



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Dedicated to Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas June 2005 18th Edition

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Letter from GRR's President – Maura Phelan

Golden History Sheds Light on CHD

Hi all! I am still recovering from a great day of dogs, food, and friends at the Shake, Paddle & Roll– our 3rd annual Swimfest! Thanks to Susie, Sandy, and the rest of the crew, the day was another great success for GRR. There were lots of people, dogs, and MUD! Everyone seemed to have fun, our Intake Director Gina gave a rousing speech which recruited at least two new foster families, and the San Antonio contingent is getting large enough to consider having a get-together of their own!

I did have an interesting chat with some adopters and fosters about hip dysplasia and its incidence in Golden Retrievers. To understand why Golden Retrievers have a tendency towards this problem, you need to know a little bit about how the breed came to be.

Golden Retrievers were developed by Lord Tweedmouth in Scotland during the 19th century, but exactly how he did it is a subject of some dispute. There are two basic versions of the story.

Version #1: Lord Tweedmouth saw seven dogs performing in a traveling Russian circus and was so impressed with them that he bought the entire canine troupe and integrated them in his breeding program.

Version #2: Lord Tweedmouth bred a Tweed Spaniel to two “yellow retrievers,” and then included other dogs as well (these “others” are listed in his breeding records without much description).

Whatever the actual facts, Golden Retrievers as a distinct breed made their first appearance in Britain in the 1890s, and then arrived in the U.S. around the turn of the century. They were not registered by the AKC, however, until 1925.

How does this relate to canine hip dysplasia (CHD)? With development of a specialty breed like this, the gene pool is small, and the incidence of CHD is therefore consistently found across the population. In Golden Retrievers, the incidence of CHD is estimated at 50%– but bear in mind that this percentage includes all degrees of CHD,

from dogs who need surgery in order to function normally to those requiring only minimal

medication to keep them moving comfortably. For more details, see our website at: <http://www.grr-tx.com/resources/hipdysplasia.htm>.

Of course, GRR doesn't turn Golden Retrievers away for bad hips or much of anything else ... and so the dogs just keep coming in! So far this year, we have been reaching (or surpassing) our “cap” of 12 to 15 dogs each month. At this rate, 2005 could be a record year for us. You can catch a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes with the Intake Team in Gina's report on page 3. As usual, WE NEED FOSTER HOMES!

Have a wonderful summer. Hope to see you at the Oom-Pup-Paws in the fall.

– Maura



Volunteer training
June 25
at Ultimate Imaging

Foster care
Intake
Transport
Home visits
Fundraising
Hotline response

GRR Volunteer Training
Saturday, June 25th,
11am to 2pm

Check website for details and map.

www.GRR-TX.com





Gold Star Volunteers

by **Becky LaBrum, Gina Totah & Brenda**

This month we're honoring some extra-special **Gold Star Volunteers**. We have so many wonderful volunteers, and some that consistently come through—time after time—to help save a Golden in need.

Bob Valentine

(and of course, his GRR dog Prince!)

Since January, Bob has fostered three active young male dogs for us, helping to turn them into model canine citizens: #05-008 Tonka, #05-021 Happy, and #05-038 Toby. And he's just picked up another foster boy, #05-068 Zeke! Bob is also a go-to volunteer on our transport team. He's made numerous trips all over Austin, and even round trips to San Antonio and back. He's one of those terrific volunteers we can always call at the last minute. Thank you, Bob, for all you do for GRR!

Cam Snyder

Foster dad, adoptive dad, intake evaluator, transport expert: long-time GRR volunteer Cam lends a hand in just about everything we do. Whenever a Golden needs a lift, whether it's a trip to the vet's, taxi service out of Town Lake, or a longer haul out of town and back, we can always count on Cam to help. Cam has had many a Golden share his home—Shelby, Kate, Ginger and Champ (Champ recently passed away of laryngeal paralysis), and now GRR Golden Chewie. He also shares his home with Scooter the cat and a fluffy, black, mixed-breed he named Bonnie after he rescued her from Town Lake Animal Center. But there's always room for one more—which is why "extra" Goldens drop in regularly for fostering or respite care, too! Thank you so much, Cam, for helping in so many ways for so many years.



Jill Cravens

Adoption Director Extraordinaire— that's GRR's Jill Cravens. She reviews all adoption applications, phone interviews and home visits and spends countless hours on phone and email communicating with our potential adoptive families and volunteer network. Sometimes she processes over 20 applications in a single week! One word: "Wow!" She and Dan have two children— Caroline and Clark— a GRR rescue, Annie (the high flyin' frisbee champ) and Shelby, an Australian Sheperd. Now that's one busy lady. Thank you, Jill, for helping so many families share in the love of a Golden Retriever. You are amazing!



A truly treasured sight.

Carolyn Whitten

Carolyn Whitten is one of GRR's miracle workers. Carolyn and her husband Fred lovingly accept dogs into their home who are physically or emotionally shaky— and make them healthy, happy, and whole. They are as devoted to their foster dogs as they are to their own girls Emma, Samantha, and LuLu, and it shows! One of Carolyn's successes is #03-046 Maximilian (better known as CB, for "Cuddle Bug")— found exhausted at the side of the road, his feet burned by tar, buckshot

embedded in one side, limping from hip damage due, most likely, to being struck by a car. By the time he went home with his new mom and dad, he was transformed— and a memory we will always treasure is the sight of him in a Christmas photo, his thick blonde fur shining, posed on a white (!) sofa with a huge green-and-gold bow around his neck. Thank you, Carolyn, for your constant devotion to Goldens in need. (And by the way, Carolyn is also involved in cat rescue!)

