



# Golden Tales

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August 2020

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## A Message From Our President



Hello,

You may have noticed a new banner and title to the GRR newsletter. We are thrilled with this new design and rebranding of what is now known as the "Golden Tales". GRR had the first, virtual summer business meeting on July 25th and I want to share some information presented at the meeting.

We started off the year being inundated with adoption applications, yet were seeing a trend of a lower number of incoming dogs than in prior years. In late January we stopped accepting new adoption applications, while still accepting foster applications. In mid-March, we had to stop taking in all new applications due to Covid 19. We opened applications back up at the end of May and over the course of just 21 days we received 65 new application, plus had several still in process from March. To manage the workflow most efficiently we had to close the application portal in late June. We will likely have to open and close the application portal throughout the remainder to the year.

Our volunteers remain hard at work though. Year to date we have received 134 new applications. We have completed about 100 phone interviews and have completed 69 home visits, We still have several in the process of being completed.

Year to date we have brought in 46 new dogs plus three owner returns to GRR. For this same period in 2019 we brought in 73 dogs, and the same period in 2018 we brought in 80 dogs. We have seen an uptick with incoming dogs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter as compared to the 1<sup>st</sup>

quarter.

Significantly lower number of incoming dogs is a challenge other Golden rescues are facing. Many attribute this to the increase of social media and the ability for owners to have a very broad reach to attempt to rehome their dogs on their own. Some other rescue groups are doing things such as bringing in more international dogs from places like Turkey and Korea, taking in higher numbers of mixes and other non-golden retriever breeds. Some are even buying dogs from auction houses.

We have a new marketing campaign in effect as one way to help address the lower number of incoming dogs. This is called "Get to Know GRR". This program is designed to increase awareness with the use of social media, email and outreach to smaller vets and shelters in the area to ensure all are aware that Gold Ribbon Rescue is the best option if there is a need to surrender a dog. Our goal with this is to educate more people about GRR and the value of rescue. There are multiple phases to this, and the plan is in full swing.

Due to Covid, we have had to cancel all live events so far this year. We have had two virtual events though, a trivia night and a bingo night. Those that attended had a blast. All fundraising has been online; we had Amplify Austin which raised \$9300, Fun in the Golden Sun brought in \$4200, our Permanent foster sponsorships are at \$3000 and the 2021 calendar auction bidding and thumbnails will bring in about \$7400. So, while we have not held live events, we have been very busy.

I am more than impressed with the GRR community and how our volunteers and members continue their support and staying active with the organization. We look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Best regards,  
Michelle Goldberg

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Do you have questions or comments for the Board? We value your input. Please send a note to [grrboard@grr-tx.com](mailto:grrboard@grr-tx.com) and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you! The next board meeting is **September 19, 2020**.

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## The Winners of the GRR 2021 Calendar Auction



The results are in! The auction winners are:

**Cover** Howard Curtis  
**January** Dawn Marie Rae  
**February** Mary E. Johnston  
**March** Carol Adams  
**April** Kathleen Kerr  
**May** Howard Curtis  
**June** Kelly Topfer  
**July** Marla McClain  
**August** Cindy Nelson Weiner  
**September** Michele Richmond  
**October** Carey Gunthert  
**November** Steve Crorey  
**December** Robert Birkeneder

**Thumbnails** Dawn Marie Rae, Kelly Topfer, Dori Olsen, Barbara Tankey, Howard Curtis, Karen Schultz, Christi Bass, Judy Sebesta, Amanda Price, Cecilia Marion, Cara Reichenbach, Kathleen Kerr, Jeanne Avant, Raylynn Howell, Vicki Schnell, Jolie Lay, Alice Hoffman, Amy McCaffrey, Dawn Hinckley and Tim Tierney

**Be on the lookout: The 2021 calendars will go on sale in October.**

**Watch the Waistline!**



# BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

TOO THIN	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.		1
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.		2
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.		3
IDEAL	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.		4
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.		5
TOO HEAVY	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.		6
	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.		7
	8	Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.		8
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.		9
				9

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been validated as documented in the following publications:

Hartley D, Baracos JN, Moyes T, et al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and desferrioxamine as a model for validation in client owned dogs. *Compendium* 2001; 23 (9A): 70

Lafreniere CF. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Canine Practice* July/August 1997; 22:10-15

Keady, et al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 220:1315-1320

Call 1-800-222-VETS (8387), weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

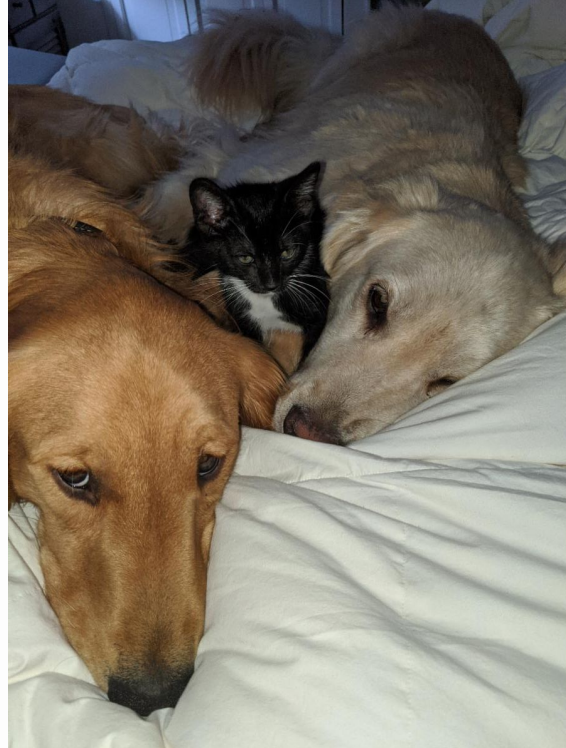
**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Paulette Lance for her suggestion to include information on dog obesity!

