

GRR Update

Another Record Breaking Year for GRR

by Monique Lenczycki

First of all let me wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season! We are planning our annual Holiday get together and hope to see all of you there. This year it will be at the American Legion Hall by Lake Austin on Sunday, December 15, 2002 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. We will have the Boutique there and a Silent Auction for holiday gifts if you haven't finished your shopping. More information is available on the web and back cover.

On the dog front, it has been another record-breaking year for GRR. As of October 1, we have already provided care for 124 dogs and have 7 waiting to get in! Our wish for the New Year will be less homeless Golden Retrievers needing our services.

Many thanks to our tireless foster homes and dog team members who get these dogs in care, rehabilitated and then off to their new forever lives!

We have new team leader transitions to announce. **Kathy Burton** will be taking over as the Intake Director from **Beth Freeman**. Kathy has been an adoption team member as well as Foster Coordinator. Kathy is looking forward to her new role and we welcome her input. See her great article on Canine Epilepsy in this edition.

Dana DeVoe joins us in the position of Adoption Director taking over for **Laura Reed**. Dana has been an adoption team member and is busily working with Laura to learn all the details of the busy adoption side.

Please join us in welcoming Kathy & Dana to their new positions. Beth and Laura have done outstanding jobs the last year and will be moving into other GRR roles. Laura will be taking over the matchmaking function and Beth will be assisting **Kristy Kessler** with foster homes and Kathy with intake coordination.



Gold Ribbon Rescue's
Annual

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 15, 2002
6:30-9:30 p.m.

RSVP at
www.GRR-TX.com/party.htm
(see back page for more info)

As we end our 4th year in operation I'd like to say a personal thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers and adoptive families. Without you our mission would not have been successful. As we close out 2002 there will be nearly 500 dogs who have benefited from our program. Each and every one of them thanks you for a job well done on their behalf! Have a Golden Holiday from all of us here at GRR. 

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For more information about
upcoming events, adoptables,
training, health issues and
more visit:

www.GRR-tx.com



GRR Health

Canine Epilepsy In Golden Retrievers

by Kathy Burton

Foster Coordinator and Bob's "mom"

If Gold Ribbon Rescue had been operational back in 1995 when Bob came along, he would have been the classic rescue story. By the time Bob came to us he was 3 months old and we were his third home. Bob had been a surprise gift to a young woman living in an apartment from an

ardent suitor. Surprise!, she did not want the suitor and did not want the puppy. His next home was a nice family living in Lakeway in a house with no back yard and a young son they soon discovered was allergic to dogs. I brought Bob home to join our family of one golden girl, age of 6 and a formerly homeless cat. Bob adjusted very well, loved us, loved his companions, and LOVED tennis balls. All was well until late one summer evening when Bob was with us in the backyard happily fetching tennis balls and suddenly collapsed and went into convulsions. We were fortunate the vet's clinic is very close to our home and even though it was after 10:00 pm on a Sunday night, our vet was at the clinic tending to a horse. We waited while Bob, then 4 years old, was examined fearing that he had heat stroke. The vet told us she did not think it was heat related and after running tests could not determine a specific cause. "Sometimes dogs just have a one time seizure and other times it reoccurs, all you can do is watch him and call me if it happens again". It did and that was the beginning of our life with an Epileptic dog.

What Epilepsy is: An electrical storm which occurs in the brain when there is an over or under firing of nerve-signal cells within the brain. Seizures are a result of muscle responses to this abnormal chaos of nerve-signal bursts. It can be caused by many factors and affects many breeds. The Golden Retriever is among the breeds typically suspected as having a possible genetic link. It is also becoming more common in mixed breeds as well. The age of onset of the seizures can sometime give a clue as to the cause:

Less Than 1 Year of Age: Genetic links, birth defects such as Hydrocephalus (water on the brain), inflammatory diseases such as canine distemper, parasitic, bacterial, or fungal infections, metabolic problems such as hypoglycemia or diabetes, autoimmune thyroiditis, electrolyte disorders, and trauma as a result of an acute injury or accident.

Between 1-5 Years of Age: Inflammatory diseases as listed above, metabolic such as thyroid dysfunction, portosystemic shunt, hypoglycemia, diabetes, electrolyte disorders, toxic exposure and/or sensitivity to lead and chemicals, drug & vaccine sensitivity, and trauma as listed above.

Five Years of Age or Older: Immune mediated infections, vascular conditions such as blood clots, high blood pressure, spasms of the blood vessels themselves, stroke, metabolic causes as listed above, toxic exposure and chemical sensitivity, brain tumor, as well as traumatic injury or accident.

There are tests that should be done to rule out secondary factors before a diagnosis of inherited (primary) epilepsy are made:

- Blood tests to check for lead poisoning, toxins or infectious antibodies present in the blood.
- Glucose tolerance test to check for hypoglycemia.
- Thyroid panel to check for hypothyroidism or low thyroid function (while it is not believed to be a direct link of low thyroid function to epilepsy a recent study did show that out of 634 dogs tested 77% of the dogs that tested as hypothyroid also had seizures). *see August 2002 edition of Gold Ribbon Gazette for Monique's article on thyroid problems in Golden Retrievers.
- Cerebrospinal fluid analysis to check for encephalitis, distemper or other infection.
- CT scan or MRI to check for a brain lesion or tumor.

When a cause cannot be established after testing it is classified as Idiopathic Epilepsy also called primary, inherited, or genetic. It is the most common diagnosis of epilepsy in dogs today. If the seizures occur frequently medication is usually prescribed. There is some controversy in prescribing AED's (anti-epilepsy drugs). One school of thought is drugs should not be prescribed until the seizures become frequent or occur in clusters (more than 3 seizures within a 24 hour period) due to the possible side

Gold Ribbon Rescue

PO Box 956

Austin, TX 78767-0956

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

Contact us—

24-Hour Hotline:

(512) 659-GOLD

www.GRR-TX.com

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effects to liver functions. The other school of thought is to prescribe an AED if seizures reoccur soon after the first one to help prevent what is referred to as “mirroring” in the brain. Mirroring is the theory that seizures which start on only one side of the brain can in time “mirror” themselves on the other side of the brain and therefore increase the frequency of the seizures. This may be why some dogs are more easily controlled with the use of drugs than others.

There are two anti-epilepsy medications commonly used to control canine seizures. Phenobarbital, used to be the most common first line AED. It is a strong, addictive sedative which is processed through the liver (dogs on PB should have blood tests to check liver function on a regular basis as recommended by their veterinarian). Side effects of PB can include increased hunger, thirst, drowsiness, and hindquarter weakness. These side effects usually diminish after the dog has been on the medication for a period of time. Phenobarbital is often effective in reducing the number and/or the intensity of the seizures. Dosage is based on weight and adjusted as needed. Reducing or stopping the administration of Phenobarbital should only be done under the supervision of a veterinarian as severe seizures can result if medication is suddenly stopped or reduced too quickly.

