



Gold Ribbon Rescue

OCTOBER 2008 25TH EDITION

DEDICATED TO HELPING GOLDEN RETRIEVERS AND THEIR OWNERS IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Letter from GRR's President — Maura Phelan

Helping the Helpless, Saving the Hopeless

As we reach Gold Ribbon Rescue's TENTH anniversary and send out another newsletter, I am struck by the staggering number of dogs and people that our organization and its wonderful volunteers have affected. With nearly 140 incoming dogs so far this year, and an average of 100 to 150 dogs each year for 10 years, that is a LOT of dogs! And it takes a LOT of foster homes, volunteers, and funds to get each of those dogs healthy, adoptable, and adopted out to screened and ready homes. Therefore, I am in the now-familiar position of asking for yet more foster homes, volunteers, and donations. Without these "raw materials," we will have to turn down Golden Retrievers in need.

Take a look at page 3, and you'll see just how many steps there are in the entire adoption process. And each of those steps involves volunteers, the lifeblood of GRR. What's more, the "one dog's journey" we've outlined does not even touch on all the other volunteers who contribute to finding needy Golden Retrievers new homes. Many funds are raised by our enthusiastic events committee; funds, applications, and interest in our available dogs are generated by our intrepid website manager and the crew who obtain and edit pictures and stories; funds

also come from generous donors of money, items, and event locations; educational resources are provided to the community by volunteers who put together seminars, pamphlets, and web postings, and in conversations by telephone and through e-mail... and then there are our newsletters and the calendar, and the contributors and editors who make them happen.

But as an organization ages, its volunteers move or "retire," foster families adopt their charges and drop out of the fostering pool, money gets spent... and still the dogs need help.

So, once again, I ask that you open your home and your heart; give of your time and your talent; and make a donation so that we can continue to help the helpless, save the hopeless, educate the earnest, and place Golden Retrievers in loving homes—doing what we can to improve our little corner of the world.

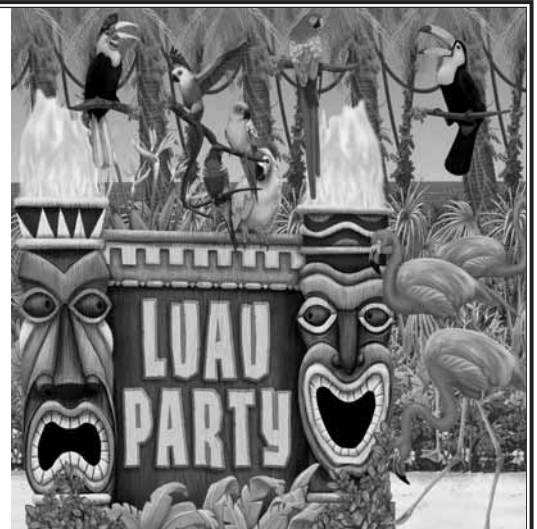
Thank you for all you do and all that you continue to give—it will come back to you many times over!

—Maura

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR OUR LUAU & HOLIDAY PARTY

Please reserve **Saturday, October 18**, to help GRR celebrate our 10th anniversary. This is really something to celebrate! We'll be having a luau at the home of Jody Branson and Dave Baker. We'll combine the luau with our annual meeting and a "state of the rescue" update from our president, Maura Phelan. Check our website at www.GRR-TX.com for details.

Our holiday party is scheduled for **Sunday, December 13** (time and place to be announced). We'd like to remind everyone that, as usual, we'll be having a silent auction. If you have anything that might be a good item for the auction, please e-mail Susie Schaffer at Susie@grr-tx.com.



Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

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www.GRR-TX.com

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GRR EVENTS ROUNDUP

By Susie Schaffer and Sheila Thomas

GOLDEN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK—ALWAYS A SUCCESS

March 29 dawned an absolutely beautiful day for GRR's annual Golden Afternoon in the Park. Dozens and dozens of old friends, new friends, and happy Golden Retrievers gathered at the Polo Picnic Grounds in Zilker Park. It's always a joy to see so many Golden Retrievers proudly wearing their yellow "rescue" bandannas—it really brings home how many dogs have come into GRR over the years and found wonderful, loving homes. Everyone had a blast catching up with each other, browsing the boutique, and enjoying the delicious food. Thanks to Peter Flad and Gary Schaffer for manning the grill, and to all of you who helped out with the refreshments. A special thank you to Kathy Hidajat for baking those delicious cookies. Kudos to Maura Phelan, Scott Thomas, and Brenda Hampton, who tirelessly worked the grooming tables all day & treated many Golden Retrievers to a little spa session. Many thanks to Emily T for serving as our MC, and thank you again to all who came to enjoy the day and support Gold Ribbon Rescue. Last but not least—so many of you (too many to name!) gave a hand in setting up, cleaning up, and working the booths. We're so grateful to you all for helping out.



THEY CAME, THEY SWAM, THEY WENT HOME & CONKED OUT

Our Shake, Paddle & Roll was a huge success! Just ask any of the 60 or so dogs who enjoyed a wet & wonderful good time swimming in Maura's tank on May 30. GRR would like to thank **Rudy's BBQ** for donating 110 delicious breakfast tacos; **The Upper Crust** for providing us with the best baked goods in town; and **HEB** for donating a gift certificate for fresh fruit and drinks. Thanks to these generous companies, 100% of our proceeds went to helping our rescue Golden Retrievers. And of course, many thanks to all who came to the swimfest! Because of you and our corporate donors, our fundraiser was a real success once again. Maura, thank you one more time for hosting the party at Happy Hour Farms!



GET SMART!

Special thanks to Cheryl Croft, of Croft's Canine Companions, and Kathy Burton, GRR's Education Director, for conducting an informative workshop for foster families in June. Twenty-five participants learned about the importance of proper dog introductions, setting boundaries, establishing the pack leader, and other valuable information that makes the fostering experience a rewarding one. Many thanks to all who attended!

The GRR Process—One Dog's Journey

Have you ever wondered how many steps & how many people it takes to get each dog all the way from that first surrender call or e-mail to a brand-new home? Sandy Balch counted at least 24! Angie, age 6, was a shelter dog and our very first dog of 2008. She came to GRR on January 2. After she was adopted on February 9, Sandy sent this e-mail:

Angie just drove away with the Hartmans and their fabulous chocolate lab, Shiloh, on her way to her new home. Angie loved them all—she's off to a wonderful new life. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in Angie's new beginning. I was thinking about how many of us it takes just to get one dog through the process and started a list. I am sure that I've missed some people, but it is so impressive how many people donate their time to make the life of a single Golden better.

Congratulations and thanks to all who helped dog #1 of 2008. Let's all be there for the last dog of 2008 too!

