

February 2018

GOLDEN GRRROWL

"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™



CASEY

Casey Gets a Leg Up!

by Francie Rakiec

Casey. Where do I begin to tell you about this sweet and amazing boy? The beginning is usually good. Casey was born in January 2014 to a breeder. He was a very handsome pup. Casey came to GRRR but the breeder didn't want anyone to know where Casey came from them since Casey was "different."

You see, Casey was born without a paw on his left front leg. He is quite unique because he is missing his paw just below the bend in his wrist, but he still has a very large pad at the end of his leg and a very small pad just above the larger one. He basically has no toes.

My husband, Wade, and I often foster some of the younger dogs that come to GRRR. When I first saw Casey I thought, "This is one of the handsomest Goldens I have ever seen!" We brought him home and soon we started to call Casey our Sour Patch Kid. First he is sour, and then he is sweet (more about his "sour" side later on). He gives the absolute best hugs with his little nub! That's what we call his leg that is missing the paw. He wraps it around you and gives you a little squeeze. He is also the best big brother to all the foster puppies we bring home. He's the first to snuggle with them, the first to play with them and he is always very patient with them.

His hugs and his overall sweet demeanor are what first attracted us to Casey. He always has a smile on his face. Initially, we had brought him home for just a weekend because we thought he would be a good fit for my in-laws, who were looking for a Golden Retriever. Well, once they came up to meet him, they told us that he was in fact a perfect fit...for us, and that they

couldn't imagine taking him away from us. Turns out they were absolutely right and I am so thankful that he stayed with us because he is truly a blessing. Aren't they all in their own special way?

Casey also demonstrated an acrobatic feat I have only seen from cats. Apparently something on the counter got Casey's attention. Next thing I knew Casey had jumped up off all four legs (3.5 in his case) onto the kitchen counter! We both kind of stopped and looked at each other like "Did that really just happen?" Casey stood there shaking and I just stood in disbelief. I then lifted him off the counter, put him on the ground, and we both went about our business. Thankfully, that was the last time he ever did that...although it does make for a good story!

When we first adopted Casey from GRRR in October 2015, we looked into what we could do to make sure he had the best possible life with his short leg. Many dogs do fine with three legs. If a decision is made when they are young, the leg can be removed. But removal was not a good option because Casey was already too mature and we could not put him through that pain and questionable recovery chances. We considered a prosthesis, but decided that we would wait a while to see how he did without one. Casey actually gets around pretty well without a paw. It hasn't slowed him down one bit, and he can run hot laps in our back yard with his furry brother and sisters. Most people never even notice that he's missing anything until I point it out. Casey will sometimes use his nub to walk while other times he will hop around like a true tripod. However, we were a little concerned about the unevenness of his limbs and that it could cause problems for him over time. Things like back problems or issues with his other hind leg are very common with this type of deformity.

A Visit to OrthoPets

We were becoming more and more concerned that when Casey got older he may have back issues because of his posture, and we noticed that his front right foot seemed to be getting flatter. I did a little

CASEY

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A registered
non-profit 501(c)(3)
charitable
organization



“ Watching Casey take his first steps with his new leg was AMAZING.”



research and found out that we have a local company in Colorado called OrthoPets. They had gotten a lot of press around this time because they teamed up with CSU and were able to give a dog not one, but four prosthetic legs (plus we had won a gift certificate, courtesy of GRRR, for an initial consult). This was not an easy decision because, quite honestly, prosthetics get mixed reviews with some great successes and some real disappointments. We were torn but we wanted to see what might be possible for Casey, although we didn't want to put him through a bad experience. We decided to at least do the consult to see what we (and Casey) thought of the possibilities. We hoped that because OrthoPets is Colorado-based, we could work very closely with them to ensure Casey got the best possible chance for success.

The staff was very welcoming; while we humans talked about the process, the fitting and other details, Casey got to roam around the office and even managed to steal one of the employee's slippers. He also got to lie down on a huge fluffy dog bed where he got lots of love from me and his new case manager, Silver. They took some measurements of Casey's "good" leg and measurements of his other leg, then did a casting for the prosthesis. Casey was very patient during the casting. We even got to pick the color of the outer coating of his prosthesis. This initial visit took a little over an hour.

Casey Gets a New Leg

A few weeks later, we picked up Casey's new leg. I was anxious but hopeful. I was shown how to put on Casey's new prosthesis, which is basically a three-part device. First there is a sock that is put on his leg. The sock is then covered by a soft foam shell which is then covered by a harder outer layer.

We spent about an hour walking around so Casey could get comfortable with his new leg. Watching

Casey take his first steps with his new leg was amazing. I knew that's what it must feel like to watch your human child take their first steps. I even got a little teary eyed (yep, I'm the crazy dog lady). I was just so proud of him! They said he was doing an amazing job as well. They even filmed him walking and getting his leg put on so they could post on their Facebook page and on their website, and use in their brochure.

At first Casey wanted to hop around and not use his leg, but he quickly realized how to use it. Handsome and smart. He did amazing with it right away. We walked around outside, did exercises, walked in figure eights, walked up and down the stairs, changed terrain and all sorts of fun stuff. When it was time to go I think Casey was a little tired because he and his new leg promptly hopped up on the chair for a little rest. It was almost like he had always had this new leg! And the best part was that he loved wearing it.

Just like with human prosthetics, I had to gradually increase the amount of time Casey would wear his. He started out wearing it on his morning walks and when we did his exercises. Then we added in wearing it on his evening walks. After about a day of the added evening walk, I noticed that he was licking just above his nub on his little pad. Sure enough, he had a spot that was red and tender. I emailed his case manager and we set up another time for him to get refitted. The week before Christmas, Casey was refitted and a few adjustments were made.

A Star is Born

We also learned that OrthoPets wants to use Casey as their featured dog for an upcoming film that Animal Planet is doing at OrthoPets. We hope the fame doesn't go to his head.

Casey still loves wearing his new leg and is working up to wearing it for longer periods of time. This morning he was doing more hot laps in the yard with his fur siblings, but this time he had his leg on! He is making such great progress. I don't know if this will work out long term for Casey and probably is not the answer for all dogs with leg deformities but we just love him so much that we wanted to try it. Casey's story with his leg is far from over, but we are hopeful that he will be happy and healthy with us for a very long time.

We are so very fortunate to have Casey in our lives. He brings a smile to our faces every day, whether it's from him stealing the dish towel off of the counter or him loving on his fur brother and sisters. He has been such a joy to have. Thank you so much to everyone at GRRR for bringing Casey and our other fur kids into our lives. We can't imagine our house without any of them. 🌸



SADIE, BRUCE, CASEY & NALA

Recent Rescues



Dear Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies Folks:

On July 10th, 2016 Bernie bounded out of the GRRR office, into our car and into our hearts forever. As a stray, we didn't know much about his past, but he carries a few clues that things may not have been as rosy as the "Forever Life" he has come to enjoy. But when it comes to survival. . .

Don't bet against Bernie!

On Saturday, October 14th, I went downstairs to take Bernie out for his 7:00 AM neighborhood exploration, only to find that he could not stand up. Carol and I rushed him to Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists. The emergency staff eased his pain and evaluated the situation. By Monday, we had the bad news and the "C" word. Tuesday Bernie went in for surgery with the warning that if the cancer had spread, we should leave him on the table. . . .

But don't bet against Bernie!

The surgery was a success and the chemotherapy is going well. Bernie is fetching and swimming and loving everyone once again. Thanks to a wonderful oncology surgical team, we have our kid back. As long as his quality of life is as good as it is, he will continue to bring us and others the joy we have come to embrace.

We would like to thank you wonderful people at GRRR for choosing Bernie as "Mr. April" for your 2018 calendar. You can see by his photo what a character he is. We will cherish the calendar, but never change the month from April (note: he autographed it). It would be against all odds for Bernie to make it to see his namesake month, but then again. . .

Don't bet against Bernie!

All our Thanks,
Clark & Carol Myers



BERNIE

Dear GRRR:

Blake is settling in nicely. Shaw-neh is totally in love with her big brother and they are non stop playing! He just has a little issue being afraid of getting near a car parked in the driveway or the garage. Has no issues when they pass us on his walk though.

He is the most lovable baby and everyone wants him when they meet him.

Lori Holstein

BLAKE AND SHAW-NEH



Dear GRRR:

Honey has settled in so well I now feel it is I who has just moved in here.

She is still on the long heartworm protocol and dancing through it. I have discovered it is a mistake to do anything interesting and new with her unless I intend to make it a habit, as she doesn't forget. And Honey is up for anything fun or that tastes good. She snacks on any nuts the squirrels drop from their feeder. She is a stealthy snacker.

Honey is a treasure. If I survive her obedience classes (grin), I hope to have her as a therapy dog for either library or hospital work. For my sanity, I have to get her a job!