Gold Ribbon Rescue

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Austin, TX 78767-0956

Non-Profit 501(c)(3)

24-Hour Hotline:

(512) 659-GOLD

www.GRR-TX.com

Board of Directors:

Maura Phelan, Tim Tierney, Beth Freeman, Susie Schaffer, Gina Totah, Brenda Forsythe, Heather Smalley

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Newsletter:

Brenda Forsythe, Becky LaBrum

send newsletter submissions to:

Brenda@GRR-TX.com

Intake Team– No Slowdown in Sight

by Gina Totah, GRR Intake Director

Can you believe that over 80 Golden Retrievers have already come into GRR in 2005?— and the year isn't even half over! We've taken in 70 new dogs and ten "returns"— GRR dogs who have come back to us for various reasons. (Remember the clause in the adoption contract that says you must return your Golden to us if you can no longer care for him? Well, we do get approximately 10 to 15 returns a year.)

I'd like to tell you about a typical week for those of us on the Intake Team. During one seven-day period in mid-May, these are the dogs we had to place ASAP:

*One-year-old male at Town Lake Animal Shelter, surrendered by owners because he was "destructive and hyper." (We later learned the dog was spending 22 hours a day alone.)

*Six-year-old male at Town Lake, turned in by his owners as being "too much trouble." They had found him stray a month previously. He had a tumor on his neck and infected, itchy skin due to flea-bite allergies.

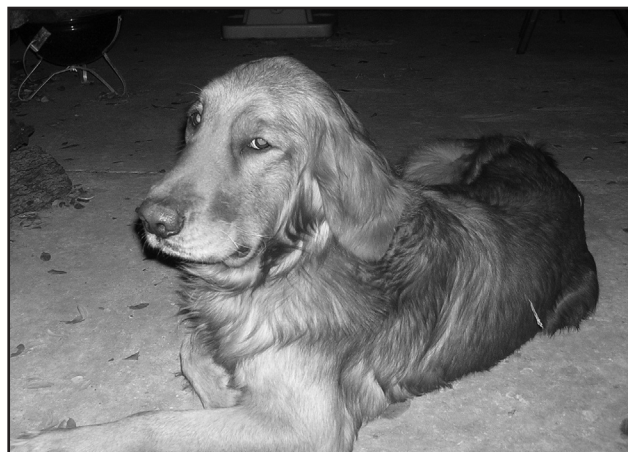
*Four-year-old male yard dog being turned in by his owners— another "destructive and hyper" boy. "Destructive": he was terrified

of thunder and had tried to break through both the back gate and the back door during recent storms, attempting to get into the house. "Hyper": he jumped on the owners in excitement when they went outside to see him.

*Three-year-old male at a shelter in the New Braunfels area, set to be euthanized if we could not pick him up by the very next day.

*Three-month-old female puppy— "we are moving the day after tomorrow, and can you take her immediately?" (We usually do try to get pups like this ASAP, because we don't want the owners just giving them away to somebody who might breed them.)

Whew! Yes, we've had a lot of "four- to five-dog weeks" like this so far, and there's no slow-down in sight. And let me tell you, finding spots for all these guys and girls is a major juggling act for our Intake Team. Some dogs need to be neutered or spayed right away, so we send them to our wonderful vets, where they sometimes must board for an extra week or so while



Now doesn't Clifford look absolutely pitiful? This photo was taken before Clifford knew he was coming into GRR's care. He now smiles for the camera!

we hunt down a foster home. Some dogs desperately need socialization and home manners, and these might go to the **Canine Hilton** or **Southern Star Ranch** for training. Some dogs are taken for a few days by the generous folks at **Dog Camp**. And the others go straight to the reliable, steadfast, and selfless foster homes who continue to take dogs for us time after time.

Last month's e-mail and online plea for foster homes was sent to 100+ households and yielded about four responses from current adoptive homes, plus several more eager to go through the application process to help us foster. Each of those families has been contacted, and four of them have foster dogs right now. And we are so grateful!

But now I'd like to ask you again. If you've adopted a GRR dog in the past several years and are willing to consider fostering—even just once— then please e-mail me at gina@grr-tx.com. As some foster families become less active (because they need a break, because work or school schedules change, or, often, because they fall in love with and adopt their foster dogs!), we always need to add new homes to our list. We would love to have you join our foster family. I look forward to hearing from many of you!



Meet Our New Medical Coordinator— Mike Chamberlain

Mike lives in the San Antonio area, and he's been fostering and volunteering for GRR for several years—in fact, he's fostering #05-040 Doc Rivers right now, and has four pets of his own (Golden Charlie and Stu, shepherd mix Pete, and cat Bonnie— all rescues). We're lucky to have Mike on board!

As part of the Intake Team, Mike will be handling one of the most important jobs within the Intake Team— making sure our rescue Golden Retrievers receive the veterinary care they need by setting up vet appointments, sending out medications as needed and working with our wonderful team of vets to arrange medical care for 130+ dogs per year!

Mike will also be keeping electronic copies of medical records, vaccine records and all other important documents like surrender forms, foster reports, and adoption contracts for each and every dog who comes into care. Thank you, Mike!

Traveling with Your Golden:

Tips for a Safe Trip

by Kathy Burton

It's summer—time to head out for a fun road trip to visit faraway family and friends, take a weekend jaunt to the coast for some sun and surf, or just enjoy a day trip for some leisurely shopping and strolling. And as we all know, the cheerful Golden in your life would love to come with you! If you do plan on taking your dog along, be aware of these pointers and precautions before you load up and head off.

Label Your Dog

Make sure that your dog's collar is secure and that your phone number is securely fastened to it. If you're going to be stopping in many different places, it's a good idea keep a supply of paper-and-string key tags, so that you can write down the number of your hotel and other local information at each stop. If your Golden is a GRR dog, make sure he's wearing her GRR tag with our Hotline number. *If you've lost the tag, please take a minute now to call our Hotline and request a new one.* Be sure, too, to tell us if your contact information has changed.

In addition, have your dog microchipped before you leave town. Microchipping has become one of the most effective means of reuniting pets with their people, and even small-town shelters often now have scanners.

