



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas July 2006 21st Edition

Letter from GRR's President —
Maura Phelan

Heartworm Positive Goldens Create Foster Home Shortage

This month the GRR board was very sad to lose a long-time board member, Brenda Forsythe, but very happy that she agreed to become part of our advisory board and continue her work for GRR—most notably THIS newsletter! And a big welcome to our newest board member, Mike Chamberlain. Mike has worked tirelessly for GRR, acting as medical coordinator, foster home, home visitor, transport volunteer, foster coordinator, and any other duties you can think of! Thank you both for all your wonderful work for the Goldens.

As we reach yet another summer and suffer through the mosquitoes and heat, GRR is also hitting record highs for the number of heartworm-positive dogs in care. Heartworms are NASTY—and the treatment is long and arduous and requiring that the dog have very limited

The greatness of a nation
and its moral progress can
be judged by the way its
animals are treated.

—Gandhi



activity and very intensive supervision. To treat heartworms, we essentially inject our dogs with poison to kill the worms, while monitoring closely to be sure that the effects aren't so overwhelming as to put the dog in peril. The treatment is expensive, and these dogs are in foster care for a long while, unable to be adopted until we are sure they will recover. You know what that means—an even greater shortage of foster space than usual! PLEASE keep up with heartworm preventative for your dog—you do not want to make him go through the marathon of HW treatment, or have his life cut short by a disease that's so easy to prevent. And please be sure that you are dosing your dog correctly—check his or her weight!

Everyone has seen costs rising, and GRR is not immune. Our average cost per dog has risen to over \$277 (and many cost much more). To help offset our increasing expenses, our adoption fees are rising to \$275 for dogs up to age 8, \$150 for seniors (ages 8 and above). The board hopes that this increase will help us keep up with the bills (or at least not fall too far behind!).

And speaking of immunity, be sure to read Margo's article about vaccinations. This is info that all of us need to know! Have a great summer, keep cool and hug the puppies!

—Maura



Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

24-Hour Hotline:
(512) 659-GOLD

www.GRR-TX.com

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**GRR Needs YOU!
Volunteer@GRR-TX.com**



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.

Brian & Karen Shofner

Brian and Karen attended our volunteer training session in the spring of 2005—and their foster-home interview was conducted right there on the spot! Big Red Fred, their very first foster dog, arrived soon afterwards. Fred turned out to be HW positive, and we worried he might be too much for a first foster—but they wouldn't hear of turning Fred away, even though he was there for a few months... in fact, while he was still in residence, they fostered two MORE dogs, Phil and Purdy Molly, and saw them off to their forever homes. All this with two dogs of their own, Baylor (a Golden) and General (a Blue Heeler mix)!

Besides fostering, the Shofners help out with intake evaluations, transport, San Antonio shelter visits, and just about anything else we ask them to do. Late one evening, we found out about a lively young Golden girl being kept by a wheelchair-bound Good Samaritan who was afraid the dog might accidentally injure her with her enthusiastic leaping around. Brian and Karen immediately drove across town and brought "Baby" home with them—and kept her until her owner was found a day or two later.

Brian and Karen are so willing to do anything at a moment's notice to help dogs in need! When I told them about Purdy Molly, they were so excited about fostering her that they drove 45 minutes to collect her a day early—even though

the Good Samaritans who'd found her were ready to drive her into town the next day.

The Shofners' current project is Hailey, a whopper of a dog who needs to lose about 50 pounds! We're all looking forward to reading her "diet diary"—anyone who checks the website often is sure to enjoy the wonderful stories Brian writes up for his foster Golden.

Brian and Karen, thank you for all you do for Gold Ribbon Rescue!



Gary Schaffer

Now here's a guy who's lost his head for the love of Golden Retrievers! Thanks to Gary for his willingness to be our bunny year after year (shhhh, don't tell the kids), and for being so helpful behind the scenes with all of the wonderful events throughout the year. Ah yes, Gary is married to Susie—who happens to be our Event Planner Extraordinaire—which means his "honey-do's" go far beyond the normal household chores. In addition to all of the work Gary puts in to helping make our events a smash hit, he's also a terrific foster Dad!



Row Row Row your dog, gently down Town Lake....

On April 11th, that's exactly what they did—rowed their Golden Retrievers down Town Lake in Austin. The event was so much fun that we're heading to Town Lake again in the fall. Because of the nature of this event—kayaking—we can only have groups of 25 participate at a time. The next kayaking adventure is scheduled for November 11th from 10am until noon.

This special event is \$20 per kayak. Only one dog and one human per kayak. Can you just imagine trying to put a couple of Golden Retrievers in one kayak? You might just "feel" more of the lake than you bargained for! Check our website under "Events" for suggestions on what to bring and how to keep yourself and your dog safe on the water.

RSVP on line at:
www.GRR-TX.com/events



Foster Family Plea Nets Golden Angels

by Emily Tuczkowski

THANK YOU FOR FOSTERING


All of us at Gold Ribbon Rescue would like to send our HEARTFELT thanks and appreciation to everyone who answered our foster plea letter this summer. Without your help, many of the Golden Retrievers in our care would not have been saved. You are all our GOLDEN ANGELS!