Brenda Petty

HONEY



Newsletter Submissions

We all love reading about your Golden Retrievers and we'd like to hear from you! If you'd like to submit a letter AND photo of your GRRR rescue, email the letter and digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com, or mail to GRRR at 15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada CO 80007. Deadline for the May, 2018 issue is April 6. Thanks!



Dear GRRR:

Chloe is an amazing creature, having been through such tough times as a puppy. We got her when she was 7 months old, and she was pretty much afraid of all loud noises and many strange people. We're proud to say she is progressing very nicely, thanks to so many nice people, neighbors and family. GRRR (Mary Kevin and Roberta Miller) did a fantastic job of training her and teaching her to trust people.

Chloe loves to walk, sniffing all along the trail where we live. She understands so much of what we say to her — she is happy to go with her leash to the front or back door and visit the neighbors along the trail and street. She does, however, become very frightened of boys on skateboards or scooters. We know there must be some history there from the abuse she suffered from her previous family.

Easygoing, in the morning Chloe just smiles at us. She is becoming a chow hound and is getting used to a routine of meals, walks, naps, and kids coming over to play every day. Her surgeries went well; however, Chloe still limps on the hip that was so complicated. X-rays from Dr. Bauer's indicate that all is well; it just might take some time. She does not complain of pain — she is just happy to be out and about. We love her to pieces. She is a joy. She helped us ring bells for the Salvation Army and brought in lots of extra money! Peace and blessings!

Ray and Sher Printz

CHLOE

Dear GRRR:

Meet Bentley (formerly Jack). We had been told he was about a year old and had previously belonged to an 85 year old woman who fell and broke her wrist and could no longer take care of him. Prior to that owner, I believe he was also a rescue dog! We were also told he wasn't very familiar with or good on a leash.

My husband had expressed an interest in getting another dog (a Shitzu) as company for our 9 -10 year old Maltese/Shitzu. We all met at the GRRR facility and as far as I was concerned this was the defining moment. The energy levels were completely different! I was not sure it would be a good match. My husband had better vision than I did. He moved forward with the adoption.

We walk a lot so I was charged with Bentley. The first thing I noticed as I walked him with a leash was his strength and how he was pulling me! I knew right away no elderly person could handle this dog behaving in such a manner. I wondered how my shoulder would be the next day! It was as if he was driven. He would look all around. Loud noises of cars or skateboards would also set him off. I quickly learned to bring treats with me on our walks and work with him on the leash. I was shocked at how much he had improved in just 24 hours. Occasionally, I would pick him up and assure him he doesn't have to feel driven and afraid now. A couple of days later my husband remarked on his improvement as well! He is a smart dog.

Today I continue to make a part of every walk a lesson in staying close in step with me while the other part of the walk he maintains a loose leash and for the most part doesn't pull. He knows 'sit' though, and we still need to go through training on 'stay' because he will bolt.

Bentley and Becca play in the mornings with Bentley lightly shoving Becca with his shoulder to get things going. He is accustomed to his new surroundings and routine. He loves mornings and is eager to begin the day. He is extremely affectionate in the mornings and licks our hands while we are still in bed. Bentley has a huge back yard and makes use of every inch of it. I have discovered he loves the snow. He loves to eat it, roll in it and lay in it! The funniest thing is while walking he just lays down in the middle of the pathway. Literally walking along and then plop! Most of the time he does it to rest I am assuming, but a few times there has been another dog approaching and I wonder if it is a sign of submission. Whatever the case, it is something we expect on occasion now. We are still getting to know each other but are committed.

The thing that is so special about this dog is that I have not yet found a person or a dog that he doesn't want to go home with! He loves people and dogs. When I share his story with others, people say 'Oh, aren't you a fortunate dog!' Gary and I are quick to say the fortune is ours. Love goes both ways.

Thanks much!

Gary & Cindy Kuehl



GRRR STATS

January 1 – December 31, 2017

Number of incoming dogs	260
Money spent on veterinary needs:	\$135,000
Money spent on medicine:	\$12,500

BENTLEY

Recent Rescues



Dear GRRR:

Mike and I adopted Buddy almost two months ago, and he is settling in well with his sister Aiva the Goldendoodle.

Buddy came to us a little bit heavy and he has lost ten pounds! He loves walks, the dog park, fetch, and chasing Aiva around for a favorite toy.

He is a wee bit destructive - every stuffed toy we had plus two straw baskets - but now he has a nice stock of bones and Kongs to chew.

Buddy LOVES to snuggle, be petted, and be brushed. He has an appointment for his first spa day soon . He is a great addition to the household. Thank you.

Carla & Mike Meyer

AIVA AND BUDDY

Hi GRRR:

We're so grateful for Bodie, and we imagine he's pretty grateful to GRRR for putting us together! His name was Joey...but we changed it to Bodie, much more Colorado! We adopted Bodie on October 24th, just about two weeks after we had to put our last Golden, Frisco, down at age 13. I had a big hole in my life and needed to fill it.

We live in Castle Pines, so we had a pretty long ride back home but Bodie was perfectly calm. My wife rode in the back seat with him and he seemed to warm up to her very quickly. When we got home, Bodie walked right into the kennel we had set up, just like it was his...amazing!

From what we know of his past (he'll be 2 yrs old on 11/29), his owners both worked and he was an "escape artist" from their yard. They tired of paying fines for his return by Animal Control, and turned him over to a humane society, who in turn surrendered him to GRRR in early October. With all of that displacement and trauma in his life, we are amazed at how easily he has settled in.

Being retired, I have plenty of time for Bodie and we've bonded very strongly. I've found he's very smart and has taken to commands really well. He gave me early signs that I could trust him and so I've been able to let him off leash at a nearby park when no one else is there. He loves to chase and fetch, and has great "ball skills." He loves to cuddle and kiss and have his belly scratched. And so far, he meets other dogs really well.

We've already been able to leave him at home for short periods out of the kennel without any issues, and he's sleeping in our bedroom on his bed...Frisco's contribution to Bodie!



We just returned from our second long car trip to Dallas with Bodie. He's a great car traveler, and is quickly earning points at La Quinta Inns as a frequent guest! Our son and family are in Dallas and have a 4-month-old Golden girl named Rizzo. The two of them are best buddies now, spending almost every waking moment playing furiously or completely spent.

Bodie still has an occasional growling/ barking reaction to new situations or if new people don't approach him slowly, but he's getting better at that. In every other way, Bodie has been the perfect addition to our lives. Everyone who knows us has said Bodie has hit the lottery. Well, so have we!

Thanks to GRRR for giving us and Bodie new leases on our lives.

John "Alto" Altomari

BODIE



TRIXIE AND MAX

Dear GRRR:

We have had Trixie since October 1. She is doing better every week. She is still quite shy around men, but is slowly making up to my husband Ron.

Trixie and our other dog Max, run and play A LOT! Good for both.

Carol Seaman

Dearest GRRR;

On December 31, 2016 we lost our precious golden, Kylee, after a 6-month illness. She left a huge hole in our hearts and lives. Our boy, Calvin, whom we got from GRRR 10 year ago, was grieving too.

We weren't looking to get another Golden as we felt it was too soon. But fate, or Kylee, had other ideas! In late September I received an email from GRRR asking if I would consider becoming a member again. Attached to that email was a picture of available dogs. The picture of the cutest puppy, Rosie (now Chloe) jumped out at me! On a whim I sent in an application to adopt her. I truly thought that my husband and I would never be approved because we were older. A week later I saw that Rosie had an adoption pending. I was disappointed but accepted that she would be going to a perfect home.

On October 13th we received a call from Roberta at GRRR. I could not contain my excitement! I assured Roberta that we would be there the next day to meet Rosie and would bring Calvin. When that little puppy came around the corner we fell in love with her! Calvin seemed to accept her. We were not sure how she would do with our 3 cats, but now Chloe's best friend is kitty Nacho. We changed her name to Chloe which she accepted right away. She has settled wonderfully into our daily routine! This little girl has a huge personality! She is very sweet, smart and stubborn. She began using the doggie door the first night! Chloe has learned to sit, down, stay (but not for long!), shake and wait. She is VERY vocal! Her voice is deep – like a big dog! She makes her wishes known!

Chloe was born with malformed hips and socket, with the left being the worst one. In November we took her to Colorado Canine Orthopedics to meet Dr. Bauer. He informed us that she would need a hip replacement. He was hoping to wait until she was a year old and fully grown. We agreed to bring her to see him every two months. January 9th was her follow-up appointment. Everyone, including Dr. Bauer, thought this would be a routine exam. The x-rays showed that the left femur had come out of the malformed socket. After much discussion we all decided that little Chloe would need her hip replacement sooner rather than later. We took her back for her surgery and took her home that same night with instructions to "keep her quiet." How on earth do you keep a very active 6-month-old puppy quiet? Today is her post-operative day #2 and she is doing fabulous! We take her out on a leash for short potty breaks. She has been a great patient!

