

Letter from GRR's President – Maura Phelan

'Throw-away Culture' Needs Rescue

Time. The ultimate foe. Always too little of it– passing too quickly and leaving its mark on our lives and our person. And with our canine companions, we watch with sorrow an accelerated progression that we can expect in ourselves. We worry about their future and our own– who will take care of me, my parents, and my animals when I am old and incapable or incapacitated?

In rescue, we see the ultimate result of our “throw-away” culture– the dumping of older, infirm or needy goldens. Almost all of these thrive and live long, productive, and giving lives years after their original owners cast them off. These are what we term our Golden Oldies and Extraordinary Goldens– and they ARE extra-ordinary.

My personal experience was most impacted by Maggie, the 11 year old girl that many have seen on our adoption site while she was in foster care this past year. Turned in with her brother, Dutch, when she was nearly 10, she was more active and healthier than most dogs half her age. However, everyone was focused on her age, not her ability– age-ism at its worst. Although gray-faced, Maggie has always been **very** young at heart. Swimming every day, climbing stairs faster than I can and always finding a hand that needs to be petting her. She now has a home which is all she could have hoped for– with the also-senior McCrackens. And though it pained me to let her go, I know she was meant for them, and that this is the reason she waited so patiently.

Our older Goldens are wonderful additions to our lives. They know the ropes and are easy to integrate. They train the younger family members and expect only love in return. Every owner is afraid that an older golden will die before them, but know this: Almost all of you will outlive your dog. Period. Even a puppy. Their lives are shorter and more fragile.

You cannot take on a pet without taking on the inevitability of loss. And the return is immeasurable. Our 7+ year old Goldens have years of love to give and deserve a family to call their own.

Please consider aiding these special dogs in your end-of-year bequests and remember to provide for your animals when you update your will– they need your care even if you leave them– care which Gold Ribbon Rescue can provide.

Speaking of leaving, Kelly Hay has left us. Kelly's family transferred out of Texas and we lost an incredible asset to GRR. Kelly was our San Antonio resource, and without her, the San Antonio area services are adrift. She will be sorely missed. Anyone in the San Antonio area who

would like to step in and provide some help, please let us know!

Finally, also let us know if you are going to attend the Holiday Party! For those who have missed this event in the past– there is food, drink, and faces to put with names you have seen and with voices you have only heard on the phone. As usual, there will be great items on the silent auction and at the boutique for all those doggies (and doggy people) you need to remember for the Holidays. All the proceeds help us to continue to aid the Goldens in Central Texas and enrich the lives of those they bless with their affection.

Have a Golden Holiday Season! –maura



Gold Ribbon Rescue Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2003 — 7pm
American Legion Hall, Austin TX

It's that time again when the calendar fills up with holiday activities, family get togethers, pageants and parties. But you won't want to miss our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 5th. We're putting the holiday hustle and bustle aside for the evening with a wonderful "South of the Border" theme. Mexican food and margaritas, accompanied by easy listening guitar playing, great friends and fabulous gift items. Again this year, raffle tickets will be sold ahead of time (and at the event) for a glorious day at Bella, restaurant gift certificates and a host of wonderful items. \$28 per person.

For more information and to reserve your seat, visit:

www.GRR-tx.com/party.htm



Health Story

Overweight Dogs Suffer in Silent Pain

by Brenda Forsythe

Haven't we all taught our Golden Retrievers that going potty outside is a good thing and deserving of a treat? And does he now just step outside, turn right back around, and head for the treat jar? Mine does. I used to tell my husband, "He's not begging, he's just hoping." But in the long run, I realized that I wasn't just spoiling my dog with treats—I was actually doing him harm.

Golden Retrievers, like many other canine breeds, are big eaters and can easily chow down enough to wind up in the obese category (see below). And what lies in store for fat Golden Retrievers isn't nice: they'll lead a shorter, more painful life. Obesity is responsible for creating and aggravating serious health problems. It can cause stroke, diabetes, shortness of breath, and heart attacks, and can aggravate epilepsy. Overweight dogs with conditions such as arthritis, hip dysplasia, and over-angulated joints (pasterns, hocks, and stifles) suffer greater pain. They can get pressure sores from supporting too much weight on their elbows and hocks when reclining. Playing too hard at games such as retrieving a tennis ball or jumping into a pond can spell

real trouble for obese dogs: they cannot easily control their own movements and are extremely prone to injuries caused by twisting and turning sharply and jumping. Blown cruciate ligaments (in the knees) are the most common.