Cindy and Martin Berdan
Paula Britton
Kendle and Brian Combs-Babenek
Jana and David Deming
Mitch Feazel
Diana Kenna
Maradee and Rick Kitslaar
Jennifer Marrs

Brenda and Paul Mason
Nancy McGowan
Patricia and James Medlock
Sandy and Patrick Rasavage
Jane and John Robinson
Kelly and Sarah Ross
Leslie and Robert Rubenstein
Susanna Russell
Lisa and David Savage
Dorothy and Winfried Scheel
Kelley and Bill Schiesler
Laura and David Shimer
Corina Enriquez and Roy Shrove
Gwen and Drew Stovall
Connie and Matt Sullivan
Barry and Marsha Thweatt
Kristen and Rodney Toben
Brian Walters
Tracy and Michael Wencka

If you haven't had the Golden opportunity to foster yet, just wait... we'll be calling you shortly. And for everyone who offered to provide short-term respite care this summer, we have your number!

For everyone who has fostered and done respite care, we sincerely hope the experience has been a rewarding one. And we ask you and everyone to remember us next year—and throughout the year. The wonderful Golden bundle of joy at your feet doubtless came to you thanks to the help of yet another Golden Angel. It's a great feeling to do the same favor for another eagerly waiting adoptive family!

Once again, we can't thank you enough! 



Golden Health**Vaccinations: Too Many, Too Often?**

by Margo Biba

GRR Co-Director of Education

Having been a “dog parent” for 20 Golden Retrievers and foster parent to 150+ rescue dogs, I’ve always kept their health as a primary focus. In the 1980s, Gary & I noticed that our Golden Retrievers weren’t living very long—to age 8 or 10. We had always been diligent about taking them for annual vaccinations, both as pups and then throughout their lives. As pups, they received many vaccinations & boosters for a multitude of illnesses; and once they grew up, we never strayed from their every-12-month vaccination schedule. So why was their health less than stellar? Why did they develop allergies and low thyroid and cancer? Why didn’t they live longer?



Many dogs later, we’ve hit upon simple changes that make a real difference: better quality foods, dietary supplements, chemical-free lawn & pest control, and a reduction in vaccinations. Our Golden Retrievers are living—consistently—to age 13 or 14, or even 15. Even better, they have spectacular quality of life. They are bright-eyed and amazingly energetic. Keep in mind that many of these oldsters came to GRR after eating poor-quality foods and having sub-par health care. Or the opposite—they’d been given too many vaccinations, too often.



Take heart. You too can boost your dog’s immune system, whether you start with a young pup or adopt an adult or senior. One place to start is by examining your particular dog’s vaccination schedule with your veterinarian. A reduction in the variety of vaccines and their frequency may very well result in a healthier, longer-lived pal.

Vaccination frequency

Until recently, annual vaccinations were considered necessary for dogs’ health & well-being: if some vaccinations were good, more must be better. New research, however, points toward problems with over-vaccination—giving too much, too often.

The larger picture is something called vaccinosis, the result of the body’s immune system being overwhelmed by vaccines. Short- to mid-term symptoms can include fever, sore joints, susceptibility to infections, and other problems. Long-term symptoms may range from serious allergies and low thyroid (so prevalent in our Golden Retrievers) to epilepsy, seizures, aggression, gastrointestinal issues, bleeding disorders, and other inflammatory & chronic illnesses.

Increasing numbers of veterinary experts recommend giving fewer vaccines to our dogs. After all, we humans all had a series of shots as children, but no one is suggesting we get those same shots annually for the rest of our lives!

Dr. Jean Dodds, a highly respected veterinary hematologist and immunologist in California, pioneered the vaccine debate decades ago and is now considered one of the leading authorities on canine vaccine protocols. According to Dr. Dodds, many recent studies confirm that the vast majority of dogs, in most cases at least

95% of the subjects, retain immunity for many years after receiving vaccines.

“Core” vaccines

Vaccines are available for more than two dozen diseases, but very few dogs are at risk for most of these ailments. It makes sense to talk to your vet, evaluating which diseases pose the greatest risk for your area and your dog’s particular situation. Ronald D. Schultz, Ph.D, who chairs the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, is one of the country’s leading experts on veterinary vaccines. He suggests limiting vaccinations to diseases that are highly contagious and potentially fatal:

- Canine parvovirus type 2 (CPV-2)
- Canine distemper virus (CDV)
- Canine adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2)
- Rabies

Spreading core vaccines over several veterinary appointments further decreases risk of adverse reaction. “Separating the administration of any vaccines by a 4-week interval is always wise,” comments Marcia Van Brunt, DVM, of Austin.

“Non-core” vaccines & “not recommended” vaccines

Non-core vaccines are those which should be given only to dogs who need them, and only as often as needed, according to Dr. Schultz and others. An example of a non-core vaccine is leptospirosis. It has a short protection time (less than one year), and to provide full coverage, the vaccine must include all four strains of the disease—with the added complication that new strains are appearing all the time. Leptospirosis has not been seen much in Central Texas until recently, possibly because show dogs are bringing it back from other states. But for now, leptospirosis vaccination is not indicated for the typical family pet. And what’s more, “Many dogs have reactions

to leptospirosis vaccine,” says Catherine Nairn, DVM, of Austin. It is noted that Golden Retrievers are more susceptible to reactions to leptospirosis, therefore it is *not* recommended by GRR.

Both coronavirus & the new vaccine against giardiasis (an intestinal protozoal infection) are repeatedly mentioned as “not recommended.” According to Dr. Schultz, “To date, no one can demonstrate a benefit for coronavirus vaccine.” Many experts feel that giardiasis does not pose sufficient risk to justify vaccination.

Rabies vaccinations

Rabies is the only vaccination required by the State of Texas. In 2003, the State changed a two-decade-old requirement for annual rabies vaccinations, decreeing that dogs and cats could now wait 3 years between shots. The change delighted vets and pet owners.