Chloe has brought so much joy, happiness and laughter to our home! Jerry, Calvin, the kitties and I are so blessed to have Chloe in our lives!

Thank you!

Cathy and Jerry Hall



CHLOE & NACHO



Dear GRRR:

Sam came home with us on July 8, and he settled into our family and our hearts right away! Sam is such a sweet dog with a great sense of humor who loves a scratch on the bottom, going on walks, and enjoying chewing on a bone. Sam is very friendly with other dogs, is patient and sweet with little kids, and loves to watch for rabbits through the window or curl up dreamily on the couch.

Sam has quickly learned to trust us, and has learned patience while we brush his beautiful coat, give him cuddles (even if he's not in the mood), and even dress him up for Halloween. Every morning after he eats breakfast, he watches me get ready for work, and later happily greets us whenever we walk in the door. We both feel so lucky to have this happy, sweet, big furry beast in our lives! We are so thankful to GRRR for connecting us with this guy. He brings constant joy to our lives!

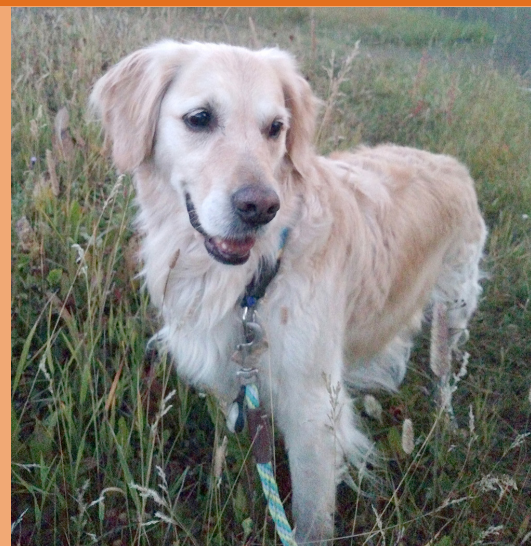
Laura Jolly

SAM

Hello!

I can't believe it has been 10 months since I brought Kai-Ayda home with me. She has settled in well and has become my favorite camping and hiking partner! She has many canine play buddies in the neighborhood now, but we had to take our time with the initial introductions. She is quickly learning that these new pals are quite different from some of the rough pups that she encountered on the streets of Istanbul. Her new pals just want to have fun. And Kai is having a lot of fun in her new 'hood! Her personality continues to become more animated as she becomes more comfortable. When we aren't outside goofing off she loves nothing more than to just fall asleep next to me on the couch. I can't imagine life without my li'l Turkey Dog! Thank you GRRR!

Cheers, Anita Rouse and Kai-Ayda



KAI-AYDA

Recent Rescues



Dear GRRR:

There are no words to describe the absolute joy that Reagan, a.k.a Andy, has brought to our hearts and home since we adopted him on August 11 of 2017.

It brings tears to my eyes to think how heartbroken we were to lose our Golden Retriever, Donovan, at age 13. Then along came GRRR and our sweet boy Reagan! The love and joy this beautiful Golden mix from Texas has brought to our hearts is beyond what words can tell.

The love and caring that the GRRR staff and volunteers have for these precious animals speaks volumes about your organization. Thanks GRRR for all you do and for your loving dedication to our furry friends. Your work enables families like ours to once again experience the joy and love for a very special Golden—one who, through no fault of their own, has fallen upon hard times and loss. We look forward to another time when we may provide another furry friend from your wonderful organization a forever home.

Yvonne & Ken Sobzack

REAGAN AND KIELY

Dear GRRR:

Thanks so much for checking in on Faith! She is an amazing puppy, and we love her so much more than words can say!

We adopted her the Sunday before Halloween. Her name was Missy or Blondie. We immediately changed it to Faith. She bonded so quickly with our family. She is social and enjoys meeting new people in our home and on walks. I'm a veterinary technician, and if I were to temperament test a litter of puppies, I'd choose one exactly like her. She's been a great fit for our family. By now Faith is potty trained, crate trained, a good traveler, great on leash for walks, has basic obedience skills, and is an all around snuggle bunny. She's usually in someone's lap when we are relaxing. She's so polite about asking if she can come up in a lap or on furniture. Faith gets along well with her elderly Sheltie brother, Gus, and so far isn't too hard on him. We are teaching her to be gentle as she grows.

Our teen daughter, Morganne, did the nighttime crate training in her room, and the two of them are tight friends! Thanks so much for this wonderful little Golden girl with a big heart! We are hoping to be able to do a GRRR event this year, so everyone can meet her or see her again! Thanks so much for all you do and for blessing us with this loving little girl!

Marlin, Jennifer, Morganne, Gus, and Faith Kumm

MORGANNE AND FAITH



Hello GRRR:

I just wanted to say thanks for all that you, GRRR and the Skinners, did to bring Swagrrr into my life! He has been absolutely wonderful since day one. I remember going out to Phoebe's Place to meet him. There was an instant bond. Swagrrr knew that he needed to win over my boyfriend, so he went up and gave him a big Swagrrr style hug (he puts his head into our lap or chest and just holds it there).

The day I brought Swagrrr home, he had a huge smile on his face; he knew he had finally found a forever family. He rode the elevator like a champ and loves to look out the windows. He's very quiet except he barks occasionally to protect me from the mean police cars. He loves to prance up and down 16th Street Mall where he gets tons of attention from people saying how adorable he is. The girls swarm him asking for pics. I'm sure he's in several prom photos. Swagrrr thinks he's special because he can go into Bass Pro Shop, Home Depot, Walgreens and other stores. But his two favorites are the Yard House patio and Hop Daddy. Hop Daddy has fresh baked treats out every day and Yard House lets him on the patio. Surprising the food establishments are his favorite.

Swagrrr used to pull me around when I would walk him, but now is he so gentle and heels like a gentleman. Swagrrr is a perfect fit for me! Although I live downtown, we go on walks every day and get in about 5 miles of walking almost every day. The river and off-leash dog park are his favorites, but the road trips to the mountains are truly special. He loves to stick his head out the window while I drive down remote mountain roads. He is also very adventurous walking up the trails (on a leash, of course).

Trish Tosh

SWAGRRR

As we enter 2018, it's nice to reflect on the events of our 21st year—a year when you could say we truly reached the age of maturity. I believe that is true because we faced head-on a problem that is facing all Golden Retriever rescue groups nationwide—a shortage of pure Golden Retrievers that are surrendered or abandoned.

There are numerous reasons why this is happening but suffice to say that it's a challenge for us as we think about continuing our mission long term.

Staying true to our mission, we got creative and continued to expand how we approach rescue. We did that by pushing local awareness of the benefits of adopting from rescue groups rather than buying a puppy or dog online – sometimes from very questionable sources. We continued Operation Turkey Dog, bringing in 3 groups, for a total of 54 Golden Retrievers. And we expanded our efforts to rescue dogs from puppy mills/commercial breeders, focusing on aging female breeder dogs (often only 5-6 years old), whose futures looked bleak.

We couldn't have done that without the support of our members, donors and volunteers, with all three categories increasing again in 2017.

Our Gala once more exceeded expectations, with guest speaker Yasemin Baban from Istanbul, great auction items, good food, and a fun time had by all. This event requires many dedicated volunteers who work incredibly hard behind the scenes.

We're especially proud of our Colorado Gives Day results. For the sixth year in a row we surpassed our goal, coming in at around \$105,000 from nearly 400 donors. We believe this is because you believe in GRRR and what we're doing to support all our Golden Retrievers.

If you would like to hear more, or let us know what you're thinking, please come to our **Annual Members Meeting (NOTE NEW LOCATION):**

Sunday, March 4, 2018, 1-3pm Standley Lake Library - 8485 Kipling St., Arvada CO 80005

2018 Gala

by Kevin Shipley

22 years of rescuing, rehabbing and rehoming

Just like in our real life, it seems like we blink and when we open our eyes, 22 years have gone by. You were all so much fun and generous at our 21st anniversary Gala, we want you to come back and join us again. We have been very fortunate that this event has been a sellout 3 years in a row, so make sure you save the date: Saturday, June 16th. Tivoli Center Denver is the place. We will be putting tickets on sale soon, so keep your eyes open.