The good news? Obesity in dogs is **preventable and reversible**. But we have to be willing to take responsibility to keep our dogs fit and trim. We have to keep their best interests at heart and realize that what they're "hoping" for isn't always food. A pat on the head or a scratch behind the ears is a great reward!

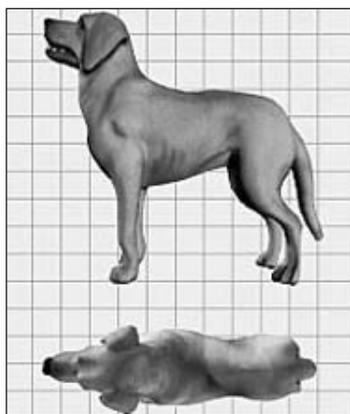
Never, never free feed your Golden. To keep your dog lean and healthy, feed him twice a day. If you give him the same total amount but all at one go, it can actually cause him to gain weight: with only one feeding, his metabolism will slow down. Most adult Golden Retrievers should eat between 1 and 1½ cups at each of their two meals (growing puppies need about twice that much), but you'll be the best judge of the right amount; adjust it up or down as needed, depending upon the dog's level of activity.

A dog at ideal weight will have a clearly defined waist—and even though you should not see his ribs, you should be able to feel them pretty easily just below the skin (to check, put your thumbs on his backbone and press your fingers against his sides). His breastbone should be easy to feel, too.

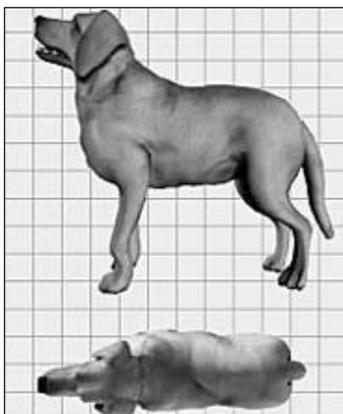
Feed the best-quality food you can afford. It's more expensive, but you'll actually feed less due to the high-quality ingredients (and you'll be picking up less poop!). Stay away from grocery store brands or "lite" foods, as they typically contain ingredients that add bulk but lack nutritional value or are high in carbohydrates—which, though they don't contain fat, do eventually turn into fat in an inactive dog.

What makes a Golden more excited than a treat? His LEASH! And those walks are one of the best ways to keep your dog fit and trim. If he's overweight, start with a 10-minute walk each day, then add a minute a day until you're up to half an hour. Aerobic activity is good for them and it's good for us, too!

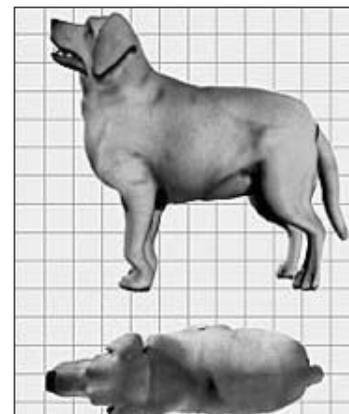
If you've determined that your dog is overweight or obese, there are a few other



■ **Ideal** – Ribs can be felt, but not visible. Waist obvious when viewed from above, and abdomen tucked up when viewed from the side.



■ **Overweight** – Ribs hard to feel, covered by fat; noticeable fat deposits over back and base of tail; waist and abdominal tuck are barely noticeable.



■ **Obese** – Ribs cannot be felt; under heavy fat covering; massive fat deposits. Waist barely visible or absent. No abdominal tuck.



tried and true ways to banish those extra pounds (assuming the dog is an average size Golden). Before placing your dog on a diet, however, you should rule out any underlying medical issues that may be contributing to his weight gain (such as low thyroid). Then try these tactics:

- Buy him a smaller bowl, you'll be less likely to think, "oh, that can't possibly be enough!" when you dish up his meals.
- After morning exercise, feed him $\frac{3}{4}$ cup adult dog food with one of the following mixed in: $\frac{1}{2}$ cup green beans, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pumpkin, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup zucchini.
- At noon, feed him a chopped or sliced apple or big carrot.
- In the evening, repeat the morning meal.

The veggies you use to bulk out meals can be fresh, frozen, or canned (no salt added). Experiment to find what your dog likes best; any high-fiber, low-calorie veggie will do. (Avoid onions, though, as they can be toxic if given in large amounts.) The trick here is to satisfy your dog's hunger without giving him extra calories. My dogs love

green beans! Once your dog has achieved his goal weight, find his feeding/exercise balance point—cautiously increase his rations until you figure out how much he can eat and still keep to a lean, healthy weight.

