



# Gold Ribbon Rescue

APRIL 2009 26TH EDITION

DEDICATED TO HELPING GOLDEN RETRIEVERS AND THEIR OWNERS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan

## What to Do if Your Golden Gets Lost

Last month, I experienced my nightmare—losing my dogs. First, you should know that I have many Golden Retrievers. And second, that I live on 50 acres and do have some friends who help me manage dogs, assorted livestock, and the property.

So it was that around 1 PM on a weekday I received a call from my friends that they had put some of the dogs out in the yard and that they were now GONE. Before phoning me, they had been looking and calling for the dogs for almost 2 hours with no result.

I was stricken. (I never understood the real meaning of that word until this happened.) I dropped everything, gave no real excuse, left my office, and drove home in a stupor. On the way, my mind raced through the good, bad, and awful scenarios that might greet me.

When I got home, there were neighbors, friends, and people on horseback looking for my dogs. No one had seen hide nor hair. And there were no paw prints in the fresh mud on the ground to give us a direction.

I called the police department, who heightened my fear by telling me that I should presume the dogs stolen. Apparently there had been a white van in the neighborhood, and purebred dogs had been disappearing. So, to keep from falling apart, I did the following:

- Reported the dogs and their descriptions to the city police department, the county sheriff, and the sheriff the next county over (I am close to the county line).

- Called animal control for both counties and the city.
- Called the animal centers and humane societies in the surrounding areas.
- Called my neighbors within 2 miles of the house.
- Made signs with pictures of the dogs and put them up on stop signs.
- Called the microchip agency and reported the dogs missing, so they would know I was looking if someone called in with the chip numbers.
- Called local vets and faxed or e-mailed them the “lost” poster with pictures.
- WALKED around the property and the area calling the dogs.
- DROVE around the property and the area calling the dogs.
- RODE the horse around the property and the area calling the dogs.
- Got friends and neighbors to walk, drive, and ride around as well.
- Told the mail carrier that the dogs were missing & gave her a flyer.
- Told the electric company that the dogs were missing & gave them a flyer (their meter readers and pole guys get into yards and areas where a dog may be held).
- Spoke to EVERYONE I met on the road and on the ride and on the walk and asked if they had seen the dogs and gave them my number to call should they see or hear of them.
- Called in a tracking dog and had the dogs' scent tracked.
- Left lights on and doors open with bowls of food and water in case they came home while I was out looking.
- Prayed A LOT.

And, after 26+ hours of searching, I found my guys in a pond on a piece of property over 80 acres away. My senior girl was found walking along a road almost 3 miles away—on the other side of the property where the rest were found—by a neighbor who picked her up. They were dirty, thirsty, hungry, and tired, but HOME.

Afterward, I learned that I had done most of the things suggested by the Lenape

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### Golden Afternoon in Zilker Park—April 4th

*Editor's note: This newsletter may be landing in your mail box after April 4th—hence the picnic information below may be out of date, but you may find photos from the picnic on our website. However, if you're receiving this prior to April 4th, please drop any plans you have and come on out to Zilker Park with your Golden. We'd love to see you there!*

Our annual Golden Afternoon in the Park will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 11am to 2:30pm, at the Polo Picnic Area at Zilker Park. As always, this event provides a great opportunity to reunite with our rescued Golden Retrievers and the families that have opened their hearts and homes to these wonderful dogs. Please bring the whole family (just remember—all dogs should be on lead at this event). We'll have food and drinks, gift items from our boutique, many \$1 raffles, and our very own “Golden on Parade.” If you've adopted a GRR Golden, please come and sign up to have your dog recognized and join the parade. For directions and more information, visit our website at

[www.grr-tx.com/picnic.htm](http://www.grr-tx.com/picnic.htm)

## Gold Ribbon Rescue

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# Notes From the Intake Team...

by Becky LaBrum

I have one very vivid memory of GRR's 2001 holiday party: three or four of us sitting at a table at Dave & Buster's, drinks in hand, talking about our dog shortage, our backlog of approved families, and what the heck we were going to do if we didn't get some more Golden retrievers in pretty soon.

What!?!?! Today, with Golden retrievers streaming in year-round, I can hardly believe we were ever in that place. Now the conversations are exactly the reverse: we talk about the foster family shortage, the backlog of dogs in foster care and on the wait list, and what on earth we will do if we don't get some kind of let-up. Our statistics as of mid-March—46 incoming dogs already—put us squarely on track for a 200-dog year. And for each of those Golden retrievers, we have to arrange an intake evaluation, set up transport, organize network, find a foster home... that last-mentioned step is the really hard one, especially given the rash of heartworm-positive dogs coming in lately: taking a dog through heartworm treatment requires a several-month commitment. It's no wonder we're feeling stressed this spring. Our intake leaders, Margo and Nadene, are almost too busy to turn around.

Why such a flood of Golden retrievers? The economic downturn is certainly one factor. More families are financially strapped,

even losing jobs and homes, and when they realize they cannot care for their dogs any longer, they turn to rescue groups for help, or drop the family pet off at the shelter, or simply leave him or her behind at the empty house. Apart from that, there's simply the fact that Golden retrievers are very popular dogs—and more popularity equals more demand, which equals more indiscriminate backyard breeding... and ultimately, that adds up to more unwanted dogs in shelters and more calls to help out with "litter leftovers." As a side note, this kind of indiscriminate breeding breeds more than pups. It breeds health problems, from heart trouble to allergies to hip dysplasia, and GRR does tend to get the call when a family realizes that their new puppy just has too many expensive issues to handle. (Do we ever say no? Hardly ever.)

So, what can all of us do to help?

**Promote rescue as The Option** for those wanting to adopt a dog. Every dog adopted through a rescue group or shelter is a life saved—and that much less motivation for puppy mills and backyard breeders to keep on producing "product." And there are breed-specific rescues for almost every breed. If you know of families intent on a purebred puppy (as opposed to a young adult or older dog),

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Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan *(continued from Page 1)*

## What to Do if Your Golden Gets Lost

Tracking Club ([www.lenapetracking-club.org/lostdog.html](http://www.lenapetracking-club.org/lostdog.html)) and set out in other lists sent to me by helpful people who heard of my missing dogs. And I hope that this list will help others who find themselves in the awful position of losing their dogs.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**, microchip your dog. A microchipped dog cannot be sold for medical experiments, will be identified by animal control or a humane society, and has a means to be identified and returned.

Many dogs have been returned days, weeks, months, and even years after vanishing, and from many, many miles away, as a result of their microchips. (And if your dog is a GRR dog, NEVER take his or her GRR tag off: it may help a lost dog get home. See Cora's story on page 11.)

I can't give enough thanks for everyone who helped and hoped and asked about my dogs. Thank you all. So much.

—Maura



## Golden Health

# The Loser's Circle: Where Every Loss is a Gain<sup>®</sup>

By Queenie, GRR #08-152

Hi everyone, Queenie here! Now, I know that "diet" is a four-letter word, and believe me, I was none too keen on the idea when I moved into my foster home around Thanksgiving time. (Mom and Dad were impressed at my ability to sort green beans, carrots and apples out of my food and spit them out.) But at the same time, I had to acknowledge that I was having kind of a hard time getting around. For an older girl with arthritic knees, every extra pound feels like 2 or 3. And I got puffed out really fast. Let's face it: at 103 pounds, I was huge even for the big-boned gal that I am. The doc said I needed to lose about 20 percent of my body weight. First I announced that at age 10+, I was too old to diet, but then Mom showed me before & after pictures of GRR girl Geni, who is 13 (!) and has lost 32 pounds in under a year. (See

her below.) Wow! So we got started on our plan. I am proud to say that I have lost down to 93 pounds now, so I am halfway home. Mom took my measurements in November: 37-36-35. Then she took them again just yesterday: 35-33-29. I actually have kind of a waist now!

