
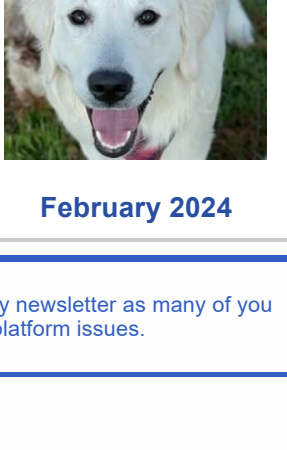


Gold Ribbon Rescue



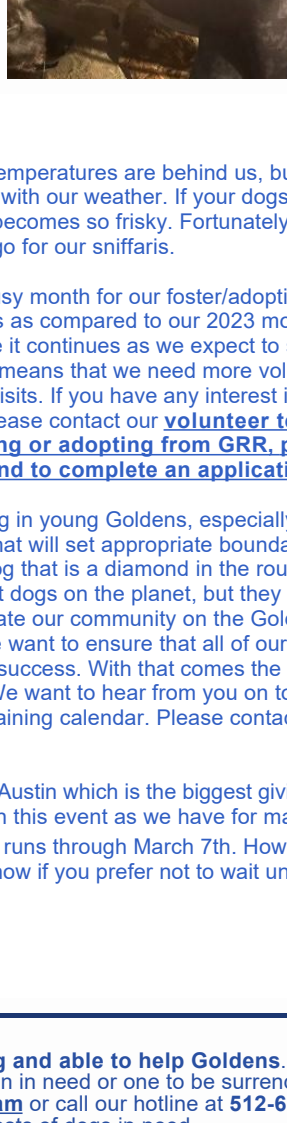
GoldenTales



February 2024

**Message to Our Readers:** We're resending our February newsletter as many of you didn't receive it yesterday because our email vendor had platform issues.

**A Message From Our President**



Hi friends,

I sure hope the frigid temperatures are behind us, but we all know that this month can prove to be very fickle with our weather. If your dogs are like mine, they absolutely love the cold weather and becomes so frisky. Fortunately, we have plenty of the right clothes to bundle up and still go for our sniffs.

January was a very busy month for our foster/adoption approval team as we received 28% more applications as compared to our 2023 monthly average. We are excited to see this increase and hope it continues as we expect to see the increase of incoming dogs continue as well. This means that we need more volunteers to help us conduct phone interviews and home visits. If you have any interest in conducting phone interviews or in person home visits, please contact our [volunteer team](#). And as always, if you are [interested in fostering or adopting from GRR](#), please visit our [website to learn about our policies and to complete an application](#).

GRR continues to bring in young Golden Retrievers, especially males, that need socialization, training and a family that will set appropriate boundaries and provide the enrichment needed for a young dog that is a diamond in the rough. We all know that Golden Retrievers are the best dogs on the planet, but they don't always come this way. Part of our mission is to educate our community on the Golden Retriever breed and responsible dog ownership and we want to ensure that all of our dogs and foster and adoptive families are set up for success. With that being said, the training webinar we will provide throughout the year. We want to hear from you on topics you find relevant and useful as we are planning our training calendar. Please contact [me](#) at with your ideas on helpful topics.

Next month is Amplify Austin which is the biggest giving day in Central Texas. GRR is excited to participate in this event as we have for many years. The actual event starts at 6pm on March 6th and runs through March 7th. However, early giving is in effect so you can make a donation now if you prefer not to wait until March. Click [here](#) for more details,

Warm regards,  
Michelle

**GRR is ready, willing and able to help Golden Retrievers.** Please always remember to contact our [Intake team](#) or call our hotline at **512-659-4653** as our social media pages aren't monitored for posts of dogs in need.

**Do you have questions or comments for the Board?** We value your input. Please send a note to the [GRR Board](#) and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you! The next board meeting is **March 16, 2024**.

**Happening This Month!**

**Karate Kick-a-Thon Fundraiser**  
Saturday, February 10th  
10:30 a.m. - Noon

The **Culin Karate Center of Cedar Park** is hosting a fundraiser for Gold Ribbon Rescue with the goal of raising \$3,000. This event is in memory of Emily Tuczowski and her legacy of work with Golden Retrievers. Golden Retrievers she so adored. Come help us honor Emily and support Gold Ribbon Rescue.

The way a Kick-a-Thon works is that the karate students and parents find someone (private or business) to sponsor them. Sponsors pledge money (pennies/nickels/dollars) for each kick that the child does in 90 seconds on one of the Karate Center KickBags. Then, the number of kicks is multiplied by the pledge and all the money goes to the organization.

