



# Golden Tales

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May 2021

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## A Message From Our President



Hello Friends,

I hope you are all doing well and are able to enjoy plenty of fresh air with your families, both two and four-legged. The wildflowers seem to be less this year, likely as a result of the February snow storm, but they are still out there and so pretty to enjoy. I recommend a drive out in the Hill Country to see some of the beautiful scenery. Take some photos and share them with the GRR community via social media.

Some of you may have read via social media that GRR is bringing in more Golden Retrievers from Turkey this month. We are so excited to be able to continue our international rescue mission with this next group of four beautiful Goldens. We chose these four because they need Gold Ribbon Rescue. We chose the theme of their names to

represent their bravery and courage to fight against the odds of surviving having been street dogs in Turkey.

Gunner's age estimate is 5-6 years old, Akins age estimate is 6-7 years old, Sloane's age estimate is 2 years old and Valor's age estimate is 7 years old: all four will be joining our GRR family on May 7, 2021 when they will begin to live lives filled with love and compassion. Gunner likely need to have knee surgery. Preliminary x-rays show issues with his knee cap and we will ensure he gets the best medical care possible. Sloane was diagnosed with TVT (transmissible venereal tumor) and has had four chemo treatments in Turkey and likely needs more medical treatment. She will be fostering in a no-dog home until she has been medically cleared. We chose Akins and Valor because the older dogs are in need the most of being rescued from Turkey,

It will be so exciting to see updates on these four as they get medical treatment, good nutrition and lots of TLC. To learn more about more about our international rescue mission and how to donate to support these dogs, click [here](#). Stay tuned for updates as they begin their journey from the Istanbul airport.

Always remember that while we are very excited to bring Golden Retrievers in from other countries, this in no way will impact our rescue efforts locally. GRR remains ready, willing and able to care for Golden Retrievers in need in Central Texas. If you know of anyone needing to rehome their Golden please be sure to share information on Gold Ribbon Rescue with them.

Thank you for all of your support of GRR and for being part of our story to help as many dogs as we possibly can.

Warm 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 **June 19, 2021**.

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## Turkey Dogs are Coming!

On May 7, 2021, four Golden Retrievers are packing their bags and making the long journey from Istanbul to Houston where they will begin a new life in the care of Gold Ribbon Rescue. Over the past six years, the Gold Ribbon Rescue International Initiatives have rescued, rehabilitated and found forever homes for 59 beautiful, loving Golden Retrievers: 32 from Istanbul, 12 from Mexico City and 15 from China.

### Turkey's Forgotten Dogs

Golden Retrievers "used to be" a status symbol in Istanbul. They were imported from Germany and England and sold in pet stores. But when dogs reach adulthood, people felt they were too big and turned them out into the streets to fend for themselves, joining the packs of other dogs foraging for food in dumpsters, trash cans or, if they are lucky, from the bags of kibble dumped on the ground by concerned volunteers. Read more about Turkey's Golden Retrievers [here](#).

### Gold Ribbon Rescue is here to help Golden Retrievers in need.

Saving dogs in Central Texas is our top priority and always will be. However, we have many more families wanting to adopt than we have local dogs so international rescue makes sense right now. We are excited that GRR is able to help two of our incoming Turkey Dogs with their medical needs. The good news is that dogs who have arrived from our previous international initiatives are thriving!

**As a tribute to the will and determination of these dogs to survive, our May 2021 Turkey Dogs are named:**

**Gunner**  
(Warrior, Nordic origin)

**Sloane**

(Brave Female, Gaelic origin)

**Akins**

( Brave Boy, African origin or Brave, Scottish origin)

**Valor**

(Worthiness and bravery, Latin origin)

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## Meet Our May 2021 Turkey Dogs



**Gunner**



**Sloane**



**Akins**



**Valor**

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### How You Can Help

Want to be part of this amazing journey? Click [Donate](#) to make a general donation to this and future international rescue missions. If you want to Sponsor a specific Turkey Dog, click "[Sponsorship](#)" to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

### Turkey Dog Sponsorship

Sponsoring a specific Turkey Golden is a great way of knowing you helped a dog get to Texas and find its forever home. Turkey Dog sponsorship is \$500 per dog. If you are interested in sponsoring a Turkey Golden, go [here](#) for more information.

### Interested in Adopting a Turkey Dog?

Because they've spent so much time either on the streets, in the forests, or in shelters, we've set the following adoption criteria:

- Adoption fee is \$650.00.
- Someone who will be home most, if not all of the time.
- A fenced yard – no invisible fences.
- Children in the household must be 10 years or over.
- Adoptees must live in central or south Texas.



