



February 2019

GOLDEN GRRROWL

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"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™



WILLY



Introducing Willy, Beaver Creek's First Mountain Safety Dog

By Kirsten Dobroth, published in the Holiday 2018 issue of Vail-Beaver Creek Magazine

If you happen to hear a chorus of teenage girls "Awwwww!-ing" as you disembark from the Centennial Express Lift this winter, you're probably in the vicinity of Willy, a floppy-eared Golden Retriever pup who's earned rock-star status as Beaver Creek's first-ever Mountain Safety Dog.

Willy won't be trained to sniff out skiers trapped under the snow. As the canine equivalent of the resort's volunteer army of red-coated mountain hosts, he'll be working alongside his handler, Beaver Creek Mountain Safety Manager Mark Carll, who brought him home from Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies as a nearly 3-month-old pup.

Earning a salary of belly rubs and Milk-Bones, Willy will spend each day patrolling the top of Centennial and the Slow Zone on beginner run "Gold Dust" and making big eyes at resort guests in the ski yard during Cookie Time, courting a captive audience for impromptu lectures about yielding to uphill traffic and the consequences of ducking a rope.

Willy's curriculum vitae?

"We went through puppy preschool with Mark Ruark in Edwards (markruarkdogtraining.com), which built a great foundation for his training," says Carll. "Right now, we are working on the obedience skills needed to be nationally certified as a therapy dog. Proper socialization is a big part of his training as he will be touched by thousands of people every day."

"Everyone wants to meet Willy!" Carll says, noting that he has little difficulty finding resort guests willing to help out with Willy's training—a fact that's fetching Beaver Creek's newest on-mountain employee plenty of attention on social media, where a minute-long GoPro video introducing Willy is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/beavercreek/videos/were-75-days-from-opening-75-days-from-skiing-snowboarding-and-of-course-meeting/241688499876355/>



More on Willy

By Mark Carll

Now that Willy is at 9 months old, he is in mid-season form. Willy spends his days at the top of Centennial Express Lift taking photo shoots with guests. He also likes to roam our slow zones and give impromptu slope safety talks to ski school classes and guests alike. On Fridays after lunch you can find Willy in our 3-6 Kids' Ski School learning area, getting chased and loved by kiddos.

He also gets to visit every elementary school in Eagle County as a part of our Snow Safety Ranger Program. We team up with Vail Health to teach our local kids about helmet safety and slope safety as a part of the local schools' "Learn to Ski Program."

Any day now Willy will pass his obedience test with the Beaver Creek BARC Rescue team and become an official member of the pack. Though Willy will not be an avalanche rescue dog, he still works with the pack every day and it is important for him to be held to the same obedience standards as the avalanche rescue dogs. All the BARC dogs are females, so one of Willy's favorite parts of work is getting to hang out with his girlfriends.

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"The positivity that has come from Willy being on the mountain is unmeasurable"

You will soon find Willy volunteering at local hospitals as a Certified Therapy Dog, although Willy already does plenty of therapy work at Beaver Creek. You can find Willy skiing down Cinch catwalk daily and there always seem to be tired kids who could use a distraction! Then we scoot on down to the next yellow baffle and hang out to help our guests ski safely. When Willy gets to ski down the mountain, he either runs in between my legs or lays on my shoulders/backpack. It's not good for Willy's joints, or any other dog for that matter, to run down steep slopes.

When we are on the flat parts of the catwalk he gets to run in between my legs. We have to keep him safe from all the skiers! When we get to the steep parts, Willy just hops up on my shoulders and lays down. His favorite thing to do is to rest his head on the hand that I'm holding his harness with. Our guests get really excited seeing Willy on my shoulder and many people take photos or videos. We get plenty of oohs and aahhs or hear "Willy!" or "Look, honey, a dog!"



WILLY GETTING SOME LOVING FROM SKI SCHOOL KIDS

Willy also has quite the fan club on Instagram; you can follow him @WillyTheMountainSafetyDog. At least a couple of times a week Willy gets a message on Instagram from a guest asking, "Where can I meet you today, Willy?" The positivity that has come from Willy being on the mountain is unmeasurable. Sometimes getting the safety message out to our guests can be tough. Getting people to stop and pet a cute Golden Retriever is the easiest accomplishment I have ever had in my career with Vail Resorts!

Skiing has its inherent risks and truly what our goal is with Willy is to help skiers safely navigate those risks at Beaver Creek. Whether it is actually giving safety education or putting a smile on someone's face, when Willy is sitting next to a mountain safety employee it creates a positive vibe around safety. Even the locals skiing by who notice the positive interactions are affected. The end goal is, "Skiing is supposed to be fun!" We want people to have fun while they are skiing, but do so in a safe manner.

On Willy's days off by far his favorite activity is "skinning" with mom and dad. Skinning is touring uphill travel on skis. Skins are what you put on the bottom of the skis so you can travel uphill; then you take them off and ski downhill. As you can imagine, Willy has plenty of energy like any other Golden. He loves skinning because, like work, he gets to be out on the mountain. But unlike work, he gets to run around and be a dog. His favorite place to skin has to be Meadow Mountain, mainly because he gets to smell all the other dogs that have been there.

Otherwise, when he's home Willy spends as much time as he can with his mom cuddling on the floor or playing fetch in the yard. It's important for Willy to get his rest when at home because he is such a hard worker.

Finding Willy, Thanks to GRRR

None of this would have happened—or at least, we wouldn't have found Willy—if it hadn't been for GRRR. I loved the idea of being able to create a positive medium to promote slope safety as I'd seen at another resort in Colorado. I pitched the idea to my directors. Our Ski Patrol Director loved the idea, but our VP of Mountain Operations took a little convincing, so I wrote out a proposal and vision. In talking with our VP about this vision, he mentioned more than once that I should look into a Golden Retriever since they are a highly recognizable, friendly and approachable family breed.

I knew I wanted to rescue a dog, and while researching rescues in Colorado, I found GRRR. I was hoping to adopt in late May, which is during my off season, to give me plenty of time at home to do the initial training. GRRR had rescued a pregnant female whose litter was due the first week of June. We were approved for adoption and when we visited the litter to pick out our puppy, Willy was the calmest and smallest of the litter—two important characteristics for the job and for easy transport. He walked right up to us and rolled over on his back to let me pet his belly. I looked at my wife and said, "This is our guy!" 🌸

WILLY AND MARK RIDE THE CHAIRLIFT

PHOTOS BY JON RESNICK



Recent Rescues



Hi GRRR:

My husband and I adopted Sophie a few weeks ago. I wanted to send an update on how she's doing. We had a rough start with Sophie as she ran off the first day we got her. After getting her home, it took a few days for her to earn our trust and come out to explore her new surroundings. She was too scared to move around in the house and would tremble any time my husband would come near her.

Sophie is now doing great and she and my husband are best friends :). She and her brother Ruger play all day long. They have really become attached to one another, as we also have become attached to Sophie. She is such a sweet girl who loves to cuddle in bed with us at night. She also loves playing in her new yard with all her toys and naps in the sun every day. It's hard to get her to come in sometimes as she loves being outside, but with her past I can understand that. She is a spoiled girl and we just love her!

I want to thank Mary Kenton and Roberta Miller for helping us find Sophie when she went missing. Mary (and her sweet Golden Molly) drove all the way up to Frederick and spent all day looking for Sophie with us. I don't think we could have found her without Mary's help! Joe and I truly appreciate all the help Mary and GRRR did for us and Sophie.

Kristen Bell

SOPHIE

Dear GRRR:

Sunny is absolutely the most adorable dog. He has an enormous personality. He and Coco, our 9-year-old Golden get along beautifully.

Thank you for giving us this sweet dog.

Sincerely,

Caron and Michael Gallagher

SUNNY



Dear GRRR:

Jake, formerly Shelby, was adopted December 12, 2017. I had to change his name - I think it fits him better. We have a private membership to a lake and go out there at least twice a week. In the beginning he barely wanted to get his feet wet but now he just loves the water and loves riding in the boat.

