

GOLDEN GRRROWL

"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™



LUCAS

Where There's Lucas, There's HOPE—and Vice Versa

by Mary Lemma

Lucas was a seemingly hopeless case when he was brought to Phoebe's Place. Found wandering the streets in New Mexico, Lucas came to GRRR with an unhealed broken elbow and injured hip. His injuries were so severe, says his adoptive mother and handler, Janice Mann, GRRR was afraid that he would have to be put down.

But the Golden Angel Fund and Dr. Michael Bauer came through. Dr. Bauer, who has performed surgeries on many severely wounded GRRR dogs, scoped both elbows and performed a femoral head osteotomy, or FHO.

Janice Mann has been training and handling therapy dogs for over 20 years. She adopted Lucas when he was one year old. Now, at five, the Golden is soothing people in need of emotional support, including witnesses to school shootings, relatives of suicide victims, and providing comfort and help to first responders. And there's more.

Serving Those Who Serve

Lucas has another assignment, too: Helping troubled veterans of the armed services through the Veterans Trauma Court in Colorado Springs. Veterans Trauma Courts (VTC) are dedicated to transforming the way the justice system identifies, assesses and treats our veterans, says court coordinator Kisten Born. The VTC is a state- and grant-funded program that provides an alternative to incarceration for U.S. military veterans and active duty military personnel with trauma spectrum disorders or substance abuse issues who have proven to be high-risk and high-need.

Since its inception in December 2009, VTC helps justice-involved veterans of all branches of service and regardless of discharge status and in most cases, regardless of the type of crime.

"We're committed to ensuring that we leave no veteran behind by working closely with the VA and other treatment providers to ensure veterans get help with mental health and substance abuse," Kisten says. The program also assists veterans with housing, employment and filing for disability.

"Veterans are not always good at asking for help when they really need it," Kisten says. "They are not used to being 'failures.' Being in a courtroom is very stressful for most of them. Having Janice and Lucas in our courtroom every Thursday has made a noticeable positive impact on the courtroom environment."

A Day in Court

Kisten recalls the effect Lucas had on a veteran who had to appear in court recently. "I was sitting next to him and noticed that his right knee was shaking. I leaned over and asked if he was okay, and he said he was really worried about talking to the judge. Lucas was lying on the floor by his feet, so I suggested he pet Lucas and told him that the team, including Lucas, was there to support him."

The veteran petted Lucas for several minutes and was visibly calmed before talking to the judge, Kisten recalls. "He was honest with the judge about his alcohol addiction and how worried he was that he would fail. The judge was supportive and told him as long as he continued to be honest with the team, the team would always try to help him. On his way out of the courtroom, the veteran stopped and petted Lucas again, and it was clear that Lucas helped just by being there."

While Veterans Trauma Court supports veterans under stress, the court's attorneys, probation officers and treatment providers can feel stress, too, Kisten says. For them, "Lucas is our favorite 'furry counselor'; he always listens and never judges. We are truly grateful to Janice for bringing him into our program. Lucas is everyone's favorite team member."

LUCAS READY TO HELP AT VETERANS TRAUMA COURT

Continued on page 2



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“... Lucas is our favorite ‘furry counselor; he always listens and never judges.”



But how did Lucas land in court? Janice and Lucas are members of HOPE Animal Assisted Crises Response. Janice and Lucas were with HOPE dogs at the Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference, where a court employee took Janice’s card and forwarded it to the judge who had talked about having a support animal to be present when veterans are feeling the stress of court appearance.

“It is an honor and a privilege to support our veterans and this program. I am very grateful and thankful for this opportunity,” said Janice.

Helping at Crises

HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response works with first response/emergency-related agencies, schools and school districts, hospitals, pastoral services and other community institutions. HOPE “gives comfort in times of crisis by bringing emotional support with our specially trained dog handler teams,” Its certified handlers, partnering with their specially trained canines such as Lucas, provide comfort and support to people who have experienced a recent crisis, disaster, or difficult loss. HOPE also frequently partners with mental health professionals and counselors in response to a crisis, and its teams have served in many capacities over the years.

The HOPE teams never self-deploy, Janice says. They are always invited to a callout or deployment. “Dogs have to be pretty solid and able to handle anything to do with crisis situations and related high stress situations,” she says. “We train to expect the unexpected.”

Janice wasn’t sure if Lucas would want to do this type of work or was up to it. The training is extensive, including replicating the sounds of equipment, getting accustomed to all the gear being used in crisis response, but more often and more important, being with people who are in emotional distress: people who have been through a natural disaster, student deaths, officer deaths, and other crises.

“We do work closely with the Colorado Springs police department and other agencies that deal with emergencies, so the dogs need to be okay with siren sounds, crying, lots of emotions, crowds and so much more,” Janice says.

Lucas and Janice also attend conferences such as one presented by the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance. HOPE dogs are invited to COVA’s annual conference each year. “We’ve been told that the conference wouldn’t be the same without the dogs,” she says.

Lucas’s work doesn’t end at emergencies. He also works in pet therapy at a hospital, a behavioral health center, the police department, and at a center where children who have been sexually or otherwise physically abused go for exams and interviews, which are often emotionally painful.



Special Connections

Upon leaving one of our regular visits at the Colorado Springs Police headquarters, Lucas met a young man who was there for an interview, Janice recalls. “The young man and Lucas spent a few minutes together and it was obvious that a connection was made between the two. When the investigators saw the obvious connection, we were asked to be present for the interview.” The detectives and investigators were attempting to get information about a suspected pedophile with whom the young man had had interactions.

“The interview lasted about an hour and a half, and the young man was on the floor with Lucas, loving him, petting him and answering questions that the investigators felt would not have been answered had the young man not had Lucas to “talk to” and to comfort him. The young man had brought lots of snacks into the interview.