ANGIE'S ANGEL NETWORK

1. Dagi Henry at SAACF, who sent the first e-mail
2. Kathy Simmons—running over to SAACF for an evaluation, taking intake pictures, giving Angie the perfect name

3. Margo Biba—managing Angie's intake, getting her in, finding a foster home
4. Suzette Coen—figuring out her vet care, tracking down documents from SAACF
5. JC Smith—springing her from the shelter and transporting partway to Austin
6. Margo Biba—[again!] transporting to Tanglewood
7. Sandy Balch—transporting her to her foster home, fostering, microchipping
8. Emily Tuczowski—sending meds and supplies
9. Dr. Bolouy at Hiway 620 Animal Hospital—vet care
10. Becky LaBrum—editing the webstory, including Angie in the weekly updates
11. Nick Nichols—editing the photos
12. Tim Tierney—posting the story and photos on the web, managing the intake of the adoption fee, paying the vet bills
13. Pat Capin—maintaining the foster list
14. Heather Smalley—maintaining the dog list
16. Jean Steensma—managing the chipping info
17. Kathy Simmons—reviewing initial application and assigning the phone interview
18. Melinda Adams—conducting the Hartmans' phone interview
19. Ashley Dalton—arranging the Hartmans' home visit

20. Frank Beaumont—doing the home visit
21. Tracy Wencka, Sheila Thomas, Pat Capin and team—reviewing all the foster reports, finding the right family for the match
22. Reina Bernfeld—managing the contracts
23. Martha Fleitas—networking and telling her friends about GRR—they applied and adopted Angie!

August 2008: The Hartmans sent us this happy update: "Angie is such a precious little girl. The matchmakers did a wonderful job. We had actually had picked Angie out on the website but never mentioned it—so we were pleasantly surprised that she was the dog we were matched with! Our 9-year-old Lab had stopped playing with toys, but Angie's arrival changed all that. Angie plays with the toys, so now Shiloh is playing again! They are now best buddies. Angie is a precious member of this family."

BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PROCESS – PLEASE VOLUNTEER! As you can see, there are many different ways to help. Just contact volunteer@grr-tx.com. Thank you!

Thank You to Our Vets

Here's a list of the clinics who have graciously seen GRR Goldens since our last newsletter. When you take your own dogs to these generous vets, be sure to give them a big "thank you" from GRR!

Bastrop Veterinary Hospital (Bastrop)
Belton Small Animal Clinic (Belton)
Castlerock Pet Hospital (Georgetown)
Central Texas Veterinary Specialty Hospital (Austin)
Century Animal Hospital (Austin)
Converse Animal Hospital (San Antonio)
Forest Creek Animal Hospital (Round Rock)
Hiway 620 Animal Hospital (Austin)
Pet Medical Center of San Antonio
San Marcos Veterinary Clinic (San Marcos)
Town & Country Animal Hospital (Kerrville)
Town & Country Veterinary Medical Center (Killeen)
Veterinary Cardiology and Medicine (Austin)
VCA Tanglewood Animal Hospital (Austin)
Village Veterinary Hospital (Bee Cave)
White Rock Veterinary Hospital (Pflugerville)

Veterinarian Spotlight

This has been an extremely busy year for GRR, and without the support of our local veterinarians, we simply wouldn't be able to help all the dogs who come our way. This month, we'd like to extend an extra-special thanks to:

VCA Tanglewood Animal Hospital

Most GRR dogs come into care needing check-ups at the very least (if not spay/neuter surgery, X-rays, lumpectomies, and much more), and Dr. Ron Stried and his staff are always there—often with just a few hours' notice—to get our rescue Goldens on the road to good health and brighter futures. For all your help over the past 4 years, a heartfelt thank you from all the volunteers at GRR—and from Rudy, Lizzie, Mason, Howdy, Jessie, Sprocket, Lemondrop, Basey, Catcher, Strike, Hunter, Alex, Libbie, Danny Boy, Elmo, Zoe, Kobe, Gracie, AJ, Shasta, Marie, Brenham, Brooklyn, Faith, Dara, Vivi, Mojo, Lucy ...and then some!

Golden Health

Nzymes: Help for Allergies, Skin & Ear Issues

By Margo Biba

Goldens tend to have more than their fair share of allergy, skin & ear problems, resulting in long-term itchiness, poor coat, inflamed ears, and repeated vet visits as the problems persist. Often, yeast overgrowth is the chief culprit. This spring, GRR identified multiple Goldens with systemic yeast issues. We started several foster dogs on the anti-yeast program from www.nzymes.com, and we're seeing excellent results. Personally, I am so pleased that all nine of my personal & foster dogs are now on the program.

What is a yeast infection & what causes it?

More than 500 types of microorganisms live in a dog's gut—some beneficial, some not. In a healthy dog with a strong immune system, there's a balance of microorganisms, but when resistance is down, *Candida* species (also referred to as yeast or fungus) tend to take over, crowding out the good microorganisms. The same thing can happen with antibiotic use: these drugs kill good and bad intestinal flora indiscriminately, but most of them don't kill candida. So when antibiotics are used, boom!—candida can take over. And when it does, it causes inflammation, destroys membrane integrity, and secretes toxins.

What are the signs of yeast overgrowth?

You'll observe a whole constellation of issues (for a complete listing, check nzymes.com):

- Rashes, itching, draining sores, body odor, excessive shedding
- Skin may be oily and greasy, yet flaky; some areas may be dry or rough; large areas may be dark or black in color
- Ear infections, ear discharge, ear & face scratching or rubbing
- Allergies
- Bad breath, smelly bowel movements, indigestion, anal gland issues
- Stiffness or arthritis
- Bladder infections

Note: Many of the above issues can also be caused by low thyroid, and dogs can have low thyroid & yeast overgrowth at the same time. Your vet can perform a thyroid test to help diagnose the problem.

How does the Nzymes Yeast Program

combat yeast overgrowth? Nzymes uses a multipronged approach of nutritional supplements, carefully chosen food, and twice-weekly baths. For best results, follow

their instructions to the letter; read through the entire website, www.nzymes.com, for details.

Supplements include:

- Nzymes granules—naturally antifungal, they fight yeast & promote a stronger immune system. They help detoxify the body and reduce inflammation.
- Nzymes BacPak Plus—a combination of digestive enzymes and probiotics. Maximizes nutrient absorption from food & scours toxins from blood. The probiotics are key in rebuilding beneficial intestinal flora.
- Black Leaf Tincture & Ox-E-Drops—antibacterial, antifungal, & antiviral.

Suggested foods are:

Eagle Pack Holistic, shown to have the best results, and other premium choices such as regular Eagle Pack, Nature's Variety, Precise, Wellness, Natura, Timberwolf Organics, Wysong, Country Pet, and Steve's Real Food.

Regular shampooing is essential. As yeast dies inside the body, it exits through the skin. Twice-weekly shampoos help clear away dead & decaying organisms and remove environmental allergens like pollens which collect on the fur. Both Universal Medicated & Malaseb shampoos remove topical yeast. Rinse afterward with a baking soda & water mixture to soothe the skin.

Is this a quick fix? No. In fact, you can expect symptoms to increase at first, while yeast dies off. Keep at it! Tell your vet what you are doing, so he or she knows exactly what to expect. Young dogs should stay with the program for at least several months; elderly pets with long-term allergy and yeast problems should stick with it for 6 months to a year. You are building foundational health, and that takes time.

Will it completely solve all my dog's

allergy issues? Not necessarily. Your dog may still be allergic to particular foods or inhaled allergens. The program will, however, build the dog's immune system, making him better able to tolerate the triggers for his allergies. (If your dog is low thyroid, thyroid supplementation will also improve his health.)