He has such a wonderful life, what a lucky dog and lucky me!

David Seibel

JAKE



GRRR STATS

January 1 – December 31, 2018

Number of dogs coming in	303
Money spent on medical needs:	\$150,598

Newsletter Submissions

We all love reading about your Golden 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 high resolution digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com, or snail mail to GRRR at 15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada CO 80007. Deadline for the May, 2019 issue is April 6. Thanks!



Dear GRRR:

We could not be happier to have welcomed Cooper into our family in late October. Most of the dog walkers will remember the very handsome and mellow chocolate-colored guy with golden highlights. Our friends and family cannot get over how calm and gentle he is - it is love at first sight for everyone who meets him! Knowing he spent most of his prior life tied up outside, it did take a couple of weeks for him to get used to being inside the house (the wood floors and sliding glass door were especially challenging, and he still refuses to go up or down any stairs inside) but he knows he belongs with us now and we think he's quite happy! Cooper loves his daily walks (and he's a great running buddy, too), rides in the car and playing with his human sisters after school. He had no interest in playing with toys at first but with some encouragement will now actually retrieve a ball and rope toy. It was so funny watching him "learn" to play like a real dog! He takes great pride in protecting his backyard from the neighbor squirrels and bunny rabbits, too.

Several people have suggested that he'd be a good therapy dog, and we plan to at least certify him as an emotional support dog, mainly so that when our 8-year-old daughter (who has chronic kidney disease) has stays in the hospital he can visit her there. We've taken him to the mountains where he loved playing in the snow and at the end of every day he is so content to snuggle with anyone willing (we all are!). He is so loved and we feel so lucky to give him a second chance for an amazing life in Colorado!

Kate, Jason, Avery (11) and Teagan (8) Brooks

COOPER

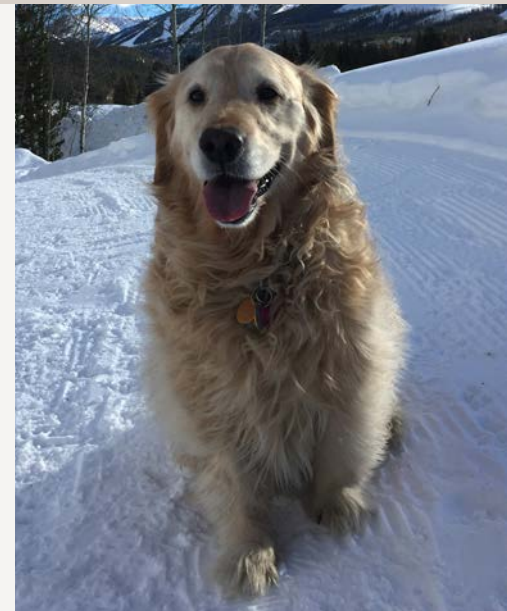
Hi GRRR!

We adopted Ellie from GRRR about 9 years ago and she is absolutely perfect in every way! We've had many great dogs in our life, but little Ellie is truly special. She was rescued from a disreputable backyard breeder and was fostered by Amy with Jasper and Tucker. She has always been calm, does not suffer from separation anxiety, isn't destructive, doesn't bark unless there is a reason to, and has no bad habits whatsoever. She is very affectionate and is adored by all members of our family and is, in fact, the most popular member of the family by far.

Ellie is also beloved by our friends, neighbors, colleagues, small children ("she looks like a little teddy bear!"), older folks and even the contractors who have done projects at our home. She loves to play fetch and has a big backyard to run around in and also gets to explore Winter Park.

What a wonderful gem she is! Thank you GRRR!

The Braun Family



ELLIE



Dear GRRR,

We are the lucky family of Oslo (Turkey Dog VI-Morgan). We cannot thank you enough for the work that you do and for all your efforts in bringing Oslo to us. We really believe he was meant to find his way to us. He is an absolutely invaluable part of our little family, and we cannot imagine life without him. In Oslo's first few months with us, he was relatively reserved and quiet, but he has grown to realize that our home is his home and we are his people. It has been the most wonderful feeling to see his personality come out in various ways, one of which is his playful nature. We are so glad that he is in our home now, not foraging for food somewhere in a Turkish forest!

He loves to spend his days playing, wrestling or cuddling with his brother Zeus, and he spends his nights comfortably nestled between my husband and me in our bed. His curious nature has earned him the nickname of Mr. Snoops and has resulted in us adding more than half a dozen cameras to capture all the different angles of our house to keep an eye on him when we are away (mostly to make sure he doesn't get into anything that can cause him any harm). He is extremely clever which comes with its own challenges, but also makes us feel like proud parents.

When Oslo came to us, he was a relatively scared little boy who was always tightly curled up and would startle when we touched him (probably from being ill-treated in his past life), and he has transformed into a wonderful and confident boy who feels safe enough to sleep in our bed, on his back, with all his paws in the air. I tell my husband on a daily basis that I feel so lucky to have him in our family because he is a little weirdo, and while he might not have been the best fit for every family, he fits perfectly in ours. Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to be Oslo's forever family! We love him and are so thankful that he is ours!

Warmly,

Nidhi Seth-Huber



Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Here are a couple of pics of Gretchen - she's an avid bunny follower with her brother Charlie. And she's a cuddle bum - we love her!

Marcy Darling

GRETCHEN

Happy New Year GRRR:

I've attached photos of Gus (formerly Skye) and Crosby (formally Mango). The pics are from our daily four-mile morning walk taken last week. They love the snow! Gus turned three last month while Crosby turned two.

Gus is great but Crosby is always in the doghouse so to speak. He's eaten my garage door opener which is now nothing but a circuit board, a special book given to me as a gift and signed by the author, a pair of Oakley sunglasses, and three pairs of slippers. The pair play very hard late in the afternoon which we call "the 5 o'clock crazies," as it's a full-out blast of unspent energy.

All in all we were so happy to adopt from GRRR as the dogs are members of the family and are keeping us young and on our toes!

Marion Boyle

GUS AND CROSBY



Dear GRRR:

I adopted this little tripod Golden in late December, 2017. She was part of the first group of Turkey Dogs. I did not think I had the environment for a TD because I understood there were very specific needs for a successful adoption—none of which I had. I've adopted many dogs from GRRR over the years, mostly seniors, and all had been from the Golden location. I lost my beloved Alex in November, 2017 and was thinking I needed more time, but knew the adoption process takes time so I submitted an application. I wanted to see where the new Arvada location was (I knew the way to the old address by heart) and got a call about several older Turkey Dogs.



So off I went...for the sole purpose of learning the new location. After arriving I agreed to meet two older Turkey Dogs, since I'd made the 65-mile trip. It wouldn't hurt to just look...right? And there she was, the wiggliest Golden I'd ever met. Happy, cheerful, inquisitive—oh and all that with only three legs! I didn't even look at the other dog!

She goes on walks, runs around the back yard—occasionally stumbles—then gets up as if nothing happened, and continues frolicking. If only we humans could be so resolute. Several people have asked me what possessed me to adopt a three-legged dog. Then they meet her, and understand. She is not a three-legged dog to me. She is Journey—her new name, because she has certainly been on one.

Susan Gearheart

JOURNEY

Dear GRRR:

We adopted our little Kipper on Memorial Day weekend in 2018. He was only 8 weeks old at the time. We were so excited to adopt after the devastating loss of our beloved 13-year-old Siberian Husky.

Our "little" boy quickly grew, getting taller and gaining weight. He is certainly a typical rowdy Golden puppy. He loves "landscaping" and enjoys trimming and chewing on the roses, digging up the raspberries, digging holes and chewing on the tree and shrub branches.

Kipper also LOVES water. All summer long he would sleep with one ear in his water bowl. When not sleeping in the water bowl, he would happily splash all the water out of it all over the kitchen floor and will sometimes still drink from his bowl with one or both feet in it. We got him a wading pool for those hot summer days and he just loved playing in it.