We have a very special guest again this year and will make introductions soon. This year we also want to give special thanks and celebrate the medical staff and wonderful doctors who take such great care of our GRRR dogs. Certainly, Dr. Carpenter and the staff at Arvada West Veterinary Hospital, as we do spend a lot of time there. We also have other remarkable doctors who help make our pooches healthy and happy; Dr. Bauer and staff at Colorado Canine Orthopedics, and Dr. Hammond and staff at Eye Clinic Veterinary. These are the folks who take care of so many simple and complex individual needs of our sweet pups. They are truly remarkable and we really appreciate the love and care they give. 🌸



What You Need to Know About Microchipping

by Cathy Jones

We would all probably say we know about microchipping our dogs... but what we might not know is just how critical microchipping is for the safety of our pets. Let's take a closer look at how this works:

- A small transmitter (about the size of a grain of rice) encoded with a unique number is inserted with a needle, like giving a shot. This usually goes unnoticed by the canine patient and is the beginning of a very valuable process which should be accomplished as soon as possible after welcoming a dog to the family.
- Soon after having the dog microchipped, the new owner's personal information must be provided to the chip registry. This is critical. Only the registry has the personal information, and it is only through the registry that a lost dog can be reunited with its owner.
- For most major brands of microchips, registration only needs to be done once. However, if any of the personal information changes (i.e., address or contact numbers), it is essential that the registry information be updated immediately.
- Typically, the pet owner also gets an ID tag with the chip number and phone number of the microchip registry. This is a back-up for your dog to wear on his collar to help a Good Samaritan locate you if your dog is lost.

With the above steps in place, your pup has excellent protection if he should stray, bolt from your home or escape in any one of many possible ways. While a microchip is not a location device, it is an identification device. Anyone finding your dog can help him get back to you by phoning the number on the ID tag or by taking him to a local veterinary office so that he can be scanned for his microchip. Through either route, a happy ending can result.

Of course, if you should find a stray dog, you can take the same steps and hopefully help reunite that dog with a very thankful owner.

And now to bring this home to all of us who adopt our beloved companions from GRRR: Each GRRR dog leaves for his new home with a microchip already inserted and the knowledge that his new owner's personal information will be promptly provided to the chip registry by a diligent GRRR volunteer. Safety first... and a safe pooch is a happy pooch! 🌸

In the last member newsletter, I spoke about resources and some of the efforts being made to focus on the commercial and backyard breeder businesses. In this Part II, I want to fill in some blanks and answer questions I've received since the first article.

To be clear: At GRRR, our 2018 mill dogs focus is 1) **educating consumers** so they don't shop for bargain puppies with big medical issues, and 2) rescuing puppy mill females and males that are aging out of breeding programs, because these poor dogs would otherwise be destroyed.

Educating Consumers

As we revise parts of our website this year, GRRR will be focusing on consumer education and resources to educate people seeking to buy a puppy. If you can't afford the \$1,800 to \$2,200 for a legitimate breeder puppy, just say no. Legit breeders have a transparent history; you can meet mom and dad and past litters. Their dogs come with xrays for good hips and joints and come with health guarantees. Unlike backyard breeders and mills, legit breeders will be happy to return your phone calls if you have questions.

I had an interview with Edwin Sayres, former CEO of ASPCA for 10 years. He left ASPCA a few years ago to head up PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) that had previously been thought of as an ally to the commercial breeding industry. Ed had a plan to bring together the Humane Society of the US, ASPCA, Petland and Hunte Corp to come up with some new improved standards for animal care and housing as well as financial incentives to entice commercial breeders (aka: puppy mills) to improve the conditions for animals.

At the time, Hunte Corporation was the largest purchaser of puppies from commercial breeders in the US and Petland (a global company) was/is the largest provider of commercial breeder (puppy mill) puppies to pet stores in the US. Privately the council agreed on most of the new standards, but unfortunately publicly the parties could never come together and finalize these new standards as each side was afraid of alienating their base of supporters (i.e.: either losing supporters, donors or both). So that effort died before making it to the table. It was clear that regulations were going to have to come from above (legislative). There have since been other attempts to bring improvements to the breeding industry. The last attempt failed to be adopted by the state of Missouri (the largest puppy mill state in the US) and became a self-regulating "10 Paw" grading system. This has been grossly ineffective as the president and vice president of the Missouri Breeders Association rate their own breeding operations as "10 Paw" facilities, but both have been cited by the state 4 years in a row for animal cruelty. Sort of a fox guarding the hen house principle.

New Standards from Purdue

A new scientifically based standard has been developed at Purdue University under the direction of Dr. Candace Croney. The new "Canine Care Certification" dovetails nicely into another significant change in the commercial breeding world. With the death of Andrew Hunte, Hunte Corporation was sold to a new company by the name of Choice Puppies, and while Hunte's Missouri headquarters operated in a fairly transparent manner, Choice Puppies seems to be clouded in mystery and a lot of unknowns. Their lack of transparency has even caused Petland to drop them from their purchasing program. This new Canine Care Certification has even drawn some favor in the breeding community, where privately, many in that commercial breeding community would like to see the unscrupulous breeders go out of business. We have yet to see whether this new approach will be publicly embraced and implemented by all involved.

When I spoke with Bob Baker, executive director for MAAL (Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation), he told me he believes the legislative tightening on commercial breeding facilities, combined with a big push for better certifications and quality standards, have forced many of the unscrupulous breeders out of business. Some of these puppy mills just went underground, selling only on the internet. The magic of the internet can make even a terrible breeder look good with happy photos and smiling children.

However, internet-only sales were not regulated by the state or USGA. In 2017 they did pass a law that even internet-only sales must be regulated by the state and USGA and the state even hired additional inspectors to search the internet and catch those trying to evade the new laws. The state of Missouri also started "Bark Alerts" so people could anonymously report facilities they suspected to be sub-par or avoiding regulation.

Interestingly, there is even a division in the commercial breeding community. The vast majority of puppy mills are run by the Amish communities in Missouri, Pennsylvania and a few other states, where they refer to the breeding community as being divided into "The Amish" and the "The English," each having different approaches to their breeding businesses. Neither community of breeders is good, and there is plenty of abuse on both sides.

As Bob Baker said of his department's legislative efforts, "You can regulate puppy mills, but you can't make them care about the dogs."

Q&A

Due to questions about regulating bodies, here are some quick terms you should recognize and what they are responsible for:

- **AKC** (American Kennel Club) — responsibility is to inspect, register and certify breeders. In addition, AKC is also tasked with establishing and protecting breed standards (the official specifications of each AKC accepted breed).
 - Currently, over 200 dog breeds are recognized in the US. There are over 20,000 AKC registered breeder facilities in the USA, but AKC, at last reporting, had less than twelve inspectors for the entire US. Further, AKC corporate cannot tell you how many official AKC registered facilities they have approved or are still in operation. Many commercial breeders (puppy mills) are AKC certified.
- **APRI** (America's Pet Registry, Inc.) — low end registration so the dog can be sold as having an association of some sort. Both APRI and ACA are not policed and are voluntary compliance only. Typically low end, poor breeders will register with one of these so their dogs appear to have a certificate.
- **ACA** (American Canine Assoc.) — same as APRI but even lower end.
 - **About APRI & ACA:** They are like ordering your diploma over the internet without taking any classes. The paper may make you feel good, but you may still be dumb as a rock.

I found the industry opinion, including some legislative types, is that AKC, APRI, ACA and others are all about money: charging for certificates, charging for registrations and generally ringing up the cash register whenever and wherever possible. Unfortunately, organizations can start up today and profess to provide care for their dogs, but there is no real inspection to assure care. It really is up to the *buyer to do their homework*.

- **The USDA** (United States Dept. of Agriculture) — is a federal organization with each state's department of agriculture regulating and approving any facility that houses any animals. They conduct annual inspections, give citations and require that all facilities meet certain standards. If reported, they will also inspect and can close down non-compliant breeders. In Colorado, PACFA (Pet Animal Care Facilities Act) is the arm of the state department of agriculture. Although Colorado does, not all states regulate breeders. 🌸



Golden Angel: Marlene

by Linda Hartman

Hello dear GRRR friends, my name is Marleen. I'm eight years old, and have been through extreme loneliness and neglect, which has really made life a challenge for me. I'd like to share my story with you so you will know how much your support of the Golden Angel Fund — and all the love and care I've received at GRRR — has meant to me. Not only was my life saved, but you have brought many rays of sunshine into what was once a very bleak existence.



MARLEEN

warmly welcomed by all. I wasn't sure what to make of this new environment. It was different than anything I had ever known. There was so much activity and there were so many other dogs! At first I felt overwhelmed. I did not know how to give or receive love, and I was very withdrawn and disconnected from the dogs who wanted to befriend me.