Potassium or Sodium Bromide is used as a sedative itself and often in conjunction with Phenobarbital. Since it is not processed through the liver it is often used when liver damage requires a reduction in PB dosage. It must be prepared by a compounding pharmacy but dosage can be adjusted more quickly than the Phenobarbital without risk of severe withdrawal seizures. There are different types of seizures all of which can be quite unexpected and startling to the person witnessing them.

■ **Petit Mal (Generalized seizures)**—smaller motor movements characterized by facial twitching, staring into space with a fixed



Bob

glaze and/or upward eye movement, sometimes accompanied by loss of bladder (leaking).

■ **Grand Mal (Generalized)**—Loss of consciousness, rigid limb extension, may have paddling motion of limbs on one side. In some cases, but not all, there is salivation, loss of bladder and/or bowel control and vocalization (a crying scream). Humans who experience Grand Mal seizures report they do not feel pain (result of loss of consciousness) and it is surmised that dogs do not either, the vocalization is NOT an indication of pain but rather simply an area of the brain that is affected during the seizure causing the vocal outburst. It must be said however that it tends to be very disconcerting to the owners.

■ **Focal Seizures (also called partial seizures)**—These seizures affect only a part of the brain and thus just a part of the body is affected. Focal seizures are more likely from secondary epilepsy.

What Epilepsy is NOT is a death sentence, it is not a disability, nor does it curtail normal exercise and play. It does not interfere with the love your dog has for you and your love for your dog. Many owners are even more bonded to their epi dogs than their non-epi dogs. With medication, and sometimes alternative methods, many dogs can be seizure free for long periods of time. Often seizure “triggers” can be identified and

eliminated. Examples are avoiding dog food with artificial preservatives (Ethoxyquin, BHT & BHA) providing fluoride free drinking water by using a reverse osmosis water filter, adding vitamins and minerals to the diet and supplementing high quality kibble with enzymes (see recommended web sites and reading for additional information on canine epilepsy, alternative treatments, diets etc.). Seizure dogs do not necessarily have a reduced life span nor do they have any reduction in the quality of their lives. They live happily like any other dog and just have their days where they sleep through the event you watch wide awake!

And how is the big red dog, Bob? He's now 7 years old, has been on Phenobarbital for almost two years and has been seizure free for the past 15 months. He still has his girl golden and the kitty as pals and will always have us as his forever family.

Recommended books on Canine Epilepsy (both can be purchased on www.amazon.com):

Canine Epilepsy by Carol Levin (ISBN 0-9672253-3-7 pub. June 2002)

Earl Mindell's Nutrition & Health for Dogs (ISBN 0-7615-1158-X pub. 1998)

Recommended Web Sites: www.canine-epilepsy.com and www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com



Golden Success Story

Wrigley Goes To The Hospital

by Katie Harris

When is it a good thing to have your dog in the hospital???

In October, 2001, Mary Salsman applied to GRR, hoping to adopt a golden retriever to be a big-dog companion for herself and her husband, Dub.



Wrigley

The Salsmans already had two yorkies, Rambo and Tilly, and two cats, Lonestar and Zoe, but Mary had recently lost a big dog and missed her terribly. Mary had also been active in pet therapy previously, and was interested in getting her new golden certified so that she could continue that volunteer work in her community.

Enter Wrigley. That fall, GRR received a phone call from a family that had recently had a baby, and the baby turned out to be allergic to the family's two golden retrievers. Both goldens were accepted into the program and we began looking for a home for them.

Wrigley was four years old at the time, and GRR thought she had the personality to be a good therapy dog. She was calm, well-mannered, and very gentle.

Wrigley and Rambo took a few days to get used to each other as Rambo, the "top" dog at the house, learned to share his domain with someone 15 times his size. The Salsmans kept Rambo and Wrigley separated for a few days with a baby gate and handed out lots of treats over the gate. It worked...today Rambo adores Wrigley and would constantly be next to her if she would allow it. If she tries to roll around or shift positions on the dog bed, Rambo growls, so she gets up and moves, and he follows her to the next place, where the cycle repeats itself. This can go on all evening.

Wrigley loves walks, riding in the car, and sitting on Mary's lap with the other two dogs in their BIG recliner. Mary says, "With two yorkies and one golden on my lap, I'm not going anywhere!" Wrigley loves belly scratches and plays with a toy that makes enough noise that Mary sometimes thinks there's someone else in the house with her!

Wrigley's only real naughty habit is her affection for happily rolling in dead animals and deer poop. Mary's sister brought an orphan goat over one weekend, and Rambo, Wrigley and the goat all played happily together in the yard, the wading pool, under the deck, on the deck...then, as the family was getting ready to leave for a funeral, her sister said, "What does Wrigley have all over her coat?" Goat poop is quite smelly, apparently, and guests were returning to Mary's house after the

funeral, so Wrigley required an immediate bath! Mary has become accustomed to seeing her freshly washed dog running to her on hospital visit days with a lizard leg or something equally interesting hanging off her beautiful gold fur....

Mary began Wrigley's certification process to be a therapy dog soon after the adoption. Wrigley had already gone through basic obedience, so Mary did a 6-week refresher course with her, and then contacted the Delta Society. The Delta Society is one of the largest groups in the United States that certifies therapy dogs. Mary drove to Waco without Wrigley for eight hours of basic classroom training and training on procedures on going into hospitals. Finally, Wrigley was tested, which only took about twenty minutes! The canine testing consisted of having humans dressed up with hats, canes, walkers, etc, in the area, and measuring the dog's reaction to what they would likely see when they visited patients. Today, Wrigley is certified to go anywhere in a facility but a chaotic psychiatric ward or the intensive care unit of a hospital.

Today Wrigley makes her rounds at the small hospital in San Marcos every other week. She must be bathed and groomed within 24 hours of her visit. She must be up to date on all of her vaccinations, and must have a thorough health exam once a year. Mary and Wrigley visit the heart patient floor and the general medical floor.

I asked Mary how Wrigley's visits affect the patients in the hospital, and she told me several stories. For example, they recently visited an elderly woman in the hospital. When she saw the dog, the lady sat up in bed and said, "Thank You God, Thank You for sending



someone to love me!" She started to cry and Wrigley, who is NOT allowed on the beds at the hospital, and does not attempt to get on the furniture there, climbed right up to join her. A social worker and a nurse were so glad to see this elderly woman happy they quietly said, "We'll just close the door." The lady petted and held onto Wrigley for 20 minutes, and Wrigley, who usually rolls and wiggles all over a bed, didn't move a muscle. The lady did not want them to leave.