He loves going for walks along the trails, neighborhood parks, or just walking around the neighborhood. He loves meeting the children and other dogs on our walks. He also loves playing in the yard with his MANY toys and chews. His favorite games are tug of war and chase. He also loves to fetch but instead of dropping the ball or toy at our feet, he likes us to chase him. Of all his toys and chewies, there is nothing more fun than

tearing up paper towels that he steals off the table or the kitchen counter.

Kipper enjoys getting his Bark-Box in which he receives two or three new toys, treats and a chew every month. He is now going to be 9 months old and 75 pounds at his last weigh-in. He had his first Christmas and Santa brought him new toys and chews. He has so far managed to destroy two of his Christmas toys (which were supposedly made for hard-playing, heavy chewing dogs), one of them in only a matter of minutes.

Beneath his rowdy puppy ways beats the heart of a Golden. He is truly my shadow and he likes to literally lie on my feet, just by them, or curl up on the couch with my husband. When we go for walks or up to the park, many people tell us how beautiful he is. We have to agree with them, he certainly is our beautiful little boy and we are so very blessed to have him in our lives!
Steve, Mary and Kipper Mathis



KIPPER

Hello GRRR!

We adopted Reggie (formerly Lucky) from GRRR in February, 2012. As you can see, he is still handsome, regal and for 14 (+/- a year or two?) doing very well! He has two canine and two feline sisters and brothers and spends most of his time in Colorado, following his humans around, but just finished an adventure in California at our new house and is always up for anything as long as he has us in sight. He is as goofy as ever and we are LUCKY to have him!

Hugs and kisses to all, thank you for your special work!

Judith Howard

REGGIE



CHICA AND CHACO

Dear GRRR:

We adopted Chica (called Delta back then) about a year and a half ago from a group of Goldendoodles that came from a South Dakota puppy mill operation that was shut down. She is adorable, loving and a great part of our home. We recently added Chaco (formerly Ralph) - a Pyrenees mix who was abandoned in Utah. He's a big goof and while I never thought I'd own such a large dog, he is doing well. Obviously, they have also bonded and play every day.

Ellen Dumm and Paul Flack

Hi GRRR:

Our little Loki is settling in well. We just love him and can't imagine how it was without him. His sisters on the other hand are still trying to show him the pack order...lol. I remind them that boys learn a little slower.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to give Loki his forever home.

Shirley Cicero

LILLY, LOKI, AND DIXIE



Recent Rescues



MOLLY AND MAGGIE

Dear GRRR:

For years and years, I had been thinking about getting a Golden Retriever so I applied. GRRR called and said they had a 10-year-old male that might work. We were so excited! We bundled up our current furballs and took the 250-mile journey to Arvada. We were told that the male might not get along with my other dogs. We were crushed but were told there might be another option: They had an 18-month-old puppy mill rescue.

Everybody went to the back yard in anticipation of meeting Lilly (I changed her name to Molly) and here came this very thin, very scared little red Golden. We were a little taken aback and she was literally scared to death of people, the air, any movement and anything else! She did, however, seem to like Maggie, our red border collie. Maggie poked her in the nose and the race was on! Around the yard they went and my other dogs got into the race also! We tried to catch Molly to get a better look and see how she reacted to us. THAT wasn't going to happen. We finally got a hold of her leash and sat in the yard letting her come up to us. She was so scared.

I think we got to pat her on the head maybe once or twice. What a rough life she must have

had. We were told honestly that we could have our work cut out for us with this one but couldn't bear missing out on giving this baby a good and loving home, especially since she took to our dogs so well. Molly cowered in the corner of the back seat on the drive back home. She didn't want to come out of the car, didn't want to walk to the house and definitely was too scared to go in. My husband and I just looked at each other. Oh boy... this was really going to be a challenge.

A year in short - Molly found a "safe spot" in the corner of our couch where we put her blanket and toy we brought from the rescue. She panicked with every noise, panicked when we tried to give her treats, panicked when we petted her, panicked about everything. She ran in circles non stop around the couch, ate cardboard boxes, and ate rocks but fortunately threw them up. We had to feed her on the couch by herself. If we had a hot day and turned on the ceiling fans, we thought she would go through the glass picture windows! To this day she occasionally still looks up in the air to see if anything is whirling.

So after a year in our home, Molly will come in the kitchen to eat with the others - but you still can't look at her or move. She lets us sit with her on the couch and we can cuddle her, and she lets us pet her. When everybody goes outside, Molly gets really excited and will now jump up on us with her front legs splayed out to the sides, and sometimes she misses putting her paws on our body and her chin hits our tummy! It's actually pretty cute. She loves having her tummy scratched when she's in that position. She makes a wonderful alarm clock — when she feels that we need to get up, she sits outside the door and barks three times. Then she waits a few seconds and barks again three times! She is coming along, and we love her to death!

Molly will probably be a project for a while but we can't be happier that we gave her a chance to be a "normal" dog and do normal dog things. She loves other animals, but people she doesn't know... not so much. She's never been aggressive at all towards people or animals. We've taken her to get pup cups from Dairy Queen but unless we feed her from our hand, which gets messy, she won't eat it - a dog not eating ice cream? But she's beautiful, we love her so much and she makes a wonderful family member. Sometimes she gives us a pretty good chuckle and we just shake our heads! She's our baby and we look forward to many, many years with her! Thank you GRRR for giving us the opportunity to enjoy her and spoil her big time!

Karen Miller and Jack Nakamura



SAMMY

Dear GRRR:

Our new friend Sammy (aka Critter) has truly blended into our everyday family life. He is gentle and loving, great with our grandchildren, well socialized in terms of dealing with other people and dogs at the dog park. I cannot say enough wonderful things to describe how happy we are with our wonderful adopted family member!

Tyler Gass

Hello GRRR!

Just wanted to share a story... We adopted Sam from GRRR in April, 2017 and noticed a comment on our adoption photo from Dave Loy saying he was glad Sam found a home.

Yesterday we met Dave in Texas so he could see Sam again! Dave had saved Sam from being shot by a farmer in Texas and got him up to Colorado and GRRR. We're glad he did!

Issac and Andrea

DAVE LOY REUNITED WITH SAM AND FRIENDS





OAKLEY

Dear GRRR:

It seems like a lifetime ago that Oakley stole our hearts and wiggled his way into our life. We had been watching for the 9th flight of Turkey dogs to arrive. When they did, they were adopted instantly, it seems. Well... all except one. Little Oakley was a sick Golden Angel trying to get better.

The folks at GRRR and their vet, Dr. Carpenter, were testing and fixing and working with Oakley but it still took a couple of months for him to get the nod to find a new home. GRRR let us foster Oakley, filling our hopes of getting him to "normal" again. When we heard that, it was a very special day in our life. We took Oakley home.

The first 60 days of foster care were an eye opener. Oakley would not play, he walked very slowly, he did not swim or fetch or romp as Golden Retrievers are so known to do. He was listless and we could tell he was not sure of his surroundings or us. His blood albumin level was near zero, as was his vitamin B12 level. That, mixed with a few other blood issues, became our target to fix. Then he came down with a bad case of whipworm, rare in dogs but not in horses. Thanks to Murdoch's, we found the remedy and after a couple of tries,

Oakley won that battle. He was starting to gain weight and his coat was looking much fuller. That was when we decided to fully adopt Oakley and make a family of two into three.

Then came the long story that included ultrasound tests, colonoscopy exams and a host of other uncomfortable insults to his body to get to the root of the albumin/ B12 absorption problem. The heroes at Aspen Meadow Veterinary Specialists figured out that he had a very drug-resistant bacterial infection in his intestines. But happily, not that resistant. A month of a high dose antibacterial regimen, and Oakley was a new man. His albumin is in range, his B12 is in range (though we still give him his shots), his coat is full and luxurious, and he is finally healthy. He still walks slowly, but is really healthy.