“There were crackers, popcorn, cookies, and noodles all over the place, but Lucas did not touch a thing. The investigators and officers were so impressed about the amount of information they felt Lucas helped them gather, but also that he did not attempt to eat anything. That is a behavior we train very hard for, and to see it pay off was very reinforcing for me! I was sooooo proud of Lucas in so many ways!”

In another potentially emotional scenario, Lucas and Janice were asked to attend the Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference in Denver for a presentation about the increasing numbers of veteran suicides and what could be done to reduce those numbers. The presenter knew this would be an emotionally charged presentation and felt that the presence of a comfort dog would be very beneficial.

LUCAS HAPPILY GIVING HUGS TO A BOY NAMED LUCAS

"There was a young woman in the presentation who became very emotional," Janice recalls. "At first, she declined to interact with Lucas, but as the presentation progressed, she went up to him and hugged and hugged him and just cried and cried into his neck. It was so touching and emotional for me as well. Lucas just accepted her and remained with her until she backed off.

"After the presentation we were repeatedly thanked by the presenter and well as others who witnessed the interaction," Janice says. "We felt that this young woman was most likely the surviving spouse of a veteran who had taken his own life. The magic that comfort dogs provide never ceases to amaze me. Lucas absolutely made a difference in this situation. I am grateful and honored to have a dog who can provide such comfort."



LUCAS WORKS HIS MAGIC

Not "All Work and No Play"

Janice has human children, too—and grandchildren and grand-dogs. In her home, though, where she's rehabbing from a knee replacement, Lucas is her one and only. When he's not on duty, she says, "he loves to play ball and fetch, and loves to play with all sorts of toys."

Lucas also enjoys training and continues his own rehab and conditioning. "I want him to be as fit as possible for as long as possible. I'm grateful for Dr. Bauer's generosity in allowing us to continue his ongoing treatment," she says.

When Lucas isn't doing his own conditioning or playing fetch or helping distressed people feel better, "he's content to just chill," Janice says. "I feel so blessed and grateful to have him with me." ❀

A Special Thank You to a Special Dog, Lucas

Victoria J. Platt, MHA, CTRS, Director of Recreation Therapy

His attention span is short. He has a hard time focusing. When he doesn't get his way, he tends to get angry. "Nobody understands me" says a 7-year-old boy, "except Lucas". Yes, Lucas does make a good Therapist, a title written on his Therapy Dog name tag and vest. He knows just what to do to make our youth and adolescent patients happy. A wag of his tail, willingness to repeat tricks frequently and desire to play ball is just what the doctor ordered. Lucas and Janice visit youth and adolescent patients weekly at Peak View

Behavioral Health Hospital in Colorado Springs. Though the Recreation Therapy Department offers a wide variety of programs, the "Peak Paws" program is the best. A big thank you goes out to Lucas and Janice for continuing to make a huge, positive impact on the lives of our patients (and staff, too) at Peak View.

And to that, Janice replied, "It touched me so much. This little boy was so focused, so appropriate, so interested in Lucas and such a delight. He spent the entire hour with Lucas and me. He could not have been better. When Vicki told me that he had only had meltdowns and horrible behavior since he had arrived about a week and a half ago, I could not believe it. To see what a difference Lucas made in someone's life in that time will be a memory that will stay with me a lifetime." ❀



JANICE & LUCAS

"We provide hope and healing for children who have experienced abuse. The unconditional love and support Lucas provides the children we serve makes all the difference!"

Maureen Basenberg,
Executive Director, Safe Passage
Children's Advocacy Center

"Thank you for supplying our event with dog teams from HOPE. Their presence made all of the difference in the world. I am confident they were utilized more than the licensed therapists that came. Everyone wanted pictures with the teams and they really made the night unforgettable."

-Light up the Dark
Teen Suicide Prevention Event



**PROVIDING COMFORT FOR
OUR PEACE OFFICERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES**



Dear GRRR:

We adopted Bertie on April 29th, 2019 when he was just 8 months old. After losing our 13-year-old Golden a few month ago, Bertie has filled that loss and emptiness of a dogs love for life with boundless energy and constant love to us all each day.

Bertie loves to play with puppy friends in our neighborhood, adores being in and around water, hikes with an intense curiosity about the world around him, and never flinches to share his love to everyone around him. We feel grateful to have him in our lives! Thank you GRRR for this opportunity to have Bertie in our family.

Racine Family

BERTIE

Hi GRRR!

In February we adopted Chance from GRRR and brought him home with us to Fort Collins. We used to be the proud owners of 3 Golden Retrievers. About 4 years ago we lost Charlie to cancer. Last August we lost Strudel to another type of cancer. That's when I started checking your website almost daily. Then in December we lost Copper, the last of our 3 Golden Retrievers. In fact, Roberta unknowingly tried calling us while we were in the vets office waiting for the vet to come into the room and help Copper cross the Rainbow Bridge.

I believe it was fate that led us on this journey and now we are the proud parents of an almost 8-month-old energetic boy! We just love him to pieces. Chance has filled a void I was unaware I had. He's enjoyed two hiking/skiing trips with us as well as an 18 hour car ride to Texas in May. There he got to enjoy a day splashing in the ocean!

We still have lots to do to train this boy. It's a work in progress. Thank you for bringing love back into my life. Who knows, we may be back for a companion for Chance! All the best to you, Roberta and everyone at GRRR!

Debbie Born

CHANCE



Dear GRRR:

Coconut is 4.5 months now. We adopted him from you all June 1, 2019. He is wonderful!

He is the friendliest guy on the trail. He insists on saying hello to every single dog and human he comes into contact with. He absolutely insists on greeting ALL who cross his path!