There are two types of microchips: one, sold by AVID®, is called a Friendchip (www.avidmicrochip.com); the other is sold by HomeAgain (www.homeagainid.com). Both brands can be read by most scanners, and even if the scanner isn't compatible with a specific brand, it will at least detect the presence of a chip. AVID is the more cross-compatible of the two systems—and its chip numbers are cross-referenced according to who purchased the chip (a vet clinic, for instance). This way, even if the owner has failed to

register with AVID, the chip number at least leads to the chipping entity, who might be able to ID the dog's owner. But of course, the best way to guarantee that a lost Golden gets back home is to REGISTER him with the company's recovery system. And if your dog was chipped when you adopted him, re-register him—to make sure the registration leads back to you and not to a former owner or a shelter.

When you register, give a phone number where you can always be reached. You'll be able to list your vet and another alternative contact, as well; if your dog is a GRR dog, you're welcome to list GRR (note the GRR number assigned to your pet and our Hotline number: 512-659-4653). Refer to the company's website for additional tips and information.

There's another benefit of chipping: it can help you if you ever have to prove that your Golden in fact belongs to you. Let's say two people show up at a shelter, both claiming a certain stray is theirs (a situation which has in fact happened). If the dog is chipped and registered, the rightful owner makes a phone call, shows a driver's license—and the dog goes home with his master.

Crate Your Dog

The Norman Rockwell picture of the family vacation is an enduring image: kids in the back seat, family dog with its head out the window. But though dogs do love to lean out into the open air, the habit can be dangerous: gravel, sand, bugs, even the wind can cause damage to sensitive ears and eyes. Sure, open the windows a bit so your buddy can get a good sniff in, but don't let him hang his head out the window or run loose in the car. And don't let him "ride shotgun" in the passenger seat up front—deploying air bags can seriously injure or kill a dog at impact speeds of less than 20 miles an hour.

The safest way for your dog to travel is in the back seat, in a securely fastened crate that allows him enough room to turn around. For travel, the plastic "airline" style is preferred, as it provides more protection in a collision and keeps your dog from turning into a fuzzy projectile. Always be sure the car's air conditioning is working efficiently where the crate is placed. To keep your pal perfectly comfy and lessen any risk of overheating, it's a good idea to invest in a crate fan, complete with a cooling unit, that you attach to the crate door (see Resources, at the end of this article).

If your car can't accommodate a crate, try a "dog seatbelt" (if your dog will sit calmly in the seat). Most dogs do very well with the seat belt system. In fact, I've transported many Golden Retrievers with this kind of restraint—which has the added benefit of keeping the dog from leaping out when you open the car door.

Exercise Your Dog

Just like us, dogs get pretty tired of sitting there and staring at the passing scenery. They need to be walked regularly and given a chance to eat and drink. Bring a long leash and make sure you control your dog completely at any stop. Some dogs get very stressed when away from home; they may bolt from the car or back out of a flat collar and go racing off at top speed. For safety, have your dog wear a martingale collar (also known as a greyhound collar) in addition to the flat type, riding higher on the neck above the flat collar. (The primary purpose of a flat collar is as a "holder" for ID tags. It's the canine version of a wallet—it tells who you are, where you live, whom to call in case of emergency.) The martingale has an extra fabric loop which enables the whole collar to decrease in size when the dog pulls, and it is virtually impossible to back right out of

Continued on Page 6

Success Story

Hera—An Ambassador for Guide Dogs of Texas

Editor's Note: Hera, GRR #99-027, is an Ambassador for Guide Dogs of Texas— and the beloved pet of Mary Ann Michaud. Her story begins back in spring 1999, when her original family moved away from their ranch in Junction, Texas, and abandoned their two Golden Retrievers (Hera and Zeus). After about a month, a neighbor found them, and the young girl (only about 1½ years old) gave birth to eight puppies. The neighbor shot rabbits to help feed the little family; and then, deciding the dogs were “too cute to shoot,” he contacted GRR. (The 6½-week-old pups were covered in thousands of seed ticks, and our vets estimated they would have died within a week if not rescued.) This was GRR’s “Greek litter,” and all the pups were given names from Greek mythology.

Contributed by Mary Ann Michaud

After coming into rescue, Hera went to Guide Dogs of Texas (GDTX; formerly Southwest Guide Dog Foundation), but she did not quite make it as a guide dog. She had to be urged constantly— she was not assertive enough to lead. However, she was so soft-natured, sweet, and even-tempered that GDTX decided to keep her for an Ambassador. She lived with a family— until the wife passed away and the husband changed jobs and began to travel a lot. It wasn't fair to Hera to be kenneled so much, so he returned her to GDTX.



Hera with her pals.

It was then that the CEO of GDTX called me and said, “Have I got a deal for you!” I had been going to schools and talking about GDTX, but had to take a dog of my own who was definitely NOT a candidate for guide dog training. I said I would take Hera for 2 weeks to see if she would fit in with my other pets. Of course, she did, and she has lived with my husband and me ever since.

Hera and I have gone to Cub Scout meetings to help them with their handicapped sensitivity requirements. We have been to United Way and AARP meetings and a couple of church groups. We have a friend, Gail Alden, who has a guide dog named Louise. Gail, Louise, Hera, and I have helped more than 400 Girl Scouts work for their Pet Care Badges.

We went to National Night Out at Agnes Cotton Elementary School, where Hera posed with McGruff, the mascot of the San Antonio Police Department. We were even asked to be “celebrities” at the event! People said afterward, “We didn’t even know there was a Guide Dog School in Texas!” One of the most recent happy times we had was a trip to Poteet High School. My granddaughter, Sharon Coker (Mrs. Brian Coker), teaches social studies at the school. This year, 2004-05, was her very first year of teaching. She is also teaching an experimental sociology class. She asked Hera and me to come and tell the class about blindness and how Guide Dogs of Texas helps visually impaired people. Naturally, Hera and I were delighted to go.