After six months of being with us, Oakley has come out of his shell. He romps with other dogs and greets everyone he sees, even if he has to wait for them to get out of their cars. We have learned that Oakley never had a "puppyhood." He is finding that part of his life now. Yep, he gets into everything under four feet in the pantry, brings us gifts like a packet of batteries or old plastic food containers from the recycle bin, and has acquired a stash of toys that may require us to build an addition. When we come home, Oakley is there with a minimum of two toys in his mouth to greet us. On weekends when we sleep in, he brings a mouthful up the stairs and barter the toys for pets and belly rubs. Hard to believe at one point we were not sure he was going to make it.

Oakley is our fourth Golden and second rescue. Thanks to GRRR we have learned the value and love of giving these angels forever homes. He will not be our last. Thanks to the "Golden Angel" program, we and Oakley have been given a chance to feel all the love in the world. And heck, he's only 5! We can't wait to enjoy all the years to come.

Clark Myers

BROWN EYES

You are home with us now after a life we can't guess.

Two squares, a warm bed and making a mess.

You seem happy and content and full of life's joy.

From morning at the door to your last evening toy.

In your beautiful brown eyes we know what life can mean.

But it breaks my heart to imagine what those eyes have seen.

You wandered the streets lonely, afraid, and in pain,
looking for night's shelter from the cold blowing rain.

From cages to dirt lots, to those collars too tight,
you fought for your life with all your little might.

Knowing hunger, sickness and the worst life can give
you kept up your hope, for a better place to live.

From another distant land to our world you came,
with a little puppy passport and no real name.

As a Golden Angel one day in a GRRR news letter
You decided to come home with us, soon to get better.

This is your new home now and forever it will be.

Our family is complete now that two have become three.

The scars on your heart like the one on your face
will soon fade away in your new loving place.

On every special day we know what our love should mean.

To erase all the bad memories that those brown eyes have seen.

Your joy lights our life with every new day.

Bless you little Oakley, now go out and play.

—Daddy

Dear GRRR:

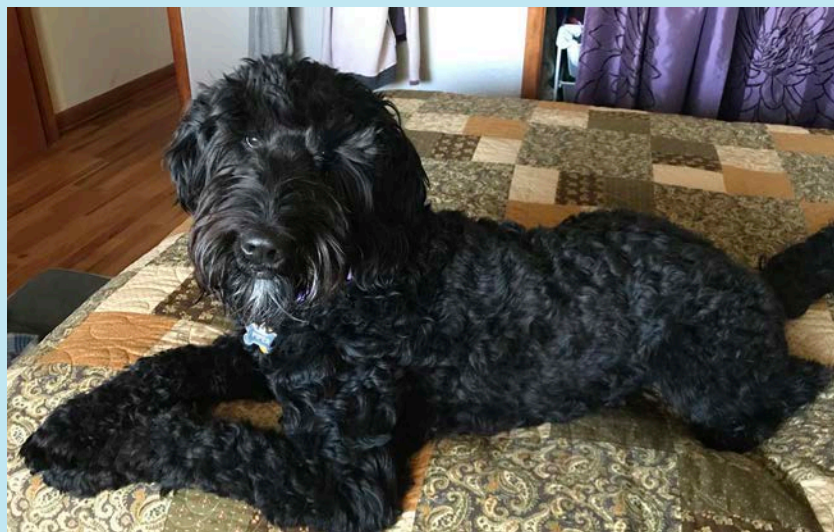
We were ready to open our hearts to the right pup and it seems fate brought us Piper. We adopted Piper (formerly Raven) through you on October 9th. Since then we have fallen head over heels with our sweet girl. We ask ourselves daily how we got so lucky to have found her. She is the most loving, smart, fun, and silly dog who brightens our days so much.

Piper was meant to be a part of our family, and her personality has come out more and more each day that we spend with her. She is currently enrolled in a local doggy obedience school where we're probably learning more than she is, but she shows us every week how smart she is learning the new commands. She is happy to comply for plenty of chin scratches, belly rubs, and, of course, TREATS.

We are excited to have her be a part of our family and take her on many adventures. We took her on her first snow hike in the mountains, and she has weekly visits to our nearby dog park where she loves making friends, both human and canine. She can't get enough!

Thanks again for bringing her into our lives.

Brad and Jacqueline Abrams



PIPER

Hi. My name is Luna. I used to live in a place called Texas with my brother Ozzie (now Samson). We lived with very mean people. They made me have puppies. The mean people didn't want us anymore, so they took us to a shelter. Then a man drove us to a place called Colorado. Ozzie and I were frightened. We didn't know what this Colorado would be. We were SO scared...

We arrived in Colorado and they took us to a place they called GRRR. Ozzie met a nice lady right after he got there, and he went to live with his new mommy, Lori. She calls him Samson now, because she said someone took his strength away. I had to stay at this GRRR longer. I was in a kennel there without my brother, and very lonely for a long time because people go to GRRR to get a Golden Retriever. I didn't know what that meant. I am a pretty dog too, but I was different than the others.

One day, a man named Santa Claus was visiting GRRR. A lot of people and dogs came to GRRR that day to have their pictures taken with Santa. Many people came in to visit all of us in the kennels. That's when I met my new mom, Robin. Her boyfriend, Pete, came over to pet me. He liked how I leaned into his hand to get extra love, so he called Robin over to meet me. She reached in to pet me and she talked to me. She was very nice to me. I looked at her hard, trying to tell her if she took me home, I would be a good dog.

The next day, Robin and Pete came back. I was trying my best to be a sweet good dog. After a little while, they put a leash on me and took me for a ride in the car! I went home that day with my new family, to my new forever home! When we got to this new home, I was scared. The last time I had a home, the people were mean to me. Robin tried really hard to get me to eat and to go into the rooms with the carpet and the one where the food smelled really good... but I couldn't... I was too scared. I lay by the door, too terrified to move. Robin kept talking to me and trying to get me to go to her, but I couldn't. Then Robin told me she wanted me to meet her grandson. I did not know what this was. She told me he was 4 years old. Hey, I was 2! I liked that I was close in age to this new person. Then I saw him... he was small and gentle, and I felt like I didn't need to be afraid of him. He told me his name, and that he was my boy now, and he would be my best friend.

The little boy was so kind and gentle. He called me Luna Girl. I wanted to be his friend... so I put my head on his lap. He scratched my head and ears until I fell asleep. He wasn't scary to me... so I trusted him. I didn't want anyone to touch my collar because the Texas people who would grab my collar and were mean to me. My new boy was gentle when he held my collar to put my leash on. This small boy became my new best friend.

I have 2 brothers now, Jake, a 14-year-old Golden and Wilson, a 13-year-old Pug. Jake taught me how to play a fun game called fetch with a tennis ball! I never knew how to play before and I never had any toys before. I am learning how to play with my new family. My mommy and my brother Sammy's mommy became friends. Sometimes I get to go visit Sammy and play with him. We run and play hard when we see each other.

I was scared for a long time but eventually, I learned that my new mommy was super nice and she would never be mean to me. I learned that she will feed me 2 meals a day, so I don't have to steal food from the trash can or the counters any more. She gives me lots of love and scratches. We have a LOT of tennis balls. We go for walks and lots of car rides. I like that. We go to fun places where I play with other dogs. It took me a long time, but I am not scared any more. I know that no one will hurt me. I learned a lot of things with my new family, but the most important thing I learned is that when someone says "Who's a good dog?" that means ME! I am a good dog!

Luna



LUNA

How Samson Got his Strength Back

On Oct. 27, 2017, I brought home a terrified, shy, somewhat broken boy named Ozzie. I'd lost my Golden, Rosie, three months prior, and the house was a little too quiet and frankly, way too clean (gotta love that fur). He and his sister, Luna, were transported from Texas and it was very obvious their first two years had been rough. I decided to help erase his past and replace the terror he felt with love and kindness.

I named him Samson because someone had taken away his strength — but I was determined to give it back. It's now been 13 months and he has become a far calmer, albeit still shy, happy boy.

He's enjoyed a lot of new experiences during this time and has overcome his intense fear of trash cans (walking him on trash day was quite a challenge), riding in the car and flowers. Yes, this past spring, when I was walking him, as the tulips bloomed, he'd bark, growl and draw away from them. It was apparent he'd never before seen flowers during his young life. We have a way to go with the inflatable holiday decorations that have sprung up on neighbors' lawns.

