



Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Rehoming
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

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July 2019

A Message From Our President



Dear Friends,

Since 06/10/19, four GRR shelter puppies; Glory, Star, Liberty and their brother Justice have been battling for their lives. They presented first with Parvo, and later, with Distemper. Desperate to save them, we frantically researched innovative treatments and contacted multiple veterinarians and rescue groups. A fecal transplant procedure was key in resolving the deadly Parvo. Just as we were relaxing, thinking the crisis had passed, they became ill with Distemper. Puppies with Distemper rarely survive. Again, innovation was required immediately. Their current treatment is centered around high dose oral Vitamin A, plus high dose Vitamin C via IV for six treatments, in addition to traditional veterinary care. As I write (06/29/19), the four pups' conditions are encouragingly good.

GRR's strength lies in our willingness to research, question, be open minded, and gain knowledge. If the unusual medical treatments above save our Parvo/Distemper puppies, we'll use these techniques in the future; saving many lives. The same holds true for our behavior/training team. They use cutting edge methods to help dogs with behavior issues; saving and helping many more dogs than in the past.

How are we able to do these Great Things? The answer is four-fold:

- Fantastic volunteers who dedicate untold hours, working behind the scenes, or jumping to action with short notice.
- Dedicated foster families – the backbone of GRR.

- Top notch veterinarians and their teams.
- Generous donors, large and small, who jointly support our marvelous dogs.

Together, we succeed.

As Ever,
Margo

Do you have questions or comments for the Board? We value your input as members and volunteers. Please send a note to grrboard@grr-tx.com and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you!

Want to know if your membership is current? Email our treasurer, tim@grr-tx.com.

Fun in the Golden Sun - Stay Tuned!



When the heat hits Texas, our Golden Retrievers hit the water. Our second annual Fun in the Golden Sun campaign benefits the stars of our show, our beautiful Golden Retrievers. Beginning July 8th and running until July 29th, let's populate their world with summertime fun!

Sir Paul - Oh what a Knight! Larry Jolly

In January of this year, Gold Ribbon Rescue learned of a dog literally at death's doorstep at a shelter in the Valley, and decided, against steep odds, to step in and give this dog a chance at life. And now, as I write this article while listening to the laughter and joy he elicits in our house, I am struck by how profoundly he has returned the favor in response. Meet Sir Paul (aka Knight) GRR 19-005.



An emaciated bag of bones, suffering from sarcoptic mange, nasty leg wounds, broken teeth and other conditions resulting from prolonged confinement, he was a hot mess. His rescuers said he had just lost the will to live. In fact, in a stroke of wicked irony, the sight of his droopy ears, "sad" face, and indeterminate fur color may have given the folks at GRR a slight whiff that perhaps there might even be a little Golden in him...

Well, under the excellent and loving care of GRR early caregivers, he was nursed back to health, gaining some weight and renewing his coat in the process. Golden? Um, no. Not even close. We think maybe a little Akita, maybe a little Shepherd (with the beautiful eyes of an Anatolian), perhaps some hound... all compressed into this stocky, nimble, smart, quirky, mischievous and uber-affectionate, 70 lb. love-muffin. The vet said he's "just a Valley Dog".

But not a Golden. And that's OK. For us, he's "just" Paul (Knight). And he's exceptional.

Paul (Knight) came to us well on his way to healing from most of his physical issues, but he had a ways to go with his emotional wounds. His separation anxiety and obvious fear of both confinement and abandonment manifest themselves in some early destructive behavior. This was initially managed with anti-anxiety drugs and a "diaper" for excessive marking. As trust was built and boundaries established, the diaper became unnecessary and he was also weaned off the drugs quickly.

To read more about Knight, click [here](#).



Happy 4th of July!!



