

Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Rehoming  
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

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March 2020

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## A Message From Our President

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Dear Friends,

Bittersweet news – I will be stepping down as president of Gold Ribbon Rescue on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It's been a wonderful experience, working with so many passionate and hard-working volunteers these many years. We've accomplished so much.

In 2018, Gary and I purchased two gently rolling acres in rural Asheville, North Carolina. We've begun construction on our dog-friendly, big-porched home, and will move with our rescued canines in March 2021. The thought of driving five Golden Retrievers, an ancient Sheltie/Aussie mix, and a neurotic Irish Wolfhound from Austin to North Carolina utterly terrifies me.

Per our bylaws, board vice-president. Michelle Goldberg, will step in as GRR's president on April 1st. This will allow a seamless transition. I am delighted that GRR will have such an experienced, knowledgeable and committed, long-time teammate lead our fine organization.

GRR has been very important to me these 21+ years. Although I will remain as your medical supervisor a while longer, eventually slave driver Gary will insist that I turn my attention to the upcoming move.

I'm feeling nostalgic, thinking of all we have accomplished together since our early days in 1998:

- We've rescued 3,272 dogs; mostly Goldens. Some had horrific pasts due to homelessness, starvation, painful broken bones, abuse, or abandonment. In one

heartbreaking case, four Golden Retrievers survived weeks in their home without food or water, alongside their deceased owner.

- In addition to saving Texas Golden Retrievers, we've saved the lives of Golden Retrievers outside the USA: abandoned in the forests of Turkey, fed diets of tortillas in Mexico City, and from meat markets in China.
- We've raised litters of puppies born – sometimes unexpectedly – while in our care.
- We've pulled ~1,600 Golden Retrievers from animal shelters. Some were well-run, well-financed shelters, while others were under-financed animal controls with rampant distemper and parvo.
- We've spayed/neutered ~1,700 dogs, preventing countless litters of unplanned puppies.
- We've survived and thrived when 90% of dog rescue groups failed or reorganized. How did we do this? By embracing our different personalities and skill sets, working through disagreements, maintaining professionalism and fiscal responsibility, having fun, and keeping our eyes on the prize: Working Together to Do Good.

I am proud and thankful to be a part of Gold Ribbon Rescue. Looking forward, I expect even more great things from this amazing organization.

You are my family and I appreciate you all,

As Ever,  
Margo

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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](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 **May 16, 2020**

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## Amplify Austin



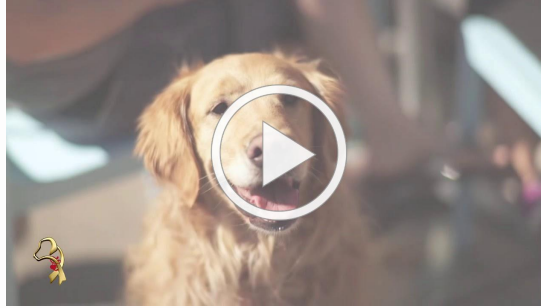
Amplify Austin is a 24-hour event that allows people like you (our supporters, fans and friends) to connect with an organization and donate to its mission.

This year, as you express your generosity, please consider Gold Ribbon Rescue. We save Golden Retrievers at risk throughout Central Texas, and well, the world. In our 20-year history, we have saved over 3,200 dogs, from as far away as the meat markets of China and the streets of Istanbul. Yet always, our hearts are here, in the Heart of Texas.

You can help Gold Ribbon Rescue reach its 2020 Amplify goal of \$15,000 so that we can continue to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home Golden Retrievers in Austin and Central Texas. Again this year, all Amplify donations benefit our Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF), which helps Golden Retrievers with severe medical issues.

Remember, a portion of your donations are amplified, or matched, by community sponsors. Thank you for your endless support of our extraordinary Golden Retrievers. To meet our extraordinary Golden Retrievers, click [here](#)!

[Amplify Austin](#) officially begins March 5th, but you can schedule a donation now by clicking [here](#)!