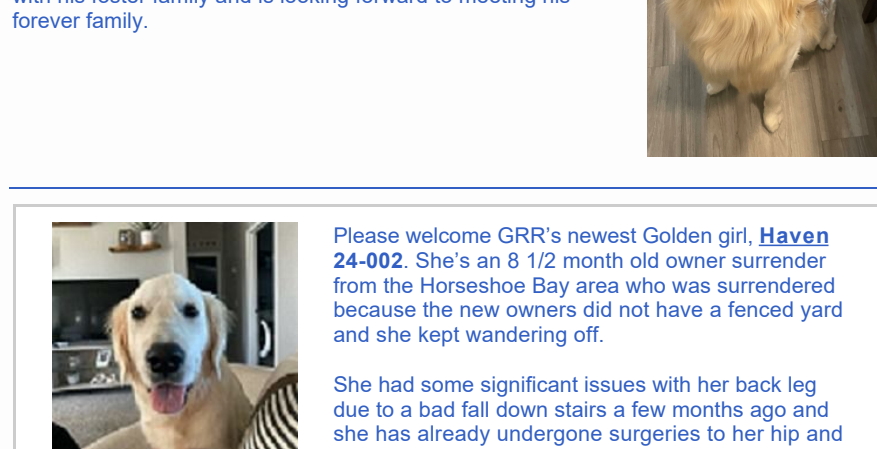
**Event Location:**

Culin Karate Center of Cedar Park  
The Commons at Buttercup Creek  
200 Buttercup Cup Creek #126, Cedar Park TX 78613  
Website: [www.joinkarate.com](#)

We will have a Gold Ribbon Rescue table at the event and will be available to greet and thank those in attendance and talk with people about GRR.

Please let us know if you want to help with this event.

Also, if you have kids who would like to be shown how to kick the bag safely and participate in the Kick-a-Thon Fundraiser, let us know and we can send you a Sponsor sheet. Please contact [Susan O'Reilly](#) or [Paula Ellis](#).



**It's All About the Dogs! Here's Our Roundup!**

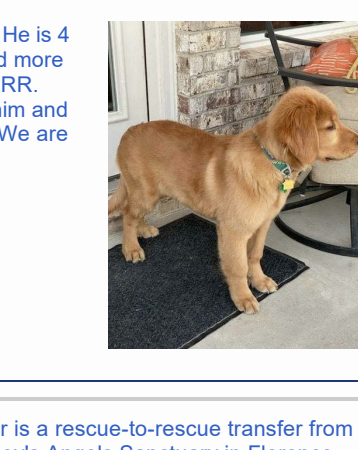
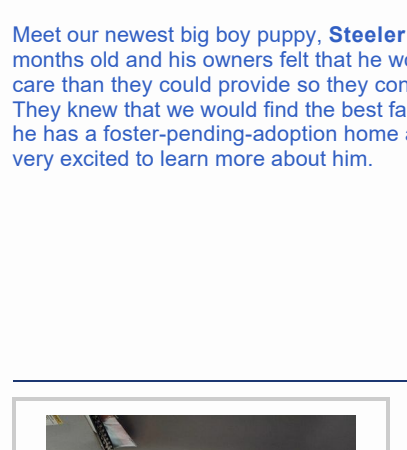
**Spotlight on Haven 24-002**



Haven is an 8 month old petite cream Golden Retriever. She could not be sweeter, but she has certainly had an interesting journey in her short life. Haven was purchased from a breeder and landed herself a loving home in an apartment complex, which is where Haven fell down a flight of stairs. She had injuries to both back legs, her left hip and a broken jaw. Haven had surgery to repair a femur break and her hip on her left side. Her jaw healed on its own. Haven's back right leg fracture healed on its own about 3 weeks ago. Haven needs to be with another playful dog and she would love to be around children and a dragging foot. Haven wears a shoe on that foot when leaving the house so it does not scrape on the pavement. This does not slow her down and she can be seen running around the backyard as fast as any dog. Click [here](#) to watch Haven in action.

With all that she has endured she is the cuddliest and happiest puppy. She loves to cuddle, give kisses and chew on her toys. She is housebroken and loves frozen green beans. Haven was spayed and is now ready for her forever home. To live her best life, Haven needs to be with another playful dog and she would love to be around children. She ran into a group of girl scouts selling cookies and was all over them. The more attention she can get the better.