Hera has attended obedience classes with San Antonio Dog Training Club, though of course she already had very good manners when I got her. Now she has her Canine Good Citizen Certificate from the American Kennel Club.



Hera poses with the San Antonio Police Department mascot, McGruff.

Hera chooses toys from the toy box to play with whenever she wants to, and asks me to throw things for her to chase. She gets along with our family's cat, Spearmint, and romps with our other two dogs, Brownie and Dolly.

The only naughty thing Hera has done was to eat 23 brown-and-serve rolls intended for Thanksgiving dinner 2001, and that was forgivable. They were on a cookie tin that was sitting at a funny angle on the very edge of the table and they were irresistible to any dog with a nose. She just found them first! And she did leave us one roll to share.

Thank you, Gold Ribbon Rescue, for being so diligent in saving beautiful dogs like Hera!



Continued from Page 4:

(leaving you with a leash, collar, and tags, but no dog at the end of it all). Make sure to fit the martingale properly, allowing just enough slack for it to go over the dog's head and NO more.

Leaving the Car? Take Your Dog

NEVER LEAVE A DOG UNATTENDED IN A CAR. NEVER, NEVER, EVER. In hot

weather, a car is a large dog-oven, and even on chilly days, sun on the closed car can heat it to uncomfortable levels.

Leaving the windows open doesn't really help too much. In fact, it's an invitation for your dog to jump out and run away in a strange place, or for someone to reach in, unlock the door, and take her.

Hotel Manners

Always call ahead and verify that the hotel or motel takes dogs. When looking for pet-friendly accommodations, you can find help online; try www.travelpets.com, www.candlewoodsuites.com, www.takeyourpet.com, and www.allstays.com/Special/petfriendly.htm. Many establishments have specific pet

policies (a deposit, a surcharge for the room, etc.), and you should follow these to the letter. Don't ruin it for someone else traveling with pets by being a bad guest.

When you take your dog out for potty breaks, walk him away from the landscaped grassy areas in front of the hotel— and be sure to clean up after him. Don't let him bark, and don't leave him alone in the room— either take him with you when you go out, or stay in (dogs love room service!).

Take a First-Aid Kit

It's a good idea to have a pet medical supply kit with you when you travel. These come in many different styles, sizes, and prices; a Google search will pull up some good resources, and you can also put one together yourself. I suggest you purchase one with the basic supplies and then add some favorite items of your own; my "extras" include aloe vera gel, Bactine spray, eye wash, sterile nonadhesive pads, Ace athletic bandages (3 inches wide), Q-tips, Pepto Bismol tablets, Benadryl capsules for allergies, buffered aspirin, a

rectal thermometer, Ziplock bags, and a soft grooming-style muzzle. Don't forget any medications your dog is taking, and remember to keep up with routine cleaning of ears and eyes, even on vacation.

Finally, be sure to take copy of your dog's essential vet records, including a copy of his most recent rabies certificate. Take some recent photos of your dog to put in a folder along with the vet records.

A little planning and preparation will ensure a pleasant trip for both you and your dog!

RESOURCES**Medical Kits for Pets**

www.cpr-savers.com/consumer

Auto Accessories

www.petedge.com

ProSelect® Crate Fan Cooling System (also at Petsmart), DC Car Adapter (powers PorSelect crate fans in any vehicle), Martingale No-Slip Collars (also at Petsmart), Guardian Gear Car Seat (hammock style seat cover), and Guardian Gear Car Harness



3rd Annual Swimfest—Wet, Wild and Wonderfully Successful

Our annual swimfest was a splashing success, with lots of guests and happy Goldens! Our thanks to:

■ **Albertson's at the Village** for donating bottled water, fruit and sodas

■ **Rudy's BBQ** for donating the great breakfast tacos

■ **Upper Crust Bakery** for their awesome pastries

■ **Mud Puppies, Amy's Ice Cream, Chili's, Cinemark and Regal Cinemas** for donating the raffle gift certificates.

■ **Sue Rostvold** of "Dogs are Very Super Cool" for donating gift-boxed dog cards as one of the prizes for our wet t-shirt contest.

Please let these sponsors know how much we appreciate their generosity the next time you visit their establishments. Again, thank you Maura, for letting 110 people and over 75 dogs invade your beautiful farm. We had a great time!



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*Hypnosis is not meant to be a substitute
for psychological or professional
counseling services.*

*For ongoing mental health problems,
please consult a professional licensed by
the State of Texas.*

Rescued, Fostered & Adopted

Following is a list of Golden Retrievers that have found forever homes in 2005. It takes a team of dedicated GRR volunteers to make this happen— from the people on the Hotline, through Intake and Fostering and into the capable hands of our Adoption Team. And, of course those of you willing to open your hearts and homes for these awesome Golden Retrievers. Thank YOU!