We go on two or three slow-paced walks every day, and here's my diet programme. For each meal, I have 2/3 cup of reduced-fat kibble (usually half Pinnacle Trout & Sweet Potato & half Evo Reduced-Calorie Grain-Free), a spoonful of nonfat plain yogurt or fat-free cottage cheese, and a big ladleful of homemade vegetable soup. Mom got the soup idea from Aunt Margo and it only takes about 10 minutes to put together. You just take 2 large sweet potatoes (peeled), 2 large turnips or rutabagas (peeled), one big russet

potato, and 3 or 4 large carrots. Cut all the veggies into chunks, put them in a big pot with 5 cups of natural chicken broth, & simmer till soft. Then add a package of frozen leaf spinach (thawed) or a bunch of chopped up fresh greens like kale or collards and cook for a little while longer. That's it! Colorful and nutritious and the humans like it too. Oh, then I also have dessert, which is mashed banana and some kind of lean protein, like chicken chunks, stuffed into a Kong. And by the way, I like carrots and apples and green beans now!

Do you & your Golden have a Biggest Loser story and photos to share? Please send pix and comments to [becky@grr-tx.com](mailto:becky@grr-tx.com) and [nick@grr-tx.com](mailto:nick@grr-tx.com) and we will feature you in an upcoming newsletter. 



BEFORE

## And this newsletter's winner is... #08-038 Geni, age 13!

Last spring Geni weighed in at 104.5 pounds. She is down to 72.5—a loss of 32 pounds. Wow! Proof "in the fur" that you are never too old to slim down and get fit. Parents Carolyn & Fred Whitten put Geni on the famous Green Bean Diet and upped her exercise, bit by bit. "She is about 1000% better than she was when she walked (waddled) into our lives. She can run, roll on her back, play, act silly and goofy, and chase as fast as the other dogs when they are in pursuit of an unknown varmint." Congratulations to Geni, Carolyn, and Fred!



AFTER

## Pampered Pooch

# From the Kitchen of Cheryl Croft—TUNA TREATS

In either of these recipes, you can use canned chicken, salmon, or turkey in place of the tuna.

### Tuna Fudge

2 cans (about 6 oz. each) tuna, undrained  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
1 tablespoon garlic powder  
Handful of grated Parmesan cheese



Combine all ingredients to form a paste, using a food processor. Spread in a greased 9-inch-square pan and bake at 350° for about 20 minutes. Cut into small squares.

### Tuna Brownies

2 cans (about 6 oz. each) tuna, drained  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour  
1 tablespoon garlic powder



Place the tuna in a large bowl, break it up well with a fork, and then mix in eggs. Stir together flour and garlic powder and mix in; you will have a fairly stiff dough. Pat dough about 1/4 inch thick on a greased baking sheet; bake at 250° for around 25 minutes, or until golden. Let cool, then cut into squares.

## Golden Health

# Emma's List of Really Good Dog Stuff

by Kathy Burton and Emma Burton

When we adopted Emma from Gold Ribbon Rescue in 2004, she pulled like a train on leash and had suffered through years of chronic untreated ear infections and allergy-related hot spots. She was a classic pacer/panter when thunderstorms rolled in. She never met a stuffed toy she was not determined to shred within moments. Over time, Emma and I have tested a LOT of dog products. Most came up short, but this list includes those that have proved their worth, both with Emma (and our other dogs) and with our foster dogs, too.

**For mild anxiety:** Quiet Moments tablets by NaturVet. Available at some PetsMart stores and online. Active ingredients: Chamomile flower, passionflower, thiamine mononitrate, ginger, and L-tryptophan. While this product isn't potent enough to significantly help a dog with serious storm phobia or separation anxiety, it will "take the edge off" for dogs who are a little antsy. (Be sure to talk with your vet before giving your dog any over-the-counter medication, especially if he or she is on medication for anything else.)

**For hot spots:** Veterinary Derma Care Lotion by Bio Zapp. I purchased this at Canine Hilton in Austin and have also ordered it online. After years of trying a long list of products that did little to stop a hot spot in its tracks, I have finally found something that works! The moment you notice your dog chewing at herself enough to turn the flesh pink, brush the fur back and spray the skin well. Repeat until the skin is normal again. If you don't catch the hot spot until it's already in full "bloom," trim the fur away from the spot, wash the area with warm, soapy water, gently blot dry, and then spray. Check the spot several times a day & respray as needed. Since we've been using Derma Care lotion, we have not had to take a dog to the vet for the very painful scrub & clip procedure.

**For built-up ear wax:** Cerumene by Evsco Pharmaceuticals. Dogs with allergies tend to build up waxy debris in their ears, what we call "yeast grunge" or "the black yuck." It's greasy and hard to clean out.

Cerumene cuts through the grease to clean inside the earflaps and the ear itself. We've also had foster dogs whose ears weren't infected—just filthy, caked with ingrained dirt from years of living outdoors with never a good ear-cleaning. For these dogs, Cerumene works great as a "prewash" before a proper ear cleaning with a cleaning solution. I take a handful of cotton balls, saturate them, and clean with gentle swipes—starting inside the ear (but avoiding the inner ear, where the eardrum is located), then moving out to the flaps.

**For cleaning ears:** MalAcetic Otic (ear/skin cleanser for pets) by Derma Pet. Floppy-eared dogs tend to have more ear issues than pooches with stand-up ears: those floppy earflaps block air circulation to the ear. This solution is especially good for dogs who tend towards yeast or bacteria problems. Yeast & bacteria need moist, alkaline conditions to thrive; MalAcetic Otic lowers (acidifies) the pH and dries out the ear. It's available online.

**For shampooing:** Extra Body Shampoo by Bio Groom, available online ([www.showdogstore.com](http://www.showdogstore.com)); also often sold by vendors at dog shows. I discovered this product when a foster dog arrived at our home clean and smelling wonderful—and a week later he was still clean and still smelled wonderful. I knew his previous foster mom had given him a bath, so I e-mailed her for the name of the shampoo. It's the only shampoo we have used since.

**For maintaining short, groomed dog nails (for the dogs that will let you!):** Peticure, a specially designed nail-grinding implement based on the old style Dremel grinding tool; sold at [www.peticure.com](http://www.peticure.com). If you have multiple dogs, I recommend the corded version; for single-dog households, the rechargeable battery Peticure Elite is good choice. Comes with Peticure Safe Guard, and you can order additional sanding bands at the same time. (Peticure is NOT to be mistaken for the PediPaws you may have seen on TV, which runs on two AA batteries and uses nonstandard sanding drums. I prefer the Peticure tool, which offers both rechargeable and corded

models & uses standard-size sanding bands available at any hardware store.) For more information on nail grinding, go to [www.grr-tx.com/resources/nail\\_trimming.pdf](http://www.grr-tx.com/resources/nail_trimming.pdf).

**Best dog toys for toy shredders:** Orbee-Tuff Orbee Balls by Planet Dog. Toy shredding isn't just an expensive problem; it's a dangerous habit, since it can put the dog at risk for blockages if she routinely swallows what she shreds. The Orbee ball is just right for your Destructo Dog. Sold online ([www.planetdog.com](http://www.planetdog.com)); also available at some locally owned retail pet stores and dog bakeries (not available at big box pet stores). Get the large (4 1/2-inch-diameter) size (about the size of a softball) for your heavy chewer. A dog uses his back teeth for crushing; this ball is small enough to fit into his mouth, but too big to reach his back teeth. Check out the website's "Chew-O-Meter" section to select the right product for your dog. It's a really fun website with lots of unique items! Of course, the World's Best Dog Toy is still the classic Kong. Stuffed or unstuffed, these odd-shaped rubber toys are beloved by most dogs. Another safe, really good chew is deer antlers, available at [www.petexpertise.com](http://www.petexpertise.com) or other online suppliers. Properly harvested antlers drop off the male deer seasonally and should have a light to medium gray shade; if you find ones that are very white, pass on them (they have been chemically bleached).

