I started matchmaking.

About how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in this position?

I spend about 30 minutes to an hour a day on this volunteer position. A lot of what we do is keeping up with all of the emails about everything that is going on with the dogs and with the adoptive families.

What is your favorite part above all?

My favorite part is hearing from families that I matched with their dogs about how happy they are with their new family members!

Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position.

My favorite stories are those that involve seeing the amazing turnaround that these scared, sick, malnourished, unwanted dogs experience once in the care of this awesome team of volunteers from the Board, to the various work groups, to the foster families and ultimately to our great adopters! It makes it all worthwhile!!

Give one piece of advice for volunteers interested in serving in this position.

My advice would be to keep up with the work on a daily basis. It is amazing how much work the GRR volunteers do, and it can be a challenge to stay fully informed.

What are one or two words that describe your experience while volunteering with GRR?

Rewarding!

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to Sheila@grr-tx.com.

How Can You Help a Golden?

Make a [tax deductible donation](#) to GRR

Become a [monthly donor](#) and we'll automatically charge your credit card

Volunteer – lots of exciting opportunities

Foster – helping a golden is rewarding

To volunteer or learn more, contact Sheila at sheila@grr-tx.com



Dear Goldie: Zoe 08-134 (Rosie Hollrah)

Introduction and disclaimer: *'The Dear Goldie' column offers advice and answers your questions. It is written from the perspective of a dog. I researched a great number of articles on the Internet before I formed this month's article. I am not an expert, but I do my research. If you have any issues or questions for the column, please drop me an [email](#). I promise to make the question and answer fun but informational. Enjoy! - Dawn Marie Rae*

Dear Goldie,

My human mom was snoring so loud the other night that she woke me right up out of my great dream! I jumped on her bed a couple of times and moved her around, but she still wouldn't stop. So, I spied her slippers by the bed and had a good chew (yum), then I had a little taste of the bath mat and that was lots of fun --- it had a little stuffing in it too. Before I finally fell asleep again, I found a couple of her socks. Extra delicious! When my mom woke up and saw the mess I'd made, she put me in timeout! I don't get it. What's a girl to do? - Confused Dog in Kerrville

Dear Confused,

First, you probably snore, too. Try not to sleep on your back with your ears flopped open and you might not hear her snoring. DUH! Second, about chewing all that stuff, really? You tell your mom that she needs to get some toys that smell better than someone's slippers. Your mom needs to pick up her socks, get some nasal strips, and show you which toys are YOURS. Tell her to experiment and not give up, you might even get treats for learning this, don't pass it up. It's a win-win situation. Get moving on this Confused or you'll be in the doghouse for a while and might never get any sleep.



San Antonio Dog-Friendly Restaurants

The Cover	Rita's on the River	Mama's Café	Gazebo Restaurant at Los Patios	Two Bros BBQ Market
Augie's Barbed Wire Smokehouse	La Tuna Grill	Freetail Bewing Company	The Flying Saucer	Dough Pizzeria
Beto's	Tong's Thai	Candlelight Café	Il Sogno Osteria	Ocho

Madhatter's Teahouse and Café	Alamo Street Bar	At Blue Star Halcyon & Stella Public House	Timbo's	Sylvia's Mexican Grill
Oro Restaurant	Green Vegetarian	Charlie Wants a Burger		

Where are they now? Pet Therapists Halley, Lexie, and Angel --- Contributed by Brenda Hampton

Newsletter Editor: Dawn Marie Rae

Send comments or suggestions to:

dawnmarie@grr-tx.com



Halley (98-026)



Lexie (06-160)



Angel (08-144)

As a health care provider, I was drawn to the healing power of humor and animals in the early '80s and all three of our GRR dogs have been certified with Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Inc. (TPPT) over the past 10 years!

In 2004, Halley (GRR 98-26) and I saw the TPPT booth at an Austin Petapalooza event. Two months later, she passed her qualification training class and was providing pet therapy visits at the former Altenheim Assisted Living Center, Round Rock, TX. After that we moved to the Pflugerville Care Center and Heatherwilde Assisted Living Center. Halley loved her pet therapy work and she excelled at drawing out residents with dementia and the kids at Special Olympics events.

After owning Lexie (GRR 06-160) for the required minimum of one year, we began visiting the Heatherwilde Assisted Living Center, freeing up Halley to concentrate on the nursing home. Lexie was tall, so she excelled at visiting bedridden residents and those in wheel chairs that could look her in the eye!

As soon as Angel (GRR 08-144) was healthy and fulfilled requirements, we started visiting the same two locations. Angel has an energetic personality and she draws attention wherever she goes. She gives great Angel kisses and the wheel chairs and walkers are drawn to her side when we enter our nursing home hallways.

TPPT believes in assigning a volunteer and pet to regularly visit one facility to promote bonding and familiarity. During visits, my therapy pet is always under my control, so high levels of formal training are not a requirement. A great temperament, love of people, and good manners are a must!

I was on the receiving end of pet therapy myself at St David's hospital May 2014! Two days after my double mastectomy and DIEP flap reconstruction, I sat up in a chair for the first time. Minutes later, there was a soft knock on my door and in walked "Jake"! Imagine my shock and surprise at finding a GRR therapy pet visiting ME!! **Jane Shaughness said Jake** just stopped outside my closed hospital door, so she decided to knock and check out the room since he was patiently waiting for her to open it! I believe it was divine intervention.

All three of my GRRs have thrived on the work they do when we go to "see our special friends" or train new volunteers. They know the routine of grooming, bathing, and prep required within 24 hours of each pet therapy visit and they run for the door when we are "ready to see our friends".