The day after my arrival, I woke up with a bad cough and was rushed to see Dr. Carpenter at Arvada West Animal Hospital. I had come down with kennel cough from being in the shelter and needed antibiotics. A few days later I went to see a cardiologist. Here is Mary's summary of the cardiologist's findings: *"An electrocardiogram revealed she has Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (significant heart murmur) that she has lived with her entire life. Marleen will need to have the test repeated yearly. The cardiologist does not feel she will die from it, but Marleen needs to lose nearly half of her body weight and keep it off in order to survive. She has suffered with untreated chronic ear infections and has now been placed on ear medication to give her some relief. She had never been spayed, and we had to wait for her to get over kennel cough first. Special precautions needed to be taken for the surgery due to her size and heart condition."*

I've come a long way since joining GRRR. I loved my spa time with Dee, and for the first time ever I really feel beautiful. I have started coming out of my shell. I no longer cower from attention. Instead I happily soak in all the love and spoiling I can get. I'm very good with the other dogs and have fun playing with them now. I've become Mary's shadow and follow her everywhere. I get to go on easy, short walks and love spending time with the volunteers who have been so kind to me. Mary describes me as a very sweet and special girl. In my new home I will need exercise and a diet, ear meds and lots of love! Mary says she is going to have a hard time letting me go when a wonderful forever family adopts me, but I promised her I will come back to Phoebe's Place for a visit.

GRRR and the Golden Angel Fund saved my life and made it wonderful. I never knew life could be this way. In my Golden heart I feel so much happiness and am very grateful to the donors who support the Golden Angel Fund and to the volunteers (especially Mary!) who have shown me what real love is all about. Being the typical optimistic Golden that I am, I'm looking forward to my new life of adventures, love and happiness, and I'm not dwelling on the past for a single second. For the first time in my life I am truly happy. 🌸

When I was still living with my original family, they were very busy. I spent all of my days either locked in the basement or out in the yard. It seemed I was always by myself. Those long lonely hours would be difficult for any Golden Retriever since we love people, activity and fun so much. I'm a sensitive, sweet and loving girl and it was especially hard on me. One thing my family did do was feed me — a lot! But I didn't get any exercise and my diet wasn't healthy. I should have weighed about 70 pounds, but I grew and grew until I weighed a whopping 130 pounds! How I longed to get out for some much-needed exercise and socialization.

Then one day my family put me in the car! I wanted to dance with joy! We were going somewhere — maybe to a park or on a mountain hike? Eventually we stopped at a large building with a lot of barking dogs. Once inside I was put in a cage. This was not at all what I had hoped for. The hours turned into days, and I watched as the more petite, younger dogs left with new families. I never saw my family again.

When I was dropped off, my owners did not provide proof of ownership to the shelter, so I had to stay in that scary environment until my hold time was up. I had no idea what was going to become of me. Mary Kenton from GRRR was aware of my plight, and the minute it was legally possible, she swooped in to save me. Mary was heartbroken when she first saw me. I was a very sad, lethargic, obese girl with a filthy, matted coat and a severe ear infection. She looked me over with kindness and concern and then gently helped get my XXL body into her van. Off we went to Phoebe's Place where I was

Golden Angel: Zeb

by Jeannie Miller

Hey, GRRR people! My name is Zebulon, Zeb for short. That wasn't always my name. To tell you the truth, I am forgetting what my other name was before I came to GRRR! I like Zeb just fine, though. I will never forget the day a few weeks ago when a wonderful lady named Denice arrived in her truck to get me from Pikes Peak Humane Society.

How I ended up there, I'm not too sure. I was taken outside of my town and left to wander. I felt very lost. It was kind of fun on the first day but after a few days, I was getting pretty tired and my legs hurt a lot. I was cold and hungry with no place warm and comfortable to sleep. Some people coaxed me into their truck and took me to the shelter. They said that it was the best place to go and that it's where dogs' families came to find them. I thought, "OK, I am not sure my family wants to find me but let's see." Days went by and I watched other dogs' families come to take them home, but not mine.

Then one day, Denice came. She was so nice to me! She said she was taking me to meet some new people that would help me find a new family. I couldn't believe it! You see, what I haven't told you about yet is that I have very sore knees. I went to see the doctor about it. He said that my ligaments are torn. All that jumping I used to do when I was a young, silly pup probably caused it. I think I could get my knees fixed, but the doctor said it costs a lot of money and it requires a lot of help from people after surgery, otherwise it makes you even worse than you were before. I am still wondering if that's why my family didn't want me. I was thinking that maybe now no one would want a dog like me.

But then there was Denice! She was so kind to me and she said I was handsome! I happily went with her. We got in the back seat of her truck (she helped me get in) and she sat with me while someone else drove. I loved the sound of her voice and the belly rub she gave me! Her hands were so gentle and soothing.

Before I knew it, we stopped and met another lady with a truck. She was so nice too! She took me for a little walk and then she said we had another short drive to go before we would get to GRRR. She helped me climb into the truck which I appreciated. She had to sit in the front so she could drive but she talked to me the whole way and she kept reaching back to scratch my chest. She said she thought my new name should be Zebulon after a man named Zebulon Pike who was an explorer and tried to climb the big mountain I always saw when I was outside in my old neighborhood. She said I would be called Zeb for short. I liked it!

Well, now I am at Phoebe's Place with Mary Kenton and all the other dogs. I really love the GRRR people! I got a soothing bath and have to say that I look pretty handsome. This is pretty darn good! Mary lets me hang out with the other dogs as long as I don't play too rough. Mary laughs at the way I talk to her to let her know that I love her attention and love to get fed! I get lots of love and attention from Mary and all the volunteers.

I went to see Dr. Carpenter for a check-up. Mary asked him about my crooked muzzle and my very sore legs. He said he didn't know what happened to my nose but it was OK (I think it makes me kind of cute!). He said I needed to see another special doctor about my legs.

Volunteer Pete Lynch took me to see Dr. Bauer (back near my old home) about my knees. He said that I tore my ACLs a long time ago and had so much scar tissue that it really makes it hard for me to walk right. Well, I couldn't have told you all that technical stuff but I can tell you that I thought that I'd have to live with pain forever. They hurt so much sometimes! But Dr. Bauer said that I could get better with surgery. He called it a TPLO and it is a pretty big surgery for a dog to have. The recovery takes 6-8 weeks during which I have to be really careful not to re-injure myself. I am scared but I am up for it! And because of something called the Golden Angel Fund, it can happen for me if I find a new family who is willing to help me through it. Mary and Roberta are looking for a great new family for me – might it be you? I promise I will be a good boy. I will try to make you smile every day and love you with all my Golden heart! 🌸



ZEB

Please Donate to GRRR's Golden Angel Fund!

The Golden Angel Fund has been established to help Golden Retrievers in need of extra medical care. Some Goldens require special medications or surgeries for conditions such as cancer, hip dysplasia, allergies, heartworm, knee surgeries, eye surgeries, infections, etc. Without medical help, many of them will not be likely candidates for adoption; however, we can't say no to these special Goldens who need extra care. Sometimes extraordinary medical circumstances bring these Goldens to us, and with the Golden Angel Fund we can help more of them find a quality, pain-free life in a new and loving home. Please send your tax deductible donations to: GRRR, 15350 W. 72nd Avenue, Golden, CO 80007 (make your check payable to GRRR with "Golden Angel Fund" in the memo portion). Or donate on-line at <http://goldenrescue.com/golden-angel-fund/> Thank you!

Golden Angel Updates

BELLA

Rick Gartner and David Amedure

Bella has been, and continues to be, the love of our lives. When we lost Seamus, our 15 year old Golden rescue in March, there was an inescapable void. Then, through a phone call and Fate (thanks Roberta and Mary) in steps Bella—who more than filled the void—but in



ways completely different from Seamus. She has many “voices,” each distinction meant to distinguish between different emotions, e.g a cooing love sound, a sharp bark for strangers (she loves children and women in particular), a friendly growl if you’ve been gone too long (and that’s anything over 10 minutes) and the sound she makes when she wants to be petted. After her two meals a day, she generally goes around and rearranges the furniture. She knows it’s on the “no” list but does it anyhow.

On the health front, Bella is doing incredibly well after her hip surgeries. She is getting once a week aquatherapy and then physical therapy with Sue McElvey, DVM (who helped us with Shamus in his last year). We are trying to wean her off the rimadyl, however she still needs it for long hikes, etc. It’s pretty much wait and see attitude for now—particularly given how well she’s doing (putting full weight on both hind quarters). She’s filled out a bit since we got her - but is under strict weight limits set by Dr. Terry and Dr. McElvey.

All in all, can’t say enough about the goodness that Bella brings us. We just moved to a place with an even bigger back yard. Watching her race around with her toys and balls gives us as much pleasure as it does her. We are so thankful for the gift of Bella Joy (the name her former owner gave her). She fits her name to a “T”. 🌸

BELLA



PETE

Judi & Greg

Pete continues to make himself at home with us. He has two new best friends with our son and his fiancé’s dogs. He seems happiest when running off leash and chasing his best friends. Snow is a very joyous occasion for him. You can see this in the picture.