**Leashes & collars:** For those dogs who know what "walking on a loose lead" means, we love the hemp/fleece collars and leashes from [www.planetdog.com](http://www.planetdog.com). For those dogs that don't yet have that concept:

**Moderate puller:** 6-foot snap leash of woven, easy-on-your-hands, washable material from Mendota dog leashes. For transport, I use the 4-foot brass snap leash; I can also use it as a regular leash if the dog has a serviceable, well-fitting collar. Most of the time I'm transporting dogs who do not have a well-fitting collar (if they have one at all), so I can squeeze the leash through the snap and turn it into a slip lead. Especially for dogs who have not

been leash-trained, this lessens the risk of a dog backing out of a collar. You don't want to be standing there with the leash and collar in hand—and the dog heading over the horizon.

**Serious puller:** My absolute favorite leash is the Security Sport Leash by Xtreme Pet Products, [www.xtremepetproducts.com](http://www.xtremepetproducts.com). It is a bungee stretch leash made of marine-quality cording with a padded high-impact plastic handle. I use the single leash if walking one dog, the double leash if walking two dogs at the same time. This leash will keep you on your feet with even the strongest dog; think of it as your “can't afford a broken bone, skinned knee, or face-plant situation” solution! I know a couple who walks their two full-grown Great Danes on the double-style bungee leash. If you dread having your dog taking YOU for a walk and are always wondering when that shoulder is finally going to be completely wrenched out of the socket, you need this leash. You need exercise, the dogs need exercise, and this offers a great way to get out & about without the stress.

**Beyond serious puller:** You know the one. You're at the park and see a huge dog dragging a kid; or your senior parents won't walk the dog any more because they are afraid of getting hurt. For those dogs, there's the Dream Walker No Pull Harness. It's said that a prong collar is like automatic transmission—well, the Dream Walker is like anti-lock brakes! When you stop, the dog stops too, with very little effort on your part. And if you have a feisty Fido—the one who pitches a fit at the sight of another dog—this is also the leash you want. Dream Walkers are only available online or from dog trainers who carry them in stock. I recommend you purchase yours from a professional dog trainer and have her or him show you how to fit the halter and how to use it. (And then throw that prong collar away; you won't need it.)

**Neckwear for swimmers:** Emma hasn't tried out the Original All-Style, No-Stink Collar from [www.dublindog.com](http://www.dublindog.com) in person, but it comes highly recommended by fellow Golden's Kota, Barley, Lucy and Bailey McGrath. Their mom Jackie reports, “These collars are GREAT. Kota has worn one for well over a year, and in the summer

my dogs get wet almost every day in the backyard. The collars never stink and are incredibly durable. Best of all, you just throw them in the dishwasher to clean them. I got three of mine at Dogadillo (a ritzy dog store in the Hill Country Galleria). The other one I got at Just for Pets on Far West Blvd. I'm about to order Barley's online. They aren't cheap, but well worth paying a little bit extra. LOVE THESE!!!”

Hope you have found some of Emma's favorite dog products useful. The list is certainly not all-inclusive, and of course there are many more worthy products out there—but these are the ones that have proved useful with my Golden's and foster Golden's.

**About the authors:** Emma is a 9-year-old GRR dog, rehomed with her sister at the age of 5. In her spare time, Emma tests new dog products, teaches foster dogs how to be good dogs, and goes with her mom on GRR home visits. Kathy Burton is Emma's mom and a professional pet sitter. She thinks Emma is the best dog in the world. In her spare time, Kathy fosters for GRR and evaluates & transports incoming GRR Golden's. 🐾

## TIPS FOR A FUN AND SAFE DAY AT THE DOG PARK

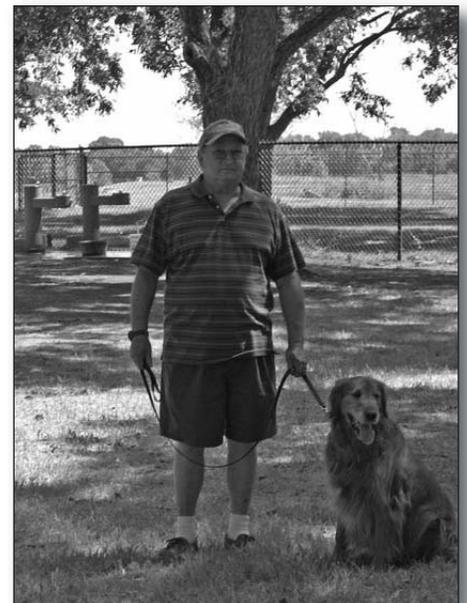
By Tracy Wencka

It's so much fun to watch happy, playful dogs enjoy time together in a wide-open space! And Austin, San Antonio, and the surrounding areas offer spacious, fenced off-leash dog parks where your Golden's can do just that. To keep the experience a fun and rewarding one, however, keep these tips in mind before you venture out.

**Pick a park.** Evaluate the location. Does it provide a double-gated entry to prevent dogs from escaping as a new friend enters? Is the fencing well maintained, without gaps or areas where dogs have dug under? Is there adequate shade and enough space to allow dogs to engage in play, but then move off and take a break? How is waste managed—are pick-up bags and trash cans available? (Always clean up after your dog! It's the right thing to do.) All these elements will affect your dog-park experience.

**Be observant.** Perhaps more important than the park's appearance are its visitors. It's nice if the clientele regularly includes dogs of various sizes, so that like-sized pooches can play together. It's also a good idea to look for an area where smaller dogs can socialize apart from the bigger ones. And though a dog park is, of course, an exciting environment, you don't want to see out-of-control dogs or situations. Watch other owners carefully. If you see an aggressive dog whose owner isn't managing him, play it safe and leave the park.

**Know your dog.** Learn about your own dogs' behavior before entering a dog park. When you're out walking, how do they react to other dogs and scents? Do they wag their tails and have a happy, relaxed facial expression—or do they lay their ears back, stand rigidly, and keep their mouths closed and their eyes watchful? Dogs sometimes raise their hackles out of excitement, but a happily wagging tail, a cheerful face, and/or a prancing “play bow” should accompany this body language—not growling or intense staring.



Nick Nichols and Oliver enjoying a day at the park.

(Continued on Page 15)

# At Home with Kids and Dogs

by Cheryl Croft

We've all grown up with dozens of books and movies depicting children and dogs as the very best of friends: *Lassie Come Home*, *Skip*, *Old Yeller*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *Shiloh*. Today, we can add to the list seemingly endless blogs, lectures, seminars, and even Youtube videos where children and dogs are presented in the most delightful and harmonious settings. The overwhelming impression is that kids and dogs just go together naturally, like cake and ice cream. And indeed, an intense bond between animal and child is a wonderful sight to behold—and can have lifelong positive effects on both. What parents wouldn't want this loving, blissful relationship for their kids—and for themselves?

So is that magical child/dog relationship really attainable? Absolutely!! However, it does require more than just rushing out and picking up that cute puppy or dog (or letting him choose you). As our knowledge of canine behavior has increased, we have learned so much about what we can do to ensure a happy outcome when we bring together two totally different species: the young human and the canine.

Below, I've reviewed a few things to consider BEFORE (not after) you bring a dog into a household with children. There's always more to add, of course—but thinking about just the factors noted here will save many a headache and heartache.

## Before you get a dog...

...take time to ask some important questions. Honest answers to these will help you pick the right dog when the time comes—or decide that the time isn't right for dog now, after all.