In the case of elderly or ill dogs, an exception to the rabies vaccination requirement is sometimes made if the owner is highly motivated. This generally requires a high antibody titer test and a letter from the dog’s primary veterinarian, stating that in the vet’s opinion, a rabies vaccination would likely result in irreversible health problems.

When to avoid or delay vaccinations

Label directions warn veterinarians not to vaccinate a sick animal, and Stacey Hershman, DVM, a holistic veterinarian in New York, includes injured or stressed animals in that caution. “Vaccinating a dog who’s being spayed, neutered, or treated for an injury is totally irresponsible,” she says. “You want the animal to be healthy, not in a weakened, vulnerable state, when you introduce substances designed to

challenge the immune system.” Elderly dogs are particularly at risk. Dr. Dodds believes that after 10 years of age booster vaccines are generally not needed and may even be unwise.

Should we stop vaccinating entirely?

In some cases, owners or breeders do not vaccinate at all, out of concern for their dogs’ immune systems. This decision cannot be taken lightly. In general, certain vaccinations are necessary and important in protecting your dog’s health. In particular, Texas requires vaccination for rabies. The key is to limit the kind and frequency of vaccinations.

What you can do

According to Whole Dog Journal, a monthly newsletter of holistic healthcare and positive training methods:

- Talk to your veterinarian and be extremely cautious before you vaccinate a dog who is elderly, sick, injured, has a chronic health condition, has a family history of sensitivity to vaccines or other drugs, or is a member of a breed known to be at risk for immunological reactions. (Golden Retrievers are one of those breeds.)



- Vaccinate only for “clinically important” diseases or those that are a real threat to your dog, such as distemper and parvovirus; and in cases where vaccination is required by law, as for rabies.
- For dogs older than one year, consider measuring your dog’s serum antibody titers, using a blood test (see box, below).

Editor’s Note: GRR has a strict policy (stated in our adoption contract) that all Golden Retrievers adopted through GRR be kept up to date on vaccinations for DHLPP, parvovirus, and rabies. Keep them safe, keep them healthy, and help them live longer.



Titer Tests

Titer testing involves taking blood to check the level of circulating antibodies from previous vaccinations and natural exposure to disease agents; this is thought to provide an index to the dog’s overall immunocompetence. There’s a lot of controversy around titers, concerning their cost and whether they’re even necessary, so discuss the subject with your vet; she or he can give advice pertinent to your dog in particular. Some veterinarians, such as Dr. Dodds, suggest annual titering for just two vaccines, distemper and parvovirus, to assess the dog’s overall ability to fight those diseases and others.



Success Stories**One Man's "Dumpee," Another's Golden Treasure**

by Becky LaBrum

"Where does GRR get its Golden Retrievers?" That's a question we often hear. The answer: some dogs come to us from shelters; some are turned in by their owners; and some are strays brought to us by Good Samaritans. And among those strays are "dumped dogs"—Golden Retrievers left behind at empty houses after their owners moved, or dropped off out in the country and left to fend for themselves. There's another kind of dumped Golden, too—dogs checked in at vet clinics and then simply never picked up again. It's hard to imagine, but all too real.

Here are a few of the "dumpees" who have come through our doors in the past several years. They're safe and sound now!

#03-123 Cecelia, age 7

From Cecelia's surrender form: PREVIOUS HOMES: Unknown. Good Samaritan found the dog on Thanksgiving Day. She lives out in a pretty rural area; her neighbors said they had seen the girl wandering around for about 3 days prior. Dog had on a collar but no tags. Neighbors also said that when they saw her, they went to get their gun to shoot her, but when they got back out again, she was gone. This is the country and people do shoot stray dogs.

After coming into care, skinny Cecelia was found to be much younger than she looked, but it was plain that she had had quite a few litters. Best guess is that she was a breeding dog who was simply left at the roadside when she was "worn out."

Nearly three years later, Cecelia is a real beauty queen who has been our "grooming demo" dog at several orientation sessions! Here's more from her owner Winn:

The first time I saw Cecelia I thought she had a month to live, maybe two. In November 2003, GRR was called by some Good Samaritans in Lexington, a ranching community out near Elgin, about a female Golden Retriever they had found sleeping in their horse barn.



Cecelia

When we got there, we found a very thin, very friendly girl with a cough and a fist-sized mammary tumor hanging from her belly. I figured that, as big as it was, it must have metastasized into her lungs and elsewhere. This poor dog—no name, no history, and a seeming death sentence—and all she wanted was some attention. The sweet girl, I think she won me right there.

We brought her to Griffith Animal Hospital to get checked out. The vet was very concerned about the tumor, the cough, and the way her lungs sounded through the stethoscope. Before abandoning hope, she decided to take chest X-rays, if only to confirm the worst. Cecelia deserved this much. Miraculously, the films showed no cancer! Her lungs sounded raspy because she'd been sleeping in hay and breathing in the dust. We gave her some time to gain weight and strength, and then she had a radical mastectomy—a 4-hour procedure. She came home, recuperated, and began settling into her new world. I adopted her, of course. I check her each month for any recurrence of the cancer. So far, so good (knock on wood).

So, after a life apparently filled with much neglect, and ultimately abandonment, she's landed somewhere safe. With a warm, soft bed, plenty to eat, a Golden brother and sister... and a person at whose return she always rejoices.