| GRR # | Name | Age* | GRR # | Name | Age* |
|--------|-------------|----------|--------|------------|----------|
| 01-070 | Alley | 5 yrs. | 05-017 | Benny | 3 yrs. |
| 02-146 | Abbie | 8 yrs. | 05-018 | Phoebe | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 03-010 | Andy | 8 yrs. | 05-019 | Ginger | 2 yrs. |
| 04-022 | Casey | 6 yrs. | 05-020 | Laney | 6 yrs. |
| 04-062 | Joshua | 1 yr. | 05-021 | Happy | 2 yrs. |
| 04-095 | Bambi | 4 mos. | 05-023 | Samson | 1 yr. |
| 04-100 | Jack | 2 yrs. | 05-025 | Georgie | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 04-101 | Sadie | 7 mos. | 05-027 | Lucy | 1 yr. |
| 04-107 | Ki | 4 yrs. | 05-028 | Dolly | 7 yrs. |
| 04-115 | Cassie | 6 yrs. | 05-031 | Dexter | 9 weeks |
| 04-122 | Gidget | 6 mos. | 05-032 | Napoleon | 9 weeks |
| 04-124 | Husky | 5 yrs. | 05-033 | Tucker | 9 weeks |
| 04-126 | Sesame | 2 yrs. | 05-034 | Murray | 9 weeks |
| 04-127 | Daisy Mae | 1 yr. | 05-035 | Boodles | 9 weeks |
| 04-128 | Lexus | 3 ½ yrs. | 05-036 | Trixie | 9 weeks |
| 04-130 | Peppermint | 1 yr. | 05-038 | Toby | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 04-131 | Yukon | 7 mos. | 05-039 | Pollyanna | 1 yr. |
| 04-132 | Biscuit | 1 ½ yrs. | 05-041 | Buckley | 3 yrs. |
| 04-133 | Jake | 9 mos. | 05-044 | Madeline | 3 yrs. |
| 04-134 | Lucky | 2 yrs. | 05-045 | Annie | 2 yrs. |
| 05-001 | Gracie | 7 mos. | 05-046 | Wyatt | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 05-004 | Hazel | 6 yrs. | 05-047 | Bailey | 7 yrs. |
| 05-005 | Jackson | 1 yr. | 05-048 | Jewel | 1 yr. |
| 05-007 | Quincy | 3 yrs. | 05-049 | Cisco | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 05-008 | Tonka | 1 yr. | 05-050 | Paddington | 2 yrs. |
| 05-009 | Chilipepper | 2 ½ yrs. | 05-051 | Belle | 4 yrs. |
| 05-010 | Davie | 8 mos. | 05-052 | Ginger | 4 ½ yrs. |
| 05-011 | J.D. | 5 yrs. | 05-054 | Kassy | 10 mos. |
| 05-012 | Sandy | 4 yrs. | 05-055 | Amber | 4 yrs. |
| 05-013 | JJ | 2 ½ yrs. | 05-056 | McGee | 1 ½ yrs. |
| 05-014 | Sammy | 2 ½ yrs. | 05-058 | Sam | 6 yrs. |
| 05-015 | Higgins | 9 yrs. | 05-063 | Lucy | 16 mos. |

**Some ages listed are approximate.*



Golden Afternoon in Zilker Park

GRR would like to thank the following companies and individuals for their generous donations to our Golden Afternoon in the Park, held on April 9. We could not do what we do without the support of wonderful folks like you!

Alamo Draft House Theaters
AMC Theaters
Benihana
Cinemark Theaters
Dandelion Café
Dirty Dog
Hollywood Video
Lake Austin Spa
Levi's Laundramutt (who also supplied us with the doggie watering bins)

Logan's
Mud Puppies
P.F Chang's (donated by Jim Minton)
Rockfish
Schlitterbahn
Seize the Day Massage
Taco Cabana

Our cheers also go out to our very own **Martin Daenzer**, who donated all the hamburgers and hotdogs– and on top of that, cooked them! A

round of applause to our staff photographer **Kurt Shultz**, for capturing the great day with wonderful photos, and to **Nick Nichols**, for taking the family photos. Take a peek on our website for some amazing pictures. Many thanks to **Kyle Steensma**

for letting us borrow his PA system (you really saved GRR some bucks there!) and to **Dan Cravens**, who organized the Austin



There is a common thread in all these photos– the loving relationship between human and Golden. They gladly provide the soft neck to hug, the smile to adore, the pillow for a nap and above all the dedication and loyalty

that is second to none. And it's amazing when you think that many of these Golden Retrievers– enjoying their day in Zilker Park– had faced a life of sadness, neglect and possible euthanization. And yet, in true Golden fashion, they are more than willing to put it all aside and pay it forward. Each time you foster, volunteer, make a donation or update your membership– YOU are helping to bring to life another one of these magical images. Thank you for supporting Gold Ribbon Rescue.



Airdogz event. And of course, we are grateful to the many volunteers who manned booths, greeted arriving picnickers, and made everything go so smoothly.



*Special thanks to **Debra Keene** for grooming our Goldens at the picnic. They all looked so GRReat!*



GRR Family Photo—Golden Afternoon in the Park—Austin, Texas 2005



George W. Hughes
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*georgewhughes@earthlink.net
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Funny Bones

A man walked into the office of the eminent psychiatrist Dr. Von Vermouth, and sat down to explain his problem. “Well, you see, I’ve got this problem,” the man continued. “I keep hallucinating that I’m a dog. A large, red, hairy Golden Retriever. It’s crazy. I don’t know what to do!”

“A common canine complex,” said the doctor soothingly. “Come over here and lie down on the couch.”

“Oh no, Doctor. I’m not allowed up on the furniture.”





Golden Circle Membership Level \$500–\$1000

**Sandy Nordstrom &
Bob Ashenbrenner**



Gold Medalist Membership Level \$250–\$499

**David and Cathy Davenport
The Ross Family**

*"Zeus has been with us almost one year, we
are so thankful for Gold Ribbon Rescue!"*



Golden Nugget Membership Level \$100–\$249

**Mark & Joellyn Brelsford
Ruth Malinas
Robb & Micki Miller
Kathryn McCown & Davette Berry
Arthur Rossiter
Tom & Mary Sharp
Kurt & Emily Shultz
Emily Tuczowski
Robert (Bob) Valentine**



Golden Friend Membership Level \$40–\$99

**Sandy Balch
Eda Ballinger
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D.M. Choules
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Tina Fisher
Margaret Fitzgerald
Beth Freeman
Carolyn & Ed Galle
Toga Hartadinata & Katherine
Hidajat
Steve Heagerty
Jo & Ron Kautz
Kay & Dave Lewanick
Billy Hill & Amy Morgan
Joanne O'Neill
Max Ploeger
Kay Sanders
Michael Stauffacher
Jean Steensma
Melanie Strybos
Matthew & Connie Sullivan
Carolyn Toren**

Gold Ribbon Donor Club

**Shirley Colton
Lisa Savage
Heather Smalley
Michael Steding
Scott & Sheila Thomas**

Check the website to see how you too can
become a monthly donor, or simply mail us
a check in the amount you wish to have
drafted each month and put "Donor Club" in
the memo field of your check. We can also
draft your Visa or Mastercard.