Pete continues to demonstrate some anxiety but the situations are less frequent and are shorter in duration. We make sure we have a quiet, stress-free home for him and are confident this anxiety will end at some point.

He is a fantastic watchdog and is already very protective of us. All in all, Pete has become an integral part of our family. 🌸

PETE

Donations In Memory or in Honor

• In Memory of Steve Stewart:

Donald & Grace Pierce • Dale Francois • Russell & Catherine Jones Horst & Gudrun Lambrecht • Brian Lowry • Amy Mannisto Eileen Moore and John Winans • Lola Runyan, Laura Holley and Carrie Peacock • Mary Beth Schomas • Judi Servoss and Joel Carmichael • Margo Stewart • Deborah Williams

• In Memory of Queen Stella:

Kelli Clark • Jeannie Miller • Russ & Cathy Jones Peggy & Sparky Sciumbato • Bill Urbanowski

• In Memory of Kelly Ann Emery:

Anonymous (3) • The Flemming Family • The Kalis Family Whitney & Beth Leibo • Jack & Dianne Luberta • Frances Marino Ronald Perea

• Anonymous in Memory of:

Dylan • Page Picoitta • Larry Jack • Sedona & Charlie • Daisy Pfau

• Anonymous in Honor of:

Marla Briggie • Tim McGarry • Denise French • Dillon Tim & Gloria LeFree • Golden Angels • Ruth French Sherri Wilson and Andy Rosedahl

Donations in Memory or In Honor:

- Brett & Lauren Abernathy in memory of Cooper & Sophie
- Karen Argys-Lloyd in memory of Jeremiah, Rusty, Sadie & Kody
- Paul & Polly Atkinson in memory of Charlie Trotter
- Brian Armstrong in honor of Stan Armstrong and Bette Bushell
- Lynne & Jerry Baker in memory of Cooper, the Golden
- Rachael in memory of Libby Bateman
- Mark & Teresa Beck in memory of Chloe
- Brenda Bott in memory of Toby
- Gene & Minnie Bourque in honor of B & Glen Bott
- Kim Bracher in memory of Mickey & Dave Odem
- Becky Brady in memory of Frank Brady
- Mark & Debra Briels in memory of Katie & Bailey
- Maia Brusseau in memory of Frisco
- Marcia Burns in honor of Barb & Bob Crook
- The Buderus' in honor of GRRR dogs, Charlie, Sienna & Bogart
- Beth Raul and Lisa Campbell in memory of Chelly
- Burns & Wilcox Environmental Center of Excellence in honor of Cody Lionette
- B. Simone Caruthers in honor of Bobbie
- Tracey & Jerry Chevalier in memory of Abby, their Golden angel
- Bob & Joyce Childerston in memory of Gunner & Ben Childerston
- Suzie & Steve Crase in honor of Mary Kenton & all the volunteers
- Carolyn Davis in memory of Earl Wilson
- Mike & Dianne DeGross in memory of their parents
- Lynda Delbaugh in honor of Abbey
- Deanna DeLucero in honor of Kurt & Amy DeLucero
- Linda Doerksen in memory of Corinne
- Lisa & Jack Drake in memory of Ted Bear Drake
- Dana Duthie in memory of Emma & Molly
- Carolyn & Chuck Ellington in memory of Wendy Ellington
- Jill M. Ervin in honor of the Ervin Family

- James & Margaret Esler in honor of Sammy, Murray & Rosy Esler
- Tom & Nichole Falkowski in memory of Denali & Gretskey
- Michael Feigenbaum in honor of Shae Singer
- Michael Feigenbaum in honor of Judi Tippetts
- Michael Feigenbaum in memory of Capt. Luis Montalvan
- Michael Feigenbaum in memory of Carly Brightwell
- Beth Flambures in honor of Marilyn Falcione
- Joni Friedman, Adam Crow, Ella Gifford-Hawkins, and Marcy Kasner in memory of Kelly Ann Emery
- Brad & Patty Fritz in memory of Twyla Wallace
- Sheery McDonald Galbreath in memory of "Gallagher," Margo Gilbert Franks' Golden
- Noanie & Doug Geisert in memory of Seamus Geisert
- Irene Gerty-Gomez in memory of Frederick Gerty
- Alice, Jon & Aubree Gilbertson in memory of Argyle & Olivia
- Sarah Gimarc in honor of Anne & Dwight Buderus
- Nancy Schroeder Grant in honor of her son, Seth Grant, wonderful wife Julie, and precious grandkids William and Alice
- Ellen & Joe Green in memory of Gracie
- Brian Gustin in honor of Bosco
- Mary Jo Hardy in memory of Sparky Hardy
- Suzanne Hoest and James Grady in honor of Sherri Wilson and Andy Rosedahl
- Pamela Jones in memory of Thomas Jones
- Cathryn Karmondy in honor of Anne & Dwight Buderus
- Kim Kitchen in honor of Sunny Durango
- Owhen Kneale-Jorgensen in memory of Pico Kneale-Jorgensen
- Will Koehler in memory of Kathleen Gail Miller
- Lisa Korte in honor of Dan Korte
- Lisa Korte in honor of Janice Korte
- Barbara Kreisman in honor of Sundance, Autumn & DandyLion
- Darwin & Barbara Kuhlmann in honor of Sammy
- Connie Lane and Jenny Scanlon in memory of Alex, the big red dog
- Karen Levine in memory of Alexa Marie
- Beverly Licholat in memory of Annie
- Liz Linehan in honor of Phoebe Zimmerman
- JoAnne & Joe Masi in memory of Bella, their rescue Golden
- Patricia Matis in honor of Bryce Strelow
- Suki & Jim McMaster in honor of Tina
- James & Joy Merritt in honor of Chubby, their beautiful Golden
- Robert Meyer in honor of Ronda Kent
- Jeannie Miller in memory of Dakota-boy
- Vivian & Greg Miller in honor of Bill Urbanowski
- Marti & Julia Mills in memory of Rosa, Abby, Daisy & Max
- Samantha Morgan in honor of Sherri Wilson
- Mike Morrow and Jackie Benson in memory of Connor
- Carol Myers in honor of Bernie Myers
- Norma Nash in honor of Pat Rogers
- Laura Nelson and Keith Wynkoop in memory of Buddy
- Linda O'Neal in memory of Buck O'Neal
- Anne & Kip Oram in memory of Betty Oram

- Steve Perry in memory of Mardi Perry
- Fran Pilch in memory of her beloved first Golden, Tessie
- D. Reeve in memory of Hussong Reeve
- Nancy & George Reid in honor of Linda Pierel and her love of Golden
- Valerie, Greg Romeo & Astro Robson in memory of Angel Charm
- Roxanne Sabin in memory of Sophie & Dawson
- The Salo Family in memory of Heidi. "Thank you for letting us share our lives with Heidi for over 13 years. She was almost 14 when she passed in 2017 and still acted like a young girl!"
- Linda Sand in memory of Beckett, beloved Golden of many years ago
- Pam Schell-Varkony in memory of Annie – the love of her life
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Ashley Hashman
- William & Linda Schneider in memory of Pico and in honor of Owhen Kneale-Jorgensen
- Hugh & Janis Sciley in memory of Bailey & Louis Sciley
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Pico
- Mike, Kate, Madison, Monroe Secor in honor of Mary, Kevin and the GRRR Team
- Judi Servoss and Joel Carmichael in honor of Jude & Lilly, beloved Golden Retrievers of Pete & Gail Stokowski
- Judi Servoss in memory of Suzeigh, Pat Roger's beloved girl
- Judi Servoss in memory of Moses, Kathy French's dog
- Al & Bernadine Sherman in honor of Sherri Wilson
- Stacey Springston in memory of Suzeigh Rogers
- Pete & Gail Stokowski in memory of Pepper, Lily & Jude
- Debbie Stratton in honor of Pat Dinkey
- Jane L. Templeton in memory of Theo
- Linda Tieman in honor of Darby – a GRRR Golden
- Diane Turner in honor of Barbara Crook
- Bill Urbanowski in memory of Sarah
- Ruth Janet Vierra in memory of Lucy
- Wayne Walker in memory of Lynne Walker
- Megan Walsh in memory of Cotswold
- Carol Warner in memory of Chai, her first GRRR rescue
- Jory Weber in honor of Linda Pierel
- Linda Weinstein in honor of Anne Buderus
- Erikah Weir in memory of Harvey Mitchell
- Barbara Weller in memory of beloved Golden Sunny & Sadie
- Casey & Ken White in memory of Fletch
- Carolyn A Williams in honor of Claudia K Hunter
- Bradley Wilson in honor of Andy Rosedahl
- Sherri Wilson and Andy Rosedahl in honor of Jim Grady and Suzanne Hoest
- Mark & Lisa Winters in memory of Max
- Donna & Ken Wolff in memory of Sasha Wolff
- Cody Zalewski in honor of Bob & Sandi Zalewski
- Wendy & Richard Wolf in memory of Mandy Wol



Naming Tribute

CLIFFORD — by Chelsea Schelly: *"To honor Clifford, a pet beloved by Tom and Margie, the wonderful humans who loved him most. From their daughter who loves them dearly!"*

With your donation of \$100 you may request a Naming Tribute so that one of GRRR's rescued Golden Retrievers will be named after your dog or loved one. With your donation, you will honor the memory of your loved one, and your donation will help us give a rescued dog a new start to a better life. More info on Naming Tributes: <http://www.goldenrescue.com/news-golden-retriever-rescue/naming-tributes-dog/product/listing>.