#04-045 Dash (GRR name Buddy), age 3

Dash was brought into GRR by our Adoption Director, Kathy Simmons: "Dash was a scrawny 9-month-old dumpee out in Somerset. My mother-in-law worked for a road construction company located out in the middle of nowhere, and dogs were always abandoned out there and showing up in the construction yard. She (thankfully) refrained from telling me about most of them, but since Dash was a GR she called me and I promptly left work and went over and got him—the rest is history." That was in late May 2004. Two years later, Dash is happily settled into his forever home. Mom Sandy says:

It's been 2 years since Dash became a member of our family, and he does everything with gusto! Whether he's chasing a ball, pursuing a bird, or trying to catch a spray of water from the hose, he runs and jumps, twists and turns, and will nearly flip over backwards in the attempt. He's added 25 lbs to his no longer skinny frame, but he's never quite got the longer coat normal to Golden Retrievers. He has always been extremely gentle with our three kids; every night you'll find him on the



Dash

foot of our 6-year-old son's bed, listening to bedtime stories. Over the years, he has also been a mentor to several GRR foster dogs, teaching them the ropes of living indoors for the first time. And last year, we added that second dog to our family by adopting another GRR pup. Now Dash and sister Trixie play together, fetch baseballs when the kids practice batting in the



backyard, and camp out in front of the TV for a nap. And of course he loves what has to be every Golden's favorite hobby: cleaning up food dropped accidentally from the counter or table.

One day, about 4 months after we adopted Dash, I heard him at the window barking at the neighbor's dog across the street. It made me smile as I realized that his barking meant one thing: this was his home and his family, and he wanted the whole world to know that he was here to stay.

See more of Dash at www.grr-tx.com/adoption/success_stories/july2006.htm.



Sadie

#05-039 Sadie (GRR name Pollyanna), age 2

Sadie's story began outside a warehouse in Leander last spring, where a Good Samaritan noticed her hiding in the bushes. Collar on. Tags on. Two days later, there she still was, minus the tags. After a week of feeding her—which entailed patiently coaxing the shy, uncertain little girl out from her hiding place—and unsuccessfully looking for an owner, he called Gold Ribbon Rescue. Soon the little dog arrived in her foster home and was given a name, Pollyanna, and a GRR number (go to <http://www.grr-tx.com/adoption/2005/05039pollyanna/pollyanna3.htm> to see her original pictures). Fast forward to a year later. Pollyanna is "Sadie" now and doing great:

When Sadie came in, she was aptly described by "How do you solve a problem like Maria?", if you remember the song from *The Sound of Music*. Since her foster mom happens to like "flibbertigib-

bets," she has remained in her foster home—which is now her forever home. :-) There are nights I try to imagine where she came from. And I think about what a wonderful girl her original owners missed out on.

Did she just get lost? And subsequently lose her tags? She is very much an "at my side" kind of girl, so it's hard to imagine she dug out from under a fence, unless the owners kept her as an outside dog. Like all Golden's, she's very people-oriented and gravitates towards wherever the "people-action" is!

Did someone dump her because of her puppy antics? She came in a chewing, jumping, whirling dervish. Was all that just much more than they bargained for? A Golden under age 1 is still a puppy and simply doesn't act like a sedate senior, something not everyone realizes. Whatever the reason... She's 2 years old now, but at times I still find myself humming, "How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?" Her brother and sister, also GRR rescue dogs, and I would have it no other way.

From hiding behind the bushes near a warehouse to taking a nap on mom's very own pillow before mom comes home for lunch, Sadie's come full circle. She, as well as all of our "dumped" dogs, serves as a wonderful lesson to anyone interested in buying or adopting a dog: *Know the breed that you are adopting—their energy levels, their need to be with their people v. being left isolated outdoors—and understand that the perfect dog you've seen on TV wasn't just "made that way." Many hours of work, patience, and dedication went into "making" that perfect dog. The puppy you adopt needs to be similarly molded. She isn't just born that way.*

Now, let's see if I can wrestle my pillow back

#05-079 Mulligan, age 6

Mulligan was left at a Leander golf course one day last June: players arriving early in the morning discovered him taking a leisurely swim in the water hazard, for all the world like a very large fur mermaid. Persuaded to emerge from his "pool," the

super-sized bathing beauty (a whopping 120 pounds!) rode back to the clubhouse in a golf cart. Where had he come from? It's a mystery. Nobody had seen him before... but he proved to be housebroken, well socialized, and well behaved on a leash. After a month or two in foster care to get a few lumps and bumps removed and kick-start a much-needed diet, Mully moved in with new mom Carol. Here is her update:



Mulligan

When we first brought Mulligan home, he walked around for a few minutes and then lay right down like he owned the place. If we left, he would be howling when we returned... afraid he had been abandoned again. But now, he knows the routine. We go for a walk around the neighborhood every morning before work. Then he settles right down on his big pillow until we return. He made friends with our cats, though we did have to make a special inside cat door so he can't get to their food or litter box! Mulligan is truly a gentle giant, and he follows me around the house no matter WHERE I am. He sleeps right by my bed and is a great watchdog. Every child in the neighborhood knows his name and waits for us to stop and say hello. He has lost a little bit more weight since we got him, but many more inches. He eats his meals in just over a minute flat. He loves almost every raw vegetable there is. He is well-trained and polite on his leash, and he loves to be combed and groomed. People say he is huge, but to us, he is just ... Mulligan!

See more of Mulligan at www.grr-tx.com/adoption/success_stories/july2006.htm.