As you can see from his picture, he is also the softest, fluffiest, cuddliest pup there is. He loves coming over to us and putting his big fluffy head on our lap! He will climb onto our lap if we let him, but may be too big for most people's comfort! He is already close to 50 pounds!

Coconut is very smart and knows too many commands to even name! He has been attending Rocky Mountain Dog training and previously attended and graduated from puppy

kindergarten. Of course, he was the star of the class because he got all the other dogs playing! Now he gets compliments every where we go because if you haven't noticed, he is extremely handsome!

Thats Sheriff Coconut James in a nut shell!

Jen Lafond and James Patterson

Hi GRRR!

I took this photo yesterday of Annie, formerly "Valentine", one of your Turkey Dogs.

We have had her for two years and she is a wonderful, wonderful, part of our family!

Lori Schuster

ANNIE



Recent Rescues



Dear GRRR:

We adopted Colt back in July after losing our precious Duke to cancer in March. A former GRRR alum, Duke was a fantastic sidekick and we miss him dearly. Having said that, Colt has quickly picked up where Duke left off and has become a loving brother to his new sister, Allie, who we adopted from GRRR about 7 years ago.

Colt is incredibly well behaved for his age (just under 2) and is very happy in his new home. He loves his toys, especially Mr. Bill, gnawing on bones, going to the dog park, and camping. We took him on a backpacking trip recently and his tail never stopped wagging. He is better off the leash than on –we are still working on that. Colt has yet to make a noise...except for the occasional burp.

We can't thank GRRR enough for allowing us to make him part of our family.

Michael Schaefer

COLT

Dear GRRR:

I decided to call my new rescue pup Daisy, formerly Tessie. She likes the name Daisy just fine and picked it up as her name in a day. She is my fifth Golden and she is so beautiful and wonderful.

She could not be more perfect. I love her so much.

Don Pope

DAISY



OAKLEY

Dear GRRR:

I'm so thrilled to have such a great dog like Oakley as part of my family. He's a sweet lovable bear of a dog. So glad for Golden Retriever Rescue!

Nuri Ozkan, MD



Dear GRRR:

Almost a year ago our Golden Boy "Blu" died at home. He made it to his 14th birthday and passed 4 days later.

After 39 years of having Golden retrievers in our lives, the house was so empty. I applied for a Golden with GRRR and Roberta introduced us to Karma. She was a 4- or 5-year-old-female. I fell in love with her.

My husband and Karma are best friends now. We are not sure why someone surrendered this sweet, well behaved beautiful Golden Girl. We are so happy to have her in our lives and her forever home.

Thank you Roberta & GRRR for all you do.

Margo Javori

KARMA



HAILEY

Dear GRRR:

Here is a picture of lil' Miss Hailey who's not so little anymore. She is 8 months old now and 50 plus pounds. She's sweet and smart and learning so much in the short time that we've had her. Perfect addition to our family. Thank you!

Wayne & Anne Yee-Moore



Hi GRRR:

Maple (formerly Brinkley) & Acre (formerly Bailey) are doing great! We've got them in off-leash training with Fetch Masters, and are looking forward to lots of snowshoe and cross-country ski romps this coming winter, which we really enjoyed last winter as well. This summer we spent a lot of time up in Winter Park and they are really enjoying the dog park at the YMCA.

We just celebrated their 3rd birthdays in August! And we are coming up on their Gotcha-Day on October 2nd, we can't believe it's been almost a full year!

Amy Kitt

MAPLE & ACRE

Dear GRRR:

MAX

Max is doing great and I am so blessed to have him! He knows our neighborhood and all the dogs and looks forward to his two walks daily. Max has freedom to roam our yard and enjoys visits with the neighbors. He is very well mannered and listens to voice commands, and also enjoys car rides. I'm absolutely delighted!

He still likes to be close but we've worked on his separation anxiety which has greatly improved. Can I have another Max, please?

Jane Truesdell



Recent Rescues



LUCKY

Dear GRRR:

Fletcher is now LUCKY! We are lucky to be with each other. We were still grieving over the loss of our last Golden, Buddy, who was also a GRRR dog and our eighth Golden. Nothing could have prepared us for the past two months with Lucky. We hadn't had a puppy for years. He is a constant source of entertainment. He zooms around the house with a toy and races up and down the stairs: 10,000 steps a day is nothing for Lucky! Lucky's first adventure was to race out of the part of the yard that is not enclosed - our fault. He ran up and down the golf course. It took only a few minutes for him to run over to a golfer and steal his ball. "Sorry, he's new!" was all I could say.

A dog trainer provided weekly group training, both obedience and agility. Lucky is now trained to sit, stay, stand, heel and come. He is being trained to stay in both the back and the front yard. The side yard is enclosed. He has the run of the house and deck and doesn't destroy anything. He does love to carry shoes around but he doesn't chew them. Our home also looks like a child lives here with half a dozen toys strewn about!

Last week I took Lucky with the trainer to DIA where he was trained as an emotional service dog for me when we go to Mexico during the winter. He was trained to navigate the airport, including escalators, elevators, the train AND sitting in a STAY waiting to go through the TSA metal detector. Lucky was totally well behaved every minute.

We have loved all of our Golden retrievers. Each one is a special boy or girl. Each one has had the calm, loving temperament that Golden retrievers share. Each one had a distinct personality and we have loved them all. In spite of still missing Buddy, it didn't take long for Lucky to win us over, even knowing that he needed a lot of guidance and training. He is very smart and a cuddle bug. He gets on our bed at 6 am for a tummy rub to start his and our day. We can tell he is just waiting to learn something new and wants nothing more than to please us and be with us. He IS a Golden!

