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IVY

Ivy – The Power of Positive Attitude and Fierce Determination

by Jeannie Miller

We have shared Ivy's story before (Nov. 2019) because she is one of our precious Golden Angels. But we felt that giving our members more insight into this little girl and the people who love her is especially relevant now. She is a very special little girl. You see, all the odds have been stacked against Ivy and yet she has a joyous, loving spirit and fierce determination to live, to be happy and to make others happy.

Ivy started her life with some very big problems. We don't know where exactly she was born or under what circumstances, but we do know that she has two very serious health issues. Ivy has a heart condition called Subaortic Stenosis (SAS), and she has a spinal condition that is undiagnosed right now because she is unable to have an MRI due to her weak heart. You might wonder how she survived this long. Two reasons: GRRR and HER!

It is pretty amazing that Ivy was not euthanized when she was just a wee puppy, except that her heart condition was probably undiagnosed when she was very young and ready to be taken home by someone. Her spinal issue impacts her rear legs and her ability to control "going potty," but little puppies are very clumsy and wobbly anyway, and we all know about house breaking, so perhaps it was overlooked. Or it is possible that she was injured very early on. We just don't know.

What we do know is that Ivy was found abandoned in Utah by the first people in her life who wanted to help her. She was still just a very young pup and they truly rescued her from certain death. Here was an adorable and beautiful little Golden. She is light gold in color and cute – fluffy as Golden puppies are. Her eyes are, at the same time, soft but also with a little spark of mischief, and she has that signature Golden smile. She was able to get around pretty well, but it was clear that she was dragging her rear legs with her ever-stronger front legs. The tops of her rear toes were all rubbed raw from dragging behind her.

Thinking that maybe she had been injured, the folks in Utah hoped to help her, so they immediately took her to their vet. The vet was able to detect the heart murmur that is characteristic of SAS. She could not be certain what the problem in her lower spine was but decided to try some laser therapy to see if it could provide some pain relief and stimulate healing.

Well, clearly this little dog was going to be a handful – emotionally and financially. The people who rescued her were having other life challenges, namely a divorce and moving residences, so they decided they could not keep Ivy. They posted her on social media in the hopes that someone would open their heart to her so they would not have to make a heartbreaking decision. One of our wonderful volunteers spotted the post and immediately contacted them to see if we could bring Ivy into GRRR's open arms.

We did it! Between our amazing on-the-ground volunteers, pilot Karl Kyle, and Mary Kenton's flawless orchestration, Ivy arrived at Phoebe's Place in August last year. The little girl with big problems, but an even bigger spirit, had her own personal flight for life with Karl to Colorado.

When Ivy arrived, Mary was surprised at how well Ivy got around given her back legs didn't work too well. She was also struck by this little girl's determination to walk – forget that, run! – and play. Her front legs were obviously getting stronger by the minute and she was determined to get those back legs to work too! And she was full of Golden love! She had no problems competing with the bigger dogs for Mary's attention! This was one special little girl! Mary saw it immediately.

Francie Rakiac and Wade Stencil were at Phoebe's Place right after Ivy arrived. Mary asked Wade to keep an eye on Ivy for a minute, and in Mary's words, "He fell for her in two seconds."

As Francie tells it, "The second Wade saw Ivy he, of course, commented on how sweet and adorable she was. He played with her for about two minutes and said we should take her home. Honestly, I thought he was kidding because we already have four dogs. We ended up leaving without Ivy, but on the way home and later that night he kept asking about what was going to happen to her. He was concerned that because



IVY

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“... Ivy embraces every day with joy, puppy mischievousness and determination.”



IVY GETTING THERAPY AT K9 BODYSHOP

good for Ivy too. So, since September, Francie takes Ivy twice a week to K9 for work on the hydro-treadmill and for muscle/joint massage. She has made incredible progress! She runs and plays like crazy, and those sore spots on her feet are all gone because she mostly walks on the bottoms of her feet instead of the tops! She is still a little wobbly especially when she is tired, but she is full of vim and vigor and has grown to nearly full size.

Francie says Ivy has no clue that she has anything wrong with her. She embraces every day with joy, puppy mischievousness and determination. What a zest for life! She is the little princess of the house. She definitely knows how to stick up for herself amongst the pack. She loves to play with Casey, their six-year-old boy. He is so patient with her as she chews on him nonstop! The other three dogs, Nala, Bruce and Sadie, play with her only if no one is watching! They can't let it be known that they actually like her. She still has a little trouble controlling things "down there," but Francie says even that is getting so much better and Ivy really tries.

Ivy comes to work at GRRR with Francie every day (at least until the current craziness hit us) and has become the assistant to Ben, the official welcoming dog in the office. Ivy quickly learned she shouldn't try to play with Ben or step on him or she gets his "grumpy old man" growl. Now she is taking on a bit of a new role, which is to teach some of our former breeder dogs how to play and be silly. There is no one better for that job!

Well, it probably won't surprise you that this special, brave little girl completely stole Francie and Wade's hearts, so they foster-failed (again) and she is now a permanent member of their family.

And right now, our dogs are helping us all cope even more than usual! They give us their love with their kisses, wagging tails and snuggles, and importantly, they make us laugh! They are happy just to be with us. They soak up the sunshine, seeming not to have a care in the world. They sense when we are sad or feeling anxious and give us that look that says, "Are you ok? I love you!" There is much our beloved Golden Retrievers can teach us about living in the moment right now. 🌸

of her heart condition and her neuro issues she may have to be euthanized. I kept telling him it was too early to tell and that she still needed to see Dr. Carpenter, the cardiologist and the neurologist. He then said that regardless I should bring her home, so the next day Ivy came to our house!"

Ivy saw Dr. Carpenter immediately. What he saw made him very concerned. Her SAS was significant and because it can get worse as dogs mature, he was not overly optimistic about her long-term survival. To diagnose exactly what the issue was in her spine would require an MRI, but because of her weakened heart she could not go through an MRI. Dr. C. felt that the best thing to do was to monitor and treat her heart condition and then see what could be done for her mobility.

With the help of Dr. Hawes, an animal cardiologist at Alpenglow Veterinary Specialty, we monitored Ivy with an EKG to see if the SAS progressed as she matured. Dr. Hawes has seen Ivy twice for an EKG: once when she first arrived at GRRR and once in March. The great news is now that Ivy has matured, her EKG shows that the SAS did not get worse! While her long-term prognosis is still unknown, Dr. Hawes feels that with heart medication, it is possible for our little girl to live a good long life!

Meanwhile, Miss Ivy is flourishing with Francie and Wade! Francie was taking one of her dogs to K9 Body Shop for physical therapy and thought maybe it would be



In our last newsletter, we introduced a new series we want to write for 2020. We promised to select a dog from our February or March breeder rescue missions and follow them from the time we first saw them with the breeder or at an auction, through when we get them back to GRRR, to when they go to their forever home.

Well, like many things this year, we got disrupted by corona virus and had to cancel our planned rescues until it is safer to travel. When things re-open, we will definitely be looking to conduct more rescues and select a dog to feature in our series.

Until then, I thought I would tell you a bit more about little Matilda who I mentioned in the introductory article. She was the little girl pictured with her head down and her face in the corner of her kennel. Matilda was rescued last November from a commercial breeder who has many dogs at any one time. While we have not seen the actual property, we can tell from the behavior of all of the dogs from that breeder that they are kept in small, covered kennels. They grow up never or seldom seeing the sky, running or feeling soft grass beneath their feet. They do not know how to play and certainly have not been inside a house.

The only human touch these dogs know is being "handled" as part of being "raised," "maintained," "bred," and eventually "off-loaded" – all words that are foreign to those of us who love these animals and treat them with care and tenderness. They do not know warm companionship, play, adventurous walks, soft toys, softer beds or love from their human parents. They have not been taught anything except fear of people and anything outside of their enclosure. They get their only comfort from each other.

In the November rescue, we were able to save nine dogs – three boys and six girls. All were six years old or younger, intact and very skittish. Our little Matilda was the smallest, weighing in at only 35 pounds. She was skinny and dirty, as were all the pups we got that day. Matilda was by far the shyest of the shy. She was frozen in fear when Steve Schmidt and Mark Springston arrived at Phoebe's Place at midnight after a 12-hour drive. They had to carry Matilda into the play yard where she was able to stretch her legs with her "brothers and sisters" and get some relief from the trip. Smartly, Mary had each dog dragging a leash because they were not about to let anyone close to them. When it was time to go in and get some well-deserved dinner, Steve again had to carry Matilda into the kennel where she was placed with Athena and Anita.