He still hasn't set foot in my basement (I have a strong feeling his former owner(s) confined him to theirs) and he still gets somewhat nervous around new people, especially kids. We need to work on the latter since I'm going to be a grandma this spring. I work at both home and in an office. On the days I'm in the office, I have two wonderful Rover people who walk him. Sometimes I swear he likes them better than me! He's even stayed at one of their homes when I've traveled.

We've gone on countless hikes in all kinds of weather. A natural "outdoorsman," these hikes have further built his confidence, helping him overcome his fear of bridges (although he still nervously runs across) and forging streams. He hasn't been swimming yet which is unusual; after all, he is mostly flat coat retriever, with Lab, Border Collie and German Shepherd, according to the DNA test I bought. But he does like to wade. Perhaps next summer he'll take the plunge. Like most furry creatures, he absolutely loves playing in the snow.

He's become quite spoiled due to his daily evening home-made "Frosty Paw" treats and my early invitation for him to lie on the couch (kind of wish I hadn't; it's tan micro suede and the black fur does not blend well).

Most of all, he's become a confident, happy, silly boy who is loved by family and friends alike. His sister, Luna's mom, and I have stayed connected and they've had several play dates. It's a mystery to us whether or not they remember each other; I like to think they do and they communicate how happy they are in their own doggy sibling language. As I watch them run around and play, I can almost "hear" them say, "Isn't life great in Colorado?"

What both Robin, Luna's mom, and I do know is their fortunes changed vastly for the better the day they were loaded into a van in Texas and brought to GRRR. I will always be grateful that Samson made that long journey from somewhere in Texas, and into my heart. I think he is too.

Lori Kadin-Benson

SAMSON





Save the Date

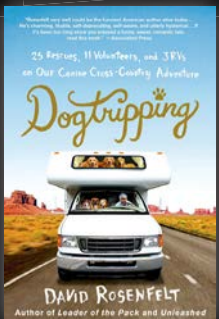
Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

9th Annual Gala

Saturday, June 15, 2019 | Tivoli Denver

Picture This

A look forward to the many happenings with GRRR



Special Guest – Author David Rosenfelt

- Special VIP cocktail event ticket to meet David (4:30-5:30pm) and get a personally signed book
- Bid on personally autographed books

Open Bar • Spirits Tasting Station (5:30 to 6:30 pm)

Table Seating • Great Appetizers + Dinner • Silent Auction • Live Auction



As we enter 2019, we have officially begun our staff transition. Francie Rakiec (pronounced Rock-Edge) is our new Development Director, and Kevin Shipley has begun reducing his hours as Executive Director while mentoring Francie. As you would expect, there isn't a clean line between these two positions, and along with planned training, Francie is jumping in to help where needed.

Is this a simple task for all involved? Of course not. But as I've told many of you, it's an exciting challenge to watch dedicated people grow and expand their lives. It is also an opportunity for GRRR to have the best possible talent running the organization. I will be personally involved every step of the way, and as such, ask you to please reach out to me or to Kevin with any questions.

And as you've read, we are incredibly busy with record numbers of dogs and puppies. Thanks to Mary Kenton and all the passionate volunteers pitching in to help, all the dogs are getting excellent care as they prepare to find their forever homes. During these turbulent economic times, I assure you we are budgeting conservatively and continuing to broaden our fundraising efforts to assure our long-term sustainability.

So along with the changes, I can promise you that the one thing that is not changing is our mission. In 2019 we will stay the course, as usual assuring that we help every Golden Retriever in need that crosses our path. To learn more about our activities and plans, we hope you'll attend our **2019 Annual Meeting**. It will be held back at our original location: **Sunday March 3, 2019, 1-3 p.m.: The Old Arvada Library, 7525 W. 57th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002** 🌸

Phoebe's Place Update

by Kevin Shipley

2018 – a “Fine” year for Golden Retrievers at GRRR

They say that about wines (“a fine wine”), they even say it about art (“fine art”), so why not dogs?

Last year (2018) saw a big increase in the number of Goldens coming to GRRR. After several years of bouncing between 220 and 260 dogs coming in per year, 2018 saw that number increase to over 300. So why is that a fine year? Because they found their way here, to GRRR. Ultimately, Goldens find their way to a better life in super loving homes. FYI, we love getting those updates with photographs of happy adopted GRRR dogs. It assures us that we are helping to make wonderful matches between person and dog. Even our most fearful little sweeties find healing here at Phoebe's Place as they, maybe for the first time, learn how to be a dog.

Why the increase in incoming dogs in 2018? Well, much had to do with an increase in our commercial breeder dog rescue effort and working in concert with other, out of state Golden rescues as well as with our friends at National Mill Dog Rescue (see article below). We also had an increase in owner surrendered Goldens in the second half of the year. Owner surrendered Goldens remain most of our total incoming pooches, but breeder/mill rescues continue to increase.

As the legislative part of the animal care world continues to tighten up on the dog selling world, our role at GRRR is to continue to push consumer education and help people make solid, informed decisions when looking for a new furry family member, whether you adopt from GRRR or not. Research is always critical. Always at the forefront of our minds is making the dog happy. If the dog is happy, the human will be happy. So a special thank you to all who support GRRR, whether volunteer, financial supporter or as part of a volunteer work crew. Thank you for enabling us to rescue these loving dogs, giving them health and a big fluffy bed to curl up on.

Here's to a fur filled 2019. 🌸

Mill Dogs: Rescuing Dogs from a Certain Fate

by Kevin Shipley

I am thrilled to report that, in 2018, we rescued 89 sweet dogs from commercial breeders and hoarding situations. There are a few very nice folks in the breeding world who call us when they want to surrender an aging-out female or male Golden. Whether we agree or disagree with the current business model or state law, we appreciate that they care enough to look for a home for these vulnerable dogs.

On the other hand, we also take in many more Goldens from mill dog closures, hoarders and other less than caring facilities. These dogs do face a terrible fate, like you read about with our sweet boy Clyde (in our August 2018 newsletter). We do see many dogs surrendered that were originally purchased online or from an inadequate breeder. Many of those dogs have genetic defects as a result of poor breeding and/or despite one of the parents having a genetic defect that is passed on to the puppies. This creates so much sadness for the adopter.

Commercial message: You need to minimize the opportunity to be taken advantage of. In general, Craigslist and other online sources are not the place to go for your new family member. Research is always critical. See the location where your puppy was raised, meet the puppy mom and dad, talk to the breeder, and gauge the willingness of the breeder to provide health certificates and provide health guarantees.

On the flip side, so many dogs arrive at GRRR so scarred by their previous life that we only hope they can recover. Little by little as they hang out with the other dogs, they progress to being available for our dog walking VIPs to socialize them, to being ready, some at age 7, for their first real home. It is amazing, and I can only imagine what joy a dog may feel. No, I don't really know, but I can certainly see joy in how they carry themselves, how they wag their tail and how they play with a smile on their face.

We continue to be active in evaluating all rescuing activities in and out of the USA, including Operation Turkey Dog, but there are so many dogs needing help and so many breeding operations that should stop breeding dogs that, in addition to rescue, our focus is on consumer education and making sure you find the perfect pooch. With 4,300 adoption applications each year, our dogs continue to get “the pick of the litter.” 🌸

CANDACE & PUPPIES





FRANCIE AND CASEY

Hi everyone! I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Francie Rakiec (pronounced Rock Edge).

For the past 18 years I have worked as a criminal defense investigator for both the state and federal public defender offices. It was something I truly enjoyed for many years. However, the reality of that job is that you begin to always see darkness, and this took a toll on me. I realized my legal career was no longer my passion. As luck (or fate) would have it, a wonderful opportunity presented itself at GRRR, and with the support of my amazing husband, Wade, I was able to accept the position of Development Director.