Is the program labor intensive? Yes, at first. Read through the website and print off the



instructions. Get out your highlighter to mark key points. The program may seem overwhelming initially, but within a week, you'll be in the flow! The most time-consuming part of the program is the frequent bathing.

Is it expensive? No. The reduction in medications & vet visits results in cost savings for the owner.

Does Nzymes work for people, too? Yes. Their products are for both dogs & humans.

Should I continue to use traditional veterinary care? You bet. Work together with your veterinarian, providing information about the program.

Does GRR benefit by recommending the Nzymes Yeast Program? No. GRR is sharing this info in an effort to improve your dog's health.

The big question: Is it all worthwhile? YES! Dogs on the program are far healthier overall now! Here are the great results we're seeing:

- Significantly decreased itchiness.
- Red & inflamed skin is becoming healthy; hotspots are diminishing.
- Areas of blackened skin are shrinking; skin is regaining normal color.
- Decreased shedding.
- Increased fur growth; bald spots are filling in, entire coat is improving.
- Resolution of yeast/fungal ear infections.
- Increased energy.
- Better digestion & utilization of food.
- Decreased duration of kennel cough, in incoming shelter dogs.

Home Cooking for Golden

Veggie Soup for Dogs from the kitchen of Margo Biba

I make a gigantic pot each time. Simmer until all the vegetables are soft, then purée the dogs' portion. I usually save half for the people & we eat it for lunch every day 'til gone. Typical ingredients (organic when available) might include any/all of the following. Rinse the veggies and cut into chunks or strips.

- 🍄 Organic low-sodium chicken broth (1 or 2 big cartons), plus water to cover meat/veggies
- 🍄 Ground turkey or other protein; usually 1 lb. each ground turkey & ground turkey Italian sausage. I precook the protein, but this is probably not necessary.
- 🍄 Carrots, turnips, potatoes, yams, beets, etc.—try for a mix. Warning—if you include a beet, it'll turn the soup red. McCarthy still has a pink chin after that batch!
- 🍄 Greens, 1 or 2 bunches: spinach, kale, turnip or mustard greens, dandelion leaves, Swiss chard, beet greens
- 🍄 Zucchini or crookneck squash, cabbage, bok choy, green beans
- 🍄 1 (14-oz.) can diced tomatoes, if desired (avoid if the dog has severe arthritis)

- 🍄 Seasonings, if desired—basil, garlic, pepper, Worcestershire sauce
- 🍄 DON'T INCLUDE: onions (thins their blood); any beans except green beans (cooked dried beans such as kidney beans, garbanzos, etc. are difficult for them to digest); grains except rice (many dogs are allergic)

Baked Chew Bones from the kitchens of Margo and Katie Harris

Sun Harvest health-food stores have cow femurs in the meat department. People use them for soup bones. Those are the ones you want, because femurs are less likely to splinter or break. They're already cut 4 to 8 inches long. Sun Harvest buys them in huge boxes, so there are usually more back in the freezer. (Whole Foods & Central Market may also have them; you may have to ask for them. If the bones are 2 feet long, sometimes they'll cut them to size for you and take the knobs off the ends.) Put the bones in a large, heavy pot, add water to cover, and boil them for 10 to 15 minutes. Sometimes I add a bit of garlic or seasoning. Knock out the marrow or leave it in... your choice. Put the bones on wire racks set on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Bake at 250°F for an hour or so. Let cool & serve! The flavor is baked in, any fat & gristle left is dried (so not messy), and the dogs love them.

What do other GRR foster parents say about the Nzymes Yeast Program?

A lot, as it happens! Here are three first-hand accounts.

GRR #08-011 Huggy Lucky started the Nzymes program 05/20/08, after several months of traditional veterinary care. He suffered with ongoing allergies, skin & ear issues. Three months later, foster mom Cathy Smith e-mailed about their experience with the Nzymes program:

To be absolutely truthful J.C. and I were quite overwhelmed and doubtful at first—especially at using “natural” and “holistic” products, since we weren’t familiar with those. But we were at the point where I was so frustrated and sorry for Lucky because he itched constantly and did not feel well. He was still so sweet and endured those tubes in his ears and whatever medicines we gave him.

We had to try something else. Nothing had helped him much. How glad we are that Margo told us about Nzymes. We had to call her several times with questions. We LOVE it!!!! Thank you! Thank you! He is a completely different dog now. His once-black tummy now just has a few freckles; he does not itch all the time and ears are cleared up.

As Margo said, it is a gradual program. Lucky is on the maintenance dosages. We keep a chart in the kitchen showing his doses for each day. We have gotten so used to it that it is automatically part of the mealtime routine. Lucky takes the Ox-E-Drops (3 to 8 drops twice daily); 1 teaspoon granules once a day; and Black Leaf Tincture (6 to 15 drops twice daily). The great thing is, he has no problem with all this mixed in his food... actually Lucky has no problem eating anything (hah!). We use Wellness food, which is getting easier to find. I believe I heard Petco advertise the other day that they would be stocking that item.

The medicated bath is so important too. Have to admit we don't bathe him TWICE a week as recommended—more like once a week. The baking soda final rinse is wonderful too—helps reduce itching and odor.

—Foster mom, Cathy Smith

GRR #07-147 Dancer, age 15, has been on the Nzymes program since March 2008. When she came to GRR in late December 2007, she had fire-red skin on her undersides, abdomen & legs. She repeatedly chewed her thighs & lower legs bloody & raw. I was very worried about her discomfort & the large, bloody areas of her skin. Traditional medicine did not help, including treatment for sarcoptic mange just in case. Only Nzymes solved the problem. Her fur is now thick & luxuriant—no more bald patches. She no longer itches or chews at herself. She has stopped wheezing & coughing. For age 15, Dancer is in great shape.

—Foster mom, Margo Biba

When GRR #08-006 Benny first arrived in foster care back in January of this year, his skin was a mess... the vet said it was about the worst she had seen. He had open sores on his belly, blackened skin, lots of bare patches, no pantaloons, and an almost hairless tail. And boy oh boy did he smell!!!! You could tell he was a Golden because of his sweet personality, but he sure didn't look like one. Poor Benny was miserable and it showed. He was constantly scratching and chewing his skin and rubbing his face. We tried all types of medicines, and GRR spent a small fortune in vet bills to get the itching under control... everything we tried helped some, but we needed a long-term solution. We gradually stopped the steroids because they were just not good for him. We changed his food to Wellness Duck and Rice because he is allergic to just about everything else. We started the Nzymes program (with the approval from his vet) around March/April. At first his symptoms did get worse, but we were determined to see this program thru and I am so thankful we did. You should see him now. He is gorgeous!! Benny's skin is no longer flaky and he actually has fur we can brush. You can't find a patch of bare or blackened skin on him. His coat is soft and looks great, and I know he feels better than he has ever felt. We continue to add the maintenance dose to his food daily. Nzymes has made all the difference in the world to Benny. He is living an itch-free life and I no longer have to sit and watch poor Benny being miserable... instead, I sit and watch him being a happy, healthy Golden.

—Foster (and soon to be forever!) mom, Jacki Mulkey

Notes From the Intake Team...

by Margo Biba
Intake Coordinator

Whew! What a wild ride it's been this year—more Golden Retrievers than ever, more emergencies, more complex health & behavioral issues to work through. GRR's crackerjack intake team constantly amazes me, with its cheerful ability to zip to the aid of Golden Retrievers in distress.