When it comes to treats, try baby carrots, green beans, bell pepper strips, apple wedges, banana slices, mini rice cakes, or even an ice cube from the freezer. (Don't feed grapes—they can be toxic to dogs if given in quantity.)

We all want our dogs to live long, healthy lives. The best way to get them there is to provide top-quality food, regular vet care, exercise, and grooming. Spoil your dog with love, and throw that old adage "fat and happy" right down the drain!

Editor's note: Before placing your dog on a diet you should consult with your vet and rule out any underlying medical issues that may be contributing to his weight gain (ie, low thyroid). And, exercise may exacerbate certain conditions. 

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Saving Goldens Was Kelly's Gift to Many

by Beth Freeman

Kelly Hay and I started out together in GRR. I was the Hotline Coordinator and Kelly was our Volunteer Coordinator. As time went by and we both became more involved with GRR, our passion for saving Goldens built a special bond between us. Since Kelly lived in San Antonio it was only natural that she became the GRR San Antonio representative. Kelly was known by most everyone in the San Antonio dog community—she got calls from owners who wanted to surrender a dog, calls from vet offices about a dog someone found and dropped off, but many of the calls were from Responsible Pet Owners Association (RPOA), a San Antonio group formed to help educate owners and save pets. At the time RPOA worked closely with the San Antonio Animal Control to help move pure breed dogs out of the shelter and into rescue. When a Golden came into the San Antonio Animal Center, Kelly would be notified and head to the shelter, with digital camera, doggie treats and Cassidy (her toddler) in hand, to meet and evaluate the dog.

If you have never been inside an animal shelter—consider yourself lucky. It's very hard to walk through and see all those sweet faces, and wagging tails, knowing full well that many of them will never be reclaimed and will spend their remaining days in a small dog run

until they are led on their final walk. Too many times Kelly walked through looking at those faces knowing she could not save them all. It doesn't matter if they are Goldens, or Labs, or Chows, or mutts—when you love animals it's heartbreaking to know what fate awaits most of the dogs inside those walls. But week after week Kelly walked the shelter in search of one golden, in search of that one dog she got the call on. She would meet him, and if he had that "Golden" personality she would promise she would be back for him, and she never let that dog down.

The dogs Kelly saved are too numerous to count—but if you're reading this article and you know your Golden came to GRR from the San Antonio area, the odds are good that somewhere along the way he was met and loved by Kelly.

Kelly Hay, her husband Chris, daughter Cassidy, son Max, and Goldens, Shelby and Sherman, have relocated to Virginia. Needless to say GRR misses Kelly a great deal. We are thankful for all of the time she gave to GRR and for all of the goldens she helped to save. 



Success Story

From Airfield to Forever Home...

This is Rose's Story

by Becky LaBrum

It was just before the July 4th weekend when the anxious call came into our Hotline. An older Golden had been found wandering near the airfield in Boerne. "She's a sweet girl but underweight ... there's an indentation in the fur around her neck where a collar must have been for a long time... she's limping a bit... we think somebody may have just brought her out here to the country, pushed her out of the car and driven away."

Christened "Rose" by the Good Samaritans who found her, the old girl quickly endeared herself to everyone. She enjoyed being bathed and groomed, walked beautifully on a light lead, and clearly knew about indoor life, happily curling up on a sofa in the little airport lounge for a nap. But the Good Sams were concerned for her safety. At night she was kept inside, but during the day she'd manage to get out open doors and wander around the airfield— and that was a problem, because Rose is hard of hearing. She couldn't tell when vehicles were approaching from behind or anywhere out of her line of vision, and it was impossible to keep an eye on her all the time. Could GRR help?

How could we NOT step in? Luckily for us, one of our adoptive families, the McInerneys, live in Boerne and immediately agreed to take Rose into their home until a longer-term foster could be found. And less than 24 hours after that initial Hotline call, Rose was safe and sound in her new digs. Big surprise— she got along with everything and everybody: dogs, cats, people. She even happily entered a crate and enjoyed it as her napping area. A trip to the vet revealed ear infections, anemia, and mild arthritis— but a negative heartworm test, which caused us all to breathe a big sigh of relief!



Rose (the wet one on the right) and her new brother, Bucky— ready to jump back in the pool.