As always, thank you for your support!

Golden Gifts

**Rob & Sue Brown
Elizabeth Blahuta (SBC giving)
Pat Capin
Jay Doyle
Andrew Geissler
Gretchen Graham
Toga Hartadinata & Katherine Hidajat
Graf Imhoof
Corrine McCray (SBC giving)
Shenna & Troy Neisen
Tracie A. Polinard
Janet & Mark Stasney
Danielle St. John
Kirsten & Rodney Toben
Tracey TenEyck
Carolyn Toren
Aislynn Trubee
Susan Wiley**

Your monetary membership and contribution will help care for the dogs we foster and prepare for new homes. In addition to the smile that your contribution will bring to a healthy dog, your donation is fully deductible as a non-profit donation—we are a 501(c)(3) organization as designated by the IRS.

All donations, large and small, do make a big difference in the lives of homeless and unwanted GR's in Central Texas. Thank you for your support. You can make your donation online at: www.GRR-TX.com Or, via check or credit card—mail to:

Gold Ribbon Rescue, PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767





*In memory of a dear friend's Golden,
thank you for the work that you do!*

Meredith Taylor

*In memory of **Cairo**.*

Dr. Susan Culp

*In memory of **Cecil**, beloved golden of
Bonnie Simmons & Ralph Young*

Anita & Tom Moore

*In memory of **Cecil** with love from the
staff at Hillel*

**Teresa, Alex, David, Drew, Jenna,
Hanan & Margo**

*In memory of **Tag Biba***

Nick & Ann Nichols

*In memory of **Cecil**, our sweet gentle boy
who left too soon. We love you.*

**Ralph Young, Bonnie Simmons &
Abigirl**

*In memory of **Shasta Knight***

Josie Kluth

*In memory of **Tag Biba***

Anita & Tom Moore

*In memory of **Gus**, our first GR foster. Gus
was lucky enough to find his forever home
with Wendy Spinks.*

Tom & Anita Moore

There is a wonderful Memorial page on our website paying tribute to many of our Golden friends. Visit: <http://www.grr-tx.com/memorial/memorial.htm>

Golden Memorials

*In memory of **Lancelot**, a true Golden Prince, who brought his humans much love and pleasure. We will miss him, but we know he is at Rainbow Bridge and some day we will be together again.*

Lin and Roberta Murray

*In memory of **Godiva Bond** who succumbed to cancer this past week*

Cindy Moss

& Stacey (Webb) Bond

*In loving memory of **Goodyear Schreve**,
and with deepest sympathy and
thanks to Suzanne and Olivia, who filled
his last year with love, comfort, and
companionship.*

Becky

Golden Honors

In honor of

Denise Dillion and her golden Lily

Paul & Teresa Szostak

In honor of

Dr. David Weaver,

Lakeline Animal Care

*Karen, Rodney, Emma, Tim & Russell
Chamblee*

In honor of

**The Evans Family – Kathy,
Gregg, Jamie, Kinsey and Ralpie**
Love, Chris, Alice, Carley and Hank

Extraordinary Golden Fund:

Margaret Fitzgerald

Bob and Carol Freeman

For Sweet Chewie

Alice Gunter

Steve & Brenda Hampton

Margaret W Henry

Bianca Hoffman

Jessica Kalimon

Nancy Luscombe

Eric Robert Moxham

Sandy Nordstrom

Michael Page

Max Ploeger

Kay & Phil Sanders

Lisa Savage

Candace Schmidt

Connie & Matthew Sullivan

Many dogs with atypical medical expenses find their way to Gold Ribbon 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 that are in need of expensive medical treatment, we created the "Extraordinary Golden Fund." Donations towards this fund go directly to the care of these Golden Retrievers. For information on this month's EGF dog, Conan, see page 14.



Enter your Golden in GRR's Calendar Contest by July 15th

Our 2005 GRR Calendars were a smashing success! How could they not be—with these gorgeous “pin-up babes”? For our 2006 calendar we will be choosing 12 photos—one for each month—from our adoptive families to feature in full color print. We invite you to submit your entry (along with a \$5 entry fee) by **July 15, 2005**. A photo committee will judge the photos and will be looking for:

■quality of photo (sharpness and clarity) ■seasonal appropriateness ■Goldens doing what they do best—having fun! ■photos must be of dogs adopted through GRR (canine and feline siblings may also be in the photo) ■only dogs in the photo (let's leave the humans behind the camera).

Submission Rules:

1. Give us your best shots—with a \$5 donation per picture.
2. Color prints must be horizontal (4"x6" or larger).
3. Horizontal digital images must be at least 300 dpi resolution (8"x10" preferred)
4. File formats for digital images may be jpg, tif, eps, or bmp.
5. Only dogs adopted through GRR are eligible.
6. No copyrighted photos accepted.
7. Submission must include dog's name (and original GRR name if the name has been changed), GRR #, date of adoption and a brief description to accompany the photo.
8. Entries, including photos, will become the property of GRR and

cannot be returned.

9. Submission of entry does not guarantee inclusion in the calendar, however we will include smaller photos (thumbnails) of other entries throughout the calendar.

Enter via US Mail: Send a check payable to GRR with completed entry form (below) and picture(s) to:

GRR, Attn: Photo Contest, PO Box 956, Austin, TX 78767-0956

Enter Online: <http://www.grr-tx.com/calendar.htm>

List Your Golden's Special Day

For a guaranteed spot in the calendar you are welcome to submit your Golden's adoption date, birthday, or “in memoriam” in the 2006 calendar. We are asking for a \$10 donation to list and it's not limited to only GRR dogs—list your cat's birthday too! You may use the form below or submit the date and Golden information online:

<http://www.grr-tx.com/calendar.htm>



Entry Form.....