Below left: Nothing more wonderful or more challenging than puppy play time in the mud. Foster Haven was in heaven. (January 23, 2024)



Interested? [Learn about adopting from Gold Ribbon Rescue and complete an adoption application](#). If you think you might be the perfect family for Haven or if you would like more information about her, please contact [Michelle](#).

**Look Who's Here! Welcome to GRR!**

**Tucker 24-001** is a year and a half old boy who is our first intake of 2024. He is an owner surrender from the San Antonio area who was surrendered because the owner was going through life changes and did not have the time to devote to Tucker due to long hours away from home. His loving owner wanted Tucker to have a family with a person who would make him part of their family. Tucker has settled in with his foster family and is looking forward to meeting his forever family.



Please welcome GRR's newest Golden girl **Haven 24-002**. She's an 8 1/2 month old owner surrender from the Horseshoe Bay area who was surrendered because the new owners did not have a fenced yard and she kept wandering off.

She had some significant issues with her back leg due to a bad fall down stairs a few months ago and she has already undergone surgery to her hip and leg. Our GRR vet has cleared Haven as fully healed and she is ready for her forever family.

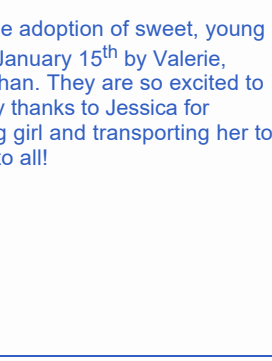
**Kora 24-003** is an owner surrender, along with her pal **Po (Potato) 24-004**, from the Plügerville area due to a change in life circumstances that required two more adult description from home.

**Kora** is a 2 1/2 year-old adolescent Golden, who, along with her best buddy, Po, loves walks. They both need some work on leash walking, but naturally they get excited and want to zip along tracking everything, checking out smells, etc. They love to tear stuffed and soft rubber toys into pieces so these are NOT recommended for them.

**Po** is a 2 1/2 year-old who is also a typical adolescent Golden. He loves to greet new people and both he and Kora are ready to go to work. They both love to enjoy their food. They do need some retraining because they were taught to "dig" which involves them jumping up on people.

**Max 24-005** is a 4 year-old owner surrender from Schertz. Max was adopted as a puppy from one of the surrendering owner's daughter's college friends who was in an apartment. Then, when he was around 5 months old, that girl realized it wasn't working out and the new owner's daughter and her boyfriend took him about 12 miles away. Short version, Max ended up with the mom who now has medical issues and doesn't have the energy or time for Max that he deserves. Max is settling in with his foster family and is available for adoption.

Meet our newest big boy puppy, **Steeler 24-007**. He is 4 months old and his owners felt that he would need more care than they could provide so they contacted GRR. They knew that we would find the best family for him and he has a foster-pending-adoption home already. We are very excited to learn more about him.

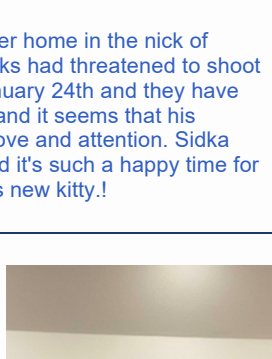


Bear is a rescue-to-rescue transfer from Harley's Angels Sanctuary in Florence. A Sanctuary volunteer was driving home when she turned onto 183 and saw Bear walking at the side of the road. She couldn't pull over to help him but the next morning, to everyone's surprise, they discovered Bear walking down their driveway. No ID of course and no owner could be located so the Sanctuary contacted GRR for help.

Bear is with his foster family and is enjoying his new indoor life. We're so grateful for cooperation between rescues so that we are able to help more Golden Retrievers.

Please welcome **Bear 24-006** who is a super handsome and very friendly 18 to 24 month-old puppy.

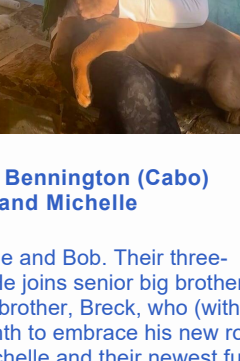
**Scoop 23-077** is a 1 year-old boy who was adopted about 4 months ago. It turned out that the family doesn't have the time required for a young Golden that they thought they had. Our process is thorough and we ask many questions to ensure that we are placing dogs with their forever families, but sometimes we find out after adoption that the entire family isn't ready for the responsibility of an exuberant Golden puppy. We are grateful to Scoop's adoptive family that they realized early on it wasn't a good match. Scoop came back to GRR and we will find him his perfect forever family.