A week later, Rose moved to Austin. When we read the first report from foster mom and dad Susie and Gary Schaffer, we decided everyone must have been mistaken about Rose's age. She dove into the pool like an Olympic champ for a brisk series of laps before breakfast, and played fetch like a fiend on land or sea, fearlessly plunging into the water for balls and going on "search and sniff" expeditions to find them on the ground. "She must just be prematurely gray," we decided. "Could an old gal really have that much get-up-and-go?" But the vet actually put her age at a bit OVER ten, not around eight as we had originally thought! Like many a peppy older Golden, Rose provides living proof that "age is just a number." Sure, she's a bit stiff and she can only hear loud noises, but that doesn't seem to slow her down!

The best part of the story came at the end of that first foster report, when Susie filled out the "comments" line like this: "I really can't see us giving her up. I have filled this form out but I really don't think we can give her up. We love her and she has just made us so happy."

Thanks to her first Good Samaritan and the efforts of our generous GRR families, little Rose has come a long way. Just a few months ago she was wandering alone and lost in the country— but now, she's happy, safe, and secure in her new home, with mom, dad, and doggie brother Bucky. Her ears are clear, she's not anemic any more, and she's as spry as can be. You can't ask for a happier ending than that! 



Why dogs don't win
at poker!



Volunteering— a Golden Lover's Dream

by Tracy Gundy

About a year ago, I made a decision that has brought extreme joy and satisfaction to my life...

It all began one crisp fall weekend. My husband (then fiancé) was watching football, Dakota was napping after a vigorous afternoon walk and I was surfing the net, as many Golden addicts do, looking for web pages that were all "gold". I happened to surf on to GRR's web page. I began reading the stories of the rescued dogs. Some of the stories made me laugh, some made me cry, but all the stories made me want to help. At that moment, my own golden beauty put her head in my lap, nudged my arm with her cold wet nose and looked at me with her dark eyes as if to say, "Go help, mommy". Within minutes, I was signed up for the next training session.

Volunteer training was a Golden lover's dream. I was in the midst of the truest of true Golden fanatics not to mention that there were two fur balls running around soaking up the love. I signed up for the hotline, phone interviews and home visits. I wanted to do it all. I guess those crazy GRR people sensed my willingness to help because I was assigned a phone interview the very next day.

Volunteer life has been a blissful blur since training. I have helped with the hotline a few times, done some phone interviews, gone on several home visits, taken over as Volunteer Coordinator and Home Visit Coordinator in addition to fostering and adopting our precious girl, Simone. Gold Ribbon has given me the pleasure of knowing I am helping to make a difference in the lives of dogs and humans alike.

Thank you, Dakota, for giving me a shove in the right direction!

So, what is your story? Do you have a happy pup nudging your arm, looking into your eyes and hypnotizing you to "go help"? I hope so because we need you! We need any time, love and effort you have to offer. If you feel a mysterious furry force moving your hand toward the mouse and keyboard of your computer, email volunteer@grr-tx.com. 

"My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to \$3.00 a can. That's almost \$21.00 in dog money."

—Joe Weinstein

Shake, Paddle and Roll was Happenin'!

by Susie Schaffer

GRR would like to thank everyone who donated items and food for the Shake, Paddle and Roll Swim Fest. Without your support, the event would not have been the success that it was. Golden and their humans had a splashing good time!

- Albertsons— breakfast tacos
- HEB— gift certificate
- Randall's— gift certificate
- Rudy's BBQ— breakfast tacos
- CSI/Capitol Spectrum— signs, sound system, music, cookies, paper goods, tables
- Chuy's— gift certificate
- Amy's Ice Cream— gift certificate
- Thundercloud Subs— gift certificate
- Dana McGill— hand-crafted pottery
- Tammi Hanson— Dinner raffle
- Maura Phelan— the use of her beautiful ranch for the Swim Fest!

A special thank you to Girl Scout Troop #1714 from Westlake who not only helped out at the Golden Afternoon in the Park picnic, but also helped to get GRR food

and toy donations by spending four Saturdays at the Tomlinson's Pet Store. We really appreciate all your hard work. To all of the volunteers that helped make the Swim Fest a success... Thank You!! 



The Golden had a wonderful time at the Swim Fest— fetching balls from the pond and participating in the 'Wet T-Shirt' relay. Their humans had a great time as well and enjoyed the breakfast buffet.



Kind Hearts, Gentle Souls— Golden Seniors

by Margo Biba

Six senior Golden Retrievers share our home... Madeleine age 10, Chili 8, Special Agent Cooper 13, Tag 14, Brittany 15 and foster dog Ace, 10. Cooper, Tag, Brittany & Ace were all rescued as old dogs. All were strays. Cooper was abducted by a demented woman. Tag made his way to Town Lake Animal Center in Austin. Brittany was found by a GRR volunteer and Ace was found by a Good Samaritan who donated \$500 toward his medical care.