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Golden Afternoon at Zilker Park 2006

No matter whether we were meeting new friends or greeting old ones, everyone seemed to have a great time surrounded by so many Golden Retrievers. Thanks to the following for donating their merchandise or services to help make our annual picnic a wonderful success:

Austin Java, Alamo Draft House, Benihana, Cinemark, Dirty Dog, Josh McKernan, Mud Puppies, Rockfish Restaurant, Seize the Day and Texadelphia.



After a Greyhound demonstration of speed, the Golden Retrievers had their speed clocked too. Ah... just a tad slower than the Greyhounds!



A young picnicker parades her rescued Golden—or is her Golden parading her?



At left: Patrick Boicourt brought Monsieur Bailey—the Singing Dog—to entertain the crowd by performing his Cajun Greatest Hits. Bailey showed off his talent for Zydeco singing—much to everyone’s amazement. Look out American Idol!



Martin and Chris (shown above) grilled up some great burgers and “dogs”—the edible kind! Thanks to the entire team for managing to feed a Golden army: Sandy Balch, Kathy Hidajat (Golden Bakery Chef!) and Jan Kuhl. And a special thanks to Debbie Gower and Maura Phelan for their grooming expertise!

Shake Paddle & Roll



Check out the fantastic photos taken at the annual Swimfest held on May 20th on the website under Events. Special thanks to **PF Changs** and **HEB** for donating a gift certificates and a huge THANK YOU to **Rudy’s BBQ and Country Store** for donating 125 breakfast tacos!



Rescued, Fostered & Adopted

The list below covers dogs adopted from March 1 through June 30th. Incredible isn't it?! It takes a dedicated community of Golden friends to pull this off—but it simply wouldn't happen without the incredible foster families that open their home and hearts to these dogs. A special thanks to Becky LaBrum for her detailed weekly updates to the team and for compiling this list.

GRR #	Name	Age*	GRR #	Name	Age*
#04-060	Cleo	4	#06-029	Beau	2
#04-085	Molly	7	#06-033	Shadow II	6
#04-111	Ray	5	#06-034	Phil	5
#04-113	Rocky	5	#06-035	Daisy	2
#05-114	General	2	#06-037	Fred	2
#05-154	Lani	5	#06-039	Tony	1 ½
#05-159	Harley	1	#06-040	Lago	9 weeks
#05-167	Holly	10	#06-041	Ginger Snap	4 mths
#06-001	Jodie	2	#06-045	Pete	2
#06-008	Molly	8	#06-046	Jack	1 ½
#06-013	Teddy	3 ½	#06-047	Daisy	4
#06-014	Dixie	3	#06-048	Sadie	10 weeks
#06-015	J.T.	1	#06-049	Star	1
#06-016	Champ	7	#06-050	Eddu	4
#06-017	Marco	8	#06-051	Maggie	1
#06-021	Sam	1	#06-052	Buddy	2 ½
#06-022	Luke (Murphy)	2	#06-054	Rowan	2
#06-023	Sally	10 mths.	#06-056	Marilynne	2
#06-024	Charlie	2	#06-058	Adrienne	7 ½
#06-025	River	1 ½	#06-059	Purdy Molly	1
#06-026	Lando	1 ½	#06-061	Georgia	6
#06-027	Pippa	8			
#06-028	Winston	8 mths			

*Some ages listed are approximate.

Extraordinary Golden Fund

Heavy Hearts—Literally

If only a heart of gold were enough to protect our dogs from heartworms!

This summer, we have taken in a record number of heartworm-positive Golden Retrievers, all of whom will need treatment before they are ready for their forever homes. Some of these wonderful dogs need time to gain or lose weight or just get healthier overall before they can begin their treatment. But in time—maybe a month or two, maybe a good bit longer—they'll be healthy and ready to fly out the adoption door!

For just about \$10 to \$12 a month—the cost of Heartgard, Revolution or Sentinel—heartworm infestation can be prevented. The price tag for missing those monthly meds? On average, GRR spends about \$650.00 per Golden for heartworm treatment—and it can be pretty hard on the dog.

We currently have 11 dogs in foster care undergoing heartworm treatment. Our adoption fees don't come close to paying for the heartworm treatment and when you factor in vaccination and spay/neuter costs—well, it gets pretty expensive. Your generous donations to our Extraordinary

GREAT VETS!

GRR wishes to thank these animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. Please show them your support and tell them "Thanks for helping GRR!" next time you're in one of their offices.

Animal Trustees of Austin

Castlerock Pet Hospital

Central Texas Specialty Veterinary Hospital

Century Animal Hospital

Country Hills Vet Clinic

Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin

Griffith Small Animal Hospital

Highway 620 Animal Hospital

Lakeline Animal Care

Lincoln Heights Pet Hospital—San Antonio


Pet Medical Center of San Antonio — Dr. Scott Weeks

Pets First — San Antonio

San Marcos Vet Clinic

White Rock Veterinary Hospital

Golden Fund make all the difference. Keep giving! You can visit the adoptable foster dogs undergoing heartworm treatment on our website at: www.GRR-TX.com/adoption

Has your dog had his heartworm preventative this month? 



Memberships, Donations Save Lives

Editor's note: You know it's another great day for rescue when I'm increasing the space in this newsletter to list all of the generous donors. This is a challenge I welcome each and every time I put this newsletter together. Without your generosity we simply couldn't do what we do—day in and day out. Sometimes, we inadvertently miss someone's donation that may have come in during the actual printing production time, or misspell someone's name. If we've missed your donation or misspelled your name in a prior issue, please email me at brendaf@grr-tx.com so that we can correct it. And, remember to check your membership renewal date listed on the mailing label of this newsletter. You can renew at www.GRR-tx.com Thank You!!