Interested adopters should follow GRR's regular adoption process. Click [How to Adopt](#) to read our adoption process and to fill out an application. If you are an approved adopter who is waiting for a Golden, please notify your GRR Matchmaker if you want to be considered for a Turkey Golden.

			
<p><b>Name:</b> Akins <b>Gender:</b> Male <b>Age:</b> 6 year <b>Sponsorship Available</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Gunner <b>Gender:</b> Male <b>Age:</b> 5-6 years <b>Sponsorship Available</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Slone <b>Gender:</b> Female <b>Age:</b> 2 year <b>Sponsorship Available</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Valor <b>Gender:</b> Male <b>Age:</b> 7 year <b>Sponsorship Available</b></p>

**Please note:** Sponsorship of a GRR dog does not guarantee adoption of that dog. Gold Ribbon Rescue is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are tax-deductible.

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## Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th



**GOLD RIBBON RESCUE STORE [SHOP NOW](#)**

Mother's Day is approaching quickly. If you are looking for the perfect gift for your Golden Mom, check out the wonderful Mother's Day gifts at the [GRR Store](#).

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

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### **Sweet Opie Wants a Furever Home!**

GRR first met Opie (then Drake, 10-077) when he was 10 months old. He came to GRR in May, 2010 from a Good Samaritan who had saved Opie and his sister Betsy from the hazards of a busy highway. Opie was soon adopted and lived with his dad for many years. Unfortunately his dad passed away three years ago and Opie lived with his dad's caretaker until recently, when his dad's sister stepped in when it became apparent that Opie wasn't getting the proper care that he deserves. We welcomed Opie back to GRR where he is fostering with a longtime volunteer and foster.



**Note Opie's expressive gray eyebrows!**

Opie is a lovely, elderly 12 year-old gent who likes his naps, particularly in his favorite spot on the sofa. He enjoys being outside exploring the yard and going on leisurely walks. He loves children and is gentle with the little ones who come up to pet him. Opie is fairly spry for his age and has been known to run across the yard when he spies something interesting. He gets along well with other dogs, but cats are a no no; he is a little too interested.

If you are looking for a mellow senior who is interested in being a beloved member of his forever family, Opie is your guy. If you are interested in Opie, please contact [Paula](#) for more information.







## Adopted!



### **Lucy 21-001**

Lucy was adopted on April 2nd and is living the golden life with her her new mom and two-legged sister. She is really settling into her new family nicely.

Lucy was GRR's first rescue of the 2021 new year! She came from a nice family who had rescued her from an abusive environment. After ten months, the family thought that she was too much for their young son so they contacted GRR. We were so lucky to receive her as our first New Year's girl!



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### **Truth 21-003T**

The adoption of Truth was sealed on April 7th. As you can see in the photos, she's doing very well under the loving care of her new mom. She will henceforth be known as Lula.



### **Bryce 20-093T**

We are thrilled to share that Turkey dog Bryce was adopted on April 12th. His new family ADORES him and promises to fight for him and spoil him from here on out! From the streets of Turkey, we're so glad he made it to us in Austin.

Bryce has been settling in wonderfully with his new family and he and his new sister Penne (near left) have already started bonding. Check out those smiles!

When Bryce went to his new family, he immediately made himself at home. His mom says



"He's a huge cuddler and terribly distracting work companion (he demands pets). When he isn't asking for our attention, he's trying to get his sister to play with him. He loves his stuff toys, walks, and sunbathing."

### Skeeter 16-108

Skeeter was adopted on April 25th by her long-time fosters Margo and Gary Biba. Skeeter has been a Permanent Foster since she came to GRR in 2016 because she was extremely skittish and scared. She has thrived under Biba care and will shortly be traveling to North Carolina with her family to begin her next adventure.

Our very best wishes to Margo and Gary as they move to their forever home in a beautiful state.



Dog bites hurt! Even when they don't break skin, the mere pressure of the canine jaws is enough to inflict serious pain. Many of us have experienced at least one traumatic chomp. The speed and brutality of the act often catches us by surprise and will most definitely stop us dead in our tracks. We're lucky if the dog inflicts us with a single unceremonious bite as he could have reacted to our perceived rudeness with a series of snapping munches. In the U.S. alone, about 4.5 million people were bit last year with almost half of them being children (2 million). National [Dog Bite Prevention](#) week is a time to bring awareness to the problem and educate people about preventing dog bites. No matter the breed, the size, the age or the sex, all dogs have the potential to bite. When they feel threatened, they may use the weapons nature equipped them with: a mouthful of powerful teeth.