January of 2000... When we stepped inside the trailer house, we knew something was amiss...the elderly woman's home reeked of urine. A cat vacated a chair near the door, and we could see urine puddled on the cushion. Then, we saw him... a tall, mahogany red, very worried old Golden Retriever, Cooper. Every animal scratched at communities of fleas.



Cooper,
rescued at
age 9+

Our hostess was obviously confused: "I saw an ad in the newspaper for this lost dog, and I thought he was my lost dog, so my friend drove me to get him...I don't drive anymore. When I took him to the vet, they said he had heartworms. I can't afford to pay for

heartworm treatment for this dog. He's not even my dog. The vet told me my dog was only 5 years old, and he was gold colored. I might keep this old red dog, but what if my gold dog comes back?" Meanwhile Cooper, wide eyed and panicked, implored us to get him out of this Twilight Zone scene, refusing to leave our sides.

October 2003... When Cooper is happy, he twirls & whirls & bounds across the lawn like an impossibly enthusiastic elk. The highlight of his day is the 5:00 dog drive. Six Golden Retrievers in the back of the Explorer, 15 mph through the neighborhood. Cooper has been the kind hearted friend of the 70+ foster dogs who have lived with us since his rescue. We've watched him develop crushes on Golden Retrievers Mrs. Robinson & Brittany, be chased by 8 week old Celeste, and have his tail pulled by Dice, age 7 months. Cooper is an optimist, an adventurer, a traveling man, and a pacifist.

Without GRR, Cooper would have likely died from untreated heartworms & other health issues, or would have been chained under that trailer house until the woman moved to an Alzheimer's nursing home.

January 2002... Tag's shelter photo made him look moth eaten and messy and ancient. In person, he was matted with feces & urine, and honestly, he stunk. We took stock of the old fellow: advanced elbow dysplasia, arthritis, allergies, infected & calcified ears, deafness, inflamed skin, nubs for teeth, lack of tail feathering indicating low thyroid...he was a train wreck. The shelter would never put Tag on their adoption list, with hundreds of healthy young dogs needing homes too.



Tag,
rescued
at age
12+

Tag was thrilled and stunned to be invited into our house, unbelieving when he realized that he had an indoor home. For the longest time, Tag automatically veered toward the side yard, hunkering next to the air conditioner; convinced that indoor living couldn't possibly be forever.

October 2003... Now the blocky headed blonde's coat glistens and his tail is a long plume of wavy silk. His skin is healthy, he is handsome, and he has regained his hearing. Tag is my kitchen companion when I cook, underfoot while I chop & sauté & rinse. He is my ever (un)helpful assistant, positioning his face within an inch of whatever ear is being cleaned or paw trimmed. Tag must have been a champion ball retriever in his prime. He collects tennis balls, tucking them under his chin at nap time, carrying them along to bed. Even though arthritis makes his elbows painful, Tag insists on three good fetches every night.

If GRR hadn't accepted Tag, he would have been euthanized in a heartbeat. GRR gave Tag another chance at life.



99-32 Bailey
Rescued at age 10



99-72 Hey Boy
Rescued at age 10+



00-04 Happy
Rescued at age 14



00-22 Rocky PingPong
Rescued at age 9



01-01 Kendra
Rescued at age 10+



01-05 General
Rescued at age 9



01-16 Jake
Rescued at age 12



01-34 Annie
Rescued at age 9



01-63 Abby
Rescued at age 12



01-64 Hogan
Rescued at age 12



01-81 Greta
Rescued at age 10+



August 2002...The GRR volunteer spotted Brittany wandering, no collar or tags. Brittany was a skeleton of a Golden, malnourished and weak. The feel of fur over bones, no padding, no cushion, was fragile beyond imagination. Brittany weighed 34 pounds, but she should have weighed 55. In foster care, we used Brittany's neck as her cuddle spot. She loved it when we rubbed her and whispered in her ear. We asked her how she got lost, but she didn't explain. We surmised that the red haired matron had been on her own for a long time, and that she surely would have died if it weren't for Bill's quick action.



Brittany, rescued at age 14

Our houseful of Golden Retrievers knew to treat Brittany with gentle kindness. They recognized her need for rest and special care and extra snacks. Brittany slowly gained weight and energy. She sunbathed with Chili, and cuddled with Audrey. She crossed her front legs when she relaxed, for all the world like a proper lady. Special Agent Cooper kept close at her side, her escort and special friend.