The same day, Wrigley was going into a room as a doctor was coming out after telling his patient that he had inoperable cancer. Wrigley helped the man take this devastating news. Mary says, "It's amazing to see people's reactions to her; a lot of times they just reach down and stroke her unconsciously."

This summer Wrigley visited a brain-damaged, quadriplegic 19-year-old woman, who, after a year in a nursing home, only gives responses to doctors when a therapy dog is in the room. She follows the dogs with her eyes and, until Wrigley's visit, had made no response to noise. However, when Wrigley "spoke" for a treat, the young woman jumped and her eyes flickered back and forth.

Another day, Wrigley tried to visit a three-year-old boy, who was crying as she walked by. Mary told the little fellow's mom that she would stop by again after the rest of her rounds. On the return visit, the little boy raced out of his room and happily fell on Wrigley and they rolled around on the floor in the middle of the hallway cheerfully loving on each other! Doctors, nurses and patients all watched happily even as their pathway was blocked. Mary says the volunteers and staff at the hospital

love having Wrigley visit as much as the patients do.

If you are interested in pet therapy, it is well worth it to have your dog temperament tested by a reputable agency such as the Delta Society. Many nursing homes and hospitals require some kind of certification. Mary advises that pet therapy is incredibly rewarding, but does have some financial costs including health exams and grooming (if you don't do it yourself). There is a time commitment involved and it is possible for both dog and human to burn out on visits if one is not careful to budget the time involved. Dogs and handlers are recertified at regular intervals.

Wrigley and Mary are due for recertification in two years, and Mary says they may retire at that time, but the joy and comfort they have brought to the patients at the San Marcos



Wrigley the Therapy Dog

hospital will never be forgotten by those whose lives they touch. Gold Ribbon Rescue salutes Mary and Wrigley for their dedication to helping others in pain and in need, and we wish them all the best. 🐾

Top 10 Golden Holiday Tunes

submitted by Kelly Hay



10. *O' Come Apply Ye' Frontline*
9. *Deck the Halls with Bones and Ball-ies*
8. *The Mailman Got Run Over by a Reindeer*
7. *All I Want for Christmas is a Squirrel with One Leg*
6. *O' Holy Sock*
5. *We Wish you a Hairy Christmas*
4. *Bark the Hungry Golden Sings*
3. *O' Christmas Tree, you Make me Want to -----.*
2. *I Saw Mommy Clipping Sammy's Paws*
1. *Frosty the Stuck-up Show-dog*



Fostering — One Family's Love Affair

by Brenda Forsythe

Everybody that fosters for Gold Ribbon Rescue have their own reasons—for most, it's the unselfish act of opening their homes and their hearts to Golden Retrievers and giving them a much deserved second chance. For my family we all had our own 'selfish' reasons.

For me it was to fill the void left by our dear Golden that had recently passed away. I realized that I was still tiptoeing on my way to the bathroom first thing in the morning, only to have that jolt of realization, 'Oh yea, he's not here anymore.' When I found out our baby had cancer, everyone told me that I needed to get another Golden—the sooner the better. But how could I possibly replace him? 'No way!', I thought. But then, neither my husband nor sons were willing to follow me everywhere and anticipate my every move with loving brown eyes. Heck, they wouldn't even lay down with me and let me scratch behind their ears! OK, so maybe my friends were right. I needed to do something quick.

My husband, on the other hand, was actually enjoying the clean yard—void of landmines and dogie-ramp, and the freedom to actually go away on vacation without worry. With our oldest son now off to college and our younger one in middle school, this was just one step closer to being 'care-free' empty nesters. Adopting a dog and committing to another 13 or so years was not in his plan. So when I suggested fostering as a compromise he was more than willing to humor me in my attempt to fill the hole left in my heart.

My sons were a little leery of fostering—knowing full well that they would have a hard



Dad playing tug with Simon— guess who won?!

time letting go when the time came. But they also knew that this was perhaps a good way to soften their Dad and ultimately get another dog to wrestle around with.

I signed up for training and my husband asked if I'd like him to go with me. I thought, 'Wow, he's really being supportive!' Off we went that Saturday to the training session. Now here's where it gets a little funny. Not one hour into the session and I could swear I heard my husband volunteer to help with the website, help in fostering and "take in more than one dog at a time." What?! Who is this guy?! Well, he's the same dog loving softy he's always been. His reason for wanting to foster? He said it was the opportunity to be around a variety of Golden Retrievers on a 'temporary' basis. But I was thinking he might be looking for that one special Golden that fit just right. He's a softy all right. The very next day he was surfing the web for newfangled dog gadgets and paid a visit to PetSmart for a kong!

Shortly thereafter we had our first foster dog, of which we had all made the pact that we "would not adopt our first." Was it hard? You bet! We all fell absolutely in love with this young female and we had to tell ourselves daily that we were a stepping stone to her 'forever family'. One of the GRR volunteers suggested that I remind my sons that each dog we foster and see off to their forever home is another one we can save. This resonated with both of them and with me. The joy and love that we all embraced as a family was really overwhelming. For two short weeks this little girl entertained us, brought us back to the floor for some rough and tumble play and filled our hearts as we watched her trust in people return. What was really amazing was when her forever family came to meet her. I wasn't sure if we could handle giving her up. I even contemplated a quick kidnapping just before they arrived. And then it happened. They came in, and I could swear that the dog knew them!



It was as if they were all waiting for one another. The bond happened immediately and there I was with tears of joy and yes, a few tears of sadness. It was then that I realized what it all meant for me to foster. With our help, they were going to enjoy the true love that I had been fortunate enough to experience with my own Golden.

Within a week we had our second foster dog and then another. Did our initial reasons for fostering pay off? Yes, but not as originally intended. We did end up adopting one of our foster dogs. The boys have their pal, I have a big red shadow that follows my every move and my husband is back to picking up

landmines, playing fetch and caring for a dog that just so happens to need a good deal of medical attention. You see we didn't end up adopting that 'perfect' Golden. Nope. (I think I saw the word SUCKER written on my husband's forehead!) We ended up with one that needed us the most. But really I think we needed him as much as he needed us. And my husband, well he says that men don't use the term "head over heels in love" when describing a dog—yea, right!

