



Golden Tales

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January 2021

A Message From Our President



Hello Friends,

I cannot believe that we are here in 2021 already. I am definitely ready for a new year as I am sure you all are. I have said this so many times and maybe this will be one of the last times, but 2020 was a year of incredible challenges and we crossed many bridges that we have never had to before. Though there were some very difficult hurdles we had to overcome, Gold Ribbon Rescue remains strong thanks to our incredible community who

never wavered with their support.

Covid-19 has forced us to restructure several ways we operate. GRR quickly turned to technology as did the rest of the world and we successfully held our meetings, training sessions and fun events virtually. We had to come up with different ways to interact with our potential foster and adoptive families through the approval process. We received 236 foster/adoption applications, completed 145 telephone interviews, 139 home visits and 107 dogs were adopted. We brought in 104 new dogs which included our 13 Turkey dogs. We had three litters of puppies and got many dogs through medical treatment and healthy for their forever families. We even had one of our newest dogs escorted into central Texas via a private plane.

I want to give a huge thank you to all who donated \$13,670 to our Tree of Hope which will go towards our Extraordinary Golden Fund. We sold out of calendars quickly as well, so thank you to all who contributed their lovely dog photos and to those who purchased a calendar. Another thank you goes out to Tomlinson's for continuing their Pound4Pound pet food drive and as a result GRR will receive 2300 pounds of premium dog food in 2021.

We will be kicking off 2021 with six Golden Retrievers arriving in Texas from Turkey on January 22nd. They are being escorted by a flight volunteer, courtesy of our rescue partners in Istanbul. Read more about this mission [here](#).

As I look forward to what the next year will look like, my vision has been very fluid at times. My hope is that Covid-19 gets under better control so that we are able to gather as a community again. We will continue to utilize virtual technology as a key component with our communication. Our doors will always remain open to Golden Retrievers in need and we will look for ways to be more proactive with our efforts to remain a strong and vital rescue organization.

My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for being the best cheerleaders Gold Ribbon Rescue could ask for. Cheers to you in the new year.

Warm regards,
Michelle Goldberg

Do you have questions or comments for the Board? We value your input. 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! The next board meeting is **January 16, 2021**.



Thank you all, so much! We received donations of **\$13,670** and we especially appreciate your generous support this year because we realize that it has been a difficult year for all of us. Thanks to your good will and generosity we are able to continue to fulfill our mission to help Golden Retrievers with special medical needs and/or emotional issues.

Coming Soon From the Forests of Istanbul!

			
Name: Dream Gender: Female Age: 3 years Sponsorship Available	Name: Harmony Gender: Female Age: 2 years Sponsorship Available	Name: Honor Gender: Female Age: 1 year Sponsorship Available	Name: Justice Gender: Male Age: 6 years Sponsorship Available
			
Name: Peace Gender: Male Age: 4 years Sponsorship Available		Name: Truth Gender: Female Age: 7-8 years Sponsorship Available	

Our Turkey Dog Rescue Mission – January 2021

We are kicking off 2021 with six beautiful Turkey Golden Retrievers arriving from Istanbul on January 22nd. This group will include four females and two males between one to eight years. The dogs will be met in Houston by GRR Volunteers, spend the night at the Houston La Quinta Inn and then driven to Austin for vetting before going to their GRR Foster/FPA homes.

Golden Retrievers "used to be" a status symbol in Istanbul. Golden puppies were imported from Germany and England and sold in pet stores. But the puppies grew up and their desirability was lost. They were turned loose into the streets and forests to fend for themselves, competing with packs of other, more aggressive dogs, for food. A pair of wonderful Turkish women have made it their life mission to round up the Golden Retrievers from the streets and forests and get them to countries that love them. To learn more about this initiative, click [here](#).

Gold Ribbon Rescue has joined with other rescue groups to bring abandoned dogs from Turkey and other countries to the US. Last November, we brought 13 dogs from Turkey and all of the dogs are doing wonderfully.