All three were terrified. Matilda cowered behind the bigger dogs and would not look at anyone who came near. She was able to go out through the dog door to the outside run but was clearly afraid out there, so she would dash back inside and get as small as she could in the corner.

When we began to try to get close to her, she would run outside. Closing off the dog door was the only way we could get close to any of the three girls. The first week, we would just bring a stool into the kennel and sit talking quietly to them. Little by little we would inch closer until we could touch them. Athena was the bravest girl and before long she was letting us stroke her and scratch her chest. Anita got curious then and would stretch toward us to let us also touch her. But Matilda just stayed in the corner and trembled.

In the second week, a couple of our very dedicated volunteers began to come to visit the girls every day. They would sit patiently and talk gently to them. By now Athena and Anita were coming very happily to get their love, and Matilda was now letting them gently stroke her. Even though she still trembled and stayed in her corner, she was starting to relax, and by the end of the week she even lay down and began to sigh with pleasure as she got massaged.

The next step was to try to get them outside for a walk. Athena was the first to walk out of the kennel on her leash and hesitantly go outside for a few minutes. It took another week, but we were finally able to get Anita and Matilda out and into the play yard. They began to really enjoy their outside time and were learning that the leash is not a scary thing.

Enter Brinda and Michael Hammel into Matilda's life. They have a sweet Golden boy named Cody who was looking for a little friend. They came to meet Matilda and even though she was extremely shy as usual, she won their hearts and they took her home. That put a huge smile on our faces!

It has been three months since Matilda (who is now called Millie) has been in her forever home. Brinda says that Millie is doing great and they celebrate every tiny step she takes. These poor sweet dogs have so much to learn about being a dog and living a good life. Brinda and Mike know this is a long-term project and that their patience will pay off. Millie adores Mike and loves to hang out with him in his office while he works from home. She also loves the couch! She has a soft blanket there where she loves to lay with her favorite "Woobie" toy.

Millie is fast learning to be a dog from Cody. She also enjoys going on walks with her pack and follows her big brother. A really great sign of her progress is that she knows when it's time to go to bed, and she runs into the bedroom and jumps on the dog bed with her brother. Sometimes when Brinda looks at her during the night, she is lying on her back with her feet in the air! I would say she has found her home.

We are so proud of you, little Millie, and so thankful to Brinda and Mike for giving you the home and life you deserve. 🌸



MATILDA...NOW MILLIE



Dear GRRR:

Here is our new sweet Golden, Riley (formerly Wiley), as well as his four-year-old Catahoula "big sister" Bindi (also a rescue back in 2016). They are virtually inseparable. He does what she does. The recommendation of having another confident dog in the household couldn't be more right on the money.

Riley is very smart and has learned a lot in a very short time. He knows most of the basic commands: sit, down, no, come, off, wait. He also knows paw (shake) and is learning sit pretty. I will be having knee surgery soon so we haven't been on walks to learn the heel command. Luckily, we have a large fenced yard. Riley and Bindi run and play outside every day and then come in for naps. Riley is a "love sponge" and loves to be petted and brushed. Bindi has been a very good big sister, sharing her toys and even her bed with Riley. We couldn't be happier with Riley. We love him so much (and it seems Bindi does too).

Thanks so much for all you do.

Sue (and Tom) DeVore

RILEY AND BINDI

Hello GRRR:

We adopted Holly last November. Here us a cute photo of her all comfy in her new home on a comfy chair. We keep wanting to get a group photo of her with the whole family but we never seem to get it worked out.

We absolutely adore her and thank you for bringing us such a gift!

Kathy Clark



HOLLY

Dear GRRR:

We adopted Ripley, a Golden Doodle Retriever puppy at the end of October 2019. We have completed the puppy training and intermediate training through PetSmart with her so far. We plan on putting her in advanced training soon.

She is now 5-1/2 months old and weighs around 43 pounds. She enjoys two daily walks and we try to take her on longer walks on the weekends. She has recently found water to be very fun and enjoys playing with her water dish. She also enjoys playing catch.

When we adopted her she was completely black but over the past 3+ months, she has morphed into more of a silver/blue colored puppy, which we find very cool and unique.

We love her very much and every day is a new adventure with her.

Sincerely, Paul & Jocelyn Rowley



RIPLEY

Dear GRRR:

Gray (formerly Larry), named after the Gray's Peak 14er, is doing amazing and is the best pup! Gray is almost 40 pounds now. He lovessss the snow and going on walks. He waits for commands to start eating his food and is doing a great job socializing! We love him to pieces!

Thank you for our forever pup!

Jennifer & Jess Hirsch

GRAY



Recent Rescues



LUCY & THEO

Dear GRRR:

Lucy and Theo had a great, fun first year. Maybe too much fun...

Patrick Fairfield

Dear GRRR:

Charlie is doing quite well and has adjusted nicely into his family. He's become a good running buddy for me, the kitties tolerate him, and he still loves to snuggle and take baths. For the days when I can't be around the house to take him on a run, he's part of the pack that goes hiking. Apparently, he likes to lead the pack. He comes home happy and smiling every time. While no dog is perfect, I don't have any complaints about Charlie. We love him!

Best regards,

Pamela Bantham

CHARLIE



Hi GRRR!

Just wanted to let you all know that Dave is doing great! He has already come a long way since we adopted him in December. He and Trixie, our yellow lab, are buddies and he has even convinced her to play with him. We've never really seen her play with another dog before! He loves going for walks and hikes and he is learning how to behave in the house. The bunnies in the front yard keep his attention a lot of the time! We are taking him to obedience training and have learned that he is very smart and eager to please. He's been a great addition to the family!

Best wishes,

Deb Huntley

DAVE

Hello GRRR furriends!

I wanted to give a nine-week update since Smurf (formerly Benson) has joined our family. Firstly, we changed his name because it was far too confusing having two "Bens" in the house. He got the name Smurf from a dream I had about a month after losing our other boy, Gilligan, in the fall to nasty Hemangiosarcoma. I had a dream where Gilligan was playing in a field and another dog came running from the grass and I called him Smurf. So here we are.

Smurf is still wary of hoomans although he loves us. He is gaining more confidence every day and doesn't hide in the corner when there is a scary noise. He loves his sisters, July and Jade, and is ALWAYS with them. If one of the others have an appointment, he comes with. He has discovered that destroying toys is pretty neat and turns out to be a lot of fun! He likes his food, snacks, and loves his mommy (me) the mostest. He is such a lover, just wants to have his jowls scratched and nose kissed. He still has a way to go to grow into a real "dog," but we praise him endlessly when he steps outside of his comfort zone and tests his boundaries. He is absolutely perfect and we are blessed to have him join our family. We know two+ years of abuse and neglect is not easy to overcome, and we keep telling him we will always be here and have endless time for him to trust us and realize he is "home." We can't thank you all enough for allowing him to join our family. We feel complete again.

Thank you so much for blessing us with him! He is just perfect and we love watching him grow!

Always thankful, Danielle and Ben
(Stay Golden)

SMURF





BELLA

now they are the best of friends and walking buddies. She brings us nothing but joy and we hope we do the same for her.

We're so grateful for Golden Retriever Rescue and we just lucked into a quick adoption. Thank you all!

Barry & Susan Perow

Dear GRRR:
Bella came to us last April. She is 8 years old and a tripod, but in many ways still a pup. Bella loves to take walks and greets everyone with a wagging tail. She can run like the wind even though she's missing her back leg. I love when walking her and we pass someone I can hear, "Oh that's too bad," referring to her missing a leg, but we don't notice it and she certainly doesn't care.

Her second biggest pleasure is watching television. She's not too thrilled about sports, but man she can go crazy if there's an animal on the screen. Lion King is her favorite movie.

My husband was hesitant taking on an older dog and a tripod, but



BERTIE

Dear GRRR:

We adopted Bertie when he was 8 months old last April 2019. His loving nature was immediately apparent and he quickly filled our hearts with joy again after losing our beloved Golden at 12 years.

Bertie loves to play with other dog friends and go off on great hikes where he can explore and sniff out all kinds of critters! His favorite moments are when he can snuggle with family members and get lots of tummy rubs! Bertie is an adored member of our family!