The reasons for fostering may be different for each foster family. But I've learned that it all boils down to the same common denominator—we're

suckers for the love of a Golden. Sometimes I can just picture my old Golden barking at me from Rainbow Bridge "Hey! Who's that dog sleeping on my bed?! Why are you giving him my favorite toy?!!" But then I'd also like to think that he's glad I'm no longer sad and that he knows it is a tribute to him that we continue to foster. They are extraordinary dogs—each and every one of them.

My youngest son summed it up perfectly when he told me one morning over breakfast, "Mom, my heart just feels so full now." 

The Dog "Rules"

Rule #1: Dogs are never permitted in the house. The dog stays outside in a specially built wooden compartment named, for very good reason, the dog house.

Rule #2: Okay, the dog can enter the house but only for short visits or if his own house is under renovation.

Rule #3: Okay, the dog can stay in the house on a permanent basis provided his dog house can be sold in a garage sale to a rookie dog owner.

Rule #4: Inside the house, the dog is not allowed to run free and is confined to a comfortable but secure metal crate.

Rule #5: Okay, the crate becomes part of a two-for-one deal in the garage sale, and the dog can go wherever the heck he pleases.

Rule #6: The dog is never allowed on the furniture.

Rule #7: Okay, the dog can get up on the old furniture but not the new furniture.

Rule #8: Okay, the dog can get up on the new furniture until it looks like the old furniture and then we'll sell the whole works and buy new furniture on which the dog will most definitely not be allowed.

Rule #9: The dog never sleeps on the bed. Period.

Rule #10: Okay, the dog can sleep at the foot of the bed only.

Rule #11: Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you, but he's not allowed under the covers.

Rule #12: Okay, the dog can sleep under the covers but not with his head on the pillow.

Rule #13: Okay, the dog can sleep alongside you, under the covers with his head on the pillow, but if he snores, he's got to leave the room.

Rule #14: Okay, the dog can sleep and snore and have nightmares in your bed, but he's not to come in and sleep on the couch in the TV room, where you're not sleeping. That's just not fair.

Rule #15: The dog never gets listed on the census questionnaire as "primary resident," even if it's true.



A Note From Our Treasurer...

Dear Gold Ribbon Supporter,

This past year has been a financially harder year on Gold Ribbon Rescue. We've taken in more dogs this year than in previous years, which generally would mean more income; however, where we've been hit hardest has been through donations. Our adoption fee alone isn't enough to get the proper veterinary care, shots, neutering or spaying, and heartworm test that we require for all our dogs. We have many dogs that come to us with heartworms and need treatment; this alone is a large expenditure. Other dogs may have special dietary or medical needs, requiring just a little more money than the adoption fee can handle. Sometimes we come to you through our web site to ask for help with a specific procedure for a dog, but there are many times when we don't want to overwhelm our supporters.

Your membership plays a very important role in our organization. It helps to get this newsletter printed and distributed to you to help educate and keep you up to date with the organization. If you are not a member or need to renew your membership, please do so today, so we can continue to pay for the printing and distribution of this newsletter. Any left over funds go directly into our Extra Ordinary Golden Fund. You can send us a check for \$25 to PO Box 956, Austin TX 78767 or take care of your membership online at <http://www.grr-tx.com/membership.htm>

We have heard from many people who feel the standards that Gold Ribbon Rescue has set for adopting, is higher than most other rescue groups and shelters. As a volunteer, I am proud to be a part of this team. Our board works hard to make sure that our guidelines are set to do the best we can for Golden Retriever rescue dogs in Central Texas.

Please help in anyway that you can, be it a financial contribution, volunteering your time or attending our special events. In doing so, you will be a part of the continued success of our organization.

Sincerely,
Tim J. Tierney
Treasurer



"Good Neighbor" program Helps GRR

You can help GRR raise money by buying your groceries at Randall's/Tom Thumb Food Stores. Their "Good Neighbor" program helps non-profit organizations like GRR raise much needed funds. Next time you visit one of these stores, ask them to put Gold Ribbon Rescue as the designated charity on your Randall's card.

Our number is 8583 (write it on the back of your card to help remember).

For every dollar you spend, they will credit it GRR. We need to meet a minimum level of activity to receive the donation, so please tell your friends, family and coworkers. It will help so many of our goldens and doesn't cost you a cent. Thanks!!



Wysong Premium

Gold Ribbon Rescue is a distributor of Wysong premium dog food. Many dogs have sensitive stomachs and are allergic to certain foods. Wysong dogs foods have taken care of many of the digestive problems in our dogs. If you are unfamiliar with Wysong, there are links on the website that will provide you with food features and processing methods. The money raised from your purchase goes into our fund to help pay for spaying, neutering, Frontline and Heartgard for our dogs coming into our program and in foster homes. For more information please visit our web site at:

www.grr-tx.com/food/food.htm

Thanks to our Vets!

Gold Ribbon Rescue wishes to thank the following Animal Clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. Without them there would be no rescue. They give us discounts, provide education and medical guidance, squeeze us in at the last minute, board dogs short term when there's no foster space available and generally make our job much easier.

Please give them your business and support!

Central Texas Vet. Specialty Hospital —

North and South locations

Oak Springs Veterinary Diagnostic Hospital —So. Austin

Century Animal Hospital — So. Austin

Prairie Creek Animal Clinic — Plano

Cottonwood Vet Clinic

White Rock Veterinary Hospital —
Pflugerville

Crossing Animal Clinic—NW Austin/Cedar Park

Griffith Small Animal Clinic — Cedar Park and
Austin locations

Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin —North & South locations

Annual Golden Afternoon in the Park

It's about that time of year again, when Gold Ribbon starts planning for our annual Golden Afternoon in the Park scheduled for **April 12th**. So mark your calendars now! This event continues to grow each year and we are always in need of volunteers to help make this a wonderful event for our dogs as well as our families. We need people who are willing to work on the day of the picnic in all sorts of capacities. If you are interested in helping with anything from setting up the picnic to helping clean up the trash at the end, please send your name and contact information including phone number to events@grr-tx.com. 🐾

Happy Hour Event Raises \$1,000 for GRR

On September 10, 2002 Gold Ribbon Rescue hosted a very successful educational happy hour at the Crown Plaza featuring Francine Morris who is a certified Tellington Ttouch practitioner.



Buster Mills

Approximately 50 members were in attendance and all had fun as we watched Francine perform the various Ttouch methods of dog massage on Buster, the 8 year old Golden owned by Sharon and



Beth Freeman and
Tim Tierney

David Mills. In addition to the wonderful social time, GRR raised close to \$1000 on the event. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make this event another successful showing for GRR volunteers! 🐾



Adoptable Goldens

Editor's Note: Each of the following writeups were submitted by their foster families—and in some cases (like Kelly) by their own paw!