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Toga Hartadinata

Extraordinary Golden Fund

Many Golden retrievers with atypical medical needs find their way to rescue. Our adoption fees can't cover the costs, even with the generous discounts provided by our area veterinarians. Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden retrievers with high medical costs, the Extraordinary Golden Fund was created. Donations made to the EGF are strictly used for atypical medical treatments of Golden retrievers in need. Visit <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/egf.htm> for information on the Golden retrievers who are being helped today thanks to your generosity.

Thomas Doughty
 Emily Downward
 Peter Flad & John Holland
 Robb & Micki Miller
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 Sandy & Patrick Rasavage
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Gold Ribbon Donor Club

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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. It's easy, secure and absolutely painless!

Thank you for your support!

All donations, large and small, do make a big difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted GR's in Central Texas. Your donation is fully deductible as a non-profit donation—we are a 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the IRS.

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

GoodSearch—More GRREAT Ways to Help Golden Retrievers

There are several ways to donate to Gold Ribbon Rescue without even dipping into your wallet. It's true! If you shop at Randall's, purchase your dog food through Flint River Ranch or shop online using IGIVE, a donation is made to Gold Ribbon Rescue without any additional cost to you. Check out these amounts received in the last three months:

Flint River Ranch: \$368.79

IGIVE: \$249.94

Randall's: \$113.64

Thanks to everyone who has participated

in these wonderful programs. But that's not all. There are now even more companies willing to help animal rescue organizations, like 1-800-PetMeds, Dogwise, and now GoodSearch.

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that will donate half of its advertising revenue to your choice of animal rescues. Of course, we hope you will designate Gold Ribbon Rescue as your charity.

The major search engines generated close to \$6 billion in revenue last year. Just think

how many animals could be saved with even a fraction of this money!

GoodSearch.com is powered by one of the top search engines, so it works great. It has also been featured in many major publications, including the *New York Times*, *Oprah* magazine and the *Wall Street Journal*. This doesn't cost you a thing—the money comes from the advertisers.

So start GoodSearching today and start spreading the word!





In Memory of
Donovon Beer
The Nichols Family

In Loving Memory of
Sassy's Golden Thunder
who would have been 16 today (3-30-06)
John & Liz Horne

In Memory of
Montana
Nancy Ross

In Memory of
Montana Martin
Emily Downward

In Memory of
Wrigley (GRR 01-105)
It's mighty lonesome around here since
you left us...we miss you!
Rambo, Tilly & Grady Salsman

In Memory of
Ernie
The Nichols Family

In Memory of
Dustin
Reina Bernfeld

In Memory of
Ernie
Nadine Harrison

In Memory of **Tim Tierney's Ernie**
He was an exceptional canine.
AlRae Huseman & Family

Golden Memorials

In Memory of
Daxter Peel
Denise & Joe Haley

In Memory of
Ernie
Nancy Siegal & Frances Perel

In Memory of
Ernie
Tim Tierney & Todd Harrison

To a great and worthy cause, in loving
memory of **Ernie**
Bryan Powell

For our loving and sensitive friend,
"Ernesto", who touched all who knew
him. He made us smile and had an
uncanny knack for knowing what we
needed. Just like His human caregivers,
Tim and Todd. Thank goodness for GRR
and good friends!
Stella and Alice Powell

To **Beth Freeman**:
We are so sorry about your loss.
Sage was very special to all of us.
Rod & Diana Hoesman

In Memory of our friend, **Ernie**.
Rusty and Simon

In Memory of our
Shadow (GRR 02-128)
Stoic, lovable and so much fun. You are so
special and one of the best.
We will miss you forever.
John & Jane Robinson

In Memory of
Sage
The Forsythe Family

In honor of **Donna**, Becky LaBrum and
Eric Mallin's golden

In honor of **Ernie**, Tim Tierney and Todd
Harrison's golden

In honor of **Sage**, Beth Freeman's golden
Gary and Susie Schaffer

In loving memory of
Donna
beloved Golden Girl of Becky LaBrum and
Eric Mallin. May she run with the wind
and be free as she greets all those who
enter the Rainbow Bridge.
Carolyn Whitten

In memory of
Kelsey
longtime, faithful canine
companion of Donna Hart
Carol Hunt

In memory of
Donna LaBrum
Eileen, Sam, Rusty & Miss Splash

Visit our memorials on line at:
www.grr-tx.com/memorial

Golden Honors

Happy Birthday Tim!!!
Marilynn Tierney

In honor of
Avelyn Ross & Gary Pfeffer
Krista Flynn

Dogs' lives are too short.
Their only fault, really.

—Agnes Sligh Turnbull,
Author



Success Stories—Continued**One Man's "Dumpee", Another's Golden Treasure****#06-057 Birdie, age 10**

This lovely senior was abandoned at a local vet clinic. She'd been brought in by a young man who called her "Lucky" and said he'd like to leave her for the day to be treated for itchy skin. One day went by, and then another, then a week, then two ... and the owner never came back.



Birdie

What's more, all the contact information he'd given was fictitious—including, apparently, the name "Lucky." We'll never know this Golden's real history, but we do know that she's a great girl with a wonderful, mellow temperament. She's still waiting for her forever home—and you can read more about her on our website. Just click on www.grr-tx.com/adoption.