As of September 16th, GRR has taken in 135 new dogs plus 12 returns, totaling 147 kiddos needing haven. An alarming number—68 Golden Retrievers—were intakes from shelters all over the area (20 different ones so far). Often, we've had only a day to spring into action with photos, evaluation & transport to veterinarians before these shelter dogs would have been euthanized due to lack of space.

As we talk to shelter staff, we keep hearing the same message: animal shelters are bursting at the seams, apparently in part from the 2008 economic downturn & mortgage crisis. Shelters are forced to make tough choices each day, deciding which dogs will live & which will be put down to make space for new arrivals. Of primary concern is the San Antonio area. San Antonio Animal Care Services accepts about 1,000 dogs & cats per week, euthanizing a horrifying 90 to 95% of these. Earlier this year, GRR routinely pulled Golden Retrievers from SAACS, but that number has decreased to almost nil, as we lose our steady shelter contacts and as SAACS euthanizes most owner surrenders upon arrival, saving space for strays under mandatory stray hold.

There are five Golden Retriever rescues in Texas, and all of us—GRR, two Dallas-area rescues, and two Houston groups—are running at over capacity. Golden Retriever Rescue of Houston (GRRH) has been our savior numerous times. We've transferred nine Golden Retrievers from our program to theirs so far this year, as they have big hearts & were in the enviable position of having adoptive homes just waiting for young dogs. As I write, Hurricane Ike has wreaked havoc on Houston & the surrounding area, and we must wonder if GRR will need to step up to help. Given how full we are, any additional influx of Golden Retrievers will be a real worry.

Currently, GRR has 66 dogs in foster care, including 13 permanent (hospice) fosters. This seems an unbelievably high number, until we compare our "in and out" numbers: 147 dogs have come in, but only 70 of those have been adopted, in addition to 32 from previous years. This imbalance reflects a corresponding decrease in our adoption applications. Looking forward, GRR must identify ways of attracting quality adoptive homes to make up the slack.

Our stellar foster homes have proven loyal & dedicated, squeezing in foster dogs one after the other. An increasing number of families are doubling up on foster dogs, in an effort to save one more life. Kudos to Tom & Jeanae Jensen of San Antonio, who housed fosters Misha, Suki & Strike—all at one time! Foster families, you are the backbone of GRR. We appreciate each and every one of you!

The age of our foster dogs varies greatly. #08-015 Princess Hershey (now Remy) & #08-121 Dara (named after the Olympic swimmer) were both around 8 weeks old at intake. #08-060 Vivian is our oldest "new dog" at age 15. Many rescues are forced to turn away elderly dogs because they stay longer in foster care and may have higher medical expenses than young dogs. GRR is proud to accept Golden Retrievers regardless of age. Interestingly, it is much easier to find foster homes for seniors than for pups or young dogs. For example, #08-134 Zoe, age 11 months, is currently stashed at the vet. She is pretty, healthy, housebroken & crate trained. She is in heat & needs to wait 3 weeks to be spayed. Do you think I can find that good gal a foster home? No luck, bucko. We could sure use more foster families willing to take on youngsters. (And thanks to the Jensen and Phillips families for stepping up & offering to take Zoe!)

So far in 2008, 33 dogs (about 23% of our total) have tested positive for heartworms. This is a fairly consistent percentage as compared to past years. GRR's drier Central Texas coverage works to our advantage, with fewer mosquitoes than in coastal areas. The Houston rescues report nearly 70% of their incomings are HW+.

This morning, newspaper reports mentioned a surge in mosquitoes in areas hit by Hurricane Ike, which will likely result in more heartworm positive dogs from that area 6+ months from now.

GRR generally spends \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year in veterinary expenses. Of late, we've held steady, even with the large number of dogs in foster care. This is due to the heroic efforts of our Fearless Medical Coordinator, Suzette Coen, and our longtime GRR treasurer, Tim Tierney. Additionally, a loyal team of GRR veterinarians works alongside us, offering generous discounts. We are indebted to them.

On the plus side, Central Texans have been amazingly generous to GRR over the years. As a board member perusing our donors, I see the same names, year in & year out. Donations, especially toward the Extraordinary Golden Fund (EGF), ensure that GRR can rescue Golden Retrievers who need surgery or special medical treatments. Not all rescues & Golden Retriever rescues are in this position. Shelters report that some groups cannot accept dogs that are heartworm positive, or ill, or elderly, because of their anticipated medical costs. Donations save Golden Retrievers! Thank You.

As I look toward the remainder of 2008, I am optimistic. Our GRR team—volunteers, foster families, donors, veterinarians, adoptive families—continues to work toward the common goal of rescuing Golden Retrievers who need our help. We'll all work together, and we'll get the job done.

FUNNY BONES.....

A wife says to her husband one weekend morning, "We've got such a clever dog. He brings in the daily newspapers every morning." Her husband replies, "Well, lots of dogs can do that." The wife responds, "But we've never subscribed to any!"

Move Over & Make Room for Goldenens

by Becky LaBrum

One of my favorite childhood songs is "Move Over," by Malvina Reynolds. It goes like this:

*Move over and make room for Marty—
He doesn't take very much space.
For Marty is one of our very best friends
I'm sure we can find him a place.*

*Move over, move over, and quick like a
rig-ge-ty jig!
We'll always move over for Marty,
For Marty is not very big.*

*He won't have to stand in a corner;
He won't have to sit on the floor.
For we can move over for Marty
And still there is room for one more.*

*Move over, move over, and quick like a
rig-ge-ty jig!
We'll always move over for Marty,
For Marty is not very big.*

Now, just substitute any dog's name for "Marty," add a few shots of adrenalin, a healthy dash of stomach acid, a cauliflower ear from hours of phone calls, yet more mileage on the transport team's crate-friendly cars, and that priceless happy feeling & ear-to-ear smile when a great dog is tucked in safe and sound at clinic or foster home—and you have a pretty good description of a typical day in the world of dog rescue. The song's refrain—"move over, and quick!"—is a little too apt, though, because this year we've been getting lots of dogs who need to come in pronto. It starts with an e-mail or hotline call: a dog is alone in the yard of an empty house, or stray and not securely fenced, or nearly at the end of the shelter holding period... and after that, it's "Eeeek! We have to act fast!! Well... I'm sure we can find him a place."

Here are just a few of these "action stations!" stories. Many of these dogs don't have the unusual medical problems that would make them Extraordinary Golden Fund candidates, but we've noted the cost of care for each one. As you'll see, even the "ordinary" expenses often exceed our adoption fees.



Geni

Geni: GRR #08-038, intake date March 12

Please help. Our 12-year-old Golden is wonderful with children, has never bitten anyone or anything. Humane Society refused to take her due to her age, but we must find her a home before noon tomorrow or take her to the animal shelter. We have already moved out of our home into an apartment & have tried to find Geni a home for several weeks with no success.

