

Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Rehoming
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

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November 2019

A Message From Our President



Dear Friends,

GRR continues to operate like a well-oiled machine, rescuing Golden Retrievers from Central Texas and beyond. We currently have thirty dogs in care, including five permanent fosters. We're on track to bring in 120 dogs for 2019. Since we have room, we're helping Golden Retrievers rescued from the meat markets of China; another group of five lovely Golden Retrievers will arrive in Houston on November 9, 2019.

I've been running through the numbers –

- GRR has 320 volunteers, including foster families; this is an all-time high.
- Medical/training/direct dog costs are \$157,000 annually.
- Administrative costs (postage, accountant, insurance, credit card processing, phone/fax, internet, etc.) are \$27,000 annually.
- Medical expenses consistently trend upward. Our most worrisome years financially were in 2002, and again in 2013 when medical expenses took a sharp jump.
- Most years, 25% of our dogs test heartworm positive. This year, we're at 8%.
- GRR's 21st Anniversary is in November.

Save the date – GRR's **Holiday Party** will be held Sunday, December 15, 2019. This is my favorite party of the year. Hope to see you there!

As Ever,
Margo

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 and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you! The next board meeting is **December 8, 2019**.

GRR Annual Business Meeting

The Gold Ribbon Rescue annual business meeting was held on Saturday, October 12th. Margo Biba gave a great update on the organization, noting several successes and enhancements. In the 21 years of its existence, GRR has rescued over 3,000 dogs and is in good financial shape. This is largely in part due to generous donors, being financially frugal, top notch volunteers and the ability to work through controversy.

This year, 94 dogs have been rescued and we are on track for about 120 by year end. We have 30 dogs currently in our care, with 6 being permanent fosters. We have 10 China dogs included in the YTD intake number and five more to arrive in Texas on November 9th. Of our YTD intake dogs, about 20% have been mixes, which is on track with previous years. Our heartworm positive percentage is down this year at 8% as compared to about 25% in years past. Our euthanasia numbers are down as well. Year to date there have not been any dogs euthanized due to behavior issues, however, 9% have been euthanized due to medical issues.

GRR currently has 328 volunteers including foster families and 222 members. Several recent efforts that have been implemented to improve overall communication were discussed. We now distribute board meeting minutes to members, share the Golden Notes newsletter with volunteers, offer webinars for training and education, sent out a volunteer survey and have implemented a code of conduct policy. We continue to publish the GRR Annual Reports and our monthly newsletter to supporters and members.

Two things were voted on at the meeting by voting members. There was a by-laws change and the election of the 2019/2020 Board of Directors. Both were passed unanimously. A copy of the minutes of meeting has been distributed to all members.



The Tree of Hope is Coming on November 16th

The Tree of Hope is our annual online holiday tree that your donations decorate with ornaments, lights, presents and Golden angels. All donations are dedicated to our Extraordinary Golden Fund for the benefit of medically needy Golden Retrievers. Stay tuned!

When It Rains, It Pours!

Becky LaBrum

Roxy (19-090) came into GRR care in early October. Hers was an especially compelling



surrender, because the family who had owned the adorable half-and-half Golden/Lab since puppyhood had lost their home—it was a total loss—in a fire about six months prior. After living a month here and a month there, they had finally found a condominium, but it didn't have a yard, and that meant that Roxy would be spending too much time in a crate. Not acceptable to this caring family! The GRR intake team to the rescue! Because the

family was in the process of moving, Roxy joined the GRR pack just two days after we heard about her.

Ginger (19-089) came to us after her family separated in a divorce. Dad moved to a no-dogs-allowed apartment. Mom tried and tried to come up with a way to keep Ginger, but ultimately realized it was not going to work: she had her job, her studies, and young children to think of as well. Ultimately she made a temporary move to stay with her parents in their townhome and knew she did not have enough time or attention to give Ginger her best life; so she asked GRR if we would take in the dog she adored and find her another loving family. The intake team went into overdrive and brought Ginger into GRR on three days' notice.



Baxter (19-088), aged 10, is another victim of divorce. His owner was a single mom, working three jobs and having a very hard time making ends meet. Even buying food for her beloved dog was a stretch, so she turned to GRR. How could we say no?