Georgia

#06-061 Georgia, age 6

A Golden lover living in Kyle happened to see a pretty blonde at the shelter and alerted GRR. Could we possibly take her? Kathy Burton headed out the next day and sent pictures and a report: "This is

the lovely golden girl I met at the Kyle Shelter today. Previous owners had a house fire, moved away, and just abandoned her & two other dogs in the backyard—never came back for them. You can see where there's a burn on her side, apparently from flying cinders during the fire. The other two dogs have gone to border collie and sheltie rescues, and this gal is hoping to become a Gold Ribbon girl. She's a peach so I've given her the name of Georgia, makes me think of a refined Southern Belle."

You can imagine that it didn't take long to find a home for Georgia, nicknamed Sweet Georgia Brown by her foster family (because she's so sweet, of course!). New mom Alexis says:

Georgia is a dream dog. She has fit in so well, we feel as though we've had her for years! And the best news is, she really seems to love all of us. My sister has met her and just LOVES her. In fact, she too is now wanting to adopt. However, she wants one JUST like Georgia and I told her they certainly aren't all like her. Maybe someday another Georgia will come along though!


#05-167 Holly Golightly, age 10

Miss Holly Golightly was featured in one of our recent newsletters—she came into GRR in late December 2005, after a Good Samaritan couple noticed her hanging around an empty house for several weeks and finally learned that she'd been left behind when her owners moved away. Holly ended up being adopted by her foster family. She does have some older-dog arthritis, but she sure is having a good time in her new life! Mom Cindy says:

She is the BEST GIRL. We love having her around and she has never done anything wrong. She is a love and deserves the best treatment and love in her senior years. I went and bought some foam to make her bed more supportive. Soft on top with the cushion that was in it with some 2-inch foam underneath. She likes it and spends lots of time on it. We call Holly the stealth kisser because she will lick you really quick and surprise you. She is very



Holly

affectionate and all the grandkids love her." The photo above is a recent one, and Cindy comments, "I have been trying to get her to swim and strengthen those back legs, but she would rather do this! She found her favorite summer pastime on that float." 

If you have a GRR foster crate and have not received a tag to affix to the crate, please contact Tim Tierney at tjt@grr-tx.com. If you have a crate you would like to donate for our foster program, also contact Tim.

Medical Donations Needed

If you're holding on to canine medications that you no longer need, please consider donating them to Gold Ribbon Rescue. Email emilyt@grr-tx.com Following is a list of the most common medications used by our foster dogs:

- Cephalexin
- Thyroid meds (like Soloxine, of all various dosages)
- Rimadyl
- Malaseb shampoo
- Heartgard, Sentinel, Interceptor
- Frontline, Advantage
- Any joint care supplements



HELP AND FUNNIES FROM GRR COMMUNITY VIA EMAIL

Goldens and skin problems seem to go hand in hand, especially at this time of year. I try to tell my Golden to "stop that scratching!" but alas that doesn't help one little bit. The following emails from several of our volunteers do, however, provide some sound advice for dealing with an itchy problem. If you need advice, or would simply like to share a story with us, please send your emails to: brendaf@grr-tx.com

email to GRR, Subject: Skin Allergies:

Hi—My Golden, who I got from GRR in 2001, has really severe skin allergies. I've put him on a diet of lamb (Wellness), I've added a Dermcap to his food each day, and I've tried Benadryl. He does not seem to respond to anything except the cortisone shots from the vet. I really don't want to keep giving him these shots but would rather find an alterate solution. I'm really desperate! He scratches his hair off and just seems miserable. Has anyone had this issues and found a solution? I'd really appreciate any advice.

—Thanks, Lavanya

Replies from GRR:

Lavanya,

This has been an awful year for allergies for many of our Goldenes —I had to put one of mine on antibiotics for the first time in about 5 years because she gave herself an infection from all her biting and chewing. So, you are not alone! Lots of us have been struggling with these issues.

If Benadryl isn't cutting it (it often does not), there are more powerful prescription antihistamines which can sometimes help; I have had success with hydroxyzine (Atarax). There are several other things you can try. First of all, the Dermcaps and omega 3 capsules are a good idea; many vets like something called Three V's best of all. You might also put him on Hill's Z/D food from the vet; it is a hypoallergenic food and some allergy dogs do very well on it. If he is getting skin infections from scratching, you can try medicated baths with Malaseb shampoo and lukewarm water (not hot) and gently pat him dry—don't blow—dry or rub briskly.

I hope SOME of this is of use! Please let us know how it is going.

—Becky

I have Desi on Omega-3 caps year-round, as well as one 25 mg of Benadryl every day, year-round. I use Costco's brand, 1000 mg Omega-3. I wrap each one (1/day) in a tidbit of canned food each morning and she takes it right down. Same for the Benadryl—I tab/day, Costco brand, very inexpensive, wrapped in canned food. Same for her glucosamine/msm tab—Shiff's brand—from Costco. I do this as a preventative. Once Lincoln gets under control, these would be my suggestions for preventing this in the future.

—Reina

About the itchy allergy problem...if you have already tried the sarcoptic mange/Revolution route without success...and you have tried several foods with different protein & carb sources, helping rule out food allergies...and antihistamines aren't helping...and the other solutions the gang has suggested don't help...it may be atopic

(inhaled) allergies which are a tough one. My Ace age 12 ½ has suffered for over a year with this & other issues...and I've tried everything. If Ace was younger (like your Lincoln), I would spend the bucks & take him to Patrick Nichols, the Austin dog dermatologist on 5th Street, and start allergy shots. I used allergy shots successfully on several of my old boys, Hairy, Agent Cooper & Tag. All the boys went from being miserable to way better after 6 months or so. I gave the injections myself, weekly. The dog needs to be totally off prednisone/steroids for something like a month prior to testing...Dr. Nichols's office could tell you for sure. Then they do skin scrapings & determine what exactly the dog is allergic to. My guys were allergic to mold, oak pollen, cedar, dust mites, etc, etc...so we treated for the worst ones.