- Does everyone want the dog? Is everyone willing to help care for it? Even if the driving force is a child or one of the parents, the whole family needs to be on board.
- Why do the adults want this dog? Why do the children want the dog? Be sure there's plenty of overlap here.
- How many children are in the household? How old are they? If you have four boys under the age of ten, your home will obviously have a different atmosphere



*Hundred-pound Gabe is so relaxed around kids that he doesn't even know the baby is there—but you can bet her parents do (note the adult hand and arm in the photo). Supervision, supervision, supervision!*

than a household with one quiet little 12-year-old girl.

- How much experience have the children had with dogs? Have the relationships been positive? Is any of the kids afraid of dogs?
- Who will be responsible for feeding, walking, grooming, and training? If the child really is pushing for the dog, how much time does he/she have to spend with the dog? A 9- or 10-year-old or preteen is clearly capable of much more responsibility than a toddler—but be realistic with your child. Map out how much time he/she will devote to extracurricular activities, studying, etc., both now and in the next few years, and make sure there really is time for the dog.
- Are you as parents willing to provide the close supervision required with kids and dogs? Will you provide the discipline & boundaries needed to make the relationship a success? If not, then STOP and reconsider.

*And of course, there are basic questions you need to ask, whether or not you have kids:*

- Can you afford a dog? You will need to provide good food, proper veterinary care, training, and equipment (leashes, collars, bowls, beds, toys).
- Is there an indoor spot where the dog can go and to rest and “get away from it all,” such as a crate in a quiet corner, a den, etc.?

- Do you have a secure fenced yard where the dog can romp and play off lead?

## Choosing your dog

OK, you've decided that having a dog will work for the entire household. What now? Don't just walk right out and select a dog based on color, size, breed, or how cute he will look in those family photos. Your next step is to consider exactly which dog will help to make the kid/canine relationship work.

- What about the breed? I find it's more temperament than breed. You'll find great dogs for children among most purebreds and mixes. The opposite is also true: those same kinds of purebreds and mixes include dogs who should not share a household with kids. Golden Retrievers, of course, have a reputation for being ideal family dogs—and many of them are indeed just that. But be aware that just because the breed as a whole (be it Golden, Labrador, Poodle, or whatever) is reputed to have a certain temperament, not EVERY dog within that breed has that trait. Some reasons for this include indiscriminate breeders who breed dogs that are not temperamentally sound; poor socialization and/or no training; bad experiences with children in the dog's past; or all of the above.
- Puppy or older dog? If the dog is past the puppy stage, would an adolescent or a fully mature dog be best? Keep in mind there

are pluses and minuses to every age! Gold Ribbon Rescue generally doesn't advise putting young dogs (under age 2) in homes with very young (under age 5) kids.

- Think about the energy level, and find a match to your family. If the dog is high energy and your household needs someone who is quiet and calm, that's a problem. If the dog is a couch potato and you want a playful pup who loves to run, that's a problem too.

- Find out all you can about the dog! Particularly if he's a rescue dog, you may only know what you and the rescuers have observed, but glean all you can from your own interactions and anything available on the dog's past history. Try to find answers to questions such as: Is the dog's temperament calm? Does he want to be near children? Has the dog had encounters with children before, and if so, how old were the kids, and were the encounters positive? Can the dog be handled all over? All dogs can react aggressively to pain, but can you tug on this dog's tail, look into his mouth, give him a little pinch or push, get near his food bowl, take a toy away from him? Even with the best of supervision, children do run motorized toys into dogs, accidentally hit them with thrown toys, stumble over them while they're sleeping, or even punch them or pull their ears and tails. You need a dog with a steady, easygoing, "I LOVE (not just like) kids!" temperament.

- How does the dog get along with other dogs? Is she dominant or submissive? Has she ever been aggressive to other dogs? If the dog is likely to tussle with others, you don't want your kids getting into the middle of it.

### Setting up success: Train your kids (and yourself)

Be aware that building a healthy, strong relationship between dog and child involves managing and training everybody: yourself (the parents), children, and dogs. Below are some general rules for parents to follow in teaching their children to be good dog owners.

- Train/instruct your children in how to handle or pet your dog/puppy. He is neither a doll nor a stuffed toy! Dogs are not to be ridden, climbed on, or used as a pillow. They are not to be poked, pushed, have ears or hair pulled, or have toys or food snatched away from them. They are

not to be pestered when they are taking a break in their "safe place." If the kids are not old enough to understand they mustn't do such things, then hold them while you interact with the dog properly.

- Supervision, supervision, supervision! Never leave the dog alone with toddlers or small children. Never, never, never. Not ever. Toddlers and dogs can have a great relationship, but it requires lots of work and intense supervision on your part.

- Structure the interaction between dog and child. Teach tricks and games. If the child is old enough, he can help with training; teach him to have the dog sit, down, come, play fetch.

- Teach your children how to approach strange dogs, and how to act if any dog (including yours) jumps on them and/or even starts nipping/biting.

- Do not encourage canine/child games such as racing for a toy or any other behavior which promotes competition between dog and child—chasing, child/dog wrestling matches, hand games, anything that incites growling. Remember, if the children are highly excited, the dog will mirror that energy! And jerky movements, slaps to the face and head, and shrill sounds excite and sometimes frighten dogs. When things get too busy and/or too wild, put the dog in his safe area—his room or crate. Let the atmosphere get calmer before bringing him back into the mix.

- Be especially vigilant when your child's friends come to visit. It's usually a bit chaotic and adults aren't always watching. Even a strange child hugging your dog can incite a nip.

- Which leads us to: dogs don't hug or squeeze one another. It's not how they show affection. You can train your dog to tolerate your hugs and squeezes, but that may not carry over to liking everyone's!

- Don't let a child take on too much responsibility, such as walking a large dog on a leash by himself or herself. Even a young large-breed dog has a lot more pull than a child's strength can control. Dogs can get startled and take off, causing injury to themselves and the child.

- Manage the environment. Put a safety lid on trash and diaper pails. Keep small toys picked up: plastic action figures, Lego pieces, blocks, etc. Too many of these have been removed from doggie stomachs—at high cost to the dog and the household

budget. Train your child to put away his toys; at the same time, work on training the dog what's his and what is the child's. You can train him to pick up and put away his toys, too!

### Setting up success: Train your dog

Just as children have to learn how to behave toward the new dog, the dog must learn how to be a good canine citizen. Below are some basics.

- Kids shouldn't molest the dog, and the opposite is just as true! The dog is not to jump, nip, chase, or put his teeth on the child in any way. The dog is not to paw for attention.

- Only good things happen to the dog when the child is around. Treats, games, praise. Structure their time together (and they don't need to be together ALL the time) so that the experience is positive for both child and dog. Set the dog up for success!

- Teach dog and children games that prevent resource guarding of food, space, and toys.

- Teach the dog to (at least!) sit, down, come, leave it, and go to his or her place/crate/room.

- Keep the dog exercised!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A tired dog is a good dog; that will never change!

- It's worth repeating: Provide a safety zone for your dog such as a crate, an exercise pen, or even a room. It's the place where he can go, either on his own or at your direction, to get away from the kids and noise. Dogs can get tired and grumpy, just like humans do. Make this place a wonderful place to be.

- Always give your dog a way to escape. Never let child and dog get into a situation (such as dog backed into a corner of a room or yard) where the dog cannot get away.

- If possible, crate your dog or put him in a safety harness while driving. It makes the trip safer for kids AND dog!

### Resources

One excellent resource for learning more about children and dogs is the book *Living with Kids and Dogs*, by Colleen Pellar. Her website, [www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com](http://www.livingwithkidsanddogs.com), is also chock-full of great advice and structured activities. I encourage anyone with kids and dogs already—and anyone who's about to have both in the household—to read both the book and the website. 

# One Dog, Two (Hundred) Dogs, Old Dog, New Dog

One dog... that's how each January begins, with the very first dog of the new rescue year. One dog, then two dogs—old dogs, new dogs... and, we might add: red dog, blond dog ... shy dog, "Hi!!" dog... fat dog, thin dog...well dog, "Help!" dog—we have them all. All personalities, colors, sizes, but they're all looking for the very same thing: the loving family who will say, "Hey... THAT dog."