Judith Racine



HANK AND HANNAH

Hi there GRRR:

I just wanted to send you guys some updated winter pictures of Hank (originally Bongo) and sister Hannah playing around in the snow! He is such a good boy and the biggest sweetheart. We love him so very much!

Amanda and Stephen Young

Dear GRRR:

Here is a long-awaited update on Penny, a wonderful Golden I adopted through GRRR after I lost my long-time companion, Carlo, another Golden, at age 10. Penny was about 1-1/2 years old when I got her. It was obvious she'd already had a litter. She suffered from separation anxiety and was particularly afraid of "men in baseball caps." It took a while before she would quit following me from room to room, and with the help of the instructions I was sent home with regarding separation anxiety, I was quickly able to leave her at home for short periods of time without too much damage. She had a bad habit of eating food off the counter. Now we have a routine. I clear the counter and give her a Kong chew toy filled with treats if I leave the house. She also has a special place on the couch with me where her blanket lets her know the section reserved just for her. That blanket also came from GRRR. I have a large fenced back yard and she's learned the freedom of being off the leash. We feed the birds every morning and she loves to chase the squirrels. She still pulls on her leash so we don't go for walks, but she runs all day and gets lots of exercise.

It's just Penny and me, but she enjoys visits from the grandkids and great grandkids. She's also good with other dogs, but her contact with other dogs is limited. Last summer I took her up to Horsetooth and quickly learned that she doesn't swim, so I got her a life jacket and take her out on my paddle board. She's a bit big for the paddle board, but we manage our way to a quiet beach where she gets swimming lessons.

I especially want to thank Roberta, the wonderful volunteer who handled Penny's adoption and chose me to be her lucky owner. Thank you, Roberta. I'll never forget your kindness and consideration. You sure put together a good match.

I'm forever grateful and just recommended GRRR to my carpenter, who also fell in love with Penny. I'm happy to say she's not always afraid of men in baseball hats anymore. Lots of love cured that issue, and Penny's company cured me. I was grieving the loss of my Carlo and my partner, David, from Alzheimer's disease, but Penny was just what I needed to enjoy life again.

Forever grateful,
Carol Hawkins

PENNY



Recent Rescues



Hi GRRR:

Ruby arrived at GRRR from Sioux City, Iowa just before Christmas. She was 2 weeks postpartum, a breeder surrender. We picked her up on December 26.

She is a sweet and gentle girl, who is becoming her own self more and more. We can tell! There is a glorious stubborn streak revealing itself too. She is incredibly social and has to stop and say hi to every child, adult, or dog that we meet! Ruby is a bundle of endless love. And needless to say, she hasn't turned down a tennis ball yet! She is the perfect companion for these days of staying at home.

Grateful,
Rena and Jacob Bloom

RUBY

Dear GRRR:

Today is Bailey's first anniversary of her adoption. She is a terrific girl, in very good health, and very happy at her home on Lake Granby, a beautiful place in Colorado. She is an amazing girl and has brought joy and laughter. She is a blessing. Thank you, GRRR, for allowing Bailey to be a part of our family.

Patty and Dick Rhinesmith



BAILEY



HAILEY

Dear GRRR:

Our 'lil Miss Hailey (initially named Dusty because she was rescued from a puppy mill in Springfield) is now a year old and weighs almost 70 lbs. She is a beautiful girl and so sweet and lovable. Hailey especially loves playing in the snow and enjoys our daily walks. She brings us so much joy and love, thanks again GRRR!
Anne Yee-Moore



Dear GRRR:

I wanted to give you an update on Hank. He has learned so many things in the past month. He is now the stair master and loves going up and down the stairs over and over. Hank has also learned that getting in the car is not scary and we take the red car to fun places like Starbucks.

Michael & Linda Tieman

HANK

Recent Rescues



AVA

She is a quirky goofball who wants only to play, be with us, and interact with our other dog.... Oh, and cuddle!

Ava gets to enjoy the mountains regularly. With introductions to new places, sounds and movements, she is curious if not a little shy. With support, she will seek to understand and accept the new situations. She has never met a person she did not love!

We love her dearly,
Joyce & John Thielen

Dear GRRR:

Just wanted to check in to let you know Daisy, now Ava, has blended into our family with ease. Ava waltzed in and became the little sister of our herder pup, Dinah. Ava and Dinah play with tennis balls and frisbees in the field behind our house. It seems evident to me that Ava was well loved by her previous family. She seems very open and trusting. It took her a bit to feel entirely comfortable with her new surroundings and what I am sure were a few different rules. However, shortly after arriving, her posture and the way she held her head and ears let us know she was relaxed and comfortable. She has lovely house habits and adores attention without being demanding. She has wonderful recall, is a quick learner with reward based training, and is a professional snuggler.

Rescue Dog *(written in honor of Cooper Forster)*

I have no hope, I'm in despair – alone.
The doors are barred, the floors are bare as bone.
I'm so afraid, strange noises in the dark.
The bang of boots, a sad and distant bark.
I curl up tight, a ball of fur and fear,
against the demons always drawing near.
Inside, my heart's like rattling rain on tin.
I hold my breath and pull myself within.
A door is clanged – a figure stark and tall
That beckons me to join it in the hall.
It talks to me and pats me on the head.
I tremble, cringe, and wish that I were dead.
All is not lost! The world has turned and spun.
I'm in a home with love and life's begun.

– Frieda Smith

Dear GRRR:

Our sweet boy Cooper is a puppy mill rescue who had a shaky beginning the first year of his life. His name at GRRR was Camden, and you volunteers will remember he was one of the pups who wouldn't let anyone near him, would quiver at the back of his pen, and run outside if anyone came near him. (Initially he was with his brother Galen.) I was a volunteer like many of you, who sat on the floor and inched my way forward, s-l-o-w-l-y gaining trust, barely touching him, then a little petting...and the rest is history. We know how these Golden Retrievers can work their way into our hearts! He was so fearful, we fostered him at first. Then with some loving guidance from Roberta, made headway and we eventually adopted this precious little guy. Cooper is so sweet and loving, he so wants to be by us, touching us whenever we are watching TV or reading or sitting in one place for a while! His progress and trust has been slow to earn, but he has come so far! At first he was so afraid of every new thing we encountered on our walks that he tried to bolt. Every moving leaf, stop sign, crunching branch, trash can, etc would cause panic, but some sessions with trainer Ted Terroux helped us owners as much as Cooper. He still has his "safe" spot in our house that he runs to first, but he has learned to love his walks and runs with us, getting treats, doing his few tricks, and being part of the family. He loves a good romp in the snow, and he loves having other dogs over for play dates! He's become quite social and wants to greet every person and dog we meet along our walks. Cooper will turn 2 in a few months, and although he still has puppy exuberance and playfulness with other dogs, he is still figuring out how to play with toys and humans. But he has come so far, and we know he'll continue along his path of learning to trust and love people and have a real dog's life.

Mo, Greg and Jana Forster



COOPER



Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Here is a picture of Maizie (on the right) adopted in December with her big sister, Lucy, on an early evening walk near Tucson. She loves her walks, rides in the car and playing with other four-legged friends. Upon return to Arvada, Maizie will begin obedience training, trying to reverse the bad habits she's learned from her big sister, like chasing rabbits and those pesky cats. Warm weather will allow her to put those big paws to use swimming and finding mud puddles to wallow in.

Maizie is still very shy around strangers and tends to migrate to her secure spot in the house. She was never socialized with other dogs or humans. When rescued by GRRR she weighed only 39 pounds, and at 20 months of age had at least one litter, maybe two. She is up to a fantastic 55 pounds now. Maizie is a little squat in appearance, probably from growing up in a small cage. Ear infections and worms were early problems but have resolved.

We feel fortunate to have Maizie in our family. Thanks GRRR for allowing us to adopt her. We look forward to the GRRR get-togethers.

Rich O'Day

LUCY & MAIZIE

Hello GRRR:

We adopted Lucy from you almost a year ago. I can hardly explain the joy Lucy has brought to our home. We love Lucy and really enjoy being "pawrents" - Lucy pretty much goes everywhere with one or both of us. One of her favorite places to visit is Home Depot - it seems everyone there has dog treats, and she knows it! Over the summer there are numerous outdoor places to dine that allow dogs to accompany their owners, so we take advantage of those.