For more information see Therapy Pet Pals of TX, Inc. at www.therapypetpals.org

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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www.grr-tx.com

Quick Tips for Treating Minor Pet Injuries and Illnesses

Reprinted from *Healthy Pets* with Dr. Karen Becker ([see full article](#))

Problem: Nail injury. Dogs and cats can slice up their nails in a variety of ways – everything from a too-close nail trim that nicks the quick, to running outdoors over sharp rocks.

Solution: Styptic powder. If you don't have styptic powder on hand, for minor bleeding grab either cornstarch or flour from your kitchen, pour some into a small bowl, and dip the injured paw into the powder to stop the bleeding.

Problem: Bee sting. Most bee stings occur on a paw or the face. Not only are bee stings painful, but your pet could also have an allergic reaction.

Solution: Credit card and Benadryl. If you need to remove the bee's stinger, don't use tweezers. Use a credit card from your wallet to scrape away the stinger – just make sure the venom sac comes out with it. If your pet has a mild allergic reaction to a bee sting, offer Benadryl ([see dosages](#)). Serious allergic reactions require an immediate visit to your veterinarian or the closest emergency veterinary clinic.

Problem: Indiscriminate eating. If your pet has very recently ingested something she shouldn't, for example, antifreeze or another toxin, you may need to [induce vomiting](#). Always call your vet or an animal poison control hotline if you suspect your pet has swallowed a poison.

Solution: Hydrogen peroxide. I'm talking about 3% hydrogen peroxide – the kind you purchase at any pharmacy. The dose is one teaspoon for every 10 pounds of body weight. Hydrogen peroxide typically induces vomiting within 15 minutes. If your pet doesn't vomit within that time, you can give her a second dose, but if another 15 minutes passes and she still hasn't vomited, it's time to call your veterinarian.

Problem: Cuts and scrapes. Many pets manage to acquire minor cuts and scrapes while running around the backyard or out for a walk.

Solution: Contact lens saline solution. You can clean dirt and debris from your pet's minor wound with regular human contact lens saline solution. You can also use it to flush out dirt, sand or other irritants from your pet's eye.

Problem: Dangerously low blood sugar in a diabetic pet. If your pet has diabetes mellitus, you'll want to do everything possible to prevent a [hypoglycemia attack](#) that can lead to a diabetic coma.

Solution: Honey. As soon as you see your pet's lips start to quiver or his body starts to shake, you need grab the honey and rub a little on his gums. Make sure to use honey, not corn syrup, which can contain genetically modified and/or allergenic ingredients.

Problem: Thunderstorm phobia. Many pets, especially dogs, fear thunderstorms. But it's not just the thunder and lightning that makes your dog anxious, it's also the static electricity that can accumulate in her coat, giving her little electric zaps that are unnerving.

Solution: A steamy room. Pets with [thunderstorm phobia](#) often feel more comfortable in a steamy/humid space that removes static from their coat, so try putting your dog (or cat) in the bathroom while running hot water in the shower. Alternatively, you can rub your pet's coat with a non-toxic dryer sheet for the same effect. Many dryer sheets are loaded with chemicals that shouldn't remain on the fur, so make sure you're using chemical free dryer sheets. Thunder shirts also help relieve symptoms.

Problem: Constipation, diarrhea, hairballs, and other minor digestive issues. Most pets at one time or another experience GI issues that last for a few days and disappear.

Solution: Canned pumpkin. It's a good idea to keep a can of 100% pumpkin in your kitchen cabinet for occasional mild tummy upsets. Give a teaspoon of pumpkin for every 10 pounds of body weight, one to two times a day, either in food or as a treat. [Pumpkin](#) is rich in soluble fiber that can ease both diarrhea and constipation.

Always have your vet's phone number and any emergency veterinarian clinic's number handy.

GRR Statistics for January

Adopted: Brogan 14-129, Brodie 14-137, Dooley 13-064, Jazz 14-098, Jordan 14-140, 14-113 Peter, 13-073 Annam 14-143 Kodiak, 14-145 Rudy, 14-122 Casey, 14-144 Calli, 14-014 Chief, 14-119 Johnny

Came In: 12

Foster Care: 36 (15 Available Now/Soon, 13 Foster Pend Adopt, 5 Permanent Fosters)



2014 GRR Tax Deductions

What you do for GRR can count towards your deductions!

What you CAN claim:

- \$5 per day for EACH dog that you foster in foster care
- Mileage for every mile you travel for GRR purposes: vet appointments, transport, home visits, etc.
- Medical attention for your foster dog with our approved vets but you paid for it yourself.

- - Money spent on envelopes, postage, containers for supplies, baggies for supplies, etc.
- **What you CANNOT claim:**
 - - Toys and food you bought for your foster dog
 - - Grooming for your foster dog
 - - Any non-approved vet visit

Email GRR Treasurer Tim Tierney at tjt@grr-tx.com with your foster dog list, the dates they were at your house, and the total number of foster days and Tim will email you a tax donation receipt.

Example of how to provide documentation for Tim (list all this info):

Foster: #13-142 Andy
01/01/14 - 02/27/14 = 58 days

Foster: #14-073 Buttercup
06/08/14 - 07/28/14 = 50 days

Foster: #14-079 Cozy
06/23/14 - 10/26/14 = 125 days

Total days for foster dogs: 233 days x \$5/day = \$1,165 tax donation

- Please contact [Tim](#) if you have any questions.

Thank You for an Amazing 2014

Gold Ribbon Rescue thanks all of the following individuals, family foundations and organizations for their generous gifts to support in the rescue, rehabilitation and adoption of golden retrievers in Central Texas. You helped make the rescue of 147 goldens possible in 2014. Thank you.

Donation Levels: Golden Angel: \$1,500+ Golden Patron: \$1,000-\$1,499
Golden Hero: \$500-\$999 Golden Donor: \$250-\$499 Golden Guardian: Up to \$250