**We Live Here. We Love Here. We Give Here.**

**Thank you for supporting Gold Ribbon Rescue's Goldens.**

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### **Wanted: Volunteers to Represent GRR to Tomlinson's Customers!**

Tomlinson's generously provides dog food for our foster families if we meet some criteria... one of which is attending meet and greets at the stores where we can visit with their customers and explain our adoption process and mission to help Golden Retrievers in Central Texas and around the globe!

Come with a clean, friendly Gold Ribbon Rescue Golden and a happy attitude! Please text me at (512) 423-3416 or email me at [Gail March](#) if you can help!!

**Date: March 7th** at the Allandale location from 12:00-3:00p.m.

**Where:** Tomlinson's Allandale Location  
5716 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78756

Gail says "Tell em they get to spend quality time with me! I may even bring my guitar!"

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**The Mighty Texas Dog Walk**



### Don't miss The Doggiest Day in Austin

Let's Meet Up and show a GRR Golden presence at this year's Mighty Texas Dog Walk. The theme of this year's event is "Dogs are Magic" and there will be prizes given to the best team costumes. Feel free to dress your dog up as something magical: unicorns, dragons, Harry Potter, etc.

Look for the group wearing GRR t-shirts and we'll parade together. Registration opens at 9:00 AM. Gold Ribbon Rescue will start gathering at 9:30 AM. We will have some GRR tees available to give away at the event or if you already have one, please wear it so that we are recognizable as a group.

### Mark your calendar and join us for a magical Golden brigade!

**.Date:** Saturday, March 28, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**Where:** Austin American Statesman  
305 South Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78704-1200  
**Map/Directions**

**[Register Here!](#)**

**Be sure to join the Gold Ribbon Rescue team! See you there!!!**



### Want to Earn Your Wings?

Our Golden Angel Sponsorship program supports GRR's Permanent Foster dogs. There are two sponsorship levels: Full Sponsorship is \$500 and Co-Sponsorship is \$250. If you would like to become Wyatt's or Skeeter's Angel, please go to [Skeeter](#) or [Wyatt](#) and select your sponsorship level.

#### **Wyatt**

Wyatt (19-040) was surrendered by his owners at age 12 as the family's new landlord wouldn't allow Wyatt inside. Left outside, Wyatt wandered the neighborhood so his owner decided it was best to surrender Wyatt to GRR.

Wyatt is our newest Permanent Foster because he has ongoing vision and eye issues that require expensive medication and frequent visits with an ophthalmologist at the specialty hospital.



Wyatt may be 12, but he enjoys life. He's charismatic and silly at times, likes spending time with kids and the elderly and enjoys his stuffies. Wyatt plays patiently with other dogs and enjoys snuggling with his humans. He truly hates his multiple daily eye drops. Wyatt lives life on his terms.

Wyatt is available for Full or Co-Sponsorship.



### **Skeeter**

Skeeter (16-108), now 10 years old, had been used for breeding for most of her first 7 years — living in a backyard was all she knew. As a result, Skeeter was not socialized and quite shy. With positive reinforcement, patience, love and being with other calm Golden Retrievers in her foster home, Skeeter has made significant progress. She will always be sensitive, timid and fearful of new situations but Skeeter continues to grow emotionally and socially and is starting to enjoy the 'good life.'

Because of Skeeter's extreme shyness, skittishness and fear of new people and situations, GRR has made Skeeter a Permanent Foster so her forward progress continues.

Skeeter is available for Co-Sponsorship.



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## **Happy Saint Patrick's Day!**

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## 5 Simple Steps To Make Your Dog Photos Great

By Dogs Are Love On 4 Legs



**Have you ever wondered how to go from taking snapshots, to taking “real” dog photos, that convey the love of your pup?**

That was exactly the question I asked myself when I realized that I had hundreds of pictures of my dogs, most of which hadn't come out the way I'd planned and weren't the shots I'd

planned. In fact, most of them I thought were terrible.