October 2003...Brittany is energetic and spunky and chubby. She throws her head back, grins and does a happy dance when it's supper time. Brittany chases Tag as he retrieves tennis balls, and she shares a thick

dog bed with Ace at bedtime, resting her chin on his back. On the nightly dog drive, Brittany's head is out the window, ears flapping. She barks— loudly & repeatedly— when she spots a dog on the route (we accelerate past in humiliation, pretending innocence).

If not for help from GRR, Brittany would have starved to death.

May 2003...The Good Samaritan found Ace standing in the middle of the road. The compact senior was filthy, swarming with fleas, heavily matted, with infected ears & skin, and benign tumors that needed removal. She cleaned him up, took Ace to the vet for an exam, and when she brought him to GRR, she handed us a \$500 check to cover his medical expenses.

October 2003...Ace is one of the few dogs ever to come through rescue, with doctor's orders to be a couch potato— literally. His body's natural pacemaker failed, so his heart can not compensate for a really high heart rate. Now, we successfully manage Ace's heart with \$1 per day meds and activity restriction. We don't exercise Mr. Ace, but we don't panic when he jogs from the house to the garage for car rides, or hops onto his leather ottoman at bedtime.

Ace finds it comical to climb onto the couch, gaze intently at his human victim and insist, "Put the computer away and talk to me." When ignored, Ace delicately places his ice cold nose on exposed flesh, eliciting instant response; typically an arm around his shoulders so he can cuddle closely. Ace is a



Ace, rescued at age 10

Ace is ready for his forever home. See him in the Adoptable Section.

master communicator who believes in Mind Power. He is young at heart, teasing, graceful and gentlemanly.

Without GRR's assistance and the Good Samaritan's generosity, Ace surely would have died from the untreated heart condition.

Older, even ancient Golden Retrievers do become healthier and younger at heart, when they have quality medical care and loving families. Most of these seniors have led hard lonely lives. Time and again, we watch exhausted, depressed senior Golden Retrievers enter GRR. Almost immediately, they transform into smiling, optimistic & enthusiastic individuals who are excited to learn new routines and make new friends. You can make a difference in the lives of these charmers, by fostering or adopting one (or many).

Foster & adoptive families who have been cleared through GRR's interview process are ready to begin senior fostering. If you have not yet been interviewed & had your GRR home visit, phone our hotline 512-659-GOLD or apply via our website, www.grr-tx.com. Be sure to specify "SENIOR FOSTER CARE or SENIOR ADOPTION." 

The number to the left of each name, identifies the year and order in which the dog came in to GRR care.



01-91 Hazel
Rescued at age 14



01-93 Rosie
Rescued at age 10



01-111 Allie
Rescued at age 9



01-106 McSmith
Rescued at age 13



02-14 Amy
Rescued at age 12



02-28 Thunder
Rescued at age 12



02-41 Audrey
Rescued at age 13



03-138 Rigley
Rescued at age 11

*All of these Golden Seniors have been able to spend their "gentle years" in the loving care of GRR. Thanks especially to **Margo & Gary Biba** for opening their home and hearts to these deserving seniors. GRR is also in need of hospice (permanent) foster homes for dogs with inoperable cancer, advanced kidney failure, or other life threatening illnesses. Medical expenses are paid for throughout the remainder of their lives. Margo Biba of GRR is an experienced hospice foster parent happy to discuss it with you. email Margo directly at Margo@GRR-tx.com*



Adoptable Goldens



Buster Age 12

At press time, our newest Golden Oldie, Buster has just arrived at Biba Retirement Acres for foster care. Foster Mom Margo reports: "Buster is a grand old 85# fella. He spent 12 years as an outdoor dog who slept in the garage. When we invited him inside the house last night, he was thrilled. When I checked him this morning- no accidents- so I was thrilled! Buster loves children and is good with other dogs. Buster is a good old pal and sharp as a tack."



Toffee came to GRR from the Town Lake Animal Center. Imagine this beautiful girl without a family! She loves people and loves to snuggle.

Toffee 1½ yrs old



Sugar Age 11_{months}

Sugar is a lovable Golden girl with enough puppy antics to keep you entertained. She has free roam of her foster family's home and is learning more every day.