CLIFFORD

In Memory



SUZEIGH

SWEET SUZEIGH: A LOVING MEMORY

Suzeigh was our sweet little girl whom we adopted from GRRR foster parents Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgensen in the summer of 2015. She had been a Greeter Dog at our Gala and that was the beginning of one beautiful relationship with this special Golden.

Deb and Bob saw so much potential in Suzeigh, one of the kindest and most gentle dogs they had ever fostered. She was surrendered due to mast cell cancer and GRRR helped her through that. She was a survivor at age 10. She came out to our place and met our other Golden, Cooper, and they became instant friends. Suzeigh actually taught Cooper how to play, and they were a great team.

There was never an adjustment period; Suzeigh fit right in and that tail wagged constantly, and I mean constantly, up until the day she passed. She loved our acreage and always kept a watchful eye out for those rabbits! She was Scott's copilot every day driving down our road to get the mail. She would wait by his truck around 4:00 p.m., and would not move until Scott lifted her in. And off they went, about 2 miles an hour, her head hanging out, as she loved to sightsee. It was hilarious to watch. Car rides were her passion.

Suzeigh just loved life and being with us. One day, a friend mentioned that she would make a wonderful hospital therapy dog, as she just loved people and being petted all the time. We took the therapy dog test at Littleton Adventist Hospital and she passed with flying colors, got her photo ID badge, and we began this new adventure. It was so rewarding; she and I both loved meeting the patients and staff and Suzeigh was an instant hit. We would visit various areas, one of which was Mile High Oncology where patients were receiving their chemo infusions. Suzeigh seemed to understand, and so many patients said she spoke to

them through her soulful, big brown eyes. I know that she had healing powers. It was almost as if she was giving back from her own cancer issues.

As some of you know, Suzeigh loved to dress up, and the hospital staff and patients loved it. Her best costume was "Nurse Suzeigh" for Halloween. A memorial plaque has been given to the hospital with this costume inscribed and heartfelt words. Suzeigh and I truly loved our work at the hospital, and she is beyond being missed by so many. She just radiated joy everywhere she went.

Her passing came quite unexpectedly and was such a shock as she had visited the hospital the day before. We said good-bye to Miss Suzeigh the week of Christmas, which was devastating. Our hearts are so heavy, and we miss her so much each and every day. We know, though, that Heaven is a bit brighter now with this Golden Angel. Rest in Peace, our Sweet Angel.

Pat and Scott Rogers

ZOE

We lost our wonderful girl, Zoe, a few months ago and we miss her dearly. We adopted her from GRRR almost 4 years ago and she was already 10.5 then. Thank you for rescuing her and giving us the opportunity to make her senior years wonderful.

Zoe was our princess and a total sweetheart. She was a Lab but you all helped her find us and we appreciate it.

Thanks and God bless.



Mike & Heidi Moreland, and canine brothers Archie & Luginut

ZOE

CALEB

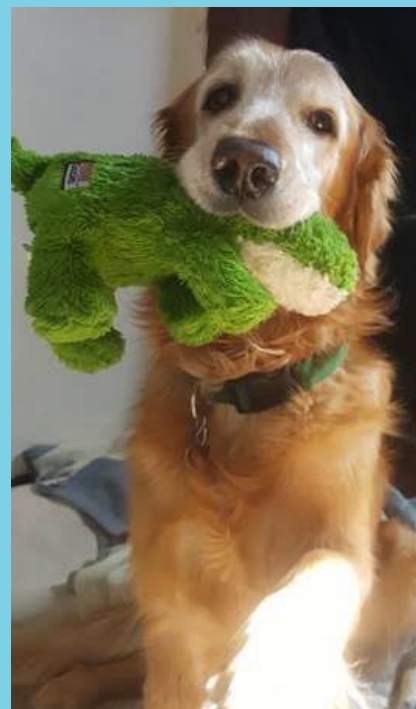
Oh Caleb, the world is left a little darker for your loss. We came together to help through our misgivings in life; I needed you to help me understand patience and love despite history. I was able to help you understand that hurt is not part of life. Coming home we spent days hiding behind the couch, unsure of our new lot in life. Through time we learned that dad would never let us be hurt again. Dad worked with lots of sick animals and people, and through time we learned that not only would dad not hurt us, most people are not out to hurt us, just love.

Shortly, you got sick and we didn't know why. Months went by with no development, until you got really sick. We went to surgery wondering if this was the fix; and then labs came back as cancer. We spent the next months up and down, and every time you bounced back, you were so strong. After all your fight, it proved too much.

You taught me to fight like hell and to learn to love again; you learned to go up to strangers looking for love, you learned to be happy. I wish you had gotten more time with this life.

I'll miss you Caleb, I'll miss you carrying around the moose that you came home with. I love you.

Brett Horst



CALEB

In Memory

Dear Mary Kenton and GRRR:

On September 20, 2001, my husband, Mark, and I adopted a golden girl named Zoe, from GRRR. Christmas of 2002, we received a card from you, with a note asking us to drop you a line to let you know how she was doing in her new home. Finally, this is that note. I never forgot about writing to you, and have always wanted you to know that Zoe had been adopted into a loving home. I hope when you read our story, you will understand why it has taken me so long to write.

Although we never met in person, you and I had exchanged email messages, and talked several times by phone. You were surprised when you learned that we had chosen to adopt Zoe. You were aware that we had a golden boy, Cowboy, at home waiting for his new companion, and were a bit concerned as Zoe had a reputation of not playing well with others.

The day we adopted her, the GRRR staff explained to us that Zoe, then 4 years old, had been originally purchased from a pet store, then spent her entire life tied to a tree in the backyard. When she began to bark excessively, and chew on the tree, her guardians brought her to your rescue; lucky for us, they had the sense to do that.

You were right – Zoe did not play well with other dogs. Considering her history, I believe she had no idea what “play” meant. Whenever Cowboy tried to play with her (which was a lot), she didn’t seem to understand what he wanted; she didn’t fight, she just seemed annoyed, and would move away from him.

She enjoyed being around people, but the poor girl did not know what to do with our exuberant Cowboy – I think she thought he was a real pest. It was hard to watch; we felt bad for both of them, and hoped we hadn’t made a mistake. But Cowboy did not give up, and eventually, Zoe, whom we renamed Chloe, began to warm up to his charm.

Within a few months they were best friends, running and playing all the time – inside and outdoors, and even cuddling. Chloe even picked up on one of Cowboy’s own tricks of bringing us her bowl after eating – she was so proud of her performance!

She was a happy girl, and sometimes “danced,” unable to contain her excitement. Every morning, when let out for morning “rounds” she would roll on her back, with such joy, down a small hill in our backyard, all four legs going every which way, before moving on to business.

She loved all her toys, swimming, car rides, and most of all, I think she genuinely loved being with Cowboy. It was good to see that Chloe had settled comfortably into her new life with us, and she was a joyful addition to our little family.

The Summer of 2002, as Mark was looking at retirement from the police department, and exploring other opportunities, the four of us traveled quite a bit around Wyoming, Colorado and Montana, and Chloe became quite the little traveler. That December, unexpectedly, Mark was offered a position in Alaska, that we accepted.

That Christmas, when we received your card, we were in the early stages of the move. I actually started my note to you before we left Laramie, but decided that I would finish it once we got settled into our new home, so I could tell you all about our adventure to Alaska.

After the movers left, the four of us began our eight day journey to Alaska, in February! It was quite an experience, and after all that time on the road, I think Chloe & Cowboy thought our new home was actually the Jeep!

We finally arrived in Anchorage, and lived in a rental house on two acres. We had moose visitors often, and the dogs were fascinated (from the fenced side

of the yard!) by them. Once when Mark was on the upstairs deck with Chloe & Cowboy, a cow and her calf had wandered into the yard below them. When mom wasn’t looking, the calf came up to the deck to investigate, putting her nose right up to the floor edge of the deck. Chloe, amazed by this creature, leaned down closer to get a sniff, and to her surprise, they touched noses!