The dogs will travel on nonstop commercial flights from Istanbul to Houston where GRR volunteers greet the dogs and chauffeur them to Austin. In Austin, the dogs will have additional vet care at [Manchaca Village Veterinary Care](#) and then move to their foster or foster-to-adopt homes.

Join us in welcoming these six new Golden Retrievers who desperately need our care and love. In order to continue to save these International Golden Retrievers, we'll need your continued support. If

you would like to sponsor a Turkey dog, click [here](#). Click [Donate](#) to make a donation to our Turkey Dog International Rescue Fund.

Please share this information with your friends and family. The more money we can raise, the more Golden Retrievers we can rescue.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



How We're Doing

Google Business sent us our Google results from October. Wow! Check it out!

Gold Ribbon Rescue

49,419 PEOPLE HAVE FOUND YOU ON GOOGLE

Here are the top search queries used to find you:

golden retriever rescue
used by 1069 people
golden retriever puppies austin
used by 662 people
golden retriever rescue texas
used by 588 people

4,497

visited your website
30% FROM OCTOBER 2020

91

called you
9.6% FROM OCTOBER 2020

If you would like to leave a review of Gold Ribbon Rescue, please go to [Yelp](#)

May I Sit on Your Couch? - Abbie (Miranda 18-005)



Miranda/Abbie was threatened by a rancher before she was adopted by an older couple who adored her. Unfortunately the husband died and the wife moved to a retirement community so Abbie was returned to GRR. Abbie is resilient and continues to love people and life. Her current foster mom says "Abbie enjoys sitting on the sofa with us, going for a walk and being a Sweetie Pie. She's also healthy." Abbie needs an adopting family who will give her the love and attention she needs. [Learn more.](#)

Super Urgent! Bruno 20-102
Jacki Mulkey



Why is there a photo of a plane? Read on!

Our friend Renee Nank who is in rescue in the Rio Grande Valley reached out to the Intake team to see if we would be able to take a two year-old male Golden because he needed immediate placement. One look at the photo and I only had one question: When can we collect him?", not realizing he was in the Valley, which is a five to six hour drive.

A little voice inside my head told me to start thinking outside the box if we were going to make this happen!

First things first. We had to find a vet where we could stash him overnight while we found someone to drive six hours to pick him up the next day. We did get lucky and Renee found a local vet. Next steps; post an urgent plea in our Volunteer Facebook group begging for a long distance transporter. Remember, this was on December 22nd and many volunteers had family for the holiday and could not make the long trek. This is about the time where I started to think that we are going to need a Christmas miracle.

Prayers answered! A few minutes after posting to our Facebook group I was pinged by a new member, Glenn Chiappe, saying that he is a previous GRR adopter, is a pilot, owns his own plane and he could go get him. I was shocked and very giddy about this extremely generous offer. I do believe this is the first time a new GRR Golden arrived in Austin via a private plane. Even the Turkey Dogs have to fly "coach!"

Why not two? When picking up Bruno, Renee also rescued a sheep from the same family. The poor sheep was tied up and had an empty water bowl and Renee knew he needed rescuing. The owner said yes and both Bruno and the sheep were promptly loaded into Renee's SUV (uncrated) to start their new lives. I think Bruno and the sheep were pals because he was seen giving kisses to her.



Here's why! Bruno arrives by first class.

Another Christmas miracle! Renee also rescued a beautiful Aussie girl who was on the short list for euthanasia with the local shelter. She sent me a photo and I sent it to our own Carey Gunthert to see if she could help get her into an Aussie rescue. The answer was yes, so both Bruno and his Aussie pal arrived safely at the Lago Vista airport on December 23rd.

Back on the ground. While waiting for their rides to their foster homes, the pair thought it was lots of fun swimming in the pool that was waiting for them at Glenn's house. These two beautiful creatures arrived in Austin just in time to spend the holidays in a nice, safe and warm place.