Kelly

My name is Kelly and I am truly an American Idol. I have blond hair and brown eyes and I weigh 46lbs. I am just a year old, so I am a young lady. I have it all. I am a winner and I would love to come and live with you and be a part of your family.



I was in a San Antonio shelter and I can't remember much about my life before, but I was treated well because I have a great friendly personality and I can sit and shake. I do like to bark when I play or when I want to be petted. I'm a talkative gal! I really like to play with a kong and I toss it up in the air and chase it around. It is my favorite toy. I will chase and bring it back. My foster mom thinks I'm a good retriever.

I have my soft lovable side too. I will snuggle up with you and fall asleep with you for an afternoon nap. But at night, I like to sleep in my crate. A girl needs her own room you know.



Baja

Six year old Baja is a has a magnetic personality and a happy-go-lucky attitude. He's extremely gentle and very sweet. He gives love freely and unconditionally—and even lets the kitty play with his ears and tail. What a guy! He's as thoughtful and calm as he is playful. The kids adore him and this guy is no couch potato. He's especially fond of fuzzy toys, tennis balls, kongs—basically anything to chew on but thankfully he's not at all interested in the furniture! His foster family reports that "he's a great confidant. I've shared many things and he hasn't old a soul!" This guy will make an awesome best friend.



Lola

Lola is a sweetie who comes to us from the San Antonio area. Poor thing was in desperate need of a bath and after being bathed and groomed she is a silky red beauty. Lola was very good during her grooming and pedicure, even though some pulling on her hair was unavoidable because of the mats. Lola enjoys the attention and massage of a normal brushing.

Lola is such a love and so easy to have around. She loves her morning pet and belly rub, followed by a rousing time playing in the back yard with my playful girl. Lola is so cute; she'll roll over tuck her front legs up close to her chest to get her pets. While Lola thoroughly enjoys being pet, she is not demanding about it. She is left loose in the house throughout the day because she doesn't bother anything.

Lola adores her tennis ball—not to retrieve, just to carry around and have with her. It is kind of fun to catch, too. She is in heaven when given a plush toy, but must be monitored with it as she will be too rough and try to tear it up.

Lola is just great—mature and calm, but with energy to go on walks and play with my pup. Lola loves to snuggle up will make a wonderful companion.



Rio

Rio, is about 3 years old. He came to GRR from the San Antonio shelter. Thanks to the help of volunteers in San Antonio and Fredericksburg, Rio got out of the shelter and spent his first few days in GRR care enjoying the home of our Fredericksburg volunteers. He got this report after only a few hours in their home:

"Rio, he's a sweetheart! I've had him less than a few hours and he's already revealing his personality. He is very, very sweet, loves tennis balls, stuffed toys, and he can sit. He's laid back and a perfect gentleman and just wants to please his master. He's one of those nudgers who wants to be petted."





Megan

There was a time not so long ago that I was tied to a tree with no where to go, no one to play with and no one to love. It made me lonely and it made me scared. Then one day a car drives up and this nice lady puts me in the back of her car. She even had a piece of sausage biscuit! I was a little worried, but then she took me to this house that had another dog and a young boy that put his hands on me gently and rubbed behind my ears. They all hugged me and patted me. Could it be that I didn't need to run after all? Could it be that there is a family out there that would let me love them and follow them around?

This family lets me stay in their house and I've showed them that I DO know house manners. I hated that tree! I'm quiet and I'm good. My foster mom says I'm really sweet and I make sure to take the treats very gently from her fingers. I love the kids that are around but at first I wasn't so sure about this big red dog that lives here, but now we play together, nap together and even watch "squirrel TV" together.

I'm feeling really safe now and I've even tried out some of those toys in the basket. All those years have taken a little bit of a toll on my teeth and a little bit on my spirit, but I'm healthy, soft, and ready and willing to give all my love to a new family. My spirit is coming back a little more each day and I know once I have my forever family I will be whole again.

Foster family note: Megan looks to be a Golden-Lab mix. She has the coloring of a Golden and a short, soft coat like a lab. She is extremely gentle and very sweet.

Zac

Hi! I'm Zac reporting on my first week with my foster family. I'm having a blast playing with my foster brother, a 6 month old puppy! We love to tumble and wrestle for hours until we're completely exhausted. My foster Mom says I have a wonderful disposition because I get along with all the dogs and people I've met over the last week. She says I'm super-friendly and just a big ol' ball of love.



I love stuffed animals, especially one's that squeak. My foster Mom says my play-bite is too gentle and that's why I can't make the toy squeak. She makes it squeak and then I get so excited I do a little wiggly dance. My foster brother and I also like to play tug with our rope and toys. I love to play chase—sometimes through the sprinklers, retrieve any object that is thrown, and go for walks in the park. I'm not really use to a leash, yet, but I'm learning.

I have excellent manners for an 8 month old puppy. I don't jump on them or try to steal their food while they are eating. I listen very well and respond to their calls.

I haven't tried to chew on anything other than my toys or bones and I haven't had a single accident in the house!

I love to cuddle and I also like to sleep on the bed at night but they prefer I sleep on my dog bed on the floor. My foster family says I'm going to do great because I'm such a special catch!

Andre

Andre had a great life. He had a family that loved him very much and took outstanding care of the 130 pounder. Then military transfer orders came and Andre could not go along. He was too big to fit into the planes that flew to his new family's destination. With many tears they brought the gentle giant to GRR.

This 2 year old was born with knees which popped out of place as he walked, ran or played. Andre even learned to help himself when this happened. He'd hold up the dislocated knee and limp over to you. Then you say, "Andre let me fix your knee" and he holds it out so you can pop his knee back in place! Then off he goes with a little nuzzle in thanks.

Andre has had his knees fixed and is doing beautifully. He's still a big happy love bug and more personality comes out every day. He's finally got some puppy-like behaviors, he likes to knock over the trash and he will sneak out the door to go for an impromptu walk if you aren't watching him.



He is calm in the house, completely housebroken, good with dogs and children. He is polite, does not jump and knows his basic manners. He loves to have his teeth brushed and especially loves belly rubs. He has this habit of positioning himself in the traffic zones so that when you walk by, he rolls over and you just have to stop and give that belly a scratch! He's going to make some lucky family a great companion.



More Adoptable Golden's

King

King is a sweet gentleman who is eager to please. King has really come out of his shell and now wears a smile on his face all the time—he just has a happy easy going pleasant look. I guess it just took him awhile to trust himself to love and be loved.