Ace Age 10

Ace is ready to leave the Biba Retirement Home! He had a great visit at the Biba's, but he's now ready for his forever home where he can look out for his own family. Due to his heart condition, Ace needs a calm, slow paced family that would love a loyal, couch potato companion. Although he is on doctor's orders to hang around the house, he is still full of life.



Irish Age 3

Irish is a beautiful, medium-sized, field red, purebred Golden. The folks at the shelter mistook him for a Setter (hence the name), but make no mistake- he's a sweet, silly, playful, loveable Golden boy!



Tequila Age 1

Just look at this beauty queen! Tequila is as sweet and well mannered as she is good looking. She also loves the water- any water- shower, hose, pool, pond or lake!



Jackson, Age 5 months



Jackson is an adorable puppy who just loves life. He's busy playing, sleeping, exploring and learning. He does wonderfully in the house and he is a great little swimmer.



Lola Age 9

Lola has been featured in a few of our newsletters. Even though she is up there in years, Lola is an awesome dog. She is mature and calm but with the energy to take 1.5 mile walks every evening. Our sweet Lola is ready for her forever home.

Robyn Age 1



Robyn has been through quite a bit, but has bounced right back to a normal, well-adjusted, bouncy, silly, loving, smart, selfless Golden. She deserves a family that can appreciate how far she's come and how really special she is.



BJ Age 6½

BJ came to GRR from an owner who loved her very much, but was diagnosed with terminal cancer and could no longer care for her. She is a handsome girl, with a soft wavy coat and a big happy smile. She just makes you feel happy inside every time you see that sweet face and wagging tail.

For more details and pictures of each of these adoptable, check our website under "Adoption". New adoptable are posted on the website regularly, so be sure to check back often.

www.GRR-tx.com

There are also a number of Success Stories posted on the site. If you have adopted one of our Golden Retrievers, we'd love to see your story too.

Thanks to our Vets!

Gold Ribbon Rescue wishes to thank the following Animal Clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts.

**Animal Trustees of Austin
Emergency Animal Hospital of
Northwest Austin** –
North & South locations
**Central Texas Vet. Specialty
Hospital** – North and South
locations
Century Animal Hospital –
Austin
White Rock Veterinary Hospital –
Pflugerville
Griffith Small Animal Clinic –
Central Austin
Lakeline Animal Care – Austin
Castlerock Pet Hospital –
Georgetown
Country Hills Vet Clinic–
Bulverde
San Marcos Vet Clinic – San Marcos
Deerfield Animal Hospital –
San Antonio
Pets First – San Antonio

**Please give them your
business and support!**

Special Thanks to DOG CAMP!

GRR wishes to thank Dog Camp for giving our rescue dogs extra care and attention. Visit them at:
www.dogcamp.net





**Golden Nugget
Membership Level
\$100-\$249**

- Brooke Annis
- Tim & Brenda Forsythe
- Ann Nichols
- Susan and Charles Mayfield
- Pam & Dean Phillips



**Golden Friend
Membership Level
\$40-\$99**

- Margo Biba
- Robin Caldwell
- Mary Faloon
- Tamara Gunter
- Tammi Hanson
- Janis Jones
- Kimberly Jorczyk
- Marilyn Mehaffey
- Cindy Moss
- Sharon Oglivie
- Kathleen Reish
- Patricia Schaffer
- Susie Schaffer
- Tim Tierney

Golden Gifts

- Max Ploeger, III
- Elizabeth Blahuta
- Corinne McCray
- Lisa Marie Render
- Susan Adkins
- Campbell Snyder
- Sandra Nordstrom
- Leslie Sullivan
- Terri Rodriguez
- Marla McClain
- Denise Haley
- Jacquelyn Kessler
- Lone Star Obedience Assoc.
- Jamie Signorino
- Terry Neffendorf
- Kellye Weaver
- Deatra Boese
- Kellie Shellaby
- Carolyn Husbands
- Laura Reed
- Margaret Edwards
- Andrew Napora
- Gregory Bill
- Steven Moss
- Pamela Gregg
- Beth Freeman
- Winn Biesele

**Golden
Memorials**



In memory of
Scandal
loved by JoAnne and Charlie Dieterich

In memory of
Audrey Biba
Sharon Oglivie

Golden Honors:

In Honor of
Kathy Burton
Sharon Oglivie

Your monetary contributions help care for the dogs we are fostering in preparing them for new homes. In addition to the smile that this will bring to a healthy dog, your donation is fully deductible as a non-profit donation. All donations, large and small, monthly, quarterly, annually and occasionally, do make a **big** difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted Golden Retrievers in Central Texas. You can make your donation online at:

www.GRR-TX.com
via a check or credit card or you may mail your donation to:
Gold Ribbon Rescue,
Attn: Golden Honors
PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767

In Memory of Joan LaBrum

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

—Thomas Moore

Though we know heaven has welcomed a very special person, we extend our sympathy and prayers to the LaBrum family.