## Where Are They Now?

Thor 19-073  
Tim Tierney

Thor (19-073), left, just hanging out with his brothers, Sylvester and Blade... Wondering

if this Covid thing is over so they can have the house back to themselves during the day!



**Julio** - Julio 20-024 now Buddy, was adopted July 10th. He is thoroughly enjoying his wonderful new family where he is, and will be, well loved. They all enjoyed a road trip this summer and Buddy did great!

Julio/Buddy is one lucky dog! His new "buddy" Jas says "welcome" also.

**Enrique** - Enrique 20-025,now Charlie, was adopted on July 16th. His new family loved Charlie immediately and the dogs were immediate friends.

How wonderful - a forever home for Charlie!







**Roadie** - Roadie 20-019 was adopted July 29th by his foster dad. It wasn't his foster's intention to adopt Roadie at first, but after months of fostering and enduring the long road of Heartworm treatment, his foster knew Roadie was his bud and was meant to stay with him. They truly are two best buds, enjoying each others company!

This is such a fantastic outcome! Two of our dedicated volunteers drove two days back and forth to Cameron County to bring Roadie into the GRR family.. We knew he was a special guy!

Congratulations Roadie!!!

## Too Hot to Trot!

**Petplan**

**ouch!**

**too hot to trot!**

**7 second rule**

rest your hand on the pavement → wait seven seconds → too hot? wait out the walk

**Rule of paw: if it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your hound!**

**asphalt temperature\***

outside F°	asphalt F°
77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°
102°	167°

Skin damage can occur in 1 minute!

125° asphalt temp. → 1 min → !

It's hot enough to fry an egg in 5 minutes!

135° asphalt temp. → 5 mins → 🍳

**health tips from Dr. Kim Smyth**

- avoid mid-day walks; stroll during cooler hours.
- invest in a good pair of dog booties.
- try a topical product to toughen paw pads.
- walk in the grass during the hottest part of the day!

\*Degrees, wind, rain, humidity, air wind, high radiant energy. Source: JASMA, 1980 Sacramento

**Petplan.com**

## Hot Pavement: The Damage It Can Do to Your Dog's Paws and How to Avoid It. Dogtime.com

The long, sunny days of summer might make for great dog walking weather, but the bright sunshine can also cook sidewalks, streets, and driveways. That's dangerous for your pup. What should you do to keep your dog's paws safe, and how do you know if the pavement is too hot? Here are a few tips to protect your pooch's paws.

## Too Hot? Here's The Test!

Your dog needs to go outside both to go potty and to exercise. There may be no avoiding the fact that you'll have to take a walk when it's hot, but you still have to worry about hot asphalt.

There's a simple test for you to know if the ground is too hot for your dog's paws. Place the back of your hand on the ground, and if you can't keep it there for five seconds, then it's too hot for your pup.

### **Avoiding The Heat**

If your dog needs to go for a walk during the summer, there are some things you can do to avoid walking on hot pavement.

Try walking in the early hours of the morning before the sun has had a chance to heat the ground too much. An evening walk near or after sunset can also reduce exposure to heated pavement.

Specifically avoid pavement during the middle of the day or early afternoon, as these will be the times when asphalt is likely at its hottest.

During the day, stick to grassy areas. Grass won't be as hot as asphalt and will be much easier on the paws. Shady areas that are out of the direct sunlight for most of the day can also be safer, but be sure to do the five second test.

Continue reading [here](#).

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### **In Memoriam - Duchess 16-089 Dan Young**

Sad news: my sweet pup Duchess (16-089) passed away yesterday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. She was an absolute treasure to me and her family. We miss and love her — always will. Her condition took a pretty quick downward turn. Her vet, Dr. Meyer, helped her get to the Rainbow Bridge. I was with her. With such a grateful heart, I thank Margo and Gold Ribbon for rescuing Duchess three years ago.

From what I know, Duchess' person of twelve years went to live in a retirement community and couldn't bring Duchess. Duchess ended up at her vet's in Kerrville for two weeks, where no one would adopt her—probably because of her age. That's when y'all rescued her. When I saw Duchess' photos indicating that she was just rescued, I knew she had to be mine. I knew at first sight. She became my best friend. Thank you for letting me adopt this angel. Life has been so sweet with her.







She has road-tripped to Colorado twice — even camped in Rocky Mountain National Park, played in the snow and taken in sunrises from the mountains just above Fort Collins. She spent a day at the Port Aransas beach. We hiked Pedernales Falls and the Lady Bird Trail at Town Lake.

She loved Lauri and her family and even made very special connections with Lauri's kids. Duchess loved Christmas morning, too. She was the center of attention when opening gifts. Duchess also loved to help bring in the groceries, as well as chase squirrels. Mostly though, she loved being with her people.



Now that she's gone, I can see even more how big her presence was.



She was the best pup; one-of-a-kind comfort and friend.



So thank you for rescuing her and choosing me to be her dog dad.

She was a very special pup—a gift to all of us.



## Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

Holden 14-088  
Mali (Malibu 12-071)  
Timmy 13-049  
Duchess 16-089  
Hercules 17-003





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Send comments or suggestions to: [newsletter@grr-tx.com](mailto:newsletter@grr-tx.com)

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