Name _____

Dog's story or description of photo: _____

Address _____

Email address _____

☐ Dog's special day (\$10 donation).

Phone _____

Check one: ☐ Birthday ☐ Adoption Day ☐ In Memoriam

☐ Photo Contest Entry \$5 per photo. Amount included:

Date (month and day) for submission: _____

Dog's present name _____

Original GRR name and # _____

Name of Dog/GRR# if applicable: _____

Year adopted _____



Adoptable Goldens



Brando, Age 1 ½

Talk about coming a long way in a short time ... Handsome Brando was turned into the shelter as being "too wild," and truth to tell he WAS a bit rough around the edges. But what a difference a month of charm school has made! Now he is the epitome of good manners. He has learned to be patient, not to jump up, to sit for treats, and many, many other things. He has been treated for heartworms, too, and just got the all-clear from his vet! Who wouldn't want to meet this handsome model canine citizen? He'll be the best friend you could ever want.



Doc Rivers, Age 10

He may be a "senior," but Doc has the energy and lively mind of a much younger dog. He is a BIG fellow (close to 100 pounds) who lived all his life as a yard dog- but he sure is enjoying being indoors with lots of people now. He absolutely loves to play and he likes being around other dogs, too. He's a smartie who learned house rules and leash-walking FAST. He'll be a fantastic addition to some lucky family.



Kate, Age 2

Let's let Kate's foster mom tell you about this girl: "She is fabulous! Everybody LOVES her in this neighborhood. She never meets a stranger, goes out of her way to greet everyone (and I mean everyone). She is always ready to play or take a nap...whatever is on the agenda, she rolls with it. She loves her walks and she sure isn't scared of thunder- we got caught in a storm once and she thought it was great fun! She will be a fabulous member of any family."



Max, Age 9

What a sweetheart! This older, beautiful blonde gent has a true heart of gold, impeccable manners, and a calm, sweet temperament that makes everyone fall in love with him. He gets along with everyone- dogs, cats, and children. He enjoys his food- even those healthy steamed veggies!- and likes gentle exercise, too: a few strolls a day, "assisting" as you work in the yard, and accompanying you out for the morning paper and the afternoon mail suit him just fine. You couldn't ask for a better or more loving companion!



Spice, Age 4 ½

Spice came to GRR with his sister Ginger, who just found her forever home a week ago- and now he is eagerly waiting for HIS turn. He is handsome, sweet, house-broken, and well on his way to being male-model svelte, thanks to diet and plenty of exercise. If you want a loving companion for walks, swims (as you can see from his photo above, Spice loves a good swim), and just lounging around, too, this is the dog for you!

For more details on these adoptable Goldens and many others, visit the website

www.GRR-tx.com

and click on "Adoption". As of this writing we currently have 19 dogs in foster care and many more will be looking for foster space as the summer progresses. If you'd like to foster or help out in any way that suits your availability, please come to our next **Volunteer Training Class on June 25th at 11am**. See website for details and future class dates. You may also send an email to **Volunteer@GRR-TX.com** to be added to the training contact list. Hope to see you there!



Our Vets are the best!

GRR wishes to thank the following animal clinics for their continued support of our dogs and rescue efforts. They provide GRR with discounts, education and medical guidance, squeeze us in at the last minute, board dogs short term when there's no immediate foster space available and generally make our rescue efforts possible. Please show them your support and tell them "Thanks for helping GRR!" next time your in one of their offices.

Animal Trustees of Austin

Castle Rock Pet Hospital

Central Texas Speciality Veterinary Hospital

Century Animal Hospital

Country Hills Vet Clinic

Emergency Animal Hospital of Northwest Austin

Griffith Small Animal Clinic

Lakeline Animal Care

Lincoln Heights Pet Hospital— San Antonio

Pet Medical Center of San Antonio — Dr. Scott Weeks

Pets First — San Antonio

San Marcos Vet Clinic

White Rock Veterinary Hospital



Extraordinary Golden Fund

Conan: "Almost" Home Free

by Becky LaBrum

One day in late April, GRR volunteer Deb Alme was copied on an e-mail plea: "Free Golden Retriever to a good home!" read the subject line, and the writer went on to say that she and her husband had taken in a 3-year-old boy whose owner no longer wanted him— but that now, they were finding that "Conan" was too big and active for their small townhome. Attached to the message were several pictures of a gorgeous red Golden with wavy fur. Deb sent the note along to our Intake Team— but as fate would have it, Conan just happened to be living near GRR's Kathy Burton, who had seen him out walking that very day, chatted with the owners, heard the whole story, and directed them to our Hotline! And within a week, Conan had moved into his foster home.

Conan's past vet records mentioned a torn ACL (anterior cruciate ligament), one of the ligaments in the knee, and since the sweet-natured boy was obviously in some discomfort (and painkillers alone weren't really helping), we took him in for a recheck. Sure enough, the ligament was torn, with some fluid buildup on the knee. If we did nothing, the joint would deteriorate. Conan needed an operation,



Conan

and on June 2, he had the surgery. The good news: it was a success, and he is

recuperating well. The bad news: more extensive bilateral X-rays revealed a similar ligament tear on the OTHER side, so after 6 weeks of recuperation for the first surgery, he'll be heading in for repair #2. But once he's recovered from that, he's home free!

Price for a ball-chasing, frisbee-catching, tear-around-the-yard future: approximately \$1,200.