I remember the day when I met a friend I hadn't seen for a while. As we sat down for tea, she asked me how my dogs were. Our conversation focused on whether Jackson was still obsessed with food. Jackson, my Puggle, has a reputation for his love of food!

As I told her about Jackson's latest food antics, I pulled out my phone (as every Dog Mom does) and proudly said "Let me show you a picture". My finger started to scroll through the hundreds of dog photos on my phone, searching for a good one.

I scrolled, and I scrolled, and I continued to scroll.

There were hundreds of dog photos on my phone, but none of them really showed Jackson for the beautiful pup he is. They didn't show his personality, his character, or even his eyes in many of them!

It was on that day I asked the simple question, "How do I go from taking snapshots, to taking "real" dog photos of my pups? That simple question started me on a journey to learn how to go from taking snapshots, to taking no-fuss "real" photographs that convey the love and personality of my dogs.

Continue reading [here](#).

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# SPACE ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS

To: People with "Friendly Dogs", Off-Leash Dogs, & Retractable Leash Dogs



**NEWSFLASH:** Running up to another dog and ignoring requests to go away is not "friendly", it is rude. Just like people, **DOGS NEED PERSONAL SPACE**. If a stranger came up and put his hand on your body, you'd be allowed to step back, yell, and push him away. Dogs have the same right to enforce their boundaries. Some dogs are called "reactive" because they are more sensitive than others. Reactive dogs are good dogs, they just need more distance and compassionate training. You can help them by honoring their need for personal space.

1. **NEVER LET YOUR OFF-LEASH DOG GO UP TO AN ON-LEASH DOG.**
2. **LOCK RETRACTABLE LEASHES WHEN YOU SEE OTHER DOGS.**
3. **ASK BEFORE APPROACHING OR PETTING ANY DOG.**
4. **HAVE COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE WITH SHY OR REACTIVE DOGS.**

Please do not chase us. Let us pass without interaction, and keep your judgements to yourself.

CAN MY DOG SAY "HI"?

SORRY NO. I HAVE A DOG THAT NEEDS SPACE. THANK YOU.

inspired by: [notesfromadogwalker.com](http://notesfromadogwalker.com) [functionalrewards.com](http://functionalrewards.com)

*Lili*  
doggiedrawings.net

## Fushi (19-035)

Have you ever had that one special dog? The one who sold you on being a dog owner for life? Even when you thought you were going to take a break from being a dog owner for a while? The one who you would love to clone if you could? The one you look at and think this dog is my best friend? This dog is my soulmate? This dog is my everything? (OK, so maybe that's what I told my husband on our wedding day, but hey, sometimes a dog changes all that, lol 😊 just kidding, kinda) Sometimes that one dog comes into your life and changes your life forever. Fushi is THAT dog! ☐☐

- Denise Martinez (from Facebook)





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## Canine Melanoma

### Whole Dog Journal



Canine melanoma is the umbrella term for a group of melanocytic tumor subtypes that are so complex and diverse (yet distinct from each other) that they can sometimes seem as if they are different diseases entirely. What all types of melanomas do have in common is that they form when normal melanocytes (cells that are responsible for producing melanin) divide and grow out of control.

Melanomas are classified as either benign or malignant tumors. Fortunately, the majority of melanomas that occur in dogs are benign; this form of melanoma is typically referred to as a melanocytoma. These tumors are not cancerous and usually do not become cancerous, nor do they interfere with the function of normal cells. They will often cease growing once they reach a certain size and they do not invade other tissues. Furthermore, they do not metastasize, and they tend to not grow back when surgically removed.

In contrast, malignant melanomas, accounting for 5 to 7% of all canine melanomas, are highly aggressive and can metastasize to vital organs very quickly. About 100,000 cases of malignant melanoma in dogs are diagnosed in the U.S. each year.

Continue reading [here](#):

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



**Shiner (Good Boy 08-166)**



Newsletter Editor: Dorian Olsen

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

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