**My Dreams Really Did Come True! I Got Adopted!**

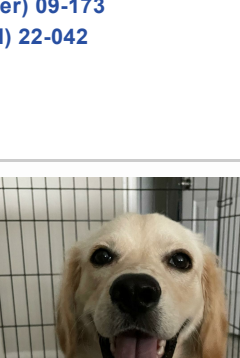
**Spencer 23-091** was adopted on January 7th by Denise and Patrick who are thrilled to make this boy, "an extreme cuddler," part of their family. From the looks of it, Spencer feels the same way. We love this news! Extreme cuddler is the perfect description of Spencer.

We are so happy to announce that **Booker 23-109** was adopted by Stephanie on January 10th! Stephanie, a previous GRR adopter, now has an older GRR brother, Fitz. Stephanie and her family will provide a great life for Booker, who is described as a very special dog. Congratulations to the new family.



We take joy in announcing that **Asher** found his forever home on January 12th with Laura and Kirk! He is loving being an "only" dog and they're so happy to welcome him! Congratulations to them all!

Happy-go-lucky, sweet 4 year-old **Ripley 23-114** was adopted by the Hamilton Greenbelt in Lakeway with treats and "Hello" whole family, including their 13 year-old son, is "thrilled she is finally with us." Ripley agrees! Congratulations to the new family.

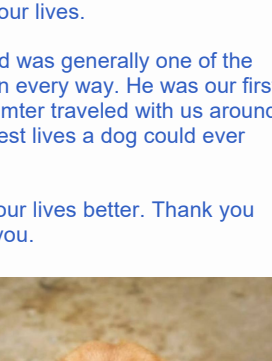


We are so happy to announce the adoption of sweet, young **Winter Wednesday 23-111** on January 15th by Valerie, Dennis and their adult son Jonathan. They are so excited to welcome her to their family. Many thanks to Jessica for fostering and teaching this young girl and transporting her to her new home! Congratulations to all!

**Ellie 23-116** was our last dog to arrive in 2023 and we're pleased to announce that she has been adopted! Ellie found her forever home with Jennifer and Maria on January 15th and they are patiently working with her in introducing her to their 10 year old Golden, Scooby, and the cat. Ellie is beginning to realize that she is home and enjoys walking side by side with Scooby. Their daughter Marissa went back to school, but she enjoyed some serious bonding with Ellie while she was home for Christmas break. Ellie is a lovely girl and much loved!

When it sounds as if **Sidka 23-110** just made it to his forever home in the nick of time! As an escape artist, a neighbor with chickens and ducks had threatened to shoot him if he came back! Rick and Donna adopted Sidka on January 24th and they have really taken to him. They're excited to have Sidka in their home and they're excited to have Sidka in their home. Sidka checked "all the boxes" for what they wished for in a dog and it's such a happy time for them all! Congratulations to the new family, including Sidka's new kitty!

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news with you that **Ramsay 23-105** was adopted on January 29th by Scott and Kellie and their children. The entire family is beyond excited to welcome Ramsay into their hearts and home. This marks a special milestone for them as Ramsay is their first Golden. Ramsay is head over heels in love with their new furry family member, and the joy radiates through their home. We wish them countless moments of happiness and love as they embark on this new chapter with Ramsay.



**Front: Bennington (Cabo) and Kona**  
**Back from left: Juneau, Sidka, Breck**

**Breck, Bennington (Cabo) and Michelle**

Bennington (now Cabo) was adopted January 30th by Michelle and Bob. Their three-month-old snuggly adventurer is the new baby of the family. He joins senior big brother Juneau, expert big sisters Kona and Sidka and brand new big brother, Breck, who (with a little help from his people) has worked hard over the past month to embrace his new role. Everyone is doing beautifully! Congratulations to Bob and Michelle and their newest furry family member.

**Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...**

**Sumter 12-157**  
**Murphy 18-024**  
**Alex (Alexander) 09-173**  
**Benny (Powell) 22-042**

**Sumter 12-157**  
**Murphy 18-024**  
**Benny (Powell) 22-042**

**Alex (Alexander) 09-173**

**In Memoriam**

**Sumter 12-157**

**Benjamin Brooks**

**Sumter Brooks**

**2011-2023**

We have been bridging this day for so long, but knew it was inevitable. Sumter (12-157) crossed the rainbow bridge on Saturday after 12 years. Sumter passed away on December 23rd from complications due to a brain lesion. We rescued him when he was a year and a half and he immediately brought happiness into our lives.