Just a few hours after we got this note, a volunteer swung by Geni's yard to meet her. At once, the shaggy red butterball rushed to the fence to say "hi" to her new friend. Friendly, waggy, social, cheerful—but too old?? No way! This chubster was clearly full of life & enthusiasm. The very next day, the supersize Golden (a whopping 104.5 pounds) found herself on the road to her foster home and her new life. A vet visit revealed that she was heartworm positive, but given her weight and age, we elected to avoid the injections and just treat her with monthly Heartgard. But, surely she was low thyroid? Nope! That excess baggage came from pure, er, excessive enthusiasm at mealtimes. Geni's foster mom set to work with diet and gentle exercise, and before too long: "Geni can stay with us. We have already fallen in love with her and she loves being with all the other girls, having a large yard, and being able to come in the house and be part of our family." Since then, it's been downhill all the way for Geni's weight, and on July 26 we got an album of glamour shots and this note: "Geni now weighs 84 pounds. Yeah! She has lost 20.5 pounds. She is doing so much better. She can run and can get up and down so much easier. Hopefully I will be able to get a little more off her. She looks like a Pooh Bear with her beautiful thick silky coat." **Check-up, vaccinations, blood panel, lumpectomies, tooth cleaning: \$377.86**

Cody: GRR #08-103, intake date July 15

We found a Golden Retriever running loose and in very poor condition. He is an unaltered male, not sure of age. He's half starved and full of ticks and his ancient flea collar was about 2 inches too short. We're trying to keep him in our yard but he got out 5 times last night. We are on a busy street. His safety is a real concern now. He is very sweet. Would you be interested?

This one was quite a production, since Cody was far, far away from GRR's usual territory... nearly as far west as Abilene. The finders



Cody

offered to keep Cody on a tie-out for a few days, but given his jackrabbit jumping skills, we were afraid he might hang himself on the fence. Volunteer Cam to the rescue! He arranged to meet the Good Samaritans halfway to Austin (a 5-hour round trip) and collected the perky stray. Just 12 to 18 months old, Cody was a sorry sight. "Emaciated—ribs and hips stick out. Hair loss on shoulder blades, fur on head coarse like Brillo. Scabs from ticks all over, especially on head where there a several dozen." (How did he manage to be so energetic?) He has heartworms, too, and has just finished his second round of shots. The report: "He is a darling little guy at 56 lbs. Still skinny from his days on the road, but he's looking healthy and handsome. His fur is starting to grow in and is getting nice and soft now that he has a good diet and supplements (and peanut butter sandwiches to help pack on some weight). He is perfectly housetrained, loves to be near you at all times, is super smart. He knows SIT, DOWN, and KENNEL UP and is starting to get SETTLE, which means to lie down on one hip. He is great in the car. He is always happy and bouncy and loves his foster sister Goldie!" **Check-up, neuter, vaccinations, heartworm treatment: \$550**

Story continued on the following pages.

Move Over & Make Room for Goldens—Continued



BB

B.B.: GRR #08-101, intake date July 12

Suzy S. (volunteer w/ Animal Control) called the hotline at 6:10 PM. Apparently there was an adoption app on the guy she e/m us about a few days ago; the person did not show, so the dog is ready for immediate release. Needs medical attention NOW; recently neutered, and scrotal sac is very swollen and bluish in color; Suzy thinks he needs the vet and a course of antibiotics.

Handsome B.B. had been found running loose in the country late one night in June. The 5-year-old boy was desperately hungry and ventured onto someone's porch to snack on a tempting bowl of kibble... which didn't go over too well with the rightful owner, a very watchful yard dog. The resulting commotion attracted the owner's attention. So appealing was the lanky stray that the finder immediately considered just letting him stay, but her own pet insisted on Plan B: "Call Animal Control now!" The shelter alerted GRR, and commented: "Very beautiful, nice, friendly boy, very exuberant. No problems with other animals, not even a growl. We should be able to place him on our own." And they did! But then (a) the adoptive family was a no-show; (b) B.B.'s neuter site developed a huge hematoma; and (c) B. B. was found to be heartworm positive. It was a real scramble, but B. B. skated into the clinic just before closing time on a Saturday morning... and proceeded to wind the entire staff around his paw. A tall red dog with a charming smile, he is doing the same at his foster home. "He is very nice and knows lots of commands. Someone has spent time training him! He's so well behaved." **Antibiotics, treatment for hematoma, heartworm treatment: \$873**

Peanut: GRR #08-024, intake date February 25

My sister's friend lives near some elderly people who recently passed-away and when the relatives left the house, they also left a 4-5 year-old Golden (Peanut) there. The house was subsequently rented to people who relegated this indoor Golden to the backyard, then proceeded to abuse and mistreat this poor Golden. The renters recently moved leaving the Golden in the backyard once again. The friend has been caring for him but she can't adopt another dog... can you help?

Dirty, underweight, and low heartworm positive, Peanut was whisked into foster care 2 days after this e-mail arrived. Despite the hard times he'd endured, he was gentle and loving ("Adores grooming. Blisses out completely.") but understandably confused and timid. "He's extremely frightened by loud noises. Any loud sound or sudden movement sends him flying in the opposite direction or diving under a table. The poor sweetie is just now working up the courage to look at us when we pet him." But his foster home was patient, and besides, Peanut seemed heaven-sent: they had lost their own Golden boy only 6 months before. After just 48 hours, they decided that Peanut had moved in to stay. On August 4, we got this update: "Everything is GREAT!!! He is such a sweetie. Sallie (our other GRR dog) loves him. Peanut has relaxed a lot. He only startles a little at sudden movements. He is extremely gentle. He likes to sleep next to our bed with his head (but only his head) completely under the bed. The dog version of the Headless Horseman! My two grandchildren adore him. We originally had told them we were going to foster him for awhile. After a couple of weeks, I found Lizzie (the 7-year-old) crying in the bathroom. When I asked what was wrong, she said she wanted to keep Peanut 'because he's so nice to me.' When she finally understood he was staying, Peanut got the hug of his life. We adore him!" **Check-up, vaccinations, neuter, heartworm medication: \$461.75**

Mason: GRR #08-056, intake date April 10

Why giving up dog: No room to run around anymore because of recent move. Due to traveling and summer coming up, nowhere to keep dog. Owners leaving town day after tomorrow.

When we saw the owners' photos of "country boy" Mason Clyde, we weren't quite sure he was all Golden. The husky 6-year-old with a big, blocky head and long ears looked kind of like a rust-colored water buffalo. However, he passed his intake evaluation with flying colors: "Mason is a total creampuff & I would bet money he's low thyroid. FAT, harsh coat, black tummy, black dirty ears, dry flaky skin,



Mason

missing pigmentation around his eyes. Not tall in stature but by golly he's tubby. You can push him right over—he's only too willing to expose his capacious tum for a scratch. Very friendly guy." Mason rolled off to San Antonio for foster care and proved every bit as delightful as expected: companionable with adults of all sizes, great with other dogs, sweet & well behaved. He also turned out to be largely deaf, and of course, as suspected, he needed thyroid meds. When foster (and now adoptive!) mom Candy sent pics about 6 weeks later, Mason's intake evaluator (me) nearly passed out. Mason looks like a movie star! Good food, medication, and regular exercise have toned him up, trimmed him down, and given him a glossy, soft coat. Now he's living the good life as a genial mentor to his mom's foster Goldens. **Check-up, vaccinations, neuter, blood panel, tooth cleaning, lumpectomy, treatment for ear infections: \$643.82**

Goldie: GRR #08-083, intake date June 6

My husband and I have a nine-year-old golden retriever. We are trying to find a good home for her—we are relocating out of state on very short notice. At dinner we saw a couple walk by our house with two goldens. My husband ran out to see if POSSIBLY they were interested in a third. They said no, but recommended that we contact you. I REALLY don't want to take her to the pound or a shelter. I am so limited on time...