Why are so many people being bit? What happens between man and his best friend that lead to such painful outcomes? To better understand where things might go wrong, let's take a look at some of the most effective ways to push Fido over the edge.

## 1. Bother a dog when eating, chewing a bone or toy

Continue reading [here](#).



## LET YOUR DOG BE "NOSEY"

ALLOWING DOGS ENOUGH TIME TO USE THEIR NOSE AND SNIFF WHEN OUT WALKING IS SO IMPORTANT

ALTHOUGH TAKING A DOG FOR A WALK PROVIDES PHYSICAL EXERCISE, IT'S ALSO THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT MENTAL EXERCISE & STIMULATION

### SNIFFING IS CALMING

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT SNIFFING LOWERS A DOGS PULSE RATE & CREATES A FEELING OF CALMNESS

### SNIFFING REDUCES STRESS LEVELS

SNIFFING HELPS TO REDUCE STRESS LEVELS AND LOWERS CORTISOL LEVELS (THE STRESS HORMONE)

### PROMOTES WELLBEING

SNIFFING IS ESSENTIAL FOR MENTAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING & PROVIDES AN OUTLET FOR NATURAL BEHAVIOUR

### STIMULATION

SNIFFING IS ONE OF THE BEST & EASIEST WAYS TO PROVIDE IMPORTANT MENTAL STIMULATION

### REDUCES COGNITIVE DECLINE

SNIFFING DIFFERENT OBJECTS & INTERPRETING THE INFORMATION TAKES PRACTICE & EFFORT - JUST LIKE WORKING THROUGH A CROSSWORD PUZZLE - DOGS USE MENTAL ENERGY WHEN SNIFFING WHICH REDUCES THE RISK OF COGNITIVE DECLINE

### FREEDOM

THOUGH A DOG'S LIFE MAY SEEM SIMPLE & CAREFREE, THEY DEPEND ON US FOR THEIR NEEDS - ALLOWING DOGS THE FREEDOM TO SNIFF ON A WALK HELPS THEM TO FEEL MORE IN CONTROL OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT

NEXT TIME YOU TAKE YOUR DOG OUT FOR A WALK, SLOW DOWN, STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES, ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME TO SNIFF AND YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPIER, MORE CONTENTED, RELAXED DOG IN RETURN

*Dogs Disclosed*

**In Memoriam - Joy 19-029**

**Hara Cootes**





Our sweet 14 year-old, Joy, crossed the Rainbow Bridge on April 2nd. One day in April, 2019 we got a call from GRR about five dogs that had lived their whole lives tied outside to farm equipment. GRR was asked by Austin Pets Alive to take in one of them, but she needed to go to a foster home first to see if she was social enough to be adopted. Joy arrived, was groomed and looked a little scared. She needed a lot of time to warm up and mostly walked away from us as if to say "Stop looking at me and don't touch me". After a while she would get closer and we were shocked the day she sat on the couch next to Corky.



**Foster Shammy (21-010) providing a pillow for Joy to rest her head.**

For about two months, when she went outside, she would dig a hole in the dirt to make herself a bed. Every day we would wake her up and bring her inside. After about two months of coaxing her back inside, she realized she was no longer an outside dog. Although Joy is golden, she was not a Golden Retriever, but she sure had the heart of one. After a month or so GRR, called to ask us if she was adoptable. My husband Corky replied "Yes, she is and we are adopting her." The two of them have been glued together for the past two years. We will miss her dearly and so appreciate the gift that GRR gave to her and to us.





## Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

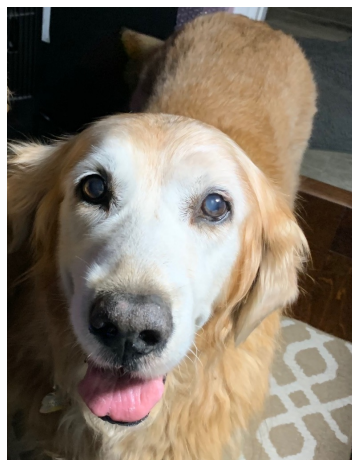
Joy 19-029  
Buddy 11-024  
Rosie (Rosie Bear) 20-033  
Bud 09-010



**Joy 19-029**



**Buddy 11-024**



**Rosie 20-033**



**Bud 09-010**



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

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