Wade and I have become quite involved with GRRR during the past few years. We started out as VIP walkers and continue to do that. We then became involved with some fostering, as well as transporting dogs from South Dakota and some from Missouri auctions, as well as locally. We have also attended and participated in most of the events GRRR has hosted, including almost all the Turkey Dog arrivals. In January 2018, I also became a member of GRRR's board.

Overall, I feel I have a good understanding of the workings of GRRR. I have already learned so much during the time I have spent with Mary Kenton and Kevin Shipley as well as others affiliated with GRRR.

However, I do realize there is so much more to learn. I look forward to this opportunity and to being able to tap into the vast resources that GRRR has available. I am not looking to reinvent the wheel because I think GRRR is an amazing organization, but I am looking to come up with new ideas and expand on some of the things that have already been done. I am honored to

have been selected as the Development Director and hope to be able to build on the GRRR-ness that is GRRR. I look forward to helping make 2019 the best year yet. Thank you to everyone for bringing me out of the darkness.

If any of you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com, or you can always stop in to the hut at Phoebe's Place during the week to chat. My hours for the first quarter are 9 am to 2 pm Monday-Thursday. 🌸

The Nose Knows

by Cathy Jones

A dog's nose performs two functions – respiration and smell. OK, that's the simple answer. But there is oh-so-much more to appreciate about a dog's nose. Let's take a look... or perhaps take a sniff. While most of the air taken in by a dog is used for respiration, about 12 percent is strictly analyzed by the animal for smell. Dogs rely on that sense of smell as their primary source of knowledge of their surroundings. Canines have about 50 times as many olfactory receptors as humans, and the portion of the brain devoted to analyzing smells is much, much greater, proportionately, than in humans.

Have you ever noticed the slit on each side of your dog's nose? It is through those slits that a dog exhales. By exhaling in this way, the dog does not dilute or interfere with the air he is inhaling and diagnosing for its scent content. A dog can also use each nostril separately, thereby doing twice as much detective work to determine the source or content of what he is smelling. A healthy dog, with a cold and moist nose, has the advantage in this task. Glands are activated that assist. This dog will also have a good scent memory, recognizing other canines and individuals he has met before – even a long time before.

Human knowledge has grown greatly over the years of how a dog's nose works and what it is capable of doing. Just think of the application of this knowledge. There are drug-sniffing dogs at the airport or out on the streets with law enforcement handlers. Service dogs can be thoroughly trained to detect a sensory change in their owner and then to intervene.

And, on a more inclusive and fun level, there is a canine program called Nose Work. It was developed more than 10 years ago to involve both the dog and his owner in a sport utilizing the dog's keen sense of smell. It is designed for enjoyment, canine mental exercise and relationship building. Most dog/human teams can participate. You can check it out at www.k9nosework.com.

Now that we have a bit more understanding of our dog's nose and what it "knows," I'm sure we will take more notice of just what our buddy is doing when he lifts, or lowers, his head and takes in and processes all those wonderful scents! 🌸



Golden Angel: Capone

by Jeannie Miller and Mary Kenton

Hello, my name is Capone. I know that sounds like I am a tough customer, but I am really just a sweet, playful, innocent boy that has had some very hard knocks in my short life. I am only a little over three years old and, let me tell you, I have seen a lot! I am at GRRR now, where I am happy and feeling loved while I wait for that special someone to give me a chance to be their best friend. In case it might be you, I want to tell you all about myself and how I came to be here.



CAPONE

We had a busy home. I was learning so much about how to be a good boy. My Mom even took me to classes and I learned so many things! I learned how to walk on a leash without pulling. And did you know that it is a good thing to come to your people right when they call you? I was the star pupil pup in the class! I was so happy. I loved my brother, Ofie, and life couldn't have been better. My family gave me so much love. They called me Caponey Baloney Macaroni. I don't know what that means but I really liked the sound of it!

One day last summer when all the humans were gone, Ofie and I went outside...and the gate was open. We thought it would be fun to go on an adventure. We took off sniffing and running together. We just kept going. We were running along and all of a sudden I felt a huge thud. I yelped and then everything went dark (*Note: Capone was hit by a car. The man who hit Capone called his owner from the contact info on his tag and said that Capone was still breathing but not moving. He said the other dog was there and would not leave Capone's side.*)

I couldn't move but I could hear and smell, and I knew Ofie was there. Did Ofie do this to me or was it someone else? I was taken to the hospital where I could hear that my Mom was there. She was crying and patting me to tell me it was going to be okay. I was in the hospital for eight days. It took many weeks and lots of work including physical therapy and water therapy, but after a while I was able to walk, run and play again.

Everything was good again except that I didn't feel the same and I am not sure why. I still loved everyone but when Ofie came near me, I got scared that the big thud could happen again, so I growled and lunged at him to tell him to stay away. My family kept us separated but my Mom realized that keeping us separate forever wasn't going to work, especially with two young kids who can forget to close doors and gates. With tears in her eyes, she called GRRR to see if they could help me. Mary Kenton said "of course" and quickly got to work to arrange transport for me from Idaho.

While we were waiting, one of the kids let Ofie and me be together accidentally. I growled and lunged at Ofie and this time, Ofie fought back. We had a pretty bad tangle-up and my head and face had a lot of cuts. My mouth was bleeding badly. I had to go back to the hospital again and have surgery. I am a strong boy, so I recovered quickly. As soon as I was released, a very wonderful and gentle man named Carl Kyle took me for an airplane ride in his Mooney plane! I was not even scared. I stayed overnight with Carl and his two Golden Retrievers. They were very nice to me and I did not feel scared that they would hurt me so no growling!

The next day I came to GRRR and met Mary, the volunteers and all the other dogs. Wow! I get to have wonderful people take me outside for walks and to play in the big yards. At night, Mary lets us all run around together. What a hoot! I feel safe again. I keep my eye on other dogs, but I don't feel that strange feeling that I had before so much now. I had to see a new kind of doctor called a neurologist when I got to GRRR to see what kind of damage my head and spine had received from my big thud. I had a lot of tests but I didn't have to stay there – whew! I guess I will never go back to exactly how I was before my accident, but I feel good and I think I will be OK.

I dearly love to play with my toys, and I love to cuddle and get any attention you want to give me! Mary says I am too big to be a lap dog, but I keep trying! I am looking for a very special home with special people who can understand what I have been through and give me a chance to be part of a loving family again. Maybe I could be the only dog? If you would give me a chance, I promise I will make you smile, I will love you and I will try to be the best boy I can.

I also want to say 'thank you' to everyone who has so generously donated to the Golden Angel Fund. GRRR is able to help dogs like me because they can get us the help from doctors that we need. Please consider the Golden Angel Fund in your 2019 charitable plans so that other special needs dogs can find their way to the loving arms of GRRR and a forever home. 🌸

GOLDEN ANGEL: NAOMI

by Jeannie Miller

It was October in Tennessee, home of country music, whiskey, barbeque and the Great Smokey Mountains. The landscape was spectacular with dense vegetation, a myriad of rivers and streams, rolling hills and mountain valleys. Fall foliage here rivals the more famous northeast with intense red, orange and yellow. The air was cool and the sun was shining as Scott from Colorado set out for his hunting trip. As he was making his way carefully through the trees and brush, he saw a couple of flashes of red in the clearing. He crouched down to get a closer look.

Months later, what he saw still haunts him. Slinking through the woods were two dark red dogs. From his vantage point, Scott could not tell what breed they were. They were medium in size and had their heads down as they traveled together. He wondered what they were doing out in the woods and where their home might be.

Scott is a dog lover and something about these two got to him immediately, so he started to follow them. Quickly the dogs became aware that Scott was near and they both stopped to look at him. It was then that he could see them more clearly. He gasped out loud when he got a good look at the condition they were in. They were extremely emaciated. Even though he was still some distance away, he could see all their ribs, and he could see that their coats were filthy and matted.