**Goldie**

Goldie's owners were desperate. They'd got their girl set up with some friends, but when a pre-move vet visit revealed a suspicious mass in Goldie's mouth, the arrangements all fell through. Now what? The family was stunned by the possibility of cancer and couldn't bear the thought of putting their dog to sleep—she seemed so healthy and had been with them since puppyhood. Good with cats, small kids, other dogs, "no naughty habits at all." GRR's intake team conferred: "We'll take her!" Sadly, a biopsy did reveal malignant melanoma, so Goldie will not go up for adoption; she'll live out her days as a "permanent foster." But for now, "Goldie always has a smile on her face. She is darling and absolutely adores my foster boy Cody (GRR #08-103). If she could play bitey face with him all day that would be her choice... darn his heartworms! She has the thickest fur ever and loves being brushed and bathed. You would never know that she has cancer. She is as happy as any dog could be and is active and energetic for a 9-year-old. She is so easygoing and sweet. I am just loving having her here with me. Her family raised a perfect girl." *X-rays, biopsy, histopathology: \$552.59*

Howdy: GRR #08-100, intake date July 11

Hello. I was told by animal control to contact you. I have a male Golden Retriever full blooded no papers though. Here is my problem. We just moved here from 100 acres to a small backyard and he keeps destroying our neighbor's fence, well I had to put him on a chain a little bit ago and he is very unhappy...who wouldn't be? Well the problem with him is that the people we rescued him from beat and mistreated him so he is very skittish and ducks when you pet him. He is wonderful with my kids but scared of loud noises. Thanks and God bless.

After chatting with 4-year-old Howdy's owner, we were a little concerned. He had been rescued from an abusive home a year or so back, along with his Golden friend, Jessie. Both dogs had been underfed and maltreated, but Howdy had come in for the brunt of the physical abuse. We worried that he might be too spooky and skittish to trust anyone new. Wrong! When volunteer Heather picked the fine-boned blond boy up, she said, "This dog is full of love. He is desperate to please. He walks right next to you, licking your hand. It is amazing to see how the Golden spirit is still there in a dog who has had such a crummy life. He doesn't retrieve, take treats, or anything. He worries the whole time that he is going to be hit. It is pitiful. He let all of our dogs sniff him & just

**Howdy**

stood there frozen. He ran from the cat. We adore him and think he is going to be a FABULOUS dog." In foster care, Howdy blossomed! He gained confidence and learned how to play. It's hard to get a photo with his tail in focus, because it never stops wagging. In just 3 weeks, he found a forever home. What a wonderful turnaround for this sweet guy! *Check-up, vaccinations, heartworm test, neuter: \$232.63*

Jessie: GRR #08-111, intake date August 4

Reason for surrender: Small house & yard & she is not house trained. Owner would like to give her up as soon as someone can come and get her. There is an issue with the neighbor and her fence. Owner surrendered Howdy to us earlier & has decided it would be best for Jessie to move also.

Just a few days after her "husband" Howdy found his new family, it was 6-year-old Jessie's turn. This girl needed a new & carefree life, too. When her owner had taken her from her original, abusive home, she'd been told the dog "might" be pregnant. No

**Jessie**

"might" about it—Jessie had puppies the very next day! A few more litters followed, the last one with only six survivors out of 10 mixed-breed pups. It was time for this sweet-faced redhead to close up shop and put her paws up! Like Howdy, Jessie had been put on a tie-out, and we knew from the owner (and from picking up Howdy) that the yard had a bad flea and fire-ant problem. And the weather was SO hot. We arranged to nab Jessie fast and zipped her straight to the vet. "She is as sweet as they come—very calm, very loving. All is well at her foster home. Jessie is good with the kids. Housetraining is going well so far & we wonder if Jessie is housetrained after all? No accidents! Jessie likes to be near her foster mom & sits at her feet." *Check-up, vaccinations, heartworm test, spay: \$250*

Red: GRR #08-088, intake date June 15

A lady called the Hotline about a dog she has been caring for. His owners are moved out & he is living in the yard of a home with a "for sale" sign... until the house sells he is okay there—she can care for him. Owners said they wanted to "shoot" him, so she is worried they will do something. She has really gone above and beyond to take care of this poor dog that sounds like he is a mess.

Thank heavens for 10-year-old Red's guardian angel! She had been looking out for him as best she could, but she was often out of town and knew he needed consistent care—and lots of it. When our volunteer picked the old boy up, she said, "He's clearly a GR, but is in awful shape. Skin, ears and eyes are a mess. He has no eyelashes and no fur around his eyes; he looks like he's got two black eyes. His ears are a mess and I think they hurt him. Fur is sparse and skin is SO itchy. But he has a totally Golden personality. Just a love sponge." With Red settled in, foster mom Vicky got going: treatment for skin, ear, and

Story continued on the following pages.

Move Over & Make Room for Goldens—Continued



Red

eye infections. Daily artificial tears to keep Red's eyes lubricated (he doesn't produce tears on his own... the source of his eye problems). Medicated ointments and shampoos. Good food to help his skin and coat. Heartworm shots (yes, he had a heavy load of heartworms). He'll need neuter surgery, too, but that will wait until he is healthier. Two months on, "His progress has been phenomenal! Even with multiple vet visits, he remains optimistic and joyful, enjoying all the attention and loving pats. He constantly smiles. He can't see too well but gets around fine. I think he'd be perfect for a retired person or couple who would spoil him rotten." **Check-ups, blood panel, medication for eye, ear, and skin infections, chest X-ray, heartworm treatment, neuter (to come): \$1,564.52**

Amber: GRR #08-102, intake date July 12

Hi all, just a heads-up. I did a surrender on a female named Amber; form to follow. Spayed, aged 4, owners moving out of state, have four dogs total, all female, dogs don't get along. Amber is the most recent addition & other dogs have jumped her at every opportunity. At one point one of them took a piece out of her ear. Per owner she is always the punching bag, never the instigator. Current house is tiny and yard is divided in quarters to keep dogs apart. Amber has no issues with people, is gentle with tiny kids. Needs to get out ASAP. Husband already in the new house, only thing keeping the wife here is the dogs.

Poor Amber! We wondered if she had become aggressive herself after over a year of dealing with "siblings" who regularly beat her up, but we needn't have worried. This 5-year-old is a peach, and now that she's had a bath and a much-needed manicure and has started on good food, she looks like a princess. Unfortunately, she did have heartworms, but she's just about done with

her treatment and has come through fine. "Amber is such a sweet, gentle girl. Very relaxed with our dogs. She loves tug-of-war but will release on the command GIVE, and she also knows SHAKE. She is a very vocal Golden—but she doesn't bark or growl! Instead, she has a wide range of sounds from whines, to yodels, to something that really sounds like a whale song. Just so happy and thrilled to be an indoor dog, grins all the time." **Check-up, vaccinations, heartworm test, heartworm treatment: \$617.77**

Josie: GRR #08-072, intake date May 11

Reason for surrender: Owner is facing medical issues and is hospitalized and can no longer care for her 13-year-old Golden. Currently the dog is outside with people stopping by to feed and check on her.