He always greeted us with smiles, tail wags, nose nudges and was generally one of the happiest dogs I have ever known. He made our lives better in every way. He was our first dog in our family and he will always be first in our hearts. Sumter traveled with us around the world, he especially loved Scotland. He got one of the best lives a dog could ever receive. We loved him and love him still.

I thank God for putting Sumter into our lives, he truly made our lives better. Thank you Sumter for loving us and taking care of our family. We love you.

I said goodbye to Murphy last Thursday (January 18th) and I am totally devastated as he stole my heart. I've loved all of my Golden Retrievers, but Murphy was different in a very special way. His first five years of life weren't so good, but I spent the next six years making them awesome. Murphy loved to ride in the car and would sit and look out the window the whole time. I thought of it as Driving Mr. Murphy as he was so content. He acquired my shopping habits and the Pottery Barn staff always greeted him with treats and "Hello, Murphy" when we walked in. The Hamilton Greenbelt in Lakeway was his favorite and he enjoyed the Hill Country Gables as he loved walking, shopping, treats and lots of hellos from people. Loved you to the moon and back, Murphy, but of course you knew that. Until we meet again.

On January 17, 2024, Alex (Alexander 09-173) crossed over the Rainbow Bridge. We miss Alex at the home of foster parents Pam and Dean Phillips. As we sat on the lowest getting to know Alex, he crawled into the lap of my husband, to my left, squirmed his way across both our laps, rolled over onto his back, turned his head to his side almost 180 degrees, and looked up at me. From that moment, we knew he was a special dog. And from that moment, he owned our hearts.

One of the early GRR online posts about Alex when he was up for adoption read, "Zing! Zing! Zoom! Boing! Bounce! Oh... did I just knock someone over? Is that person saying something?" Oh Well... "Jump! Twirl! Charge! Leap!" That post was an apt description of Alex's experience, which was on display on his first visit to our home when he took a bounding leap up our back patio steps straight into... our hot tub! Alex's energy and enthusiasm never waned, but as years passed his antics took a toll, and he developed spinal arthritis. He never lost his zest for life, but after nearly 16 years (14+ in our home), his body could no longer sustain it.

We cared for him almost full time this last year, and his absence leaves a hole we will never fill. Words cannot express our deep appreciation to GRR and Pam and Dean for allowing us to know and enjoy the spirited life force that was Alexander. We will always love you, Alex. To call you special seems inadequate. You were Alexander the Great.

**Benny (Powell) 22-042**

**Amanda Price**

Benny (Powell) joined my family as a 7 month old puppy. He and his significant other, Arizona, were picked up as strays and taken to the Lockhart Animal Shelter and, unbelievably, no one came looking for them. They became GRR Golden on June 30, 2022 and came in as scared, timid little puppies. I was so happy to have them. We will always love you, Alex. To call you special seems inadequate. You were Alexander the Great.

We picked him up from his stash home on July 6th and Benny very quickly transformed from a frightened little puppy to a happy smiling boy who found his forever home with us on August 15th. We couldn't have been happier and we loved him so much and thought he would be with us for a very long time. Unfortunately, Benny contracted pneumonia a few days ago and after trying everything we could to help him, we had to make the terrible decision to let him cross the Rainbow Bridge. He was only 2 1/2 years old.

We are devastated, but so thankful that he was with us for his short life. Godspeed sweet Benny.

**Editor's Note:** Benny is Mr. November in the GRR 2024 calendar.

**You Really Need to Know This!**

**What Golden Retrievers are Teaching Us about Cancer**

**In September, Sara Fritz**

lost her six-year-old golden retriever, Emma, to an especially aggressive cancer called hemangiosarcoma. As a pet parent, she was heartbroken. As a practicing cancer oncologist, she was frustrated.

More than 60 percent of golden retrievers will develop cancer in their lifetimes, compared to about 25 percent of other breeds.

"All dogs can develop cancer, but golden have the highest probability," said Fritz. "We believe they have many cancer-related gene variants. We just haven't narrowed them down, hence we haven't been able to target them."

This, however, may be changing. **Scientists** are studying this popular breed, both to help the dogs and to learn more about human cancers. Dogs and humans share most of the **same genes**.

**Golden Clues to Cancer**

The Morris Animal Foundation has had an ongoing study in golden retrievers for more than a decade, trying to identify genetic, environmental, nutritional and other factors that influence cancer. And scientists at the University of California at Davis who are seeking to find out why some golden retrievers live longer than others have discovered a genetic variant associated with increased longevity.

Continue reading [here](#).



Newsletter Editor: Don Olsen  
Send comments or suggestions to [news@gnr-ix.com](#)

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