He was deprived of affection for so long, that now he craves as much as he can get and will half jump in your lap to love on you. He has also developed quite a lot of vocal sounds to express himself. King will play with other dogs when they initiate play, will sometimes chew on a nylabone, and really luxuriates in his human companionship.

I have had six foster dogs this year and King will certainly be the hardest to let go, but I am excited for him to find a loving forever home where he can be the top dog – someone will be very lucky when their lives intertwine.

Duke

Duke is blond and beautiful and all boy! He's hi-energy and loves to play. When he first came to us, it seemed he didn't know how to handle attention or affection, yet he desperately wanted both. His reaction to a pet was to climb up on you and do a sommersault in your lap. He's slowly learning that the calmer he is, the more attention he gets.



He knows sit, down and stay but doesn't always do them on command, unless you have a treat in your hand. But then, sometimes, he gets sit and down mixed up. He is an incredible retriever!

The best thing about Duke is his expressive face. When I tell him "NO" he gives me that "You talkin to me" look then checks me out to see if I'm wearing the "I mean it" look or the "oh you shouldn't do that" look, then thinks about it for a few seconds before deciding if I REALLY mean NO.

Duke has the potential to be an awesome dog. He's healthy, happy, sweet and smart. He just needs you to help him reach his potential.

Stella

Stella is a little sweetie. She's small in stature and big in heart. She's fitting in nicely with her foster



family and their other two Golden's and is very well behaved inside the house. She doesn't get on furniture and for the most part just wants her tummy rubbed or to be laying down contently next to you.

The Vets think she is around 8 years old but she acts and looks much younger. Although she does seem to have trouble with stairs, but that might be due to her unfamiliarity with them and not arthritis.

Miss Stella would do wonderfully with a mature family. She's not too crazy about small dogs or cats, but gets along great with larger breeds.

Brandy

Dear Forever Family, I know that you are looking for a sweet girl to join your family. I am looking for a forever family that will give me lots of love and remember to give me



my medicines. I know that you will not be able to resist my sweet polar bear face or my loving disposition. I am working hard to learn to accept unconditional love and security. Sometimes I still am afraid, and I need lots of attention, but I am sure you will be patient when I nudge you to pet me.

My favorite thing is to have a nice bath and to get massaged and scrubbed by my foster mom. I stand very still and enjoy the attention – afterwards I feel gorgeous, just like I spent a day at the spa.

I am happy here in my foster home and I am working hard to make everyone I meet fall in love with me—I know that one of you will fall in love with me too.

Hugs and slobbery kisses, Brandy Girl



Treat Your Dog

Milk Bone Dog Biscuits

3/4 cup hot water
 1/3 cup margarine
 1/2 cup powdered milk
 1 teaspoon salt
 1 egg, beaten
 3 cups whole wheat flour
 Variation: increase margarine to 1/2 cup and add 2 teaspoons sugar
 In large bowl pour hot water over the margarine. Stir in powdered milk, salt, and egg. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time. Knead for a few minutes to form stiff dough. Pat or roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into bone shapes. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool. They will dry out quite hard. Makes about 1 1/4 pounds of biscuits. Costs around 30 cents per pound.



The following recipe was submitted by **Sharon Ogilvie**. If you have a recipe you'd like to share please email it to Brenda@GRR-tx.com

Salmon Cookies

1 15oz. can salmon with juice (the kind with bones, skin and, etc.)
 flour
 2 teaspoons salt
 1 teaspoon baking powder

Empty salmon and juice into mixing bowl. Add salt and baking powder and enough flour to make a firm dough (not sticky). Press and pat out onto a greased cookie sheet. Score lightly in a criss-cross pattern to make breaking into pieces easier. Bake at 350 degrees for about one half hour or until crisp. Cool, break into pieces and keep in the refrigerator.

Volunteer Training

**Join us for our next training session
 at the end of January, 2003.**

Check the website for details!

www.GRR-tx.com

RSVP on-line so we can send your training materials to you in advance.

Call 512-659-GOLD for more information.

GRR Wish List...

If you can donate any of these or other items, please e-mail Tim@GRR-TX.com or call our Hotline at (512) 659-GOLD. We will be happy to arrange pickup and provide you with a tax receipt. Thank YOU!

- Heartgard, Sentinel, Interceptor for all size dogs
- Frontline & Advantage for all size dogs
- Glucosamine with and without Chondroitin
- Medications, if you have any of these medications leftover in labeled containers, please consider donating them to the rescue dogs: Rimadyl, Drontal Plus, Cephalexin 500 mg capsules, Doxycycline, Baytril, Cipro, Otomax, Etogesic.
- 36" to 48" Wire mesh dog crate—new or used
- Gift certificates to local vets listed in this newsletter
- Gift certificates to local copy shops for printing of GRR adoption packets and dog records
- Postage Stamps
- Copy paper
- 10x13 Envelopes to hold adoption packets and dog records
- Science Diet D/D dry dog food for dogs with food allergies (available from your vet)
- Long Distance cards for our intake and adoption teams
- Digital Camera for dog photographs—new or used.



GRR Thanks!

GRR would like to extend our most heartfelt gratitude to all of you. Without your caring and generous support, the work we do would not be possible.

Extraordinary Golden Fund

These funds are used specifically to cover atypical medical expenses that our adoption fees and discounted vet services can not cover. Thanks to:

Ann Nichols

John Corkren

Thor Fund

The Thor Fund has been established to raise money for his surgery to correct the laryngeal paralysis. See page 18 for Thor's story. Thank you—each and every one of you for supporting Thor and all of our rescue Golden Retrievers that need medical care to make their second lease on life even better.

J.F. Margos

Jane & Paul Lesner

Cam Snyder

Fred & Carol Whitten

Rebecca Labrum

Angela Overby

Michael Albert Page

Terrie Carlson

Robin &

Allen H. Caldwell III

Nancy Martin

Elaine & Michael Flores

Paul & Rebecca Mascot

Brenda & Tim Forsythe

Kristen & Craig Kessler

Special thanks to:

Cindy Moss & Houston's

Golden Retriever

Rescue Club



Thor

Donations to GRR

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

Cheryl Hazeltine

Debra, Adrian, Alex &

Victoria Pylypec

Beth Freeman

Pam Phillips

West End Grooming

Maria Solis

Heather Smalley

Adelaide Biggs

Century Animal Hospital

Helen Lightfoot

Warren Terry

Gwendolyn Tao

Lana Lopez

Thank You!



Golden Honors

**In Honor of
Becky Labrum**

for walking our dog.

Phyllis & Robert Brinkley

**In honor of
"Ginger's" Vet**

Campbell Snyder



Golden Memorials

Editor's Note: Many of these memorials included donations to the Thor Fund and Extraordinary Golden Fund. Thank you.