Living alone outdoors in the early-summer heat was no life for a former house Golden! A few phone calls got us pages of medical records and a long chat with the vet who had been caring for Josie for years. A foster family quickly volunteered to provide the petite girl with a home, and Josie thankfully resumed her indoor life. Unfortunately, at her first GRR check up, "Dr W. was palpating her abdomen and said, 'her spleen is huge.' An abdominal x-ray revealed a mass roughly 7 inches in diameter in the spleen. Likely hemangiosarcoma. Since Josie is already 13, Dr. W and I both believe she is probably not a good candidate for surgery. We'll take her home and make her happy for whatever time she has left." As autumn arrives, Josie is still living it up. As far as she is concerned, her hospice care is a luxury retirement villa! She is living in the moment and enjoying each day. **Check-up, x-rays, diagnostics, cleaning of one abscessed tumor, antibiotics: \$215**

Jewels: GRR #08-112, intake date August 9

Please forgive if you are not the "ones" to contact, but Schertz Animal Control just called about a female Golden they took as a transfer. The other shelter was going to put her down due to lack of space and Schertz agreed to take her, hoping to find rescue group (you!) that will take her. They say she is really pretty, BUT did test positive for heartworms. I know you have a lot of dogs now but hope you can help this little girl. Schertz can keep her for about 3 days.

The same afternoon that message came in, volunteer Tracy was at the shelter to meet

the short, plump, 4 ½-year-old redhead. Jewels lives up to her name! "SHE IS A DOLL. She is sweet and kind. She knows SIT, DOWN, STAY and has GREAT recall (which amazed me). She is very smart. She let me touch her everywhere and rolled on her back at every opportunity so I could rub her belly. She is COVERED in ticks... see the pics. I have never seen ticks like this before. Schertz's vet was



Jewels

appalled. There was not a part of her body that I touched that did not have a tick. They are huge." Through the combined efforts, over several days, of the shelter staff, the GRR vet clinic, and Jewels's foster mom (who started out with a 2-hour grooming session!), Jewels finally got rid of all those ticks (plus fleas, dirt, and a ton of mats). Next up for this friendly girl was heartworm treatment and a badly needed tooth-cleaning. "She is outgoing, very grateful for love and attention. She loves to be petted. She is learning to be an inside dog and part of a family. She is going to do really well." **Check-up, rabies vaccination, tooth cleaning, heartworm treatment: \$660.77**

Libbie, Alex & Eddie: GRR #08-118, 119 & 120, intake date August 17

Hello, this is Erin from the shelter. I usually speak with Jean, but felt that it might be too late in the evening to call her at home. We have 3 dogs here in desperate need of rescue. I am supposed to be on vacation this week, but was called to go in tomorrow and evaluate our euthanasia needs. I am trying desperately to see if I can get any of the dogs into rescue. Eddie and Libbie are ages 4 years old & 10 months old, boy and girl. They came in together and had pretty bad ticks. Then Alex is 5 years old, owner turn-in. I know this is short notice, but I was wondering if there is anything that you can do to help me with this really bad situation.



Libbie

That e-mail arrived late Saturday night. Sunday was a whirlwind—but by late afternoon, thanks to a battalion of volunteers, all the dogs were present and accounted for. What a day! Dainty blonde **Libbie** is so sweet that her foster family immediately put “dibbies” on adopting her... and every volunteer she met knows why! She’s playful, friendly, and all-around just about perfect. Timid and scared at the shelter, she relaxed and got her smile back as soon as she had her “get out jail free” card. She was covered with ticks—it took 2 anti-tick treatments to get most of them—but her friend **Eddie** was in much worse shape. “LOADED WITH TICKS—this dog should get a blood test to make sure he is not anemic. He has had two doses of tick treatment and he is still loaded. His kennel had them crawling up the walls.” Eddie is a friendly fellow, loves to be petted and played with. And thanks to some intensive treatment, he is FINALLY tick-free and settling happily into his foster home. (Not surprisingly, both Libbie and Eddie have the tick-borne disease erlichia, but they’re on antibiotics for it and are expected to come through fine.) **Alex** was surrendered by a family with three “really out-of-control kids,” as the shelter staff commented. “Mom says the kids have been ‘tormenting’ him.” Never a snap or growl out of him, however, “although they sure deserved it.” In foster care, he’s proving to be a really nice guy: good with other dogs & with cats too, good on leash, “knows sit, down, and stay, and doesn’t climb on furniture. We must find him a home as good as he is—what a sweet fellow!” *Check-ups, tick treatments, treatment for erlichia, neuter/spay surgeries, vaccinations: still waiting on the totals!*

Sprocket: GRR #08-130, intake date August 30

The call came late Friday night, and Margo fired off an e-mail: Senior Golden male, GRRHouston needs our help...GRRH called

needing us to take this guy. He is old & recently shaved. They are getting more info & trying to figure out who can pull him from Harris County shelter tomorrow before he is euthanized. Will keep you posted as I learn more. Do we have anyone in Houston who could pull him, in case they can't find anyone?

Volunteer Cam to the rescue again! The very next day, he motored down south to link up with a GRRH volunteer & save old Sprocket from being put down. The skinny senior was in rough shape: crawling with fleas, heartworm positive, exhausted, somewhat befuddled. His lymph nodes were hugely swollen, and he walked with a drunken tilt and kept his head cocked far over to one side. But despite his troubles, the old boy was a gentle and accepting soul, good with the other dogs, grateful to be indoors and safe at last. And just under 3 weeks later: “Huge improvement in his health since his arrival! We think he’s only about 8 ½ to 10... looked much older at first. Head tilt & drunken walk (likely due to a virus?) have resolved. Happy, kind-hearted friend. He looooves our cleaning lady, Victoria; she says he follows

her everywhere & watches her work! Good energy. No destruction, except he’ll swipe Kleenex & shred it... he thinks this is really funny. Loves car rides. We brought along his favorite red squeak toy on a trip to Tanglewood. He squeaked it & pounced on it & barked at it all the way there & back—just like a puppy. I suggest NOT taking the red squeaker along on future rides, tee hee! Great guy & would do well in most homes, but he’ll be in foster care for a while, as we work through the medical issues.” *Check-ups, cytology on lymph nodes, antibiotics, HW treatment (to come), neuter (to come): \$600*

Can you help GRR keep on making “room for one more”?

There are so many things you can do. Donate, foster (please!), do interviews, do home visits, transport dogs, work the hotline... ask us for a job, and we will give you one. Thank you from all of us... and from the 147 dogs who have already found a safe place with GRR this year!

If dogs were teachers you would learn things like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them 🍏 Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy 🍏 Take naps 🍏 Stretch before rising 🍏 Run, romp, and play daily 🍏 Thrive on attention and let people touch 🍏 Avoid biting when a simple growl will do 🍏 On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass 🍏 On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree 🍏 When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body 🍏 Delight in the simple joy of a long walk 🍏 Be loyal 🍏 Never pretend to be something you're not 🍏 If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it 🍏 When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY!