**Old dog:** And we don't just mean old in years! Take a look at our adoption page and you'll see what else we call "old" dogs: those Golden Retrievers who have been posted for so long that visitors to the website tend to skip right past them, looking for new faces. But please give our "old news" dogs a second look—because who knows? One of them may be the very dog for you.



Homer

First up is **Homer**, age 12. His dog number is #06-157—that's right, he was a December dog in 2006, and has been in foster care for over two YEARS. This charming red guy has loads of personality. He's a talker, a

swimmer, a cat chaser who has slowly learned not to "hound" the kitties in his foster home, an all-around genial fella who would love to be your boon companion. Lately he's had some health challenges, but looks like those are all resolved now. He's still waiting for a home to call his very own, forever.

At the other end of the age spectrum is little **Catcher**, not quite one year old. He and his siblings Basey and Strike came into care last summer, as young pups with mange: they sure looked Golden to us at age 3 months, but as they grew, it became clear there was probably more Lab than Golden in their pedigrees (and maybe even some hound). Never mind! Their personalities are tip-top. But while Strike and Basey have long since found their forever homes, Catcher is still waiting. And that means that someone is sure missing out! If you don't have your heart set on a pure Golden, but just want a wonderful smaller-size dog, this guy is indeed the perfect catch: "Catcher is the greatest. He is still a little shy around new people and

new dogs (he'll get close for reassurance, and bury his head in your arm or peek around from behind your leg), but he warms up fast. In fact, his best friend in the world is Cocoa, the big chocolate Lab. He respects cats, too. His favorite hobby (well, aside from swimming, retrieving, snuggling, and trips to PetsMart) is squirrel chasing—he'll even try to climb up into trees to get those pesky rodents. But when a squirrel fell at his feet once, he jumped and ran the other way! If I were going to adopt a foster dog, he'd be the one. He's as good as gold and so affectionate and funny."

Then—who is that handsome mystery man? It's **Rusty**, age 8, whose photos have been up on the webpage for several months—but without a story. So here's the scoop: Rusty came to GRR about 18 months ago, turned in by



Rusty

an owner who could no longer care for him. He'd spent his entire life being picked on by his aggressive twin sister, who booted him away from his food dish and generally acted like a pill, but amazingly, he gets along great with the other dogs in his foster home. It's dogs he meets out on lead who make him nervous, especially if they just come charging up. His foster mom has been working with this, and we can give you plenty of pointers for keeping Rusty non-reactive when he's out on lead. Other than that, "he's pretty darn perfect ... although he has recently become a sock stealer! If I sleep too late for his taste in the AM, he goes into the laundry basket and takes a sock to carry or chew on. Loves his woobies. Loves hanging with Goldie. Moderate to couch potato activity level, but loves his walks. He has a very expressive face with big brown eyes. He does the Scooby Doo quizzical look. Funny boy. He just has a great, goofy personality."

Looking for an easy-going, cheerful girl to complete your family? We have two who might be just right for you. Cindy and Susie are both about 8 years old, and they came to GRR within days of each other—Susie on November 10, 2008, and Cindy on November 15. We don't know too much about **Susie's** past—her owners dropped her off at the

shelter but didn't fill out the profile, just noted "good with kids, good with other dogs, and sick with heart-worms."

That was all true then... but what about now? Not the "sick with heartworms" part! Susie has long since completed her treatments and is feeling fine, except for some occasional stiffness in her legs. She's such a good girl and so hospitable: recently another foster dog arrived in her home, and she's made sure he knows he's welcome by giving him lots of kisses. "Loves her food but slowly losing weight—down to about 80 pounds. Cute habit of wagging her tail when eating. Knows SIT, DOWN, STAY, and DROP IT. Adores hugs, back scratches, car rides, and daily walks. On her walks, she greets other dogs, adults, and kids & socializes with one and all. Such a loving, sweet dog!"



Susie

**Cindy**, AKA Cinderelly, had to find a new home when her owners moved abroad. At first, she was having a few accidents—but once her family & vets figured out that the problem was simply so-called "spay incontinence," she started on an effective &



Cindy

inexpensive medication, and all is well. Friendly, chubby, curly, and low-key, Cindy is 100% trustworthy loose in the house, even for hours at a time. She's no slacker

when it comes to walks, though—she's always up for a ramble around the neighborhood, with plenty of "sniff stops" and meet & greets, should the neighbors come out for a chat.

**New dog:** Just check our website! As of March 20, we'd already taken 46 dogs into GRR in 2009, with ages ranging from 6 months to about 11 years. If we keep going at this rate, we're looking at a 200-Golden year. Can you help a Golden in need by providing a loving foster home for him or her? Please let us know.

**Red dog, blue dog (BLUE dog? Read on),**

**blond dog:** Many a Golden has pretty auburn fur, but everyone comments on 10-year-old **Shaula's** lovely locks: the more so because we didn't really know exactly what color she was until she had had four (yes, four) baths. This personable stray had the good luck to be taken in by Good Samaritans who called GRR for help, and soon the charming senior was getting the complete spa treatment. After the first shampoo, the rinse water was black...and it took three more go-rounds to get Shaula clean and shiny, plus more hours of labor to cut out her numerous rock-hard mats.

Revealed: a titian-haired cover girl. What a transformation! Shaula was definitely ready for her close-up. She's Miss Congeniality, too, and settling right into her foster

home (she'll be there for a while, since she needs heartworm treatment).



Shaula

Blondies? There are lots of them, but blondest of all is creamy-pale **Phantom**, age 3, turned in to the shelter by his owners for being "too interested in the baby goats." To be honest, he may have a little Great Pyrenees in him, but just a little: and his foster mom can't say enough about his personality. "Very laidback, a real gentleman, polite, well behaved. Extremely smart: learned his new name very quickly, knows SIT, COME, GO LIE DOWN. He watches what the other dogs do and follows their lead—but if one of them gets corrected, he won't copy the offending behavior.

Absolutely amazing! Hopefully he will go through heartworm treatment w/out complications—and then he will be ready for an ultra-magnificent home who wants a well-mannered dog to brag about and have as a member of the family."



Phantom and friend

Now, about that blue dog... We don't have anyone with blue FUR, of course, but we DO have 5-year-old

**Doone**—who looks so Golden in every other way that when he opens his mouth to smile, his nearly-blue tongue can give you quite a start. When you look closely, you can see it's as if a typical pink tongue has been covered with a "wash" of bluish-purple... it almost looks like Doone has been indulging in grape lollipops nonstop! This big-boned boy came in with kennel cough and with ear infections so severe & painful that the shelter released him early for medical treatment. He's doing better, but he'll need a dedicated owner who will always be attentive to those ears. It will be worth it, though: "What a big, sweet guy. Doone is very people-focused and has beautiful indoor manners and just loves to be brushed. He enjoys spending time outside and going for walks, too. Very gentle and loving."



Doone

**Shy dog:** Many a Golden is a little bit timid, but there are two girls in care who started out unusually shy. If you're the kind of calm, patient family who can help a scared Golden recover from a difficult past, open up to new experiences, and learn to trust in life, please let us know! Young

**Scarlett**, age 2, came to GRR last fall. A "leftover" from a shut-down breeding operation, she was absolutely terrified of absolutely everything... except other dogs, who give her confidence and make her feel secure. Since then, it's been a long road for Scarlett, but she is really making progress. She's changed foster homes twice now, and each time it's a little easier. At the latest move, foster mom Tracy commented, "Scarlett did well on the ride to Jeanae's and even gave her a kiss on the hand. Certainly a big difference from when she first came to me & hid under the deck for a full day! I think



Scarlett

she will do great with Jeanae as she continues her social rehab." And Jeanae says, "She actually took to my kids right away and even buried her head in Tommy's lap. My canine crew love her already. So far so good." (Lucky Scarlett... she has been fostering with GRR matchmakers, which will really help in finding her that ideal home.)