Editor's Note: The Intake Team had reviewed Conan's medical records prior to intake, and as Becky states in this story, there was mention of a torn ACL. Even if we had known right off the bat that Conan would need surgery on both knees, we would not have turned him away. Thanks to the generosity of the people listed on page 11 under "Extraordinary Golden Fund", Conan— like so many others before him— may now lead a happy, painfree life.

www.texasloanretriever.com

Kathy Burton, Mortgage Consultant

Statewide Toll Free 1-866-502-7829 Office: 512-340-0077 Cell phone: 512-787-4069
kathy@txmortgageconsultants.com

"We believe that everyone deserves to have a home of their own. We can help you get there."

The retriever shown here and on texasloanretriever.com is Emma adopted from Gold Ribbon Rescue. As an expression of our gratitude we will make a donation to the Extraordinary Golden Fund, for every loan that is closed through Emma's "mom" Kathy Burton, Residential Mortgage Consultant. Referrals always welcome and very much appreciated.



GRR Emails: Photos, Funnies and Info

Emails from our Foster Coordinators, the Surrender Team, the Adoption Team, foster families and some from our adoptive families often share knowledge and helpful hints on topics such as healthcare, diet, behavior and sometimes just silly, fun stories and pictures, like the one below from Laura. If you have questions you'd like answered or helpful hints to share with the GRR community, please feel free to add another email to my inbox! Send emails to: brenda@grr-tx.com

email to GRR:

Hi! I have to put out a cry for help to everyone so that I may be able to come up with a better solution to my problem. Annie came to us exactly a year ago. She was about 7-8 months old and had a few accidents in the house but not out of the ordinary for a new dog that is young. One big clue is she would not go on a leash or in front of anyone. So we really think that she was scolded for going potty at all! We rarely see her go. I have to let her out and shut the door and she will sneak off and go. Well, now to my problem. It seemed to get a lot better and she wasn't having accidents. BUT, in the last few months, she has one spot upstairs that she goes and one spot downstairs that she goes. She is now having an accident about 4-5 times a week!! We have never seen her go (she is very sneaky) and we let her out about once an hour or two because she drinks a lot of water and needs to go a lot. We are very conscious of it. We praise her a ton when we watch out the window and see that she has gone, but a lot of the time we let her out and shut the door and she doesn't even go and then will come in the house and go behind our back! It seems to be getting worse, so if anyone has some suggestions, I would love it!!! Also, she went in December for her yearly checkup and everything was fine.

Thanks for any advice. —Jill

Replies from GRR:

Two things—first, we need to rule out a physiological problem. If at her exam they did not collect urine for a sample, then it is possible that she has a urinary tract infection. If the accidents are usually small and frequent, smell strongly, she is drinking a lot of water, etc., you may have this problem. If so, antibiotics can usually resolve it quickly. But even if it is physiological, you still need to address the behavioral accident issue as well.

As in all training, when it isn't working—go back to basics. Treat her like a puppy. Keep her confined in an area with tile or formica, when you have her out in the house it should always be with supervision, and crate her when you cannot supervise. With her "sneaky" tendencies, put her on a leash when you believe you are supervising her—this will alert you to attempts to sneak off. Praise her for all the outside potties and try to develop a command. The BEST thing I EVER taught my dogs was to go to the bathroom on command. Take her out, tell her to go "outside" or "potty" and praise her when she does. You will HAVE to overcome her shyness. You have to be able to praise the positive behavior. You have a girl who was punished for going in the house, but not praised for doing it correctly. At first, this will entail LONG walks on leash or LONG times in the yard on a lead. But keep it up. Have treats ready for when she goes. Praise her, pet her, tell her "good outside" or "good potty". Do it once, and she will start to get the hang of it soon.

—Maura

If Shelby pees, try leading Annie to that VERY SPOT right away and urging her "potty" or "hurry" or whatever command you use. That often works really well for me. If I can just get SOMEBODY to pee then I corral the others over there and they all follow suit.

For cleaning her two indoor pee areas so it won't smell like a good place to go, some recommend vinegar and water. Other people swear by Nature's Miracle. I like Drs. Foster & Smith Dog-tergent. Smells like clove and it does seem to neutralize the ammonia odor.



email to GRR:

So what do you call two adults that leave four Golden Retrievers alone for 45 minutes with a bag of trash on the floor?

IDIOTS

That's right. Last night Ryan gathered the trash to take out for Monday pick up. He left one bag on the floor and we watched Boston Legal upstairs. When he came upstairs ALL the dogs were snoozing. We really exercised them hard yesterday and they were pooped or so we thought! Let me also add that they ALL had a bath yesterday afternoon! He went downstairs around 10 to take the trash up and came up and told me I needed to come downstairs to see what my foster puppy did. Ha ha!! So much for a snoozing puppy! He had an absolute field day with a very large bag of trash. Our kitchen was a disaster zone and he was hauling stuff into the living room. Luckily for all of us there was nothing too gross or toxic in the bag of trash. I couldn't even fuss at them. We made the stupid mistake and it was so darn funny I couldn't stop laughing! If I wouldn't have found the humor in it I think I would have cried! In addition to bathing the dogs, I had also mopped my floors that morning! Wheeeee!!! —Laura



Randalls Good Neighbor Program Helps GRR!

Randalls offers you a way to direct your donation dollars to your favorite non-profit organization– GRR of course! In a little more than two years Randalls has donated **\$974** to Gold Ribbon Rescue. If you don't already have a



Remarkable Card, or if it's just not linked to GRR, head to the courtesy booth the next time you're at Randalls. Pick up an application, fill it out, and link your card to our account number: **8583**. You may link up to three charitable organizations and you may change your designed organization at any time. Once your remarkable card is linked to GRR, that's it! Every time you make a purchase, the total purchase will be credited to GRR. It costs you absolutely nothing extra at the register and helps so many of our rescue Golden Retrievers. Randalls Good Neighbor Program is good for the community and good for the canines too! Thanks for your support and keep on shopping! For more information:

http://www.randalls.com/community_caringneighbor.asp

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