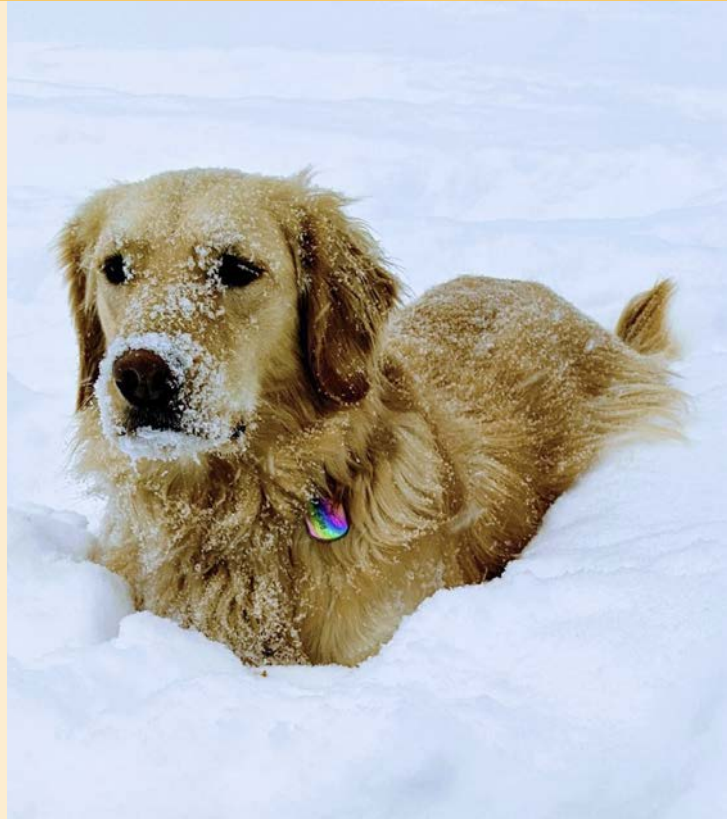
Over the past year we have found Lucy loves snow, and living on the side of a mountain, we tend to have an abundance of snow from October through May for her enjoyment! In addition to snow, Lucy loves to go on walks - either around the neighborhood or in a park. We generally walk her every day - at least a mile, and most times 2+ miles. She gets a big smile going, and her tail looks like a flag!

Lucy is very social. She loves people and dogs, so we ensure she has lots of walks and playtimes with the other dogs in the neighborhood. When we have a get-together with friends, dogs are always invited!

Lucy is beautiful - her soul is beautiful - we love her so much. As I'm writing this email it's snowing, and there was a dusting of snow overnight. Lucy rolled around in it immediately. She is happy, and so are we!

WE LOVE LUCY!

Sharon and Steve Woods



LUCY

SPRING FLING

Spring Fling is now re-scheduled for Sunday, June 14 from noon - 3pm at Phoebe's Place, but please check www.goldenrescue.com for updates! See invite on page 15.

GRRR STATS

January 1 – March 31, 2020

Number of dogs adopted 67
Medical Bills \$37,773

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 August, 2020 issue is July 6, 2020. Thanks!



Golden Angel Updates

ROCKY

Dear GRRR,

I am doing well. It's been almost three months and my forever companion is responding to my wants and needs. My new home is all one level and small enough to always know where he is hiding. He is always home and we hang out an arms distance from each other while he works on the computer, watches TV, or gets on that elliptical thing. I have to be patient, but when I want to go out, get fed, go for a walk or have my neck and back massaged, he responds.

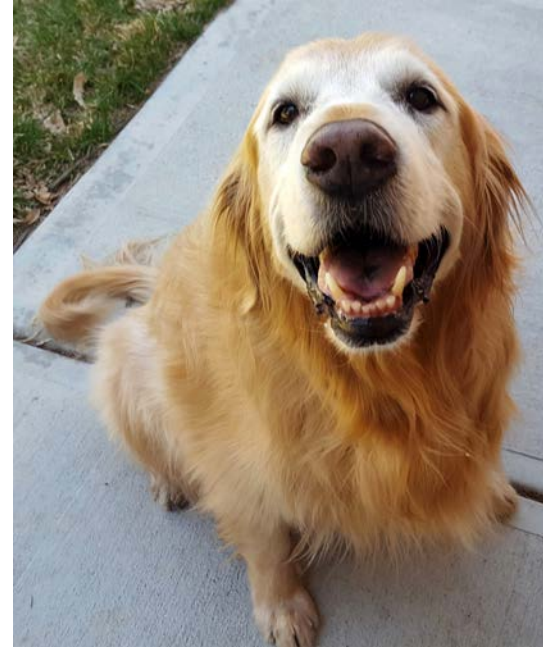
I love to go in the car with dad. I have the back seat with a hammock and seatbelt tether to keep me safe. I love to go to Phoebe's Place to see Steve, Francie and Mary, to his daughter's house and on errands.

I have taught dad to put some of his grilled steak, chicken or pork loin on my kibble for my three meals each day and I get fresh cold filtered water when I need a drink. I love organic green beans and I have taught him to give me some each day by showing him my bag of tricks (high five, shake, etc.).

We live close to Dr. Carpenter's office so Dr. Carpenter can keep close watch on my meds. While it would be nice to get off of the pain meds and anti-inflammatory steroid, we are working on finding a happy balance. I love to go on walks in my new neighborhood. I get to greet friendly people and dogs. Sometimes I get excited and try to go past my limits. But I am gently guided back home to recover. It's that happy balance thing. **ROCKY**

When my dad tells everyone about me, he talks about how fortunate he is to have me in his life. We are still learning about each other. It is looking good so far...

Love, Rocky (with a little help from dad, Dana Wright) 🌸



BIG BEN

Mary Kenton

Ben is doing great with me at Phoebe's Place. He is down to 130 pounds (down from 169 pounds!) and is a very happy boy. He still has to lose some additional weight before he can have knee surgery for torn ACL's in both knees.

We are trying to teach Ben how to get in and out of the car. He is a sweet boy but definitely has a stubborn side to him... there is no moving him when he sits! He loves to wander around and go for walks. He is so sweet and so funny when he trots or waddles quickly. His nickname is Lightning! But he is always the first one who is looking to find a shady spot to rest! 🌸

BIG BEN



Ways to Give Back to GRRR

Amazon Smiles: Shop at smile.amazon.com and choose GRRR as your charity and a portion of your purchases will get donated back to GRRR.

King Soopers/City Market: Log in to your account and link your Sooper card to GRRR (we are organization #DN758) and a portion of your purchases will get donated back to GRRR. <https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

State of Colorado income tax refund: You can donate all or a portion of your 2019 state income tax refund to GRRR. Visit www.refundwhatmatters.org for more details. A new Charitable Giving Incentive creates an above-the-line tax deduction (a universal or non-itemizer deduction that applies to all taxpayers) for total charitable contributions up to \$300 for 2020. The law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions for those who itemize from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent.

Thank you!

This is sweet little Olive, who is beyond grateful to everyone who supports GRRR's Golden Angel Fund. Opening your heart to special Golden Angels like Olive means the world to their happy, healthy futures and often to their literal survival. A Golden Angel is a dog who requires expensive veterinary treatment beyond vaccinations, minor medications and routine procedures such as spay/neuter.

Beautiful cream-colored Olive is 3 years old. She was in another state where we think she was mostly left outside and not given very much attention. Because of this, she was prone to wander and ended up at a rural shelter on multiple occasions after she was found dirty, matted, hungry and wandering.



OLIVE

Olive had surgery on March 20, and all went very well according to Dr. Carpenter. She has to wear a cone for a few weeks to make sure that the stitches hold and her eye heals. Nancy had also discovered a urinary tract infection when she observed that Olive would not go potty without total privacy and that her pee had a bad odor. Dr. C prescribed antibiotics.

As of this writing, Olive is doing great at Nancy's. Her eye is healing nicely. They have bonded to one another, helping to get each other through virus isolation. Nancy says Olive has the best personality. She is gentle and peaceful and seems very content to be right next to Nancy at all times. The typical "Velcro-Golden"! Nancy has quilts for Olive on her front and back decks where they love to sit together and watch squirrels, birds, or neighbors and their dogs walking by. This has all the signs of another famous GRRR foster failure! That would be just fine with both Nancy and Olive. 🌸

In early March of this year, Olive was once again at the shelter with no collar and no microchip. A local Great Pyrenees Rescue was called. Because of her coloring, Olive was mistakenly thought to be a Great Pyr. The good folks at the Great Pyr Rescue recognized that she is a Golden (likely purebred) and called GRRR to see if we would take her if she was not claimed within the time limit. They also explained that this sweet little girl had a condition called entropion eye, which would require expensive surgery and treatment (more about that later). We said, "absolutely"! Mary went to work on arranging transport so we were ready if we were able to get Olive.