In Loving Memory...Shiner Meagan Noble

On June 2nd, we helped our Shiner (GRR Boo, 07-132) cross the Rainbow Bridge after a 2-month battle with histiocytic sarcoma. We had the privilege of spending 11.5 years with the gentlest, sweetest yellow cuddle bug. He never quite grew out of the puppy phase, continuing to chew pillows, leap off of rocks, and lay with his legs splayed out behind him until his last weeks. He loved to run and hike, and we enjoyed many trips to cool off at Walnut Creek and other local trails. He was a total sweetheart until the very end, with his tail wagging after each chemo treatment.

He is very much missed by his human siblings, Everett (9), Sawyer (6), and Julia (4), as well as his cat brother McTavish and dog brother Benjamin. Rest in peace, sweet Shiner.



Let the Bidding Continue!

Make your Golden a Calendar Pup! Gold Ribbon Rescue invites you to join in the bidding to create our 2020 calendar. Bidding continues through July and what better way to spotlight your Golden(s) than in the GRR calendar.



Bookmark the calendar page to go directly to the auction: www.grr-tx.com/calendar.

To shake things up a bit, this year's GRR calendar will be a tent-style desk calendar printed on high-quality, glossy paper stock, perfect for highlighting your Golden photos. We hope that the desk-calendar format will be more useful and that you'll enjoy seeing Goldens every day.

Your beautiful Golden photo could grace the pages of this calendar and bring joy to all who purchase one...so bid to showcase your dog(s) and support GRR! The calendar auction is a fundraiser for GRR and every dollar of your bid supports Goldens in need.

Thank you for your support!

Dogs' Eyes Have Changed Since Humans Befriended Them

Two specialized muscles give them a range of expression that wolves' eyes lack.

Haley Weiss
Jun 17, 2019



Dogs, more so than almost any other domesticated species, are desperate for human eye contact. When raised around people, they begin fighting for our attention when they're as young as four weeks old. It's hard for most people to resist a petulant flash of puppy-dog eyes—and according to a new study, that pull on the heartstrings might be exactly why dogs can give us those looks at all.

A paper published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that dogs' faces are structured for complex expression in a way that wolves' aren't, thanks to a special pair of muscles framing their eyes. These muscles are responsible for that "adopt me" look that dogs can pull by raising their inner eyebrows. It's the first biological evidence scientists have found that domesticated dogs might have evolved a specialized ability used expressly to communicate better with humans.

For the study, a team at the University of Portsmouth's Dog Cognition Centre looked at two

muscles that work together to widen and open a dog's eyes, causing them to appear bigger, droopier, and objectively cuter. The retractor anguli oculi lateralis muscle and the levator anguli oculi medialis muscle (mercifully known as RAOL and LAOM) form two short, straight lines, which connect the ring of muscle around a dog's eye to either end of the brow above.

These researchers have long been interested in the ways dogs make eye contact with humans and, in particular, how they move their eyebrows. In 2017, Juliane Kaminski, the lead author of the new paper, found that dogs moved their eyebrows more often while a human paid attention to them, and less often when they were ignored or given food...

To continue reading, click [here](#).

(Many thanks to Rick Gilpin for contributing this article.)

The Fabulous Four - GRR to the Rescue!

On June 10th, our GRR dog family grew by four as Rob Garcia met the transport van from .Brownsville Animal Regulation and Care Center in Brownsville, TX and transported our four new puppies to Manchaca Village Veterinary Care. These little nuggets, between 12 and 15 weeks old, were found in a field on June 5th and were brought to the shelter. In honor of the upcoming Independence Day holiday, their GRR names are Justice (male) and Glory, Liberty and Star (young ladies). Justice, the male, and two of the ladies are blonde and the remaining female is black and tan. So cute!

They were taken to MVCC for initial vetting where they were bathed and examined. All were very thin with terrible diarrhea. Unfortunately, all four were diagnosed with Parvo, which is a very serious canine illness that is often lethal in puppies.

The puppies were given the standard care for Parvo and were not doing well. At one point, we didn't know if they would survive! As added therapy, they underwent a new (to GRR) procedure called a Fecal Transplant where fecal material from a healthy and well-vaccinated dog is mixed with sterile saline solution and then inserted into the rectum of the ill dog. Read more about fecal transplants in dogs [here](#). The three ladies showed dramatic improvement but the little male, Justice, was the most seriously ill and required a second treatment two days later.