The Urgency of Rescue

Becky LaBrum



Gorgeous **Aspen (19-095)** came to GRR through the efforts of a dedicated volunteer who saw him advertised as “free to good home” on Craigslist and drove far out of town to nab him and keep him safe. The owner was bringing smaller dogs into her home and had decided that Aspen was “just too big.” Well—big, yes! But TOO big? No! Once Aspen was vetted, he came to GRR, and some lucky family is going to find that this tall and lanky fellow is just exactly the right size for their home.

Shadow (left) with Aspen (right)

And then there’s the story of **Chase (19-086) and his son, Elvis (19-087)**, an urgent rescue that was almost NINE years in the making. How can that be? Well, way back in January 2011 the same owners called for help with their female Golden. We took her—and begged the family to let us have 2-year-old Chase and 6-month-old Elvis, too. All the dogs were living in a bare, rocky, dirt yard; they had plenty of food and shelter, but they certainly were not getting the attention (and soft beds, and central heat and air conditioning) that every dog deserves. No go... until late September of this year.

Out of the blue, contact was made again: “We’re selling the house and moving someplace small. Can you take our dogs?” Pinning down a day and time proved a bit difficult, so as soon as the date was set, our volunteers put the pedal to the metal and zipped to the address with paperwork in hand. We were not going to miss out again! The two boys, now seniors, are devoted to each other. We heard, as we do so often with yard dogs: “They really prefer to be outside. They are country dogs and want to roam.” Um... now clean, soft, and smelling sweet, these two old gents are reveling in their cool, comfy indoor life. They are home at last!



Chase (left) and Elvis (right)

GRR is committed to rescuing and saving Golden Retrievers.
Our committed volunteers and your support make it possible.
THANK YOU!

The China Dogs are Coming!

The excitement is building! The Chinese additions to our GRR pack will be arriving in Texas on November 9th. Thanks to all of you who contributed – we exceeded \$10,000 in donations and every dog is sponsored! We can't wait to welcome Crockett, Dixie, Blue, Wimberley and Cedar to the GRR family!



Name: Cedar
Gender: Female



Name: Blue
Gender: Female



Name: Dixie
Gender: Female



Name: Crockett
Gender: Male



Name: Wimberley
Gender: Female

Save the Date! GRR Annual Holiday Brunch

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2019

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: [The Hive at The Hill Country](#)

Galleria

12700 Hill Country Blvd

Suite T125

Bee Cave, TX 78738

Map/Directions

If you are interested in donating auction items, please contact Paula Ellis at paula@grr-tx.com.

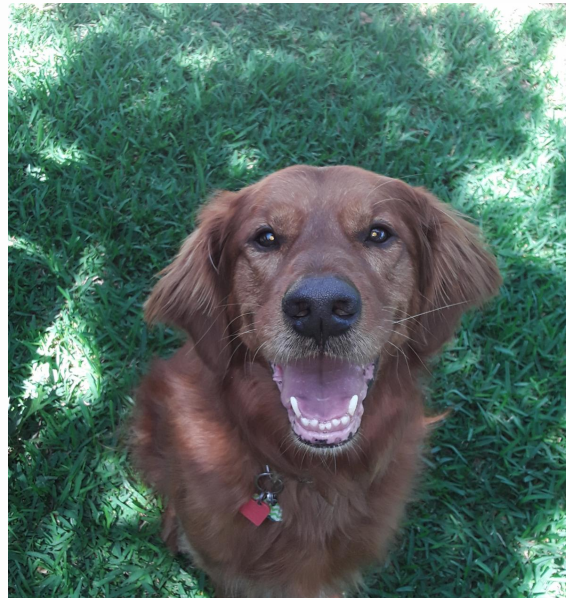
Purchase tickets [here](#).



Is My Dog Happy?

How do you know when your dog is happy? Maybe it's the way they wag their tail, or how they zoom around the room when you come home. If you're like me, you probably just **know** your dog is happy, but you can't quite explain **how** you know.

Dogs feel [emotions](#) similar to ours, but they can't express them like we do. They show their feelings through [body language](#), behavior, and even health. And believe it or not, there are specific signs that indicate dog happiness.



How dogs feel (and show) emotions

Dogs have the emotional capacity of a 2 to 2.5-year-old child, meaning they experience [emotions](#) like joy, fear, and anger. In fact, dogs have the same hormones and undergo the same types of chemical changes that humans do during emotional shifts ([source](#).)