When the claim time limit at the shelter had passed, the Great Pyr Rescue claimed Olive and the shelter had their vet make sure she was up to date on vaccinations so she could get a health certificate enabling her to come to Colorado. She was picked up by the Great Pyr Rescue and transferred to our volunteer, who brought her to GRRR on March 11.

Here was this sweet, pretty little girl with creamy white fur and the cutest black nose! Her eyes were soft and gentle but the devastating impact of Entropion Eye was readily apparent in her left eye. This condition is an inward roll of the eyelid. This inward rolling often causes the hair on the surface of the eyelid to rub against the cornea resulting in pain, corneal ulcers, perforations, or pigment developing on the cornea which can interfere with vision. Olive's eyes were red and very runny – poor girl. The condition is hereditary and seen in many dog breeds, including Golden Retrievers. It had to be bothering her immensely.

Olive saw Dr. Carpenter right away for a general exam, spay scan, heartworm test and an eye exam. He confirmed that she has entropion eye and needed surgery to correct it and protect her eye from being permanently damaged. The surgery entails taking a small slice out of the eyelid so that the rolled in portion is removed – like an eye tuck! Often two surgeries are needed because there is a danger of removing too much of the eyelid, resulting in overcorrection. Mary wanted to get the surgery completed as soon as possible to protect Olive's eye. She thought it would be best to find a good foster home so that Olive could have a quiet place to recuperate.

Enter Nancy Grant. Nancy is a loyal GRRR member who had recently lost her sweet boy Gainesville, who was also a Golden Angel when he first came to GRRR. Olive went home with Nancy right as the corona virus began to shut down Colorado. Both Olive and Nancy were just fine with that! They quickly got to know each other and settled in staying home together.

Golden Angel: BENSON

by Linda Hartman

Hello to all the wonderful people at GRRR! I can't even begin to tell you how excited, thankful and proud I am to be a GRRR Golden Angel and an ambassador for all my Golden friends who need extra special care and help when they arrive here. Speaking of arriving, my journey to Phoebe's Place (and YOU) started far away on the streets of Turkey. I'm so grateful for this chance to tell my "tail" to all of you. I'm doing much better now, but when I was first rescued, I was in very bad shape.

The conditions in Turkey for dogs like me are horrible. Many dogs are abandoned with no food or shelter, and worst of all, no family to care for us. Most of us have never known human kindness. When a rescuer first spotted me, I was wandering along a busy highway, frightened and confused. I was exhausted and had been limping along on a broken toe. My tail was also broken. I was terribly skinny and neglected. I had pretty much given up any hope when the kind rescuer loaded me into the car.

The next few months while I was recuperating in Turkey are kind of a blur. I put on some much-needed weight and gained back my strength. After that I took a very long flight to Colorado. Then one morning I remember waking up on a soft bed with a bowl of fresh water and lots of amazing food. It was Phoebe's Place! I love it here! Mary Kenton is in charge and all the Golden Retrievers love her. How did I ever get so lucky? The only problem was, I still did not feel well. I was very lethargic, slept a lot, and had a hard time finding the energy to play with the other dogs. Everyone thought I was so sweet and hoped I just had jet lag.

Soon I was off to see Dr. Carpenter for a complete exam. He guessed I'm about eight years old, and that really surprised everyone because I'm kind of a little, younger looking guy. Because my tail was so painful, Dr. Carpenter decided to take an X-ray. Unrelated to my tail, the X-ray just happened to show a mass on my spleen. No one was sure what to do at that point, so I went back to Phoebe's Place.

"Benson came back to Phoebe's so we could make a decision as to the next steps for him," said Mary. "The probability of his mass being cancerous was high. Putting him through a surgery to only give him a short time didn't seem fair. But not giving him the opportunity of having a chance at a wonderful life here after all he had been through didn't seem fair either. Benson stayed on his medications as we dealt with the struggle of deciding what would be best for him.

"Benson had us all wrapped around his paw. He was spoiled with roasted chicken and extra food. He was so cute and would get SO excited and dance around. He was very vocal and wanted to make sure we knew he was happy to be alive and here with us. Anyone who came into the house was his instant new buddy. Benson was telling us that he wanted a special chance...so we gave him that chance to live. We are so very glad we did!

"Benson had surgery and everything went well. His tumor was sent to pathology and came back benign. We were all so ecstatic for our wonderful, loving little Benson! He has recovered from surgery and the staples were removed. He's an amazing and very special guy who deserves a life of love and great care," exclaimed Mary.

It's me, Benson, again. Can you believe it? I'm the luckiest fellow on the planet! Thank you dear GRRR donors and volunteers. The Golden Angel Fund, along with all your love and support, saved my life! Even my broken tail is gratefully wagging every day just for you. I went from being an abandoned, scared and sick Golden trying to survive on my own to getting a wonderful new start in life. I can't wait to go hiking in the beautiful mountains or walking in a park, or just relaxing on the couch with you. It doesn't matter what we do. I'll love it all...as long as I'm with you! 🍀

BENSON



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!

Our Goldens Keep Us Smiling During Social Distancing

I'm thinking of all our wonderful GRRR members and volunteers during this difficult time. As social beings, humans miss the contacts with each other that we had taken for granted. But most of you receiving this newsletter have a leg up (or four) on the majority of folks. We have our loving Golden Retrievers to cuddle, walk, play and beg for more. Most are thrilled to have us stuck with them 24/7. Hopefully they won't go through extreme withdrawal when our lives return to normal!

As you may imagine, donations are down with the economic turmoil taking place. We are working hard on grants and fundraising programs, and we're confident GRRR's fiscal responsibility will see us through. We realize many of you have been affected by the virus and closures, but if you are able to help GRRR, you might think about setting up recurring donations. One way to do that is through [ColoradoGives.org](https://coloradogives.org). It's easy and safe to do through this great organization.

In addition, a new Charitable Giving Incentive creates an "above-the-line" deduction for all taxpayers (whether or not they take the standard deduction), for total charitable contributions up to \$300. The incentive applies to cash contributions made in 2020 and can be claimed on tax forms next year. For those who do itemize deductions, the law also lifts the existing cap on annual contributions, from 60 percent of adjusted gross income to 100 percent.

One piece of exciting news: We have three new Board members, elected at the March Annual Members Meeting: Michael DeGroff, Richard Schultz, and Jill Sutton. Each brings something new and different to the Board, and we're thrilled to have them. 🌸

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Michael DeGroff

Mike has held senior leadership positions in multiple companies, most recently as Senior Director, Innovation and Development Program Management for Terumo BCT, a global leader in blood management and safety. He was responsible for global innovation and development, portfolio budget development and management, resource allocation and balancing, establishment of project team goals, and employee performance evaluations. Mike was a Board Member for Tucson Little League, a startup company (BioPath), Arizona Diamondbacks Camper Fund, and a Light the Night fundraising event (Pedal for Leukemia and Lymphoma). He has worked on many GRRR events since moving to Colorado, and enjoys time with his wife Dianne and GRRR Golden Doodle, Izzy.



Richard Schultz

Richard is General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for Great-West Life & Annuity Company, AKA Empower Retirement (the second largest retirement services provider in the U.S. and Mile High Stadium sponsor). In his position, he manages a large number of employees and substantial budget. He has extensive experience with Boards of Directors, strategic planning, budgets, financial performance and policy and procedure implementation. In his spare time, he has served as a board member for Colorado Jump\$Start Coalition, which promotes financial literacy for Colorado youth, and Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain, which teaches students entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness. Richard has had several GRRR Goldens, including a previous breeder dog.



Jill Sutton

Jill recently retired as IBM Watson Health Director, offering management and clinical editorial services. She and her teams worked across the organization to develop investment plans focused on revenue growth and client retention. They developed strategies based on the voice of the client, competitive analysis, and market dynamics. Her work required good relationships across a diverse organization and strong communication skills. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Chapter of HIMSS (Health Information and Management Systems Society), as Advocacy, Communications, and Professional Development Chairs. Jill has sponsored and adopted two Turkey Dogs and attended many GRRR events.