Many, many thanks! Huge thanks to Glenn, Renee, Carey, PJ and all of the GRR supporters who were cheering us on so that Bruno and his Aussie friend could have a warm and loving place to land.



Happy New Year!

The Stubborn Dog

Whole Dog Journal



I cringe whenever I hear someone refer to a dog as “stubborn.” It is patently unfair to label a dog as stubborn. Dogs do what works for them (as we all do), and when they aren’t doing what we ask, they have a good reason. When your dog doesn’t respond to your cue, perhaps he’s come to associate it with something aversive, perhaps he doesn’t understand what you’re asking, or perhaps he’s too distracted or stressed and your request doesn’t even register in his brain. In any case, it’s our job, as the supposedly more intelligent species, to figure out how to get our dogs to want to do what we want them to do.

Some humans believe dogs should do what they are told, simply because we tell them to. “Because I said so!” hearkens back to childhood, when parental directives were often accompanied by the implied “Do it, or else!” In these days of a more enlightened dog training philosophy, this coercive approach isn’t what many of us want with our dogs. We prefer relationships based on a cooperative partnership.

If your dog isn’t doing what you ask, consider these questions:

Are you training competently? Remember, dogs shouldn’t have to do what we say just because we tell them to – or just because they love us. We want them to want to do it. Make sure your reinforcers are valuable enough that your dog will eagerly offer the behaviors you ask for, and that you are marking and/or delivering the reinforcer with good timing so your dog associates the reinforcer with the desired behavior.

Continue reading [here](#).

There's Always Room at the Inn! Winnie 20-103
Becky LaBrum



Thirteen-year-old Winnie found her safe haven just in time for Christmas. Late on December 22nd, a nice family spotted the skinny old gal wandering down the street. They'd never seen her before, and posts on social media came up empty. She was sporting a battered tag with her name and a local phone, but the number was disconnected. A quick trip to the vet didn't turn up a microchip. Dead ends everywhere! New developments are under construction nearby, with a long ditch running behind; was Winnie just dumped, and had been making her way along that dusty "roadway" in her search for help? She was tired, hungry, thirsty, and dirty all over. But lucky Winnie had come to the right place. The kind family opened the door and she strolled right in. She was happy to hop in the tub, strutted about with a mouthful of toys, and generally made it clear she'd been an indoor pup before! When we asked, "Can you keep her safe in the yard overnight?" the answer was, "Well, uh, actually she is on the sofa right now."

But the resident elderly Lhasa Apso was NOT pleased to have another dog in the house. Where could Winnie go? A call to the our Hotline and a day later, the sweet old lady was settled in under her foster family's Christmas tree. She is safe and warm at last, and looking forward to a very happy New Year as a GRR Golden. Welcome to the family #20-103 Winnie!



The Golden Walker



Frank, the Golden Walker

Frank, the Golden Walker. came through Austin on Sunday afternoon, December 13th, and he was greeted by GRR members and their Golden Retrievers at Republic Square Park. We were asked by the Golden Retriever Rescue in Mid-Florida if we could lend some Golden support to one of their volunteers who is biking ocean to ocean from San Diego, California to New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Frank was biking from California to Florida to raise money for the Florida group's rescue mission and to honor Murphy, his recently passed Golden. Frank's story is [here](#). Of course we were only too happy to support another great Golden Retriever Rescue group and show that we care. Our Volunteer Coordinator Gail March jumped into action and gathered a group of GRR members and their Golden Retrievers who met Frank at the park and gave him a great Austin welcome.

Frank's story is [here](#). Click [here](#) to see videos on Facebook of Frank's adventure.



Left to Right - Gail March, Frank the Golden Walker and Jacki Mulkey



Left to Right: Laura Bredt and friend, PJ Hassett , Frank the Golden Walker, Jacki Mulkey and Ashley Ladarola





Opposites Attract! - "Blossom" Burgeson and Her Sibling



Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

Lucky 14-146
Pablo 12-155



Newsletter Editor: Dorian Olsen

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

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