Like a 2-year-old child, your dog lacks the vocabulary to tell you how they feel. However, also like a toddler, dogs' body language and behavior communicate emotions. For example, most of us know what it looks like when our dog is "frustrated."

For my dog Ralph, frustration manifests as barking, or "talking" to me in plaintive whines. Her frustrated bark is quite different from her happy bark!

Physical signs of a happy dog

In general, a happy dog will have relaxed body language. These are some of the **physical signs of a happy dog**:

Continue reading [here](#)

AmazonSmile Rocks!

We recently received our quarterly donation from AmazonSmile -

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

\$387.36! Thanks to all of our supporters who designate Gold Ribbon Rescue as their charity. To date, we have received **\$5453.98** from AmazonSmile.

The holidays are fast approaching, so please consider GRR when shopping online. It's easy! Simply go to [amazon**smile**.com](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/create?ref=A_Smile) and select Gold Ribbon Rescue as your charity. Every little bit helps!



Coral Snake Bite Poisoning in Dogs

(Editor's Note: GRR adoptive dad Jim Woolums suggested an article on Coral snakes be included in the newsletter. Jim reports that there has been an influx of Coral snakes in the San Antonio area: he has encountered them several times on park walks and he observed another dog owner prodding a Coral snake with a stick while trying to hold his dogs back. Thank you Jim for your suggestion!)

What is Coral Snake Bite Poisoning?

The coral snake is of the Elapidae family. The bite is extremely toxic in that the venom paralyzes the respiratory center of a canine in a gradual and deadly manner. The effects

will take place over a period of about 18 hours, and can last as long as a week to 10 days. The snake bite can cause life-threatening conditions for your pet; even if you are not certain that the snake that your dog has come into contact with is poisonous or not, seeing a veterinarian is crucial. A snake bite should be treated as an emergency situation. If possible, take a photo of the snake with your cellular phone, to show the veterinary team upon arrival at the clinic. When a canine is bitten by a snake and poison enters the wound, it is known as envenomation. The coral snake, known by its distinct coloring of alternating black, yellow and red bands on the body along with a black snout, is the most toxic snake found in the United States when measured in per milligram of dried weight.

Continue reading [here](#).



Just a Dog? – Never!

Why losing a dog can be harder than losing a relative or friend.

by [Frank T. McAndrew](#), July 15, 2019

Your own pet is never “just a dog”

Recently, my wife and I went through one of the more excruciating experiences of our lives – the euthanasia of our beloved dog, Murphy. I remember making eye contact with Murphy moments before she took her last breath – she flashed me a look that was an endearing blend of confusion and the reassurance that everyone was ok because we were both by her side.

When people who have never had a dog see their dog-owning friends mourn the loss of a pet, they probably think it's all a bit of an overreaction; after all, it's “just a dog.” However, those who have loved a dog know the truth: Your own pet is never “just a dog.”

Research has confirmed that for most people, the loss of a dog is, in almost every way, comparable to the loss of a human loved one. Many times, I've had friends guiltily confide to me that they grieved more over the loss of a dog than over the loss of friends or relatives.

[Research has confirmed](#) that for most people, the loss of a dog is, in almost every way, comparable to the loss of a human loved one. Unfortunately, there's little in our cultural playbook – no grief rituals, no obituary in the local newspaper, no religious service – to help us get through the loss of a pet, which can make us feel more than a bit [embarrassed to show too much public grief over our dead dogs](#).

Perhaps if people realized just how strong and intense the bond is between people and their dogs, such grief would become more widely accepted. This would greatly help dog owners to integrate the death into their lives and help them move forward.

Continue reading [here](#).

Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

Freya (11-030)

Holly (02-141)

Abby (07-064)

Arthur (19-074)



**Cameron (Honorary GRR puppy – of
hemophilia)
Scarlett (13-098)**



New sletter Editor: Dorian Olsen
Send comments or suggestions to: newsletter@grr-tx.com

The Gold Ribbon Rescue newsletter is published monthly. Articles reflect the opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect GRR policy. Gold Ribbon Rescue and its Editor(s) seek to publish accurate material, but neither assumes responsibility in the event of a claim of loss or damage resulting from publication.

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