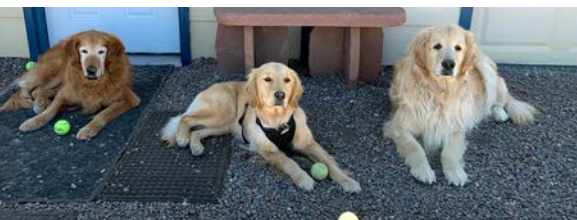


During these trying times we want to reach out to our wonderful GRRR members and volunteers and touch base regarding how GRRR has been affected by COVID 19.

We suspended all VIP walking as well as all VIP training in March. In addition, we have limited the number of folks coming to Phoebe's Place. At this time, our kennel tech, bookkeeper, adoption coordinator and I are all rotating when we are on site and are also limiting any contact we have with Mary Kenton. She truly is the heart and soul of this organization, and if she were to get sick we would need an entire team of people to do her job.

I have had many questions regarding our upcoming events. In all honesty, it is just too early to tell. Our plan was to bring in a second group of Turkey Dogs sometime in May. Given the travel restrictions, we are not sure that a May group of Turkey Dogs will happen. In addition to the travel restrictions, we also feel that it may not be financially possible to bring in this group of Turkey Dogs. We are thinking of postponing the second group until later in the summer when our financial situation will be clearer. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these sweet pups, please contact me at francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com.

The next event we have is our Spring Fling, which is now scheduled for Sunday, June 14. This is a super fun event held outdoors at Phoebe's Place and is a dog friendly event. We sell merchandise and grill burgers and brats. It's a great time to visit with everyone, dogs and people alike. If you've never been, I highly recommend coming! Be sure to check our website and social media for any changes to that June 14 date.



BENSON, IVY AND BEN

And finally, we have our Gala. The 2020 Gala is currently set for July 18 at the Tivoli, so be sure to Save the Date. The Gala is our second largest fundraiser next to Colorado Gives Day and very important to achieving our goals. While we don't know what the future holds, we are doing our best to plan for what "might" happen. Currently we are planning on having a "live" Gala at the Tivoli; however, we do have a contingency plan if we are unable to all gather for this wonderful event. Our plan would be to conduct a virtual Gala beginning on Saturday, July 11 and concluding on Saturday, July 18. We would still have auction items, with bidding online instead of in person. Let me stress this is a contingency plan. We will make a final decision by mid-May and keep everyone informed.

Given the current events, we do anticipate reduced support from small businesses (understandably so) which not only provide sponsorship money to the Gala, but also provide the majority of our donated silent auction items. If you do plan on donating items to the Gala for our silent auction, please consider purchasing items from local businesses. They could really use our support during these uncertain times. Not only are you helping GRRR, but you are also helping our community! We are looking for silent auction items such as: A week or weekend at a condo, a fun/unusual experience such as driving a sports car, gift certificates, tickets to sporting events or concerts, dog related items and art. We also plan on having the "Instant Fine Wine Collection" as a live auction item again this year and are looking for donations for that as well. We will be collecting nice bottles of wine (valued at \$30 or more). If you have wine or other items to donate you can drop them off at the Spring Fling or at the office at Phoebe's Place.

For the short term, please call before coming to Phoebe's place to be sure we are available. If you have any questions regarding the gala or to let us know what you will be donating please contact Dianne DeGross at dkdegross@comcast.net or myself, at francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com

Again, we know this is a very difficult time for everyone. We look forward to your support enabling GRRR to continue our mission to "Never say no to a Golden in need." Take care of yourself and your pups! I know my dogs are enjoying all the quality time with their humans, and I imagine yours are too! 🍀



WINE FUNDRAISER!

Want a fun way to support Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies during your "Stay-in-Place" time at home? You can help GRRR raise \$5 per bottle sold of Dog Day Cabernet by ordering and enjoying this amazing 90-point wine over the next two months.

Darcie Kent Vineyards, a family winery in Northern California owned by the sister of one of our VIP (Volunteer Interaction Program) dog walkers, has teamed up with GRRR and will donate \$5 for every bottle of their award-winning Dog Day Cabernet sold now through the end of May. GRRR supporters can order this wine for \$20, 50% off the retail price of \$40!

Darcie created this wine several years ago to support her local rescue in Northern California (her dog Bruno, posed for the label). She and her family are excited to include GRRR as a beneficiary. This award-winning cabernet (90 pts Wine Enthusiast) is from the vineyards of Pro Football Hall of Famer, John Madden.

Shipping is only one-cent for orders of 3 or more bottles of Dog Day Cabernet. If you would like to order any of her other amazing wines, you may do so. Case orders will receive 15% off of all other wines.

When ordering be sure to use the Coupon Code, GRRR, so GRRR will receive the \$5 donation per bottle and one-cent shipping for orders of 3+ bottles.

<https://shop.darciekentvineyards.com/product/2016-Dog-Day-Cabernet>

They can ship to AZ, CA, CO, DC, FL, GA, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VA, and WA.

Questions? Please email Julie McCarty at jtmccarty11@gmail.com

You're Invited



Spring Fling!

For members, volunteers,
and dogs!

Back with the Pack!
(we hope!)

Sunday, June 14, 2020 12:00-3:00 pm

GRRR: 15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada, CO 80007

Doggie Play ❁ Merchandise ❁ Rattle Baskets!

Burgers, brats, and drinks provided. Please bring something to share like side dish, appetizer, salad, dessert (if in doubt, bring a side dish...we get lots of desserts).

In case of pandemic or bad weather cancellation, please check website: goldenrescue.com

Donations in In Memory or in Honor

- Anonymous in honor of Augie
- Anonymous in memory of Miss Sophie Miltner
- Anonymous in memory of Joe Masi
- Ellen Burns in memory of Koda
- Margaret Crawford in memory of Gainesville Grant
- Margaret Crawford & Angela Schroeder in memory of Bob Heldenbrand Sr
- Margaret Crawford & Angela Schroeder in memory of Helen Elizabeth Poss Swanson
- Barbara & Bob Crook in honor of Big Ben
- Catherine Damiano in memory of Vinny Damiano
- Marta and Steve Dubay in memory of Rockie
- Frances Duncan in memory of Robert Heldenbrand
- Shannon Fonger in honor of Crickett Forbes
- Nancy Grant in memory of her precious, devoted and goofy Gainesville
- Mary Kenton in memory of Aspen & Hope – my puppy Mamas
- Nancy Schroeder Grant in memory of Bob Heldenbrand Sr.
- Nancy Schroeder Grant in memory of Sheba – loved by Nancy, Lynda and Louis Poplin
- The Hartley Family in memory of Tripp Hartley
- Loretta Holstein in honor of Ben
- Janet Hruby in memory of Hutch
- Amy Ikerd in honor of Linda McOsker
- Peter & Nancy Lynch in memory of George & Nancy Webb's dog Gator
- Peter & Nancy Lynch in memory of Sparky, Peggy Sciumbato's beloved Golden
- Natalie Mall in honor of Roxanne Sabin
- James Mason in memory of Annie Mason
- Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly
- Stacie McWilliams in memory of Palei
- Mia Nguyen in memory of Sherrie Clark
- Alexander Pierce in honor of Welly O'Hara
- Pat & Scott Rogers in honor of Bob Jorgensen & Deb Kneale for their TLC for Oliver & Cooper
- Pat & Scott Rogers in memory of Hope, Roxanne & Ellen's Golden
- Mark Sharp in memory of Jo Everding
- Jill Snyder in honor of Abbie Snyder
- Francie Rakiec in memory of Abby
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Sparky
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Louie Miller
- Stacy Springston in memory of Max
- Bill & Sue Sprole in memory of Sammy Schoelton
- Casey White in memory of Matthew John Flanders
- Donna Winship in memory of Carol "Buck" Herring



GAINSVILLE GRANT



SPARKY SCIUMBATO

HUTCH

From Janet Hruby: *"My sister Carol Hruby and her family recently lost their loved-by-all, extra tall Golden Retriever, Hutch. He brought great joy to all who were around him and often would flip people's hand to get pets. Few could resist his charm. He loved the Colorado life and was a great running buddy. We all miss him!"*



In Memory

KIAH

We had to put down our Kiah this January. We are heartbroken. We rescued Kiah from GRRR in March 2015, on the day we said we were NOT taking home a dog! She was described as a 'man lover' and just won over Bill's heart, and the rest was history.