Our second shy dog is **Kasey**, a pretty 4-year-old left at the shelter in

January with her yardmate, an extremely aggressive male dog.

Besides suffering from "shelter shock," Kasey

was very, very ill with a high fever, chills, and chest congestion—and she has heartworms, as well. Her physical health is greatly improved and the heartworm treatment is underway, but getting Kasey emotionally healthy—"dialing down the internal stress," as her foster mom says—will take longer. "I'd say she is almost more anxious than shy—that is, for sure she's shy, but not near the level that Scarlett was when GRR got her. I just don't think she had much exposure to life outside of a backyard. She gets along great with my girls—follows their lead, does what they do. LOVES to retrieve! Sometimes she'll let you have the toy back, sometimes she'll play keep away. She's calm in the house, and so well-behaved that she has free run even if nobody is home. Kasey likes to hang out on the periphery and make up her mind about joining in. She will be a work in progress for several months, but you just can't rush a timid dog. She's welcome here until the right home comes along! Very sweet, looks fabulous, and she's very low maintenance. A quiet household with another nice calm dog would suit her to a tee & I'm sure she would adjust readily to the right adoptive family. Be sure to mention that in her story for the newsletter!"



Kasey

*(Continued on the following pages.)*

# One Dog, Two (Hundred) Dogs, Old Dog, New Dog— (Continued)



Toby

**“Hi!” dog:** Quite the opposite of shy dogs, these are the Golden Retrievers who never met a stranger. We have plenty of those. For instance, take one-year-old **Toby**, a dashing hunk whose male-model looks most definitely

DON'T come with that typical glossy-mag “I’m just too cool” demeanor. Far from striking a languidly elegant pose, Toby will bowl you over in his eagerness to say hello, let’s play, let’s fetch, let’s run...! “Typical high puppy energy. Loves, loves, loves to retrieve—anything and everything!!! Very bouncy. Learning to greet people by sitting down, not jumping... we are getting there!! I have zero concerns about this dog, just make sure he gets a high-energy family who will keep on working on his training.” (Editor’s note: Toby has already been adopted and is doing great.)

Then there’s **Goodboy (GB)**, also about a year old, another live wire & all-around busy guy. He really is a Good Boy—the soul of good nature and friendly interest, ready to be everybody’s pal. Unfortunately, GB



Goodboy (GB)

managed to injure his elbow with all his romping around, so he had surgery on March 11—to be followed by (horrors!) 4 weeks of exercise restriction. It would be too much to expect GB to take up reading, chess, and crossword puzzles to make the time pass, but we ARE hoping to work on his training during his post-op down time; learning tricks and commands will exercise his puppy brain and tire him out almost as much as those cross-country runs and wrestling matches.

**Little Lovey** is all ready for the Pep Squad, too! This 18-month-old girl has energy to spare. It’s easy to envision her as a cheerleader, with tail flying, ears flapping, pantaloons waving, and pompoms in her paws—and in fact she was surrendered by a

family who found her “too hyper” for their taste. It’s all perfectly normal puppy high spirits, though; like most young Golden Retrievers, she’s distractible and loaded with zip. Given plenty of exercise and direction, she’ll be the best dog ever—and perfect right now for a family who knows what pups are like and will get a kick out of Lovey’s rocketship activity level. “Adorable. Very friendly towards other dogs and wants to play. A smart little girl, and with a little training she is going to be a wonderful family member.”



Little Lovey

**Fat dog:** Along with a sizable “slightly tubby” contingent, we get more than a few Golden Retrievers each year who belong to the Century Club & look like a dining room table when seen from above. Sometimes these dogs have low thyroid function; sometimes they’ve just been eating way too much food (often a poorer-quality chow that’s loaded with corn, which high in sugar); sometimes it’s both. But whatever the reason—yipes! All that excess baggage is not good for them. All such Giant Golden Retrievers go on pretty much the same simple plan: eat less and move more. It takes time, but it works!—just check out **Geni**, our Biggest Loser, on page 3. So far this year, 4-year-old **Midas** wins the Fat Dog title: at intake, he weighed a stupendous 120 pounds. Check back next year, though. We guarantee you’ll see a sylph instead of a blimp, and a dog who can prance instead of lumbering.

**Thin dog:** The other side of the coin, of course, is the thin dog—the Golden who just hasn’t been getting enough to eat. **Sport**, age 3, and **Herbie**, just about 18 months old, both came out of the San Antonio shelter at about 20 pounds underweight, with ribs you could count and hipbones jutting out; they’d likely been on



Sport

the streets and foraging for what little they could find. Good-natured Sport is just starting to build back up (he arrived in his foster home only a week or two ago), but “Herbie is approaching his ideal weight of about 78 pounds (he started out at 59 pounds!). He’s a very sweet boy and a great canine house citizen: reliably housetrained, doesn’t get onto the couch any more, has learned to stay out of the kitchen on command, and doesn’t cruise the counters and tables. And the crate training? YEA!!! He now goes into the crate for dinner happily—in fact, he barrels right in and sits for his meals. He sleeps through the night there, too. He’ll need an active home—because once he’s past heartworm treatment and can exercise harder, he will LOVE to play fetch and go for long walks.”



Brookie

...but the thinnest Golden Retrievers we’ve seen this year—and in several years—were the EGF Quartet featured on our website in January: **Molly, Brookie, Cherry, and Cindy**. Their owner passed away in early December, but

the dogs, left alone in the house, were not discovered until almost 6 weeks later, when they were near death from dehydration and starvation. Immediate emergency vet care made the

difference, as did an incredible outpouring of support from Golden lovers everywhere. With continued medical care, generous quantities of nutritious food, and exercise to build up their wasted muscles,

all four dogs have made a miraculous recovery. Molly, Brookie, and Cindy have all been adopted, and Cherry is spoken for, as well. She’ll be heading to her forever home in about a month—she recently suffered a setback when she broke her ankle, of all things! She’s had the surgical repair already and is in rehab, now—it won’t be long before



Cherry

she's kicking up her heels again (but a bit more carefully, we hope).

**Well dog, "Help!" dog:** We've brought in a good number of dogs who are healthy & well this year—the kind we call “just add water” Golden Retrievers. A bath (that's the “add water” part), a vet check, a week in foster care, and they're ready to go. But we've also had more than the usual number of “Help!!” dogs—Golden Retrievers who need extra care for out-of-the-ordinary medical problems. And we don't just mean heartworm treatment (though over 25% of our intakes so far have been heartworm positive). We've seen severe starvation, torn ACLs, pneumonia, serious skin infections, and case after case of severe, chronic ear infections. And in one case, we've got just about all of that in a single dog. Maybe you've seen **Crumpet**, our latest Extraordinary Golden Fund girl, front and center on our adoption page. The contrast between her personality & attitude—unimprovable!—and her appearance & health challenges could hardly be greater. This sweet 6-year-old is battling skin infections that have left her with large patches of bare, darkened skin; low thyroid; and yes,

horrendous ear infections. Getting her healthy and well is a battle, but it's a fight we'll do our best to win—with the help of our vets, Crumpet's loving foster mom, and our GRR community. Please consider making a donation to our Extraordinary Golden Fund; you will give a lift to deserving Golden Retrievers like Crumpet, who are rescue dogs in the truest sense. And if you've ever wondered if your donations really count, just look at **Laddie's** photo. This sweet 3-year-old was one of our 2008 EGF dogs; he had hip replacement surgery last November. He was adopted earlier this year, and he definitely got his happy ending... thanks to all of you.