Happily, all four of our Fabulous Four parvo puppies are strong enough to have moved to their foster and foster-pending-adoption homes! They all are showing much improvement and acting like silly, active puppies who are exploring their new worlds and enjoying the love and attention of their fosters.

A gofundme account was established for the puppies and thanks to everyone's generous support, you've given these four a chance to live out a full and healthy life, unlike many parvo-inflicted puppies. Their care has been (and continues to be) very expensive, so we want to thank you so much for your contributions.

If you wish to help with the puppies' continuing medical expenses, please go to [gofundme-parvo puppies](#). We appreciate all donations, large and small!



Justice



The Ladies

(Editor's Note: Since this article was written, all four of the puppies have been diagnosed with Distemper, an extremely serious disease, particularly in puppies. They are currently undergoing treatment with some success. Their prognosis remains guarded because Distemper symptoms ebb and flow, but we are hopeful, in part due to a new treatment that is being used that has been used successfully elsewhere.)

In Memory of Bugs (13-028) **Kelly MacDonald**

GRR Bugs (13-208) passed away peacefully on December 24, 2018 of hemangiosarcoma, with his family by his side.

Bugs joined us just after his 3rd birthday in February, 2013 and immediately stole our hearts. We had so much fun with our sunny, gentle, sweet boy and will miss him always.



7 Habits Of Wonderful Pet Parents **by Lori Taylor**

I admit it. I'm "one of those dog moms". You know, the ones that are crazy about their dogs and love to talk about dogs, and schedule their lives around their dogs? That's me. My dogs are my life- they're my fur-kids and my source of joy and comfort.



After I lost my Great Dane and best friend Truman to doggie cancer, I was devastated. I never thought I'd recover and surely never believed I could love another dog. Time passed, and I fell in love again and found there really was room in my heart for a new dog.

I wanted to be the very best pet parent possible, for Truman's memory and for the sake of all the dogs I'll love for the rest of my life. I wanted to do it better. So I set out to learn what the best pet parents do. Here's what I found.

1. They know their dogs.

And I'm not talking about knowing what time they eat or how many times they pooped that day, these pet parents really know their dogs. If the dog is anxious, cranky, overly tired, scared, or lonely these parents pick up on it instantly. It's almost like they have ESP and can read the dog's mind! I later learned they were just really, really good at reading doggie body language and had observed their dogs' normal behavior very closely in the past. When anything unusual occurred, it was a red flag for them because they were always tuned in to what their dogs were doing, even when they were busy other things.

2. They respect their dogs.

There's a joke going around the Internet you've probably seen. It says, "No! I don't want to come to your cat's birthday party, freak! My dog is getting married that day!" It's funny and exaggerated (slightly) but wonderful pet parents really do place a high value on the needs of their dog.

Continue reading [here](#).

AmazonSmile Rocks!

We received our quarterly AmazonSmile donation notification and **GRR** recently received a quarterly donation of **\$427.22** thanks to you shopping at AmazonSmile and selecting Gold Ribbon Rescue as your charity.

To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of \$5066.62 to Gold Ribbon Rescue. Thanks to all of you who support GRR by shopping at AmazonSmile. We really appreciate it.



Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

George (19-010)

Shiner (Boo 07-132)

Dexter (Diesel 16-009)

Bugs (13-028)

Sampson (Sammy 2007

Independence Day Litter)

Indy (13-093)

Nicole (07-049)



New sletter Editor: Dorian Olsen

Send comments or suggestions to: newsletter@grr-tx.com

The Gold Ribbon Rescue newsletter is published monthly. Articles reflect the opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect GRR policy. Gold Ribbon Rescue and its Editor(s) seek to publish accurate material, but neither assumes responsibility in the event of a claim of loss or damage resulting from