Scott began to talk to the dogs in a soft voice as he slowly walked toward them. They did not run but looked at him cautiously as if to say, "We want to be sure you are not going to hurt us." When Scott got close enough, he laid down his rifle and knelt while continuing to talk softly. The dogs stayed put. He crept a little closer and said, "come here, sweeties." One of the dogs ventured forward and sniffed his hand. Scott gently scratched its chest. Quickly, the other dog also came to Scott and soon he was able to put his hands gently on both of them. They were wagging their tails and enjoying his touch. "Where do you two belong?"

Now that he could get a good look at them, he could see that they were purebred Golden Retrievers and that they were both girls. They looked fairly young and had what could be beautiful dark red coats if they weren't so filthy. They were covered in fleas and, on closer inspection, Scott also saw many ticks burrowed into their skin. "Poor babies" he said as he stood. "Someone is not taking care of you beautiful girls." He took a sandwich out of his pack and split it in two. The girls wolfed it down. Now that he had fed them, he didn't have too much trouble getting them to follow him as he set off to find their owner.

As he was walking, he thought "maybe I don't want to find the person who would treat dogs like this, or I am not sure what I would do with my rifle." After a short distance, he could see a house in the woods. Scott knocked on the door. A man answered and Scott asked if he knew where the dogs belonged. The man said "Oh yes. They come from just down the road. They were abandoned by the guy that lived there. He left a few weeks ago and just left them chained up in the yard with no food or water. I knew they would die if I left them there, so I brought them some of my dog's food and I let them loose. I guess they have been fending for themselves since then."

Scott couldn't believe that these beautiful dogs had been left to die. "Well, if you have no objection, I am going to take them with me," he said. The man didn't object and said he was glad because he couldn't afford to take care of them. Scott wasn't sure what to do next. The man agreed to keep the girls for a couple of hours while Scott made some arrangements. He bought dog food and dishes, canceled his flight home to Colorado, and rented a truck. Then he headed back to get the girls. He decided to camp out with them before starting the journey home. The dogs were glad to see him and definitely enjoyed a full meal of fresh dog food. Scott curled up to sleep on the ground and the dogs stayed near all night.

The next morning, they set off for the long drive back to Colorado. Upon arrival home, Scott immediately bathed the girls with flea and tick shampoo and then took them to his veterinarian, Dr. Susan Williams, who examined the dogs and did routine tests. She prescribed Simparica to clear up the fleas and ticks, and Doxycycline for erlichia resulting from tick bites. When the tests came back, Naomi had tested positive for heartworm. Dr. Williams explained to Scott that Naomi would certainly have died a painful death if he hadn't rescued her.

Naomi also was displaying symptoms of hip dysplasia and would require surgery and a long recovery. Scott was not sure what to do with the dogs because he is very busy with his business and travels a great deal. He decided to relinquish the girls to Dr. Williams, who said she knew of a place that would take great care of them. Dr. Williams has worked with GRRR in the past and she called Mary Kenton right away. Mary readily agreed to take the girls in at GRRR to get them healthy and Naomi ready for her two required procedures.

The girls were brought to Phoebe's Place. Mary couldn't believe how sweet they were and how beautiful. But so skinny! They looked very much alike, but one was clearly older than the other. Mary assumed they were mother and daughter and guessed that they were about 6 and 4 years old. She decided to name them Naomi and Wynonna after the famous mother/daughter country music stars, the Judds, who, though they hailed from Kentucky and not Tennessee, also had beautiful red hair and loved each other dearly. Naomi and Wynonna settled into life at Phoebe's Place where they began to regain their healthy weight and loved the attention from the wonderful VIP dog walking team. Naomi still has to undergo the lengthy and painful heartworm treatment as well as expensive hip surgery once she is through the heartworm treatment. Fortunately, Wynonna is in good health, all things considered.

Scott is truly a good Samaritan who went above and beyond to rescue these girls! Thank you so much Scott – you will always be their hero! Naomi and Wynonna have been adopted by a loving family who, along with GRRR and the Angel Fund, will see Naomi through her health issues. Thanks to the Golden Angel Fund and your wonderful generosity, we are able to take in dogs like Naomi and Wynonna and help them to recover so they can live a happy life with a new family. We hope you will continue your generosity in 2019! 🌸



NAOMI and WYNONNA

Golden Angel Updates



GRACE, by Tony Caliendo

Grace is doing really well. She is coming out of her shell, and has made significant advances towards being friendly to all people. She is shy, but with a quick sniff of the hand she is underneath that same hand, getting petted. She's really gotten so much friendlier, and much happier! Her tail is wagging regularly!

She completed the hard phases of the heartworm treatment without a hiccup. She is on monthly preventative now, and will stay so for the near future. She is getting stronger and going for longer walks. She really looks forward to getting out and about in the neighborhood. She's lost some weight and firmed up a bit - check out that profile picture!

She is such a sweet girl, and has brought joy into our household. She loves to snuggle, and enjoys hugs. She's really easy to care for, and is happy just to be close, but not under foot. She's the perfect houseguest! 🌸

GRACE

MOLLY

Molly has been adopted and is doing great after her leg was amputated, but now her mom is having knee replacement surgery so we'll put in her update in the May issue. 🌸

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!

In Memory

DECKER

I've heard that there is only one bad day when you own a dog. Our bad day came Thursday, December 6th. The seizures were just too big and too frequent, all the medicine we tried could not make Decker comfortable or make the seizures stop. We think he was about 14-1/2.

Decker showed us so much love and was the best dog ever. We picked him up at GRRR in August 2015, he was about 11. My husband would often joke and say, "you know, we met online" about how he just fell in love with Deck's profile picture on the GRRR web site. When we met him in person, it was all over. So sweet and gentle.

Decker spread his love to all he came in contact with. His sweet sugar face and heart of gold would always work it's way around the dog park, spreading smiles as he waddled his way around the crowd. Decker is our 5th GRRR Golden that we have had to help make the journey across the rainbow bridge. It is so hard, but we like to think each dog is so selfless and in their giving fashion, is making room for another GRRR dog that needs a loving home. We are so lucky and thankful for Decker and that he shared his love with us.

Laura and Steve Zlogar



DECKER

Donations in In Memory or in Honor

- Anonymous in honor of John Briddon
- Anonymous in honor of Jones family
- Anonymous in memory of Lily Frick
- Anonymous in honor of Rhonda Kent
- Anonymous in memory of Mango
- Anonymous in honor of Suzanne & Howard Noble
- Anonymous in honor of Barbara Kreisman
- WF & MJ Archambault in honor of Russ & Cathy Jones
- Gail Bartz in memory of Decker, beloved golden of Steve and Laura Zloger
- Teresa & Mark Beck in memory of Chloe
- J.P. Bixby in honor of James & Patricia Timmerwilke
- Robert Booty in honor of James & Patricia Timmerwilke
- Amy & Rich Burdine in honor of Roxanne & Ellen Sabin
- Tracey & Jerry Chevalier in memory of Abby Chevalier
- Margaret Clayton in honor of Mary Kenton
- Deanna Delucero in honor of Archie & Kurt
- Barbara Des Marais in honor of Mary Kenton
- Dorothy Dexter in honor of Ester Quillici
- Barbara Elliot in honor of Russ & Cathy Jones
- Roy & Leslie Fernandez in memory of Golden Greta, loved by Beth Siegler
- Robert Forino in honor of Christine & Jeff Atchison
- Dawn Garner in honor of Linda Garner
- Laurie & Linda Garner in memory of Jessie & Muffin Garner
- Martha Groebe in honor of Lindsay & Dave Dodge
- Diane & Dan Hill in honor of Ace & Tucker
- Judith Howard and Greg Bowes in memory of Charlie Bowes
- Sally Hutton in memory of Bernie
- Owhen Jorgenson in honor of Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgenson
- Rachael Knazier in honor of Sam Knazier
- Julia Lee in honor of Sarah Peel
- Brian & Renai Lowry in honor of Margo Stewart and in memory of Steve Stewart
- JoAnne and Joe Masi celebrated their 50th anniversary and asked guests to donate to GRRR in their (and Golden girl Belle's) honor.
- Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly Matras
- Jennifer McCarthy in memory of Jeanne Scholl
- Anne Meyn in honor of Nancy & Carl Hane
- Penelope Nelson in honor of Shannon & David Jennings
- Colleen Johnson Nord in memory of her husband, Arne
- Lorie Obernauer and David Roecker in honor of Phil Strain
- Pandora John Properties in honor of Pete & Nancy Lynch
- Barry & Kathryn Pleshek in memory of Arne Nord
- Lanny Proffer in memory of Lexie
- Beth Rauh and Lisa Campbell in memory of Alison Kadans' Golden, Finnie
- Henry R Reeve in memory of Mildred Reeve
- Kristin Russo in honor of Jean Miller
- Linda Sand in memory of Beckett, "beloved Golden Retriever of my heart"
- Nancy Schroeder Grant in honor of Steve Schmidt, Mary Kenton, and Roberta Miller
- Catherine Schwartz in honor of Mulligan
- Valerie & Ed Schwolow, in honor of Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgenson
- Kathleen Secor in honor of Kate Secor
- Lyn & Michael Shafer in memory of Allan Frank
- Lyn & Michael Shafer in honor of Margot Frank
- Scharp Family Foundation in memory of Cody, beloved Golden
- Edith Smith in honor of Barbara and Bob Crook
- Stacy Springston in memory of Urbo's beloved Benson
- Jessica Story in memory of Budward Gorrie, faithful boy to Chris
- Nancy Wassell in memory of Ben Wassell
- Shirley Williams in memory of Riley
- Lynn & Scott Smith in honor of Sheriff & Starr
- Christine & Chris Steeger in memory of Coot Steeger
- Ken Woods in honor of Maya Woods
- Joan Wright in memory of Luke Brittingham