One dog... that's how each January begins, with the very first dog of a new rescue year. And soon that one dog is joined by ten more, and then dozens more—and all those dogs take their place in a long, long line of close to 1,500 dogs who have come to GRR since Maura founded the group over 10

years ago. So many ages and sizes and colors and personalities—so many stories. But we never forget that it's all about one dog, looking for that one perfect family... and one family, looking for just the right dog. And there's nothing better than helping to make everyone's dreams come true!



*Laddie's family says: “We are just so happy! Laddie is fitting in like we have all always loved each other. He is so kind-hearted and gentle. So good with our kids. He is very protective of us and watches our every move. I just hope we are all HE ever dreamed of in a forever home, too. We could not have had a better match!”*

## Lost Dog, Found Dog: Cora's Story

by Becky LaBrum

Many of our GRR Golden Retrievers come to us as strays. They wind up at the shelter and nobody reclaims them; a Good Samaritan takes them in but cannot keep them; and so they come to rescue and find their forever homes. But Cora went missing AFTER coming to GRR. It happened like this. Along with three other girls and a boy—someone's backyard breeding operation—she'd been surrendered to the pound back in February 2008. On March 1, she moved into her foster home; by May 21, she'd completed heartworm treatment and was ready for adoption. And then the unforeseeable happened: with her foster family away, Cora headed north for a week of “vacation” in the country with another GRR family. Her respite-care dad unloaded her from the car and let her into the fenced yard—and Cora, apparently spooked by the new surroundings, bolted, cleared a 42-inch fence, and vanished. For the next several weeks, everyone in the GRR community hunted for the little dog. We posted flyers, advertised her on Craigslist, organized searches, brought in tracking dogs—but though Cora was seen here and there in the vicinity, we never caught her. And after a few weeks, the sightings stopped.

On February 28, 2009, we received a hotline call: “This is officer Reg Z. with Taylor Animal Control. We have trapped a Golden Retriever with your ID tag on her, #08-029. Please give a call.” I was working the hotline, as it happens, and when I checked the dog number and realized just who the found Golden was, I just

about fainted. Once I collected myself I grabbed the phone and called Margo: “I just got the most amazing HL message.” You can imagine everyone's incredulity and excitement! Cora was about 12 miles east of where she had disappeared nearly 9 months before. As we later learned, she had been seen for several weeks hanging out in a local cemetery, but ran away when anyone approached. The wonderful Officer Z., though, was undeterred. He set a humane trap and managed to do what nobody else could: he captured Cora. He told our volunteer, “When I went back the next day and found we'd caught her, the first thing I saw was her GRR tag catching the sunlight. Boy, was I glad to see that ID tag.” Somehow, Cora had kept her collar and tags on all that time—and the GRR tag brought her home.

If only Cora could tell us how she spent the last 9 months! Amazingly, aside from being dirty and loaded with fleas, she was in good shape. And she's already happily moved into her new & forever home, where Mom and Dad know all about her bolting tendencies and will be sure to keep their little flight risk safe from any further escape attempts.

One important lesson from Cora's story is this:

**KEEP THAT GRR TAG ON YOUR OWN GRR DOG AT ALL TIMES. IT'S ONE MORE FORM OF ID AND WILL HELP BRING YOUR DOG HOME IF HE OR SHE EVER GETS LOOSE!**



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Thank you for your support. You can make your donation online at: [www.GRR-TX.com](http://www.GRR-TX.com) Or, via check or credit card—mail to:

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 Amy Wright

**Gold Medalist (\$250–\$499)**

Wendy Athey  
 Winn Biesele  
 Linda & William Franklin  
 Nancy McGowan  
 Dolores Stoner  
 Carolyn Whitten

**Gold Nugget (\$100–\$249)**

Nicole Belleville  
 Reina Bernfeld  
 Jennifer Biggs  
 T.D. & M.R. Brown—  
 to EGF for the Round Rock 4  
 Pat Capin  
 Shirley Colton  
 Betsy Davis  
 David Deming  
 Carl Dennis  
 Carey Gunthert  
 Kim Ladewig  
 Bernard & Joan Lechner—on behalf of Scott  
 & Margaret Fitzgerald  
 Janet & Neil Martin  
 Barbara Meyer  
 Jessica Mitchell  
 Ann & Nick Nichols  
 Susan Resendez  
 Terry Ross  
 K Royal  
 Jason Ruley  
 Kristi Stanford  
 Elsie Stubbe  
 Jan Wallace—for Annie's medical expenses  
 Ann Williams

**Golden Friend (Up to \$99)**

Barbara Allan  
 Deb Alme  
 Joanna Balzer  
 Beth Bath  
 Nicole Belleville  
 Mary Jo Bertani  
 Margo Biba  
 Dennis Bobincheck  
 Leslie Botts  
 Mackenzie Broadbent  
 Robert Byard  
 Pat Capin  
 Beth Chapoton  
 Jean Chapoton  
 Kendle Combs-Bambenek  
 Heide & Randall Cook  
 Matthew Corey  
 Susan Culp  
 Ashley Dalton (Dell Direct Giving)  
 Angela Dunham  
 Jackie Foresman  
 Terri Gilbert  
 Debra Gundy  
 Alice Gunter  
 Brenda Hampton  
 Shaula Hartnett  
 Carol Hebdon

**Extraordinary Golden Fund**

*Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Goldens with high medical costs, we created the Extraordinary Golden Fund. Donations made to the EGF are strictly used for beyond-the-ordinary medical treatments of Goldens in need. Visit <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/egf.htm> for information on the Goldens who are being helped today. A special THANK YOU to those listed for your generosity and continued support of GRR.*

**Platinum Circle (\$1001–\$5000)**

Lisa Savage  
 Cam Snyder

**Golden Circle (\$500–\$1000)**

Paula Ellis  
 Geoga Harrison  
 Michelle Miller  
 Susan Roehm—Dell Direct Giving

**Golden Friend (Up to \$99)**

Joanna Balzer  
 Hillary Boerio  
 Janet Callahan-Morton  
 Randall Cook  
 Laura Helms  
 Becky LaBrum  
 SuEarl McReynolds  
 Manny Mejia  
 Carl Millican  
 Frank Nichols  
 Michael Page  
 Margaret Palmer—to EGF for Molly, Brookie,  
 Cherry & Cindy  
 Traci Reece  
 Suzanne Sauer  
 Mark Stevens  
 Susan Wilson



# GOLDEN MEMORIALS

In memory of Scout.  
—Beth Chapoton

In memory of my beloved Jinks,  
whom I lost earlier this month.  
—Cindy Moss

In memory of Scout, pet of Deborah  
Jones of Copperas Cove  
—Jean Chapoton

In loving memory of Goldie, our  
dear companion for over 14 years.  
Till we meet again...missing you...  
—Love, Leslie & Lauren Botts

In memory of Corina Enriquez.  
—Judy Brown

In loving memory of Dee Dee Balch.  
—Susan Culp

In memory of our Murphy. The  
Greatest dog ever. Thank you and  
GRR for blessing us. We will miss  
you.  
—Eric & Sharon Sutton

In memory of Dusty Bottoms.  
Loving companion for 6 1/2 years to  
Thad and Lynn Ziegler.  
—Carol Hebdon

In memory of (and in honor of)  
"Beast" Phelan.  
—Susan Culp

In loving memory of Hailey  
Lastinger, who found her Prince  
Charming through Gold Ribbon  
Rescue.  
—Lonni Swanson

In memory of Hailey, a shining  
tribute to how wonderful the  
human/canine bond can be.  
—Kathy Simmons

In memory of our two GRR  
Goldens, Shadow and Oatey. Both  
were so very special and they will  
always be missed and loved.  
—John & Jane Robinson

In memory of Lacy (GRR #02-068).  
—Kelley Hively

In memory of Kelsey and Tasha ~  
beloved Goldens of Kathy Heck and  
Angie Adams. We will see you at  
the Bridge.  
—Jackie Foresman