In Honor and Memory of "General"

Kathy Burton

In Memory of "Sunny"

our Golden who died of complications due to laryngeal paralysis.

Lisa Madsen

Corrections

Our sincere apologies to Sharon and Bob Ogilvie, Nancy Martin and Susan Culp for either missing their memorials or listing their donations incorrectly in the last issue of the Gazette.

We appreciate your support and strive to 'get it right the first time!'.

In Memory of Rocky "Ping Pong" Biba

Sharon and Bob Ogilvie

In Memory of "Kerbey" loved by:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Darwin and family.

Nancy Martin

In Memory of "Maverick" & "Spiker" Kruegar and "Martha" Groves

Susan Culp

In Memory of "General"

Stella Powell, Jennifer & Sue Carol Thompson

In Memory of "General"

who's giving all the other dogs in Heaven a workout playing fetch.
Tim Tierney & Todd Harrison

In Memory of "Tucker Balch"

the best owner a human could have.
Sandra Balch

In Memory and Honor of "General"

who taught us all a LOT about rescuing Golden Retrievers, and helped countless other dogs in the process.
Katie Harris



In Memory of "Spike Render"

Cam Snyder

In Memory of "General Tierney"

Sharon & Bob Ogilvie

In Loving Memory of "Darwin"

Emily Tuczowski

Golden Memorials, Honors and Dedications may be made to memorialize, thank or pay honor to a special person, Golden or pet of any kind. You can make your donation on line at www.GRR-TX.com via a check or credit card or you may mail your donation to:

Gold Ribbon Rescue, Attn: Golden Honors
PO Box 956 Austin, TX 78767-0956

Remember to include the following information:

- for whom the donation is being made
- your name, address and phone number
- words of personalization.

A handwritten acknowledgement will be sent shortly thereafter and your memorial will appear in the next Gold Ribbon Gazette. Questions? Call (512) 659-GOLD



Extraordinary Golden Fund

Many dogs with atypical medical expenses find their way to Rescue. Our \$250 adoption fees can't cover the costs, even with generous discounts from area veterinarians. Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Golden Retrievers with high medical costs, we created the "Extraordinary Golden Fund." Donations towards this fund go directly to the care of Golden Retrievers like these:

Thor

Thor was born as part of the Operation Tie A Gold Ribbon puppy mill shutdown of 1998. A total of 97 dogs were rescued when this puppy farm was closed. Thor was born in care shortly after his mother was rescued. He was placed with a family as a young pup and when they moved to a new home they could not keep Thor. They called GRR (which was formed after and as a result of the puppy mill rescue) to care for him.

When Thor arrived, we found him to be a big handsome blond fellow that loves children, other dogs and soaking up attention from his foster family. We also noticed he had loud and unusual breathing. He seemed to tire easily, pant a lot and drool profusely—none of which affect his happy disposition and love for life. Initially we felt this was due to the stress of leaving his family and the hot weather. When it persisted, we took him for a vet check up. The vet suspected a throat problem and sent him to a specialist.

Thor was diagnosed with *laryngeal paralysis*. In short, Thor's vocal cords do not open and close properly and are paralyzed in the closed position, leaving only a small area for air to pass in and out of his lungs.

This creates respiratory difficulty for him as well as the noisy respiration, panting and stress (all of which are the results of his labored attempts to breathe). This boy literally can't take a good & normal breath of air—imagine living life trying to breathe through a straw! Fortunately, there is a surgical cure for this but it is expensive. They stitch one side of his vocal cords into the open position creating an open airway for him to breathe through normally once again.

Thor's surgery and care will run \$1100 and he and GRR need your help. The Thor Fund has been established to raise the money for his surgery.

Thor quickly won the hearts of all who have met him and writes his own update below:

Greetings Everybody!

My name is Thor and I am named after the Greek God. I do try to live up to my name as much as possible. I am 4½ years old and have been told I am a blond beauty. I have this great foster family I am staying with until I can have surgery to fix my breathing problem. I sound like a broken muffler or a train when I breathe. I can tell ya I'll sure be glad when it's all fixed and I can get down to some major squirrel patrolling. I have been having a great few weeks here in foster care. The food is good, although my foster Mom



has been kinda lean on my meals. What's with this "Diet" thing anyway? Man, I love to eat. I bet I am the fastest eater this side of the Brazos. I can clear my bowl in 30 seconds flat.

I love a good treat too. I can hear the refrigerator door from the other room and the smell of cheese can wake me from a sound sleep. I get half a pill a day and Mom puts it in a little cheese then adds it to a treat. I almost bit her hand off the first few times I was so excited. Now, she makes me sit patiently and tells me "easy". OK, so I've learned to go easy on the grab. Don't want to make her mad, after all she feeds me this great stuff.

Boy, do they have squirrels on this property. They twitch their little tails right in my face! My foster brother, Rusty, and I go nuts. We go from window to window watching and whining until somebody opens the door. I am always the first one out and almost caught



one of those rascals the other day. Of course I haven't quite figured out yet what I will do with one if I do actually catch it. I should tell you I sort of have a thing for socks. Just can't keep my paws off of them. I love to pick up three or four at a time and pile them in the dining room. That and stuffed animals - have you ever gotten hold of a fresh stuffed animal? You know the kind that are smooth and have never been in a dog's mouth before. Ooohhh, you just slobber all over them and then they are yours forever. No kid will want them back but you should hear those girls squeal, "TTHHOORRRRR" when I snatch one. I just run with it and toss it in the air grinning with glee. They always forgive me and give them to me to keep. I have three or four good ones here now - man life is good.

Speaking of good, I love to be with those girls. The older one always sits on the floor and I go up and push my big head under her arm and just stand there. She always gives me a good ear scratching. This is for all you new pups who try to get attention: It takes persistence. Just keep your head down and elbow it under their arm ever so gently and then stay there patiently. They are bound to start petting and scratching eventually. It feels SO good that sometimes I moan so loud they can't hear the TV over me.

I sound too good to be true right? Well I have a few bad habits, but who doesn't. In addition to the sock & stuffed animal fondness, I'll admit I am not that good on a leash. I pull hard but what's a big fella to do with all of those smells around? I also like to stick my big nose up to see what's cooking for meals. Hey, I've never actually grabbed anything but, Mom doesn't like me doing that and makes me sit at the end of the kitchen. Jeez, she can be tough sometimes. Can I help that her cooking smells so good?

Well, now you have heard all about me. I hope to hear from a few of you also. I want to say a big personal thanks to all of you who help pay for my surgery. Don't worry about me, I'm going to be fine. Just a few days out of pocket and then I'll be chasing those squirrels down faster than before. Maybe I can get some ice cream for my sore throat if I play my cards right...