Caden is starting to crawl. I put him on the blanket to try and keep him off the dog hair since I don't vacuum as often as I should. I turned my back for just a second to finish putting some things away and turned around and everyone (Caden, #03-040 Hallie, #06-060 Miles) had changed positions! I about died laughing. I figured no kid has ever died from puppy kisses and dog hair. I just go with the flow...this may be our X-mas card...It sums up my life!

—Melaina Wilkin



Golden Circle

(500 - \$1000)

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Gold Medalist

(\$250 - \$499)

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Kelly Topfer

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Gold Nugget

(\$100 - \$249)

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Sherri Smetana
Kristi Stanford
Mark Stevens
Kelly Topfer—For Trucker & Vivi
Mary Tyler Carter
Lynne Webb
Anne Williams

Golden Friend (up to \$100)

Margo Biba—Thank you to Scott Thomas,
from Goldens Chili, Kobe and Sugrr
Dennis Bobincheck
Stacey Bond
Tonja Brandt
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*All donations, large and small, do make a big difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted GRs in Central Texas. Thank you for your support. You can make your donation online at: **www.GRR-TX.com***

Faced with the prospect of turning away or euthanizing Goldens with high medical costs, we created the Extraordinary Golden Fund. Donations made to the EGF are strictly used for beyond-the-ordinary medical treatments of Goldens in need. Visit <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/egf.htm> for information on the Goldens who are being helped today thanks to your generosity.



GOLDEN MEMORIALS

In loving memory of DeeDee Balch, owned and loved by Sandy Balch.

In loving memory of Rowdy Schmidt, owned and loved by Jeff and Cindy Schmidt.

–Linda Willard, Highmark Goldens

In memory of Jinks, Cindy Moss's beloved Golden. Jinks couldn't have asked for a better home and she will be sorely missed by her playmate, Jester and her mama, Cindy.

–Nancy McGowan

In loving memory of Sandy Bell.

–Mica Karasick

In memory of David Chapman.

–Jack & Judy Family Trust

In loving memory of Bear (GRR #08-016). He touched our hearts ever so briefly and passed through our lives for a purpose. He will always be remembered. Rest in peace gentle soul.

–Fred & Carolyn Whitten

In memory of Randy Baker.

–Jan Kuhl
–David & Karen Miller
–Lynn Rogers
–David Rappaport
–Ronald & Cynthia Rigby
–Sandy Nordstrom

In memory of our sweet Noel. She is greatly missed.

–Laura, Ryan, Sarah & Emily Reed

In loving memory of Dee Dee Balch.

–Susan Culp
–Sandy Nordstrom

In memory of Dee Dee Balch... she loved her food and soft woobies.

–John Holland & Peter Flad

In memory of Dee Dee Balch and Bud Balch, Sandy's two angel goldens.

–Becky LaBrum & Eric Mallin

In memory of Jitterbug... Gary and Reina Bernfeld's family member.

–Rosanne Crump

To EGF in memory of Jolly Eeds.

–Beth Freeman

In memory of John Curtis McCarty.

–K. Rebello
–Thomas & Barbara Hudnall
–Michael & Kathleen Bunn
–Marge Dillard
–Debbie Tucker
–Robert & Rose Henderson
–Kathy Nolte
–Wayne & JoAnn Butler
–Tom's Heating & Air, Lockhart, TX

To EGF in memory of Madeline Biba.

–Mark & Holly Robertson

In memory of Tucker, a sweet-hearted boy who will be greatly missed.

–Terri Gilbert

To EGF in memory of Kaycee.

–Gerald & Sandra Slayton

In loving memory of Bud Balch (Sandy's Golden).

–Gary & Susie Schaffer

To EGF in honor and in memory of the sweetest Golden that ever lived, Teagan.

–Stacey Bond

In memory of Corina Enriquez.

–Brian Renaghan
–Kathy Simmons
–Denise Gates
–Alvin & Claudia Brown
–Duane & Barbara Engelmeier
–Dave McMIndes, Jim Snyder, Mike Patterson & Mike Chapa, Westin Solutions, San Antonio
–Engineering Environmental Management Inc., Englewood, CO
–The National Association of Women Business Owners, San Antonio

In memory of Sam the Shepherd – loyal friend to Kathy and Bill Burton.

–Becky LaBrum & Eric Mallin

To EGF in memory of our beloved LuLu, who will always be The Best Dog Ever. We will always love you.

–Becky LaBrum & Eric Mallin

To EGF in Loving Memory of my sassy girl Dee Dee [GRR 02-109] & gentle boy Bud [06-012].

–Sandy Balch

In memory of Tasha and Kelsey.

–Kathleen Heck

In memory of my two golden boys, Buddy and BJ and in thanksgiving for the wonderful years we had together.

–Jan Wallace

GRReat Ways to Help Gold Ribbon Rescue

Feel like getting away? How about soaking up the sun in the Bahamas or strolling around Times Square in New York City? Well, it can really happen! GRR is holding a special raffle that can send you and a friend on a fantastic round trip—first class!—on American Airlines or American Eagle. Destination is anywhere they fly in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, Bahamas, Bermuda, including Alaska or Hawaii. These tickets are the "Mile SAAver" award tickets based on availability. Valued at over \$5,000.00. Who could possibly resist! Best part? Raffle tickets are only \$10.00 each. The winner will be drawn on December 14th at GRR's Annual Holiday Party. We'd love for you to be there, but you need not be present to win—you will be notified by email. The lucky winner will



be responsible for any airport taxes and fees that apply to the award tickets.

So go on-line today at GRR-TX.com and purchase your raffle ticket to paradise. Remember, you'll be helping Golden!

Rescue Collars and Wristbands



Show your support of rescue efforts by purchasing a Rescue Collar and Wristband. Each set includes a decorative collar for your dog and a matching wristband for you. The collars are for recognition purposes only and are not to replace a functional collar. They are available in medium and large and are adjustable from 16 to 26 inches. You can purchase these sets for only \$6.50 and that includes tax & shipping. Such a deal! You may order these on our website at GRR-TX.com

Golden Honors

**In honor of Bud (#06-012) –
Sandy Balch**

–Dr. Susan Culp

In honor of Tim Tierney's 40th birthday

–Gary & Margo Biba
–Peter Flad & John Holland
–Katie Harris
–Sandra Nordstrom (to EGF)
–Maura Phelan
–Stella Powell & Sonemaly Phrasavath
–Gary & Susie Schaffer

In honor of Sherry Keller's 50th birthday

–Dean & Pam Phillips

To EGF in honor of Ginger, our GRR dog who visits as a therapy dog every other week. What joy she brings to the nursing home.

–Robert & Sue Brown

MEET ONE OF GRR'S BIGGEST LOSERS!



Peaches After



Peaches Before

Peaches (new name: Kota) tipped the scales at a whopping 102 lbs when she came to GRR last November. Look at her now—a svelte beauty queen at 70 lbs! Kudos to Kota, foster mom Sandy Balch, and adoptive mom Jackie McGrath. Kota says, "I did it the sensible way, through diet and exercise. It's good for the whole family!"



GRR's 2009 Spirit of the Golden Calendar

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