—Beth Freeman, Maura Phelan, Brenda Forsythe



Extraordinary Golden Fund**Health, Spirit Returns to EGF Recipients**

The past year and a half has been financially draining on Gold Ribbon Rescue with so many incoming dogs requiring atypical medical expenses. Our \$250 adoption fees can't cover the costs, even with generous discounts from area veterinarians. Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden Retrievers with high medical costs, we created the "Extraordinary Golden Fund". Donations toward this fund have recently gone directly to help the following Golden Retrievers. Thank you for your generous donations—without which we would not be able to help these dogs regain their health and vitality.

Mikey/Tank – heart murmur, seizures, low thyroid, lower back condition

Ace – large lump removal on chest, heart condition

Jenni – severe chronic ear infections, heartworms, skin issues

Calypso – heartworm treatment

Parker – non-regenerative anemia

Prince – heartworm treatment

Annabelle – non-regenerative anemia, kidney disease, GI tract problems, severe chronic ear infections



Mikey / "Tank"

Robyn – treatment for mange

Wes – eye surgery for entropion

Clover – surgery for mole and mammary tumor removal.

These and many other Golden Retrievers have benefited from the Extraordinary Golden Fund.

Annual Gold Ribbon Rescue Picnic

March 27, 2004

Zilker Park Polo Picnic Area
(rain back up date—April 3, 2004)
more details to come...

Extraordinary Golden Fund Donors:

Kathryn Lewis

Max Ploeger, III

Harvey & Brigid Ferguson

Nancy Todd

Arthur Rossiter

Judith Townsend

Tim Tierney

William Shows

Crystal Hutchinson

Kenna Tristan

Cynthia Lewis

Century Animal Hospital

Brigid Ferguson

Brooke Annis

Arthur Edwards

Jacqueline Coley

Golden Thanks to...

Lon Badgett – North Austin GRR
Home Visitor and **Duane West**
– Dallas area GRR Home Visitor

After countless volunteer hours doing home visits for GRR, Lon and Duane are hanging up their grooming tools. A huge Golden Thank You to both of these wonderful volunteers who played an intricate part in helping GRR find so many outstanding homes for our Golden Retrievers.

Give to GRR While Shopping Online

Now here's a great, easy way to shop and help GRR at the same time. Simply join iGive.com! It's a easy, free, on-line shopping website that donates a percentage of everything ordered to a charity of your choice. Once a member, you can go through their website to hundreds of other shopping websites such as Dell, Neiman Marcus, Lands End, LL Bean, Gap, etc. Visit:

<http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?causeid=25583>

For every person who joins through this link, \$1 will be donated to GRR. Each new member is then given a choice of charity to enter, which will receive the percentage of shopping orders. I hope that if you join, you will choose GRR as your recipient charity, but even if you prefer to list another charity, your membership will generate a dollar for GRR.

After you join, you may want to contact others to join as well. Please be sure that they join using the link listing GRR as the referring member so GRR can receive the \$1 donations. With the holiday shopping season now upon us, we hope that you will visit this site today and list GRR as your charity of choice. And, don't miss our Golden Boutique—www.GRR-tx.com/boutique for the latest in Golden gifts. Happy Shopping!



Are You a GRR Member?

Many of our volunteers and friends assume that because they have adopted a Golden Retriever from GRR, or because they volunteer, they are automatically a "Member" of Gold Ribbon Rescue.

In actuality, membership in our organization is separate from any other function of GRR. Our bylaws allow members to vote on issues of relevance, and are allowed to attend our annual meeting.

Membership also pays for the printing and distribution of this newsletter. To find out if you are a current member, check your mailing label. If you would like to join and become a member, the minimum dues are \$40. There are four levels of membership: \$40-\$99 Golden Friend, \$100-\$249 Golden Nugget, \$250-\$499 Gold Medalist, and \$500-\$999 Golden Circle. You can send a check to the address listed below or you can sign up online at:

www.grr-tx.com/membership.htm

Donations to the Extraordinary Golden Fund, Memorials, Honors or General donations may also be made online at:

www.GRR-TX.com

via a check or credit card or you may mail your donation to:

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

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

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