What a gift GRRR is to so many Golden retrievers and so many people who give them a home. Thank you for your generous support of these beautiful, loving dogs.

Jennifer & George Gore

Hello GRRR:

Wanted to give you guys an update on Lucky Girl, who we have renamed Winnie. She is doing great! She loves to swim and run around with her two older sisters.

Winnie is such a goof ball and free spirit when she is outside. I wish her indoor personality was like her outdoor one. She is still shy and timid and her fear gets the best of her at times, but we are working every day on making little steps and celebrating along the way.

Thank you again for helping us grow our family.

Cassandra & Dane O'Brien

WINNIE



Dear GRRR:

I adopted Poppy (formerly Olivia) in October, 2018. It's been a year of training, fun and laughs.

Poppy has tons of energy but she is learning the appropriate behaviors and has come a long way. She has settled in and is a playful, active, sweet girl. When bedtime rolls around she turns into the biggest cuddler you've ever seen.

I love this pup and all GRRR does to help them find good homes!

Joyce Lucchetti

POPPIE





PENNY LANE

Hi GRRR:

Penny Lane is incredible – loyal, very smart, funny, lovable and much more. I can't think of a single hiccup that we have had along our 2-1/2 months of bonding. Since I'm retired I'm lucky that I can spend lots of time with her.

Penny loves car rides, hikes, dog parks, and of course, always runs up to greet people. This has been such an easy transition. I really would like to attend your get togethers. I think Penny would like a sister or a brother at some time.

Thank you again.

Phil Talmadge

Dear GRRR:

After reading the August newsletter I felt compelled to write about my own plight. Not every adopted dog's story is so cheerful. My name is Riley. Or at least it was until two humans adopted me and took me away from Phoebe's Place where I loved hanging out with Roberta and Mary. The trouble started when they put me in a car. I hate cars. I don't know why, but I hate them so much that I try to bite them, which is what I'm doing in the photo.

I have no idea who these people are but they call each other Theresa and Justin, and they started calling me Sammy, evidently because Theresa is a Hagar freak. Hagar this, Hagar that, Hagar 24/7. Can you picture me rolling my eyes? If she ever drives 55 it will be the first time.

They make me walk to the park twice every day and chase a ball. I don't like chasing balls but I just can't help myself. I run and run until I get so tired I have to lie down in their house on the cool tile near an air conditioning vent and take a nap. I like air conditioning and naps. Then there is the brushing; they brush my coat constantly. Not sure why since they won't let me on the sofa or their bed. It's so cruel. My sheepskin bed is ON THE FLOOR!

On Fridays Justin takes me to his work (in a CAR!). Why would I want to go to work? Especially when I could be taking a nap in air conditioning? Where is the love? Every week they take me to Rails End or Resolute Brewing (in a CAR!) to socialize with other dogs, and I don't even get to drink beer. They make me drink water. How fair is that? They only feed me twice a day, unless Justin slips me something under the table. And when I have to relieve myself they make me go outside! Did you know there is no air conditioning outside? Seriously? I am the Rodney Dangerfield of dogs - I get no respect. At least I don't have to fight 60 other dogs for food like before GRRR rescued me. This is paradise compared to that. But don't think for a minute we're all living the life of Riley.

Yours truly, um, Riley. Or Sammy (my eyes are rolling again)



SAMMY

Dear GRRR:

Mango, our first GRRR dog, is showing Rainier that all sticks must be approved by her prior to consumption.

Cheers,

Dave Sietsema

MANGO & RANIER



Dear GRRR:

Just writing to tell you how much we love our Golden pup! Sully (formerly Rocky) came home in March and hasn't missed a beat joining our family.

Sully's got a lot of playful energy, has been easy to train, and loves wrestling with his pug sister Sadie. We can't wait to introduce him to the Colorado mountains this summer.

Thank you GRRR for our handsome boy! He's just perfect for us!

Krista Welch

SULLY & SADIE



Recent Rescues



Dear GRRR:

This is curious, brave, resilient Amari, with one of her favorite people, Evie. Amari is friendly to everyone she meets – after she warms up a bit. She loves her house and she loves her backyard filled with rabbits and squirrels to chase. Amari enjoys dog beds, wagging her tail, snuggles, and rolling on her back with wild abandon after a snack. She’s starting to play with her toys.

We are proud of her progression as she adjusts to a new life of safety, acceptance, love and abundance.

Thanks for everything,
Barb Peters & Sara Dale

AMARI & EVIE

Dear GRRR:

Boone will be 2 years old next month. He’s the perfect Golden and the neighbor kids can’t get enough of him. We’ve been talking about getting a sister. Boone is not sure though, because he likes ALL of the attention!

Boone lives for his evening walks and the opportunity to “hunt for children.” Every night our walk is interrupted by kids of all ages wanting to say hello to Boone. We do not get far down the bike path when I hear the scream “There he is”.... and kids come running like he’s a rock star. I’ve been keeping track of all the cute things children say about him. Silas, who waits for us almost every night, says, “Boone is the dog of total and complete cuteness.” My sweet neighbor, Hannah, says, “Every time I see Boone my heart just goes crazy.” Charlie and Nellie, the neighborhood “Wild-Things”, drove up to us in their “Barbie car” and said, “We love Boone so much we wrote about him in our journals.”

I am truly grateful to witness the magic of this sweet Golden Retriever in “Real-life Heaven” getting so much attention and bringing happiness to everyone who pets him. He is a gift!

Ann Baumgartner

BOONE & FRIENDS

Hi GRRR:

Our boys are very happy. All is great.

Bentley (the white one) is our most recent adoption. He came from the group of seven rescued from either North or South Dakota. He will be 2 on Valentines day. He loves having a big brother to show him the way.