—Margo

To Margo's point, if by chance you have not tried different carb & protein sources already, I have had great results with Natural Balance Potato and Duck dry formulation [they also have canned which I use for treats] which I buy at Petco. Good luck in finding some relief for your guy!

—Sandy

We also had major skin issues with Cannon, our GRR dog. He scratched incessantly. At one point his tail lost so much hair it looked like a rat's. We did use Revolution initially and bathed him in Derm Care (?) along with other vet-recommended remedies. It turned around over time, but it was like finding a needle in a haystack. Now I bathe him in Sebolut and feed Natural Balance, like Sandy suggested. Natural Balance makes meat rolls which we cut into cubes and add to their dry food. I can only find it at Petco. Cannon's coat is gorgeous now.

—Sheila

Editor's note: Sarcoptic mange had been ruled out by Lincoln's vet. This sort of mange does NOT always show up in a skin scraping. It can however be ruled out if the medication prescribed does not show instant relief. If all of the remedies suggested above does not help your itching, scratching dog, be sure to ask your vet if Sarcoptic mange could be the culprit.



email to GRR:

Reading the March newsletter, I had to laugh when reading #15 of the “If I did not have dogs” list: “I’d look forward to Spring and the coming of raining instead of dreading ‘mud season’”.

The other day I was talking about this very thing with my husband and we think we found a solution! See attached picture of Murray, our 15 month old. (This lasted just long enough to get the picture!)

—Enjoy! Sarah

email to GRR:

While I no longer have the Golden I adopted through your organization, I just lost a Golden to acute renal failure from ingestion of raisins. She got on the countertop (like many Golden do) and ingested a few small boxes of raisins. Many people feed grapes and raisins to their dogs thinking they are a healthy snack.

Please post information on your website and newsletter warning owners of the toxicity of grapes and raisins in dogs. Not much is known about it, but I lost my very dear companion this week to it. Thank you. —Sara

(Editor's note: Golden Retrievers as a breed are somewhat prone to seizure disorders, and we frequently get questions from anxious owners, describing the “fit” their Golden has just had asking what to do.)

email to GRR:

When you have a dog and it has a seizure for the first time, you have a million questions, and you feel helpless, often hopeless. A great online source of information is www.canine-epilepsy.com/Resources.html. This is the major epi website and offers an e-mail list with members whose dogs have seizures and who are a great support to other owners. This is the first place to go. Seizures are scary but rarely fatal; many dogs can be maintained nearly seizure free on phenobarbital (milk thistle capsules from health food store will mitigate liver problems from the meds). Rescue Remedy and a tablespoon of natural vanilla ice cream helps the dog recover after seizure ends. Many dogs can be weaned off or maintained on a low dose of pheno. Many of you know of our big red male Golden “Bob” —he started having seizures at age 4, on pheno by age 5, now 11 and seizure free for over 5 years, on reduction of 50% from initial dose. —Kathy

email to GRR:

(Editor's note: Beth sent in this photo of her new foster dog, Sheriff. It's easier to see Duke's sideways glance in color, but this one was just too cute to not share!)

And Duke says, “You’d better get down or your gonna get squirted with the water bottle.” —Beth

email to GRR:

This sure made me smile ... thought others might get a grin out of it —Chip Waldron

10 peeves that Dogs have about humans

1. Blaming your farts on me... not funny... not funny at all!
2. Yelling at me for barking. I'M A FRIGGIN' DOG, YOU IDIOT!
3. Taking me for a walk, then not letting me check stuff out. Exactly whose walk is this anyway?
4. Any trick that involves balancing food on my nose... stop it!
5. Any haircut that involves bows or ribbons. Now you know why we chew your stuff up when you're not home.
6. The sleight of hand, fake fetch throw. You fooled a dog! Whooooo Hooooo. What a proud moment for the top of the food chain.
7. Taking me to the vet for “the big snip”, then acting surprised when I freak out every time we go back!
8. Getting upset when I sniff the crotches of your guests. Sorry, but I haven't quite mastered that handshake thing yet.
9. Dog sweaters. Hello ???, Haven't you noticed the fur?
10. How you act disgusted when I lick myself. Look, we both know the truth, you're just jealous.

Now lay off me on some of these things. We both know who's boss here!!!

You don't see me picking up your poop do you?!

For more information about how to keep your Golden healthy and happy, visit www.GRR-TX.com/resources. The “Golden Health” articles published in our newsletter are archived on this site along other informative articles about behavior, training, as well as helpful links to other resouceful websites and a recommended reading list.



365 days now for sale on 12 premium lots.

Bid to win one of twelve months in the 2007 GRR Calendar Photo Auction and feature your special Golden's photo and story for the whole month!



STEP 1

Place your bid and win!



STEP 2

Grab your Golden!

STEP 3

Get the perfect picture!



Get the details and get your bid in!
Visit us online at www.grr-tx.com.

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Winners: Use your own photo* or we'll send a professional photographer to you.

* Owner-submitted photos must meet certain criteria for inclusion in the calendar; see details online.



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