She came to you with bad ear infections and had the name Kiah. We called her 'Kiah Powers' often, as one day when we had her in a store, a young boy asked her name and if he could pet her. He then looked at us and asked, "Does she have a last name?" So cute, so we just started calling her 'Kiah Powers'.

We have given her the absolute best life and the best dog sitters watched her in our home thru the years. In Aug 2019, she started showing signs of extreme 'shedding' so we brought her into her vet, who referred us to a dermatologist, who referred us to an Oncologist Specialist (Aspen Meadows in Longmont). We went bi-weekly and Kiah was treated for skin cancer. She remained the most active, fun-loving and faithful dog. She found tennis balls everywhere. We often took her to the Skyline High School tennis courts here in Longmont, where she found what would be her last tennis ball.

On the morning of Jan 21st, she just laid on her special blanket but was not getting up. Her interest in going downstairs for breakfast was none. Bill and I laid with her after a short while, but we knew...she was telling us...that she was ready and she wanted to 'go'... go and cross over that Rainbow Bridge. We called Guardian Pet Aquamation in Loveland and a vet came and gave her the final injection... here in Kiah's home. It was so hard to let her go. I am in tears re-living and typing right now.

We miss her terribly - every hour, every day. I also got paw tattoos with Kiah, along with all my other girl dogs (3 of which were Goldens) to honor and now I'll have all my girls with me - forever.

Fondly, Linda (& Bill) Powers



KIAH



LIBBY

Libby was 9 - a senior dog - when we got her from GRRR in 2014. What a beauty she was - a retired show dog, with blue ribbons and Best in Show in her resume. She was quiet and sweet - and a joy to groom, as she would stand in place for as long as it took. But she also loved walks in the woods and swimming in any lake or river. Her one odd thing was that she would not retrieve or play with a ball. Guess that was trained out of her. We are forever grateful for Libby. She's up there with all our other Goldens, waiting for us to cross the bridge.

Noel & Butch Ekin

LIBBY

Stryker Ace (2008-2020)

Stryker Ace was our first GRRR family member. He came into our hearts on May 22, 2010 at 2 years old. He had a rough start at a puppy mill in Oklahoma. He and I connected right away. He became my shadow. He loved both Kevin and me but he was MY pup! We spent many summer afternoons outside reading in the sun, tossing the ball and going for walks. He loved to rough-house and wrestle with our neighbor dog, Sadie. Another of his best friends was a little 8 pound silky terrier, Cricket. Winters were filled with Stryker sitting on the deck looking like a sheep when he came in. We attended many GRRR events dressing as a pirate for Howl-o-ween since he was missing his left eye due to injury. He was the best cuddler and an amazing listener.

He left us on February 26, 2020. Metastasized cancer was the suspected cause. He was almost 12 years old. He was my best friend and left permanent paw prints on our hearts. Finley (our 9-year-old GRRR boy) misses his brother too. Until we meet again on Rainbow Bridge, Stryker Ace, you are forever in our hearts and memories.

Love Always, Sandi, Kevin and Finley

STRYKER ACE



In Memory

SADIE

Sadie Sue LeFree was the perfect pup. She never got into trouble, never had an accident, always obeyed her momma, and was the best snuggler. She made her brother Arlo look really bad! We rescued Sadie when she was just over a year old. Although she was a year younger than Arlo and 15 pounds lighter, she gave it her all at playtime and usually got the best of him. The dreaded C got her at almost 10 years old. We loved her dearly and will miss her always. Sadie will always be in my heart and in my mind. She lives there forever.

Gloria LeFree

SADIE



HOPE

Hope made her way to GRRR via a Home Depot parking lot in October 2013. She arrived pregnant with an unknown number (and breed) of puppies. Dr. Carpenter counted seven little spines. On December 6th (and 7th) Hope surprised us with eleven puppies, all Golden Retrievers.

We were absolutely convinced that Hope was relieved when the last one of her puppies, who happened to be my Emmie, left Phoebe's Place and she became a lady of leisure. Sure, she spent time with her puppies when they visited Phoebe's Place. She even continued to parent them from time to time, but nobody heard her complain when she wasn't living with any of them.

And then on August 24, 2014 all of that changed. Hope came home with us. While I didn't officially adopt her until exactly one year later, there was never any doubt that she had found the place where she was going to stay. On her first night at home she cuddled up next to me in bed, used my arm for a pillow and snored loudly throughout the night.

From the beginning, Hope was a kind and gentle soul. She watched Emmie and followed her lead when it came to doing some things "dog," as though she hadn't done them before. And she was very worried about walking down our flight of stairs to the basement. So, I did research and tried everything that I read about. Finally, Carole McMurry sent me home from Phoebe's Place with two pieces of American cheese – Hope's favorite treat. Hope gathered all her courage and went down those first few steps. I cheered and clapped, and Hope was so excited that she ran up and down the stairs several times to show just how proud she was of her accomplishment.

HOPE

Hope was always up for a good time. If we danced, she wagged her tail and danced with us. If we went somewhere in the car, she wanted to go along, especially if we drove slowly and let her stick her head out of the window with the wind blowing in her ears. A trip to Iowa? Hope was all in, never once complaining about the ride. A little taste of ice cream would cause Hope to literally spin in circles. And every night when I came home from work, I heard her funny little bark on the other side of the door. Sometimes she would spin then, too. And Hope loved to go to Phoebe's Place because, most of all, she knew that Mary Kenton would be there. Hope adored Mary. She would always look for Mary at parties and if she couldn't immediately find her, Hope would put her nose in the air and sniff until she found Mary in the crowd.

Hope became ill on March 21 after a day of playing at the park and having a favorite snack. By the next morning she had been diagnosed with a hemangiosarcoma on her liver and internal bleeding. She was gone before noon.

It's hard to imagine what we will miss the most about Hope. Certainly, we will never forget her gorgeous, soulful eyes or the way she intervened if she thought two or more dogs were being too rough with each other, even when they were just playing. But no matter what, Hope will always be tucked safely in our hearts while her legacy lives on through her ten other puppies who were adopted by GRRR families.

Roxanne Sabin, Ellen Rabinowitz and, of course, Emmie



REMY

We had to say good-bye to our fuzzy teddy bear, Remy (formerly Chikka/Tika, a puppy mill mom) on October 23, 2019 at the age of 11+. She was such a good and sweet girl. We were lucky enough to hang out with her for more than 9 years, until her liver failed. When we first got her from GRRR in July of 2010, she didn't really know how to be a dog. She truly blossomed over time and loved her mountain lifestyle. Over time, she grew more comfortable with strangers, car rides, boating and camping, but never got over her terror over flies or rumble strips. She made many doggie pals and loved going for hikes in the woods and by the lake. She was a great helper in the office and would come and do downward dog with a grunt when it was time to go for a walk. She could snore like an old man and would sit with her lips pursed in the back seat like an old lady. She spoke with her eyes and was always close by with a nose bump and a smile.

We will forever miss you our dear, sweet Remy.

Corry & Dave Mihm

REMY

DAKOTA

In May 2015 we went to the Spring Fling and saw two dogs together, Dakota and Dallas. We inquired about them and were told they came in as a pair and were to be adopted out as a pair. They hadn't been around cats so a volunteer took them home and they did fine with her cat. We adopted them the next week. Dakota was almost 10 and Dallas almost 7. They tolerated our cat, Cloe, even when she would swat at their tails when they would walk by. They became fast friends even though they were leery of her.

In 2017, Dallas collapsed and we rushed her to the emergency vet where she was diagnosed with a tumor around her heart. She passed away shortly after. Dakota was very sad and missed her terribly as they were always by each other. On Sunday, January 20th during the night, Dakota passed away. He had trouble getting up off the floor as he had some spine and back leg issues this past year. He was on pain medication and had an injection. He was 14½. We are very blessed that we were able to adopt them and give them much love and attention. They were and always will be our Family. We are heartbroken and can't imagine life without him. We called him our Gentle Bear because he had a big round face and the kids called him Bear.

This pair make four dogs we have adopted through GRRR since 2003. This is the best organization because they really care about all the dogs that have come in to find forever homes. Thank you GRRR for blessing us with these fur babies.