Windsor was adopted from the first group of Turkey Dogs and will turn 6 in mid February. He continues to be the funniest Golden we have ever had.

They play several times a day but morning is the best playtime!

Terry Niznik

BENTLEY & WINDSOR



GRRR STATS

January 1 – September 30, 2019

Number of dogs adopted	201
Medical Bills	\$110,410

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 digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com, or mail to GRRR at 15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada CO 80007. Deadline for the February, 2020 issue is January 6, 2020. Thanks!



Golden Angel: Ivy

by Jeannie Miller

This adorable, sweet little girl is called Ivy. She is 7 months old and you won't find a cuter, more playful, friendly and determined girl anywhere. Ivy was found abandoned as a small puppy on the side of a road in Utah. How could anyone abandon a puppy and especially such a cute and sweet little girl?

We can't really explain that except to tell you that Ivy has some very serious medical conditions. She has a heart condition called subaortic stenosis (SAS). SAS is a narrowing of the area in the heart just below the aorta. It causes a pressure buildup within the heart and can lead to heart failure. It can be mild to severe. In Ivy's case, the condition is more on the severe spectrum. And if that wasn't enough for sweet Ivy, she also has an issue affecting her lower spine. The problem could be one of a number of things including a tumor or lesion, cancer, fluid buildup or spinal stenosis. Whatever it is, it is putting extra pressure on her spine. This makes Ivy's back legs not work right. When she first came to us, she mostly dragged her rear legs behind her and had trouble standing on them at all. The tops of her back feet had sores on them and the fur was all rubbed off from dragging them behind her.



Whoever had her originally decided that they didn't want to deal with a sick puppy, so they just left her to be found, become prey or just die. Ivy was found by a family that took her into their home. They took good care of her as she began to grow and tried to help her get stronger by holding her in their swimming pool while she kicked her little legs. As often happens, the family was having trouble and with a divorce and moves pending, and placed an online ad on social media to see if someone would take Ivy. Our wonderful volunteer Chris Dudley spotted the ad and immediately called to see if she could get Ivy. She was successful! Now, we had to figure out how to get this little fur ball to Colorado. Mary asked Karl Kyle if he might fly his plane up to Salt Lake City and he readily agreed. Ivy had her very own private flight to Colorado with Karl.

We couldn't believe how sweet and funny she is. She has no idea that there is anything wrong with her. She loves everyone and she can't wait to play with any dog that will give her the time of day!

The first order of business was to get Ivy seen by our wonderful veterinarians. Dr. Carpenter was first and he said she definitely needed to see a cardiologist, Dr. Derek Hanes, and also a neurological specialist, Dr. Kelli Kopf. Dr. Hanes confirmed that Ivy has a moderate to severe murmur and put her on

medications to help with the effects while she grows. Dr. Kopf saw her next about her spine. She wanted to do an MRI to get the definitive diagnosis, but Ivy would have to be put under anesthesia to have that done and her heart is not strong enough for that right now. Dr. Kopf said the best thing to do is to give Ivy specialized physical therapy to see how strong we can get her hind legs while we wait to see what her heart condition will do over time. Ivy's heart has to be re-checked with an EKG in March when she is a year old to see what changes have happened. Her prognosis depends on how things change as she matures. Some dogs with this condition can live to be 10 and others die quite young.

We just want to love her and help her as much as we can. So right now, Ivy goes to K9 Body Shop twice per week where she gets underwater therapy and therapeutic massage. You would not believe the difference the therapy is making! Ivy can now stand and uses her back legs to walk and run. She is a little wobbly, but she is right in there having fun! She can even half jump to get herself on the couch! What a determined little girl!

Ivy gets to go home to Francie and Wade's house each night where she gets lots of love and gets to play with their four Golden Retrievers – Nala, Bruce, Casey and Sadie. Each day during the week, she comes to Phoebe's Place with Francie where she plays in the office or goes into the house with Mary and plays with all the dogs there. She is growing up and learning lots!

All of the staff and volunteers have fallen in love with this brave little girl who so needs our help. We appreciate your donations to help Ivy and dogs like her with expensive medical needs. We hope that there is a very special family out there who will take her into their lives and continue to help her on her journey. We promise that she would fill each day with light and love as she strives to just be a goofy Golden! 🐾

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 Golden Retrievers 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 Golden Retrievers who need extra care. Sometimes extraordinary medical circumstances bring these Golden Retrievers 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: Rocky

by Jeannie Miller

Hi, my name is Rocky. Take a look at me! Pretty darn cute I know. There are a lot of things you can't tell just by looking at me. I know I am very handsome, and I definitely do not look like I am 8 years old! I am spunky and friendly. I have traveled and lived more places than most people. I have been through a lot in my eight years, let me tell you!

I don't know exactly where I was born because I am a dog, don't you know. But I started my life in Taiwan. That is FAR from Colorado and it is very different than here. Because I have such a beautiful, fluffy coat and my bone structure is a little small, my first people thought I was a girl and named me Lily. There are easy ways to tell these things but "oh well." They thought I was cute and cuddly as a puppy.

I grew into a rambunctious teenager. They weren't really taking care of me too well. One day, a good Samaritan from Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue in California saw me in Taiwan and decided to bring me to the United States. What a trip that was! It was long and scary but when I arrived in California, I was greeted by the most loving people and stayed at their sanctuary with a lot of other dogs. I was happy to be there. They checked me all out and made sure I was current on all my vaccinations. They also made sure that I wasn't trying to make puppies every time I saw a good-looking girl dog. I was well fed and had lots of attention and even some training.

One wonderful day, a family came to the sanctuary to meet me. They looked me over and played with me. They kept exclaiming what a beautiful boy I am. They said they were adopting me, which meant that I went with them to their home and it became my home. My second home as an American dog was much better than the first. I grew and matured but still maintained my boyish figure. I liked living in California with my family. I got regular checkups by the veterinarian, lots of walks and life was good!