Lola

Lovely Lola came to us from San Antonio. The pretty redhead was so matted it took days to get the mats out of her coat. She also had a suspicious lump and a bit of a limp. Lola's vet recommended removal of the lump and x-rays of her back end. Fortunately her lump was benign but her x-rays revealed arthritis, which will require medication for the rest of her life to keep her happy, bouncy & pain free. Cost for her diagnostics & treatment: \$547

Bucky

A caring new foster family picked up Bucky at the San Antonio shelter. He was so happy to go home with them and be out of that place. This loving, happy one year old was thrilled to find a houseful of stuffed animals to cuddle up with and carry around. Four days after he arrived, he began coughing and quit eating or drinking—Kennel Cough was suspected. A week later he wasn't getting any better and again quit eating & drinking. This time he also quit following his foster Mom around the house as he always did. A trip to the emergency vet was made, as he appeared to be getting worse by the hour. Out of the blue, our worst nightmare was diagnosed—Bucky had Distemper along with a major pneumonia that was making it very difficult for him to breathe. There were no treatment options left for this poor babe. His loving foster family and members of the GRR team held him as his labored breathing was ended and

he was lovingly sent to the Rainbow Bridge. —\$453 for his care and we still could not save his life.

Stella

Stella arrived with the worst teeth ever seen in terms of tarter and buildup. Poor girl had so much gunk you could barely tell they were white and she also had a lump. This happy and energetic 8 year old loves the water and hopped in her foster family's fishpond however she had a bit of trouble with her sore teeth/gums. —\$327 worth of care gave her a lump free body and pearly white smile!

Rio and Harper

Radiant Rio and Handsome Harper had heartworms—say that 3 times! Both arrived from the shelter, skinny, dirty and heartworm positive. Both boys are happy go lucky guys that just needed a break in life. They got one with GRR and both are on the way to a new life as adored pets. Cost for both boys heartworm treatments— \$800.

GRR's charter dictates that general funds for things like shots, spays, neuters, etc. cannot be used for extraordinary procedures. All monies for non-routine care must be raised specifically for that purpose. The Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF) was created for these special Goldens and their unusual problems. If you can help, please make your on-line check or credit card donation at www.GRR-tx.com or mail it to Gold Ribbon Rescue, Attn: Thor Fund, PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767-0956. Any and all tax-deductible donations are appreciated. Thor and all of us here at GRR thank you for your generosity and support. Because of you, over 475 dogs have entered our program in the last 4 years! Thank you, thank you! 🐾



GOLD RIBBON BOUTIQUE

These are only a few of the great items we carry in our on-line Gold Ribbon Boutique. Shop us in December at www.GRR-TX.com All funds raised support the rescue and educational activities of GRR.

GRR is delighted to be a distributor for the quality fleece products from Masterpiece Pet Products. Known around doggy circles as the famous "HA-HA" beds and toys:



Ha-Ha Dog Bed—Item #1

Reversible Plush Pile. Size 26X40. Machine wash/dry. Very durable. Great alone as a floor bed or they make a nice mat in the crate. \$43.25/ea

Ha-Ha "Rings" Toy—Item #2

Such a simple concept, yet such a delightful toy. Plenty big enough for a couple of GRs to share. Large: \$14.75/ea Small \$10.75/ea



Ha-Ha "Squeaky Tail" Toy—Item #3

Soft, mouthable fleece with no stuffing to pull out! Great for tug or individual play. \$11.75/ea



Ha-Ha "Kitty Tail Toy"—Item #4

Five Squeakys throughout the length of this toy means fun for your GR every time he/she grabs it. \$11.75/ea



Undercoat Rake—Item #5

Undercoat Rake, Regular Designed to remove "Thatch," or undercoat, leaving

the top, or guard hair, undisturbed. All black, teflon-coated teeth. Wood handle. \$7.99/ea

Andre Tisserand Thinning Shears—Item #6



30-Tooth Double Blade, 6 1/2", made in France of ice tempered high carbon steel to make the cutting edges last longer and stay sharper, 22 karat gold plated handles, blued steel blades. \$59.99/ea

We also accept orders via mail. Send in your order today!

Item#	Description	Size	Qty	Unit	Price	Total

Name _____
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Mastercard _____ Visa _____
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Subtotal: _____

TX residents add 8.5% sales tax _____

Shipping & Handling: \$3.50

Total Due: _____

Make remittance payable to GRR and mail to:

Gold Ribbon Rescue

Attn: Boutique

PO Box 956, Austin TX 78767-0956





Ode to the Ball

by Sherman T. Hay

Red, yellow, blue, and green
I don't give a darn.
Tennis, racquet, golf and soft
All you need is an arm!

When I was just a pup I knew,
The road ahead was clear.
I'd make my mark just playing ball,
And rise above my peers.

See the ball, be the ball
No ball too small for me!
Two in my mouth while fetching another,
All while avoiding a tree.

"Balance it on your head" mom said,
So I'd practice again and again.
Then I learned to toss it high,
And catch it in front of their friends.

I've had some injuries over the years,
Every athlete takes their hits.
A cut-up pad, a broken nail,
And it ain't easy on the hips!

I adore the ball, as you've heard
To stop playing would be a disaster.
But as I sit and reflect I see,
I love it,
because I'm playing with my master.

Have a safe and cozy Holiday Season



from all of us at G R R



"Hey Megan, tell Mom we'll be a
little late for dinner. Squirrel TV is going into overtime!"



We'd Love to Hear From You!

Do you have a Golden story that you'd like to share? How about training tips, a doggy recipe, a photo, or just a letter to the editor? We'd love to hear from you. Please send all submissions for the Gold Ribbon Gazette to:
brenda@GRR-tx.com.





Come share in the warmth of the season at our annual



Holiday Party

Sunday, December 15, 2002

6:30-9:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall
2201 Veterans Drive, Austin, Texas

*Tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations and advance payment is required by **December 9th!***

So don't miss out on the fun and the Silent Auction.

For more information and to make your reservation, visit:

www.GRR-tx.com/party.htm

One of the many ways we work to raise funds for our rescued Golden Retrievers is hosting such events as the Silent Auction at the Holiday Party. We need your stuff! If you have an item that will fetch a bid, or perhaps a service of some kind—please consider donating them for the Silent Auction. Remember, your donations are tax deductible and it goes towards a wonderful cause. We thank you and look forward to seeing you there! Happy Holidays—GRR.



**Gold Ribbon Rescue
PO Box 956
Austin, TX 78767-0956**

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