To EGF in loving memory of #06-  
120 Hank Schreve, age 16. The last  
two years were the best!  
—Becky LaBrum

To EGF in memory of Desilu  
Bernfeld.  
—Nicole Belleville

In memory of Gingie & John.  
—Mary Tyler Carter

In memory of Happy Hour Beauty in  
the Beast owned by Maura Phelan  
and loved also by and lovingly  
remembered as Beasty.  
—Linda Willard and  
Highmark Golden Retrievers

In memory of Zeus.  
—Hillary Boerio

In memory of Synda Thomas. We  
will see you at every lake party.  
Your fun, brave spirit will be with  
us. You may not have been a full  
Golden, but you were pure gold  
to us.  
—Love, Terri & Dan Gilbert

In memory of our beloved Golden,  
Maxwell Reid.  
—Melinda Reid

In loving memory of our grinning  
boy, Rusty (03-013)—may the  
squirrels be just a little slower  
where you are. We miss you terribly.  
—The Forsythe Family

To EGF in memory of Tom Meyer.  
—Robert & Barbara Meyer

## Golden Honors

In honor of Julie Coyle  
—Suzanne Sauer

In Honor of Reggie  
—T.D. & M.R. Brown

In honor of Tracy and Dale  
Gundy for Christmas  
—Peter Gundy

In honor of Annabelle  
—Kaye Dunn

In Honor of the Evans Family  
Gregg, Kathy & Jamie  
—From the Gunter Family  
Chris, Alice & Carley

In honor of my boss...  
—Jennifer Biggs

# When Your Golden Dies

By Pat Capin

Pat, one of our matchmakers and transport & evaluation volunteer extraordinaire, wrote this after her Golden Bear died—and before adopting GRR Golden Dolly, Riley, and Timmy.

When your Golden dies...

\*You will always know where your sock pairs are. That goes for shoes, too. \*Your Kleenex box and (sadly) used Kleenex will be safe from further assault. So, too, will be your trash! \*The bedclothes “cover-monster” will no longer find toes, fingers, elbows to chew on gently. \*Don’t worry about being awakened at all hours—her collar tags and floppy ears will no longer raise a ruckus. \*U.S. and International Mail (she makes no distinction), carelessly flung through your door, laid on a countertop, or left on a coffee table, will be forever safe. \*Newly-opened bars of soap will no longer sport small tooth marks (canine teeth only) from your curious pal. \*Your cleaning lady will be stunned that the house isn’t a “fur-zone” wreck. \*Your windows will no longer sport numerous nose smears, AKA “a Golden’s love of the errant moth on the OTHER side of the glass.” \*You can leave a steak within 2 inches of the counter-top edge—it’s safe, finally, after all these years. \*Go ahead, use the Blue Stuff – she’s not there any more to drink toilet-bowl water. \*Plant all the young plants you want—they are now safe—she’s no longer “investigating.” \*Plan a major Christmas party—she won’t be lying under the glass-topped table to “haunt” your guests. \*Plan to walk from your sink to the refrigerator, from the sink to the oven, from the sink to the stove, from the sink to the pantry without tripping over a Golden.

...but if you hate the fact that all of the above is now possible or available to you, get another Golden and start the search for your socks & Kleenex, safeguard the odd lamb roast, get out the Windex, get rid of the Blue Stuff, put the mail and other important papers way away, get your act together... and get another Golden!

Bear, our Golden, you were the best!!!!!! And because you were such an incredible ambassador for your breed, we are going to get another one (or two) Golden.

This one’s for you...

Love,  
Mom and Dad

## Notes From the Intake Team... (continued from Pg 2)

steer them to serious hobby breeders like our president, Maura Phelan—those who breed dogs out of love for the breed and a desire to better it. Responsible breeders have spay/neuter contracts. They get medical clearances on their breeding stock to avoid passing on inherited health problems. They contractually agree to take back any of their puppies, for the lifetime of the pet.

**Educate whenever you can.** Tell people WHY backyard breeding is bad—as someone involved in rescue, you are in a position to know. Explain the importance of spay & neuter—no, it doesn’t make dogs fat and lazy; no, female dogs don’t have to have “just one litter” to be healthy & well-adjusted in later life (or to let the kids witness the miracle of birth). Talk about crate training, obedience training, and making the dog part of the family. That 9-month-old Golden doesn’t have to be an outdoors-only, furry rocketship who goes nuts when anyone steps out the door! Good information can make the difference between an unhappy family with an out-of-control dog (who is likely to wind up at

the pound) and a happy home with a well-behaved canine family member.

**Volunteer however you can.** GRR is so fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers and such a supportive community. In mid-January, we took in four starving Golden who had lived alone in a home for nearly 6 weeks after their owner passed away. When their story was posted on our website, the outpouring of donations and good wishes was nothing short of staggering. We’re very lucky to have you all! At this time—as always, it seems—we’d like to urge anyone who can foster a Golden to please step up. Things are so tight right now! If you can manage respite care, let us know about that as well—with summer coming up fast, we’ll need “vacation spots” for foster dogs for sure. If you’d like to help in other ways, please let us know what you can do.

Here’s hoping that we DON’T have a 200-dog year—but if we do, we’ll manage somehow, with the help of our volunteers, our vets, and our community. Thanks so much to all of you. 

## TIPS FOR A FUN AND SAFE DAY AT THE DOG PARK

(continued from Pg 5)

If your dog is fearful or aggressive around other dogs, a dog park isn’t a good environment for him.

### **Be sure you & your dog know the basics.**

Learn how to perform proper dog introductions, to keep things harmonious. Teach your dog recall: if you call her name and tell her to come, she should immediately respond and return to you. Teach her “sit” and “leave it/drop it” as well.

**Save treats (and toys) for later.** In an already highly stimulating situation, there’s just too much potential for dogs to engage in guarding or stealing behavior that can lead to aggression and fights.

**Remember it’s a dog park, not a kid park or a people park.** Keep a close eye on your children. And never bring a picnic to a dog park and expect to sit and eat it yourself (see above, about the problem with treats!).

**Make sure the dog park isn’t your dog’s only form of entertainment.** If the park is the only outlet for fun, your dog may become overly excited at arrival.

### **What if the dog park isn’t right for my dog—what other fun things can we do?**

Dog parks can be too overwhelming for dogs who are fearful around lots of other strange canines. If the dog’s tail is tucked under nervously, ears are back, and she/he seems to feel that “the best defense is a good offense,” the park isn’t a happy place to be! Maybe your dog would rather go on a walk or run with you, or play a rousing game of fetch. Agility or obedience classes might be great, too—in these environments, dogs get to be around others, but the activity is structured and the dogs have a “job” to do, so they can’t worry so much about all those other dogs.

Dog parks provide a fantastic opportunity for off-leash play when owners are alert and conscientious. Few things can tire out your dog as successfully as a canine playmate. With a few precautions, your Golden can play, play, play at the dog park with the only end result being a sleepy, happy (and probably dirty!) dog. 

# Wet and Wild —Golden Style!

Is your Golden ready for a splashing good time? Then mark your calendars and sign up on our website for the 7th annual *“Shake, Paddle, and Roll”* swimfest, to be held on *May 30th* from 9:30am to 11:30am at Happy Hour Farms. Golden Retrievers, get ready to swim, dive, and splash in the pond! Humans, come have breakfast; Rudy’s BBQ will once again treat us all to breakfast tacos. And bring some extra cash, as we’ll have some terrific \$1 raffles. For more information and directions, go to [www.grr-tx.com](http://www.grr-tx.com). Hope to see all you Golden Retrievers out there!



**Gold Ribbon Rescue**  
**PO Box 956**  
**Austin, TX 78767-0956**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join GRR or renew your  
membership online at:  
[http://grr-tx.com/  
membership.htm](http://grr-tx.com/membership.htm)

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