As time went by, I started to feel something sore in my front leg. I tried to ignore it, but it kept getting worse. I started limping a little, but I just wanted to keep playing and having fun. They took me to the vet, and he said that maybe I was having an issue in my elbow called dysplasia. They said we needed to keep an eye on it to see if it got worse. Right at about that time, my family decided -to move to Colorado so off we went. We got here and I thought, 'I am really going to like it here'! In Colorado, I settled into my new home and life. We saw a new vet who talked to my family about doing some more testing to see what exactly was bothering my leg so much. She explained to us what the possibilities were and what the potential treatments would entail and cost. I didn't like the look on my Dad's face when he heard that.

After a few weeks, during which he was acting really funny, my Dad took me for a car ride. We took my bed and leash and even my bowl, so I thought we were going to another new home. When we pulled into the place and I took a sniff, it instantly reminded me of the sanctuary in California. I was very confused about what was happening, and I could tell that my Dad was feeling bad. He unloaded me and all of my stuff and before I knew it, he was driving away. I looked up at Mary Kenton, whom I had just met. She softly stroked me, told me it was going to be OK, and led me into her house with her. I was confused but it seemed like I was in the most loving place, and I trusted Mary.

Inside the house, I was greeted by a bunch of dogs who seemed very happy there and quite interested in checking me out! I thought, "OK, I see some good new playmates here!" I love playing with my new friends and I especially love all the GRRR people who, just like Mary, are so loving to me and tell me how handsome I am.

Well, I wasn't too surprised when I was taken to yet another vet to be checked out. His name is Dr. Scott Carpenter and he gave me a very thorough exam. He was quite worried about my leg and did not think it was dysplasia. He was worried that it might be cancer because there was now quite a big lump there. He decided that he needed to take a little piece of the lump and do some more tests on it. They did that procedure and I was very brave. It didn't hurt too much, but my leg is really bothering me now. It hurts when I put weight on it and I am really sore after play sessions with my pals. Colorado State University did the testing and told Dr. Carpenter that his worst fears were true: my lump is a cancer called sarcoma and my whole leg and my life is in danger from it.

Well, I am very brave, and I keep a positive outlook always, but I have to tell you that I am a little scared about what is going to happen to me. Dr. Carpenter and Mary decided that my leg has to be taken away if I am going to keep living a good, happy life. Mary tells me that she believes in me and that she has known many dogs who have three legs. She says that us dogs can get along just fine and still play all we want. I believe her and so I am going to go into this knowing that I will be fine and that I will find someone to love me and take me into my forever home. My surgery is coming up soon.

So, I have two asks of you. Please, if you can, donate to the Golden Angel Fund so that GRRR can continue to help dogs like me. It means so much to us. And, if you could imagine opening up your heart and home to a boy like me, I am looking for a special, loving home. A home where my people will help me to recover from my surgery and learn how to be a tri-pawed dog. I promise I will work hard. I will continue to smile and be the happy goofy guy I have always been. 🌸



Golden Angel Updates



AVERY...now RUBY

Linda & Steve Jorgensen

Avery, now Ruby, is doing great after her leg amputation. She is growing like a weed and is a sweet, but wild child. She can run like the wind and is very rough and tumble when she plays with her best friend Bolt. Bolt is a seven-month-old Golden who lives next door.

While we expected to have some hurdles, both Steve and I are pleasantly surprised how well Ruby has adapted. The biggest change we made is a carpet runner on our stairs (which she bounds up and down with abandon). Her favorite thing is to steal Steve's socks and play with them, which puzzles us as she has baskets full of toys!

Some other favorite activities of Ruby's are swimming and camping. As the weather is cooling and taking her to the lake is less feasible, we have looked into indoor swimming and found a pool where she can swim a couple of times a week. Camping is her happy place as she sees sticks for miles, and is in heaven picking and chewing on sticks all day.

RUBY

We are so happy and in love with Ruby. If anyone is considering a tri-pawed dog, or has a dog that is needing to have this surgery, and have questions or would like to visit, we would be more than happy to talk with them. 🌸



KEIKI...now LINDSEY

Dave & Holly Prather

Keiki is doing really well with us. She always greets us at the door, tail wagging and is super excited to see us, which fills us with joy. She really loves taking long walks and doing lots of sniffing, but she can be very stubborn and will stand her ground if she does not want to go in the direction you want to take her. She always wins out and we go her way. From the first day we got her, she had a bad habit of jumping up on the bed and the couch. Initially, we made her get down, but over time, we couldn't resist that cute face and we let her sleep on the bed with us. She is not a small Golden (75 pounds) and is full of fur and takes up a good portion of the bed. We've found we better be on our side of the bed come night-night time or she will take our spot!

We love her immensely and are so fortunate to have her in our lives and are thankful to GRRR and its donors for helping to rescue her so she could become part of our family. 🌸

LINDSEY

Photos with Santa and Merchandise Blowout!

Saturday, December 7 from 11:30 am - 2pm
\$25 donation for about 10-15 digital photos

And get your shopping done with cool
GRRR merchandise including 2020 calendars
and our new Golden/Colorado Flag T-shirt!



Held at Phoebe's Place
15350 W. 72nd Avenue
(1/2 mile east of Indiana)
Arvada, CO 80007

All dogs and people welcome!

To schedule your time slot,
email: debad@comcast.net



www.goldenrescue.com

Come Join Us!

As the weather cools and the year-end draws near, it's great to report that our staffing transition has gone smoothly and all is well at Phoebe's Place. Francie Rakiec has settled in well as Executive Director and she and Mary Kenton are coordinating beautifully. Francie's time as part-time Development Director prepared her well for her expanded duties.