As Mark settled into his new job, I took on the task of finding us our “own” place. The rental was nice, but it had stairs, which we did not want for the dogs, long-term. Finding a house with no stairs and a large yard, that was affordable, turned out to be a challenge. I got wrapped up in that, once again keeping in mind, that when we were settled in, I would write to you.

In the meantime, when not looking at possible homes, the four of us took a few weekend trips. We saw all kinds of wildlife, and in Homer, Chloe & Cowboy even got to swim in the ocean. With the exception of finding our “own place,” things were going along okay, and we were all enjoying our new Alaskan experiences.

That all tragically changed when, on October 23, Chloe stopped eating, and was drinking water profusely. After, two days with no improvement, we took her to the veterinary clinic that had been recommended by a friend. Before we moved, I asked the one person we knew in Anchorage about veterinary care. She recommended her veterinarian, assuring us that she had never had any problems, and was happy with the clinic.

Chloe’s liver enzymes were very high, but the doctors couldn’t figure out why. Their only advice was to put her on a rice and ground beef diet, and watch her for a few days. Chloe did not improve; she had no appetite for anything but water. We were scared; we knew her condition was very serious.

Suddenly, we were painfully aware of just how exceptional our veterinarians in Laramie had been, and felt very far from home. Chloe was critically ill, and no one knew how to help her. There was not a CSU to go to for help, and with her so ill, traveling very far to the nearest vet school in eastern Washington, was not an option.

Desperate for help, we went through four different veterinarian’s, none of whom knew how to help our sweet girl. I called our vets in Laramie, hoping they could help, but it was too late. Chloe died on November 18, 2003.

In the many years that I have been writing this letter to you, I have yet to find words that could possibly convey just how devastated we were; I believe they do not exist. My heart still breaks. I want you to know that we loved Chloe very much, and not being able to get her the help that she needed, hurts to this day. Not a day goes by that I don’t think of her.

Chloe will always be in our hearts, amongst six precious Golden’s that have infused our lives with immense joy and love. We treasure the time we had with her, and the sweetness she brought to all our lives; she is forever loved, and deeply missed.

Sincerely,
Teresa Beck

CHLOE & COWBOY



Phoebe's Place Update

by Kevin Shipley

Isolation Room/Vet Treatment Room

For those who have seen our beloved Dr. Carpenter and crew setting up medical exams in the kitchen area of the kennel, you'll be happy to know that we are seriously upgrading with the help of a major donation from Robert B. Sturm Foundation. Bob, a GRRR adopter, has donated the finances needed to build a professional isolation/vet exam room. Of course, there are other key pieces to this type of undertaking and Pedigree Foundation has granted funds to handle that part of this important project. Mary has been carefully shopping for good used vet room equipment from other animal care facilities that are closing or changing their facilities. This area will be attached to the house to provide easy and direct supervision of any dogs that will require use of the room. Among the many uses of the room, it allows us to keep a dog suspected of any virus to be isolated away from all other dogs at Phoebe's Place. This build will take time, so we will be providing photos along the way. A very special thanks to the Robert B. Sturm Foundation. Also a hearty thank you to Pedigree Foundation for funding the HVAC and infrastructure components of this new addition.

We feel so fortunate to have such dog-loving folks involved with GRRR. What an incredible opportunity to have a professional environment for isolation and for veterinarian care. 🌸

Grooming Room Repairs

Speaking of repairs and staying on top of the ever-developing needs at Phoebe's Place, we will be upgrading our grooming room too. We are taking a step back from grooming for a period of time, while we make much needed improvements to the grooming room. Our grooming tub has always been positioned too high for comfortable grooming of dogs. That tall tub, combined with the decaying wooden cabinet under it (holding it up), has seen it's better days. Again, ever the bargain hunter, Mary is shopping for a gently used grooming tub, and Terry, our superior contractor, will be lowering the tub height to make grooming a more comfortable experience for the groomer. It will also take the lifting of the dog out of the equation – good for everyone! Although a relatively minor expense overall, it is somewhat complicated so it will take some time.

We are sorry for the temporary halt to grooming, but this will be a tremendous improvement for the person and the dog. Thanks very much for your patience.

Grooming Specials for GRRR Members:

- Special \$50 rate for Golden Retrievers at the Gentle Groomer - 9949 W 80th Ave, Arvada, CO 80005
Rate is based on getting your dog groomed at least once per quarter or more often (easier to keep your dog looking great when they are groomed that often).
Tell them you're a GRRR member when making appointment: (303) 431-7759
- 20% discount to new GRRR member grooming customers at Krislers - 14710 W Colfax Ave, Lakewood, CO 80401.
Let them know you are a GRRR member when scheduling appointment: (303) 278-3977 🌸



New Employee Introduction

It's pretty rare that GRRR adds a new family member. I would like to introduce you all to our new GRRR employee, Kylie Caraher. So please give your best wireless high five to Kylie Caraher.

Kylie has assumed responsibility for kennel and facility maintenance. She will be working part time, but don't be surprised if you see her around on the weekends as she lives close by.

You may recognize her from helping GRRR get into the Missouri puppy mill rescues as well as transporting other rescues for us through the midwest. Kylie has an Arts & Science degree from Wenatchee Valley College as well as a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Fort Lewis College in Durango.

She has a variety of experiences helping train dogs and run Canine Allstars at fairs and zoo's around the US. In addition she has taught snow sports to the disabled, owned and operated a martini bar, been involved with 4H clubs and more. She has three other family members; little Louie (Maltese-Yorkie), Laney (Golden Retriever) and Tia the pot belly pig. We look forward to having Kylie at GRRR, so make sure you say hello next time you're out to Phoebe's Place. 🌸



KYLIE



TIA



LANEY



LOUIE

Turkey Dog VII

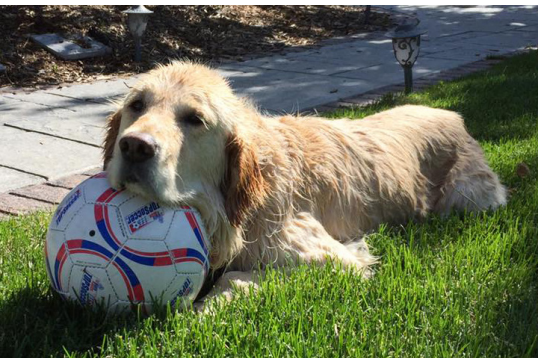
by Kevin Shipley

From Rags to Riches

It seems crazy that we have been involved with rescuing Turkey dogs for 2 years. Sadly the number of Golden rescues participating in the regular rescue of these sweet dogs is down to only 3-4 rescues in the US. In the first year, when it was a novelty, there were as many as 16 Golden rescues involved. Certainly the cost is quite high compare to almost any other kind of rescue effort. In addition, the participating airlines required the rescue take 18 dogs at a time. Not only were most foster based rescues in no position to temporarily home 18 dogs with no history, the cost for taking 18 dogs was sky high, in excess of \$36,000.

We have been fortunate that between TD sponsors, adopters and Operation Turkey Dog Colorado general donors, we have been able to break even. Interestingly, we have found that medical costs are often less than our mainstream rescue pooches. The good news is that our carrier, Lufthansa, is now allowing us to bring in 10 TD's dogs per flight. This lowers the expense considerably, lessens the strain on our kennel space and really allows us to better manage things like grooming, health checks and setting up meet & greets for potential forever homes. Obviously, it also becomes a bit easier to raise financial support as well.

So for 2018, look for us to bring in 10 TDs at a time, but we are planning to increase to five times a year. We love being able to continue to save these sweet dogs and help so many people in Colorado find a new furry family member who has such an interesting story to tell. So when our next group arrives in mid-February, know that there have been 110 GRRR families whose lives have been changed by a Turkey dog. Thank you for supporting these dogs. 🐾



**Golden Retriever Rescue of
the Rockies**
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Arvada, CO 80007

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www.goldenrescue.com

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Come to our Annual Meeting
Sunday, March 4, 2018, 1-3pm
Standley Lake Library (new location)
8485 Kipling St., Arvada CO 80005



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”[®]

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies is dedicated to rescue, placement and public awareness, to ensure that Golden Retrievers are adopted by people who are able to provide a safe, loving home.

Applications to adopt a Golden are available on our website www.goldenrescue.com

Please accept my Membership in GRRR (includes quarterly newsletter plus free attendance at all events and reunions)

I would like to receive my newsletter:

via mail (black & white print) or via email (color PDF...save GRRR postage and printing costs!) \$50 year \$ _____

Please accept my additional tax deductible donation to help Golden's where needed most:

\$250+ Golden Champion \$100 Golden Hero \$50 Golden Star \$ _____

Interested in volunteering? Go to www.goldenrescue.com to fill out the volunteer application. Thanks!

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Please mail to: Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies • 15350 W. 72nd Ave. • Arvada, CO 80007

Thank you for your support! goldenrescue.com