FINNIE KADANS



Naming Tributes



SONNY — by Randy Touslee. "Our Beloved Sonny is now free from his pain and physical ailments. He came into our lives at the age of six when his owner had to find a new home for his best friend that he had raised from birth. After a very tough period of adjustment to his new surroundings and humans, we all reached a mutual understanding of love and commitment to each other. It has been a wonderful 8 plus years living with this devoted dog. Everyone who owns and loves a pet has to make this most difficult decision at some point, as it is the contract we have with these incredible creatures with whom we have evolved. They give us their all in exchange for our care, respect and understanding. Sonny had a strong heart and incredible spirit to the end, but at 14+ years his body simply couldn't keep up, Good-bye dear friend. We will always treasure what you added to our lives."

BREWER — by Susie and Ray Sibley. "We would like a naming tribute in honor of our dog "Brewer" who we lost this summer. We got our first Golden in 1989 and were hooked! He was Golden #5 for us, much loved and missed. Thank You."

SONNY

BREWER



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>.

2019 EVENTS

February 3 - Goldens in Golden event, downtown Golden

March 3 - Annual membership meeting, 1-3 p.m: The Old Arvada Library, 7525 W. 57th Avenue, Arvada, CO 80002

May 19 - Spring Fling at Phoebe's Place

June 15 - Gala, Tivoli Event Center

July 5-7 - Cherry Creek Arts Festival

July 27 - Buffalo Bill Days Parade, downtown Golden

Sept 7 - Reunion Picnic at the Boulder Reservoir

Oct 20 - Halloween Party at Phoebe's Place

Nov 26 - Colorado Gives Day Rally on the steps of the Capitol Building

Dec 3 - Colorado Gives Day

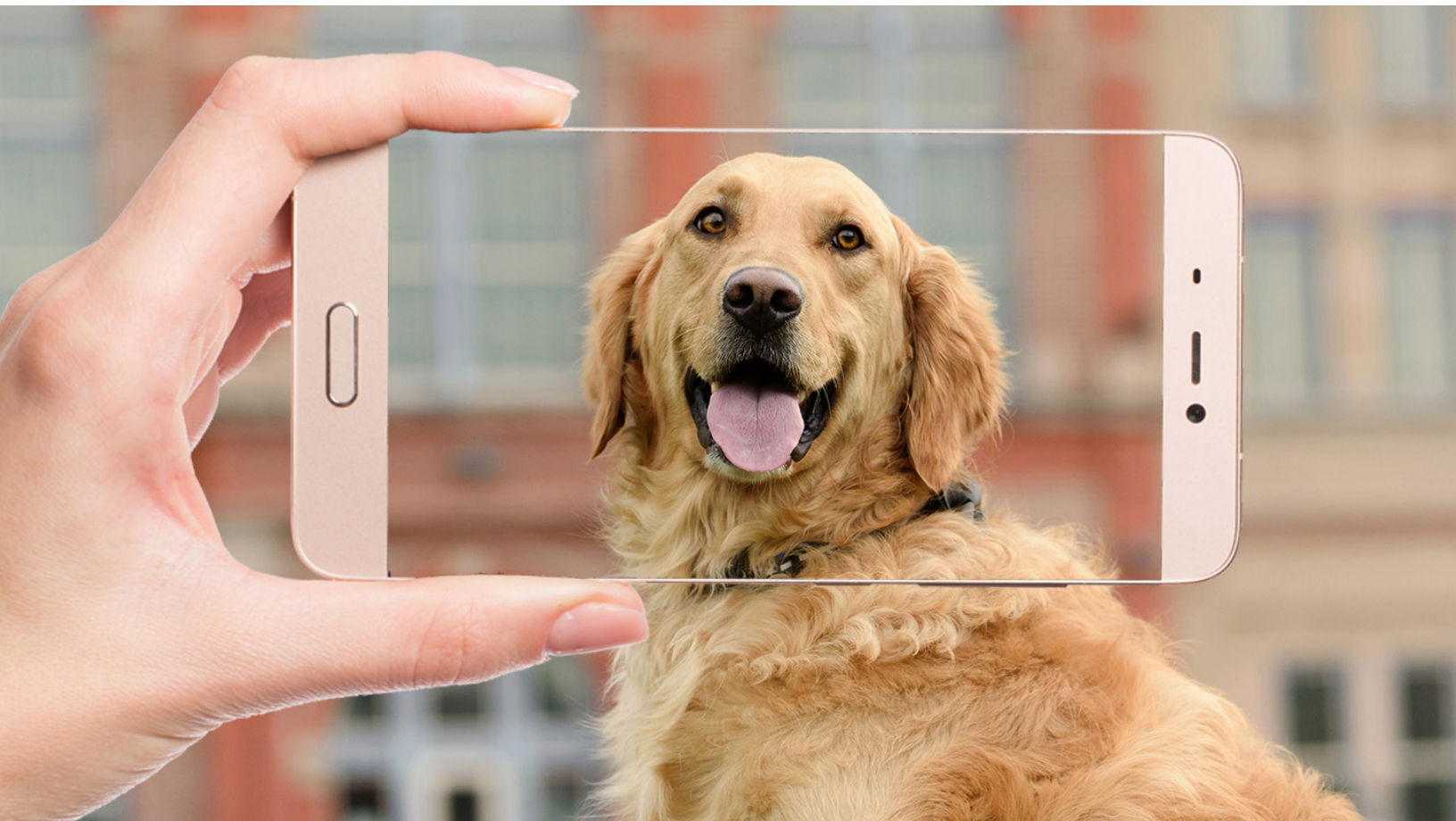
Dec 7-8 -Jackalope Artisan Market, McNichols Building, downtown Denver

Dec 15 - Volunteer Holiday Party



2020 Calendar Photo Contest

Yes we will be doing another photo contest for the 2020 calendar so start snapping! We'll open the contest in May and deadline will be in mid-July. One thing to remember is that we need high resolution **HORIZONTAL** photos, so please turn your phone or camera 90 degrees!



Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies
15350 W. 72nd Avenue
Arvada, CO 80007

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www.goldenrescue.com

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GRRR's Wish List on Amazon

**If you'd like to send a little something GRRR's way next time you order from Amazon...check out our Wish List!
Thank You!**

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/3UQP3KXPR7Y68>



“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 Retrievers 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!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____ Email _____

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

Thank you for your support! www.goldenrescue.com