Kevin Shipley and his wife Linda have happily relocated to Knoxville, Tennessee and are enjoying their retirement. We all wish them well.

It's hard to believe we're already gearing up for another ambitious Colorado Gives Day campaign. This will be the 10th anniversary of the online philanthropy event (GRRR's 8th year of participating), and it's conveniently scheduled for December 10th. I say "ambitious," because we always set an "impossible" goal, and then you always help us blow right through it. Since all those donations are for our wonderful Golden Retrievers, all of us at GRRR really appreciate your generosity. So, let's reach for the stars once again and see if we can surpass \$125,000. Early donating begins November 1, so watch for more information as we get closer.

Happy Thanksgiving. And happy fall with all our wonderful dogs. 🌿

Your donation dollar buys ...

Your donations mean so much to our dogs, many of whom come to us with medical needs. Here's a short list of ways your dollars help:

\$2000 Provides knee surgery (TPLO)

\$500 Provides heartworm treatment

\$250 Provides seizure medication and testing

\$100 Provides pain management for a month

\$50 Provides vaccinations & heartworm testing

\$25 Provides thyroid medication for a month

Phoebe's Place Update

by Francie Rakiec

Big changes coming...

This fall has not only brought on the changing of the leaves, it has also brought on some exciting new changes here at Phoebe's Place. As many of you know, we have started focusing on rescuing former commercial breeding dogs. It is very important to get these dogs out of the breeding cycle. In order to do this, we must travel across the country to rescue them. We also must rent a cargo van each time to transport these dogs. Recently, renting the vans has become very difficult, if not impossible, because of our dear friends at Amazon (I actually love Amazon otherwise!). Another issue we run into is that none of these vans is equipped with air conditioning in the rear cargo area of the van, so transporting in the hot summer months isn't an option.

That being said, I am happy to announce that thanks to generous donations from our Board members as well as a generous donation from the Robert B. Sturm Foundation, we were able to purchase our very own transport van! We can fit up to 10 large crates in the cargo area to safely transport dogs across the country and back to Phoebe's Place. In addition, the van has rear air conditioning so we can even transport in the warmer summer months. The van will also come in handy for transporting Turkey Dogs from DIA back to Phoebe's Place, and to pick up pallets of dog food from Murdoch's. Overall this is such a great investment and a huge benefit to GRRR and the pups.

In addition, we are fortunate to build a garage for the van to keep it protected from the harsh weather that Colorado can sometimes have. So look for the new garage to spring up soon and be ready for use by the beginning of December. 🌿

DARBY & RIO CHECK OUT THE NEW VAN



Board Member Opportunity

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic working board at GRRR. Every board member has an area of expertise and a working role at GRRR. We are also very fortunate that we have excellent people that apply for the board when openings occur.

On October 1st, the nomination process for board positions opened. December 1 is the deadline to submit applications. Election will be at the Annual Meeting March 1, 2020. We now have 10 (out of a maximum 11) Board members, and 5 positions are up for re-election. We are always looking to add to our expertise. Board meetings are held the second Monday evening of the month at the Daniels Building in Cherry Creek and attendance is required.

So, if you feel passionate about pooches, have the time for board meetings and other activities, already have some practical GRRR involvement, and believe you will bring something unique to the board, please get your pen loaded with ink and download the application and dust off your resume.

The Director-at-Large position description and nominating form is available at: <http://www.goldenrescue.com/golden-retriever-rescue/organization>

"Thank you for all that you do for these dogs!" I've heard this many times during my many years with GRRR. And to this I always try to respond, "It isn't just me, it's all of GRRR."

I was given this opportunity to write a "MaryBabble" when Debbie Stratton had some open space in the newsletter. It didn't take long to decide what I wanted to babble about, and that is all of you!

It is an honor to be able to express how much you are all appreciated. I would love to be able to reach out and thank each and every volunteer, donor and member who makes GRRR the incredible organization it is. Some of you will not remember the "old days," but in our quarterly newsletter we used to thank each and every volunteer for all they had done and pray we didn't miss someone. Today we would need three or four volunteers just to keep track of the many things that are done daily, by so many, to help GRRR. And we'd need an additional newsletter, and we definitely would worry that we missed someone!

Our volunteers are nothing short of amazing. I want all of you to know how appreciated you are for what you do for all of the Golden Retrievers that come into our care. Many of you come to Phoebe's Place as part of the VIP team to exercise, socialize and train each dog. You do get that special "thank you" from the pups you work with – the wag of the tail, the grateful kiss. Sometimes it's the first time they take a treat or acknowledge that you are there when they have come from a horrible past where humans weren't kind to them. Toys, treats and tenderness are things you give them that they have never had before. At first, all they can feel is fear. And since we expanded our mission to help retired Golden Retrievers from commercial breeders, this year we've had many more fearful Golden Retrievers.

Volunteering Behind the Scenes

So many volunteers are working in the background doing the many things that make such a difference in ways that are never rewarded by the sweet kiss or tail wag of a Golden. Many of these good people spend hours on the phone or computer, writing, transporting, raising money, promoting GRRR, bookkeeping, supporting our computers, organizing volunteers, designing newsletter and websites, and all facets of the now fairly complicated organization that is GRRR. Volunteers reply to emails, screen applications, collect donations, run errands, pick up food and medications for the dogs, write thank-you cards by hand, watch for dogs who need help, and plan and work at events. Plus, the care and maintenance of Phoebe's place is a big part of what volunteers help with. I'm sure I have missed many things but believe me, it is not unappreciated!