Jan Bostwick



DAKOTA & DALLAS

WILLOW

During our first visit to GRRR in 2013 while meeting three potential Golden Retrievers for adoption, we saw a bedraggled, emaciated female cautiously making her way along the fence with a bone in her mouth. We asked about her and were told that she had just recently arrived and needed additional socialization. GRRR had named her Callie. Further conversation revealed that she was from a Nebraska commercial breeder. Callie was estimated to be between four and five years of age and had delivered five litters in five years. The last litter had been stillborn so she was no longer useful. She had been abused, and shaved on 1/3 of her body. The remaining fur was short, coarse and wiry (our vet later called it "funky fur") due to malnutrition.

We immediately felt a connection with Callie but took the evening to think about her and the challenges that might be in store with this very fragile pup. The next day, after a call to GRRR and assurances that we could in fact adopt her since we were retired and could devote as much time as necessary to her socialization, we picked her up. Since she had only had Callie as her name for a week or less, we decided to name her Willow after a soft, graceful bush surrounding our Alaska cabin which she enjoyed.

Over the subsequent 7 years, Willow won our hearts and the hearts of all that she met. Her loving manner and easy temperament won over the most serious adults and fearful children. She consistently offered her paw on a knee or an arm to greet, console or request a treat. Traveling was a favorite, especially in the RV where she would enjoy each new park and the different surroundings. Some fears remained throughout her life - bouncing balls, thunder, gun shots, long handled garden tools, but she developed her "safe places" to which she would retreat until fears subsided. We have no doubt that Willow understood much of what we said, how we were feeling at any given moment and what plans were being made. She followed our every move, mood and rejoiced with us when happy and grieved with us when sad.

We are grateful to GRRR for allowing us to share our lives with Willow and will always miss her gentle and loving spirit.

Thank you, Karen and Bill Elkjer



WILLOW

ASPEN

We just lost Aspen on March 11th. She was the first dog to have puppies at GRRR (Roberta Miller has one, Gracie). Eden, our newest rescue and a puppy mill breeding dog, LOVED Aspen. They were like conjoined twins! Eden is doing better and now relying on brother Maverick, another rescue from GRRR. Our hearts are heavy as Aspen was such a loving dog and so easy going.

Thank you,
Jodi Lehman



EDEN & ASPEN

Naming Tributes

ANNIE, by James Mason

"I will never forget the moment I met Annie. It was a warm sunny day back in 2009 at a dog park. I was meeting with a friend when all of a sudden a Golden Retriever ran up to me to say hello. Around her neck was a red bandanna that said "adopt me". From that moment on my life changed forever. Today I realize why they are called "rescues" because Annie saved my life in more ways than one.

Annie was a kind hearted Golden that loved attention. She brightened the lives of each and every person who were blessed to know her. Long walks, meeting new people, and spending time in the mountains were just a few things she love to do. Annie was an amazing guide dog. Trail's disappear, GPS malfunction and flash lights go dim, yet after all the hikes we've ever been on, we always made it home safely.

February 15, 2020 Annie crossed the Rainbow bridge. Saying goodbye was the hardest thing I've ever had to do but I am forever grateful that God blessed me with one of his angels.

A good friend recently told me "She may no longer be by my side but she will forever be in my heart."

ANNIE



HOPE

HOPE, by Roxanne Sabin

"There was probably never a better name chosen for any Golden Retriever than Hope for our Hope Sabin. She came to GRRR pregnant with eleven puppies and no one to claim her. She accepted the kindness and care offered to her and as far as we can tell, she never looked back.

Hope was a loving and gentle soul and through one of her puppies she brought hope to my life when I didn't have very much left. She herself joined our little pack just a few months later. As mellow as she was, Hope was definitely in charge of the house, especially when it came to sharing her favorite treats or continuing to parent her often naughty pup, Emmie.

Anybody who met Hope fell in love with her. Who could resist those soulful eyes and long eyelashes?

We are sure that there will be another sweet girl who arrives at GRRR full of hope for her future and needing a name who will wear the name proudly in honor of our Hope."

JAXX, by Judy & Randy Whitcomb

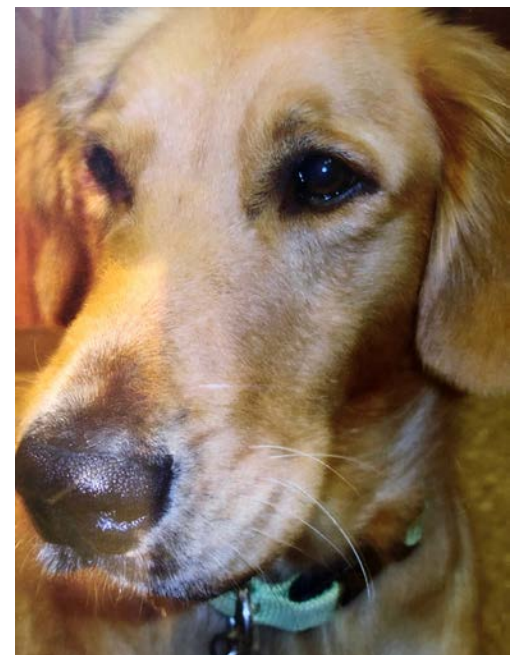
"We would like to honor our beloved therapy dog, Jaxx, who passed away in October. We still miss him dearly.

Jaxx knew many tricks and never failed to amuse his assisted living friends. He was a food stealer but once his hips got bad, he was no longer able to help himself to meatloaf, roast beef, lamb, or whatever was for dinner. He caused us to eat out on a few occasions! Jaxx was a rescue from Kansas City. We were lucky to get such a stunning and smart boy."

JAXX

Interested in a Naming Tribute?

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. 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: <https://www.goldenrescue.com/naming-tribute/>



GRRR 2021 Calendar Photo Contest

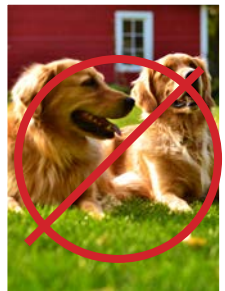
The Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies' 16th Annual Photo Contest is now open! Your Golden could be featured in a full page photo in the 2021 calendar! And the Grand Prize Winner will have their photo on the cover. Last year's calendar was another big success—we received over 500 entries!

Submission Guidelines:

- \$5 per photo entry fee. No limit to number of photos you can submit! 12 Monthly and 12 Honorable Mention winners all receive a free calendar.
- Golden Retrievers or Golden Doodles only; doesn't have to be a GRRR or Rescue dog.
- Horizontal (landscape) shots only, not vertical (portrait)...that means more wide than tall! See examples! You can submit the same photos as in previous years. Monthly and Honorable Mention winning photos excluded.
- The photo must have been taken by you or someone in your family; you can't submit photos taken by someone else.



Horizontal shots like this!



NOT like this... this is vertical!



1. ENTRIES

- **Digital photos:** set your camera at the HIGHEST resolution (photos will be enlarged to 8.5"x11"). Please don't make the files smaller to e-mail—send the original, LARGEST file.

Send as e-mail attachments OR send via WeTransfer: <https://wetransfer.com> (free and very easy) to: contest@goldenrescue.com. Include your name, phone number, address, and dog's name. **IMPORTANT:** You will receive an e-mail confirmation of your digital entry within 48 hours; if you don't receive confirmation, assume files didn't go through and re-send.

- **Snapshots:** We **highly** prefer emailed digital photos please and are doing away with accepting snapshots. But if this is the only way to send photos, send to address below.

2. ENTRY FORM

Fill out the interactive PDF. Important: **MAKE SURE THE FILE IS OPEN IN ADOBE ACROBAT (not just your web browser)!** Fill out, hit the Submit button, and it will email to contest@goldenrescue.com. Or, print out and snail mail to address below. **Form available at www.goldenrescue.com.**

3. PAYMENT

Pay online at www.goldenrescue.com. Or mail check to address below.

IF MAILING, send entry form and check to:

GRRR Photo Contest
Attn: Jeanie Peebles
8095 Holland Ct, Unit D
Arvada, CO 80005
Please make checks payable to GRRR.

Deadline for entry is midnight, July 8, 2020, so start snapping! Winners will be notified by August 15. Calendars will be available at all GRRR events starting with the Rescue Reunion Picnic, on our website, and at a few stores in Colorado.

Thanks and Good Luck!



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

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Oakley Myers giving his thanks.



“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:

v 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! goldenrescue.com