Working for Perfect Placement

Special thanks to Roberta Miller, our amazing placement coordinator. It is incredible to witness all she does to make sure each dog is placed into the perfect home. Roberta may be the one who works tirelessly to find that perfect match, but much more is done to make sure that she has all she needs to find that perfect match. To see Roberta interact with potential adopters is to see a true professional with amazing passion and dedication. I cannot say enough about Roberta and how appreciated she is by all of us.

But it takes a village, and GRRR has an extraordinary group of volunteers helping to make each Golden have that happy ending. No...make that new *beginning*.

Our members have always enjoyed the social aspect of GRRR, getting together with other people who don't get tired of talking about our dogs. We share stories of our Golden Retrievers, past and present, who have really changed our lives. We have laughed and cried together knowing that we all understand how special these dogs are to us. We have so many new faces that I feel a little lost as to who is who and their connection to GRRR. It is strange for me not to know everyone. But even if I don't know you personally, thank you. I hope you know you are loved and appreciated by so many Golden Retrievers, members, adopters and donors. The countless hours it takes to make GRRR run efficiently can be overwhelming, and our volunteers do so much to achieve that goal.

Our volunteers' impact is astounding to other organizations who hear how many volunteers and donors we have, and how dedicated they are to GRRR and our Golden Retrievers.

Even with all the new volunteers we are thankful for, we also have volunteers who have been with us for many years. I can't even imagine the hours, days, and years you have donated in your time with GRRR. I hope you know how much we appreciate your dedication.

Golden Angels

In the early years of GRRR, we couldn't afford surgeries for dogs with special needs. Then gradually we were able to help two special need dogs each year.

And now, through our Golden Angel Fund, we can say yes to so many who need that extra financial support to go on to have a happy and comfortable life. It is because of our amazing members and donors. In a way, you are golden angels, and we never have to turn away a dog in need.

To all of you who have made this possible over the years, thank you from me and all the wonderful dogs you may never have even met whose lives you have changed. The outpouring of your generous donations to support GRRR and make it the rescue it is today is astounding and very appreciated by so many. I am so proud to be part of this amazing group of people who have always been there for the Golden Retrievers who need all of us. As our tagline says, "A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"

Thank you all for changing the lives of so many Golden Retrievers. 🐾



Editor's Note: And thank you, Mary. You are the heart and soul of GRRR and we all thank you for all you have done for so many years to make GRRR such an amazing organization. Your tireless efforts and passion for every dog are incredible.

In Memory

JAKE

We adopted Jake in 2010. He filled some big paws and then some. He touched a lot of people. He helped a lot of people in hard times as a therapy dog.

Jake had countless adventures. He was also the Cover Boy in the November 2018 GRRR newsletter.

On August 14th, he went over the Rainbow Bridge. It came as a shock to us. He is missed dearly by many, including Evans East Animal Clinic staff and many others.

And we miss him so much. He was a special boy.

Jim & Judy Decker



MADDIE

On July 14th we had to let go of our sweet Maddie girl. She brought us so much joy and so many smiles over the years. Maddie had so much energy and such a sweet personality.

Over the last few years Maddie helped us welcome three additional GRRR rescues and served to be a great friend and role model, getting along with each new addition to the family. Maddie really seemed to understand each time a new rescue was introduced. She was patient and kind and helped us through the grieving process when it was time to help her siblings cross the Rainbow Bridge.

We used to joke with her about how she could write a book and each funny event was a new chapter. I think she was on about chapter 30, her first chapter being at the Reunion Picnic and almost swimming across Boulder Reservoir to see the ducks. In another chapter (at a neighborhood progressive dinner) she pulled a pot of risotto off the stove and ate the entire thing, earning her nickname in the neighborhood "Maddie Risotto." She could open doors and eat just about anything.

Maddie was strong, fearless, and most important, everybody's friend. We will miss her dearly.

Laura & Steve Zlogar

Donations in In Memory or in Honor

- Anonymous in memory of Hazel Brewer
- Anonymous in honor of David Tomasula
- In memory of Angela Schroeder:
 - Anonymous • Margaret Crawford • Nancy Grant
 - Dora Blackowicz • Jamie Azbukovec • The Zabukovec Family
- In memory of Wayne Howard:
 - Linda Bouska • Elliot & Julie Mansk
 - John & Karen Puskas • Ellen Stoddard-Keye
- Diane Arave in memory of Hazel Brewer
- Gail Bartz in memory of Maddie, beloved Golden of Laura & Steve Zlogar
- Jason Czachor in memory of someone Golden
- Judith & James Decker in memory of Jake
- Bob & Joetta Galbrath in memory of Tom Williamson
- Ron and Kelly Kandcer in memory of Haley
- Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly
- Stacie McWilliams in memory of Palei
- Pat & Scott Rogers in memory Tom Williamson
- Pat & Scott Rogers in memory of Owhen, Deb Kneale & Bob Jorgensen's Golden.
- Cassandra Salazar in memory of Jayjay Salazar
- Will & Linda Schneider in memory of Owhen
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Jake Decker
- Inge Smith in honor of Kim Kudasik
- Cheryl & Robert Welsh in memory of Laura Stevens
- Jan Whitt in memory of Rebecca Jane Hayes
- Kara Williamson in memory of Tom Williamson

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To register, go to: <https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards> and add GRRR as your charity. You can find us using "Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies (GRRR) or by DN758. It's as easy as that and GRRR will receive a percentage of what you spend when shopping.

It's totally free to you. Last quarter we received almost \$450 with only 28 households participating. Imagine how many pups we could help if everyone participated in this wonderful program!

THANK YOU!





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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
Golden Retriever Rescue of the
Rockies is dedicated to rescue,
placement and public aware-
ness, 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

hotline: 303/279-2400
info@goldenrescue.com
www.goldenrescue.com

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