



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”™

Golden GRRROWL

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

May 2021

A Loving Path – The Crooks

by Jeannie Miller

Often people who think about bringing a dog into their lives are thinking about a puppy. An adorable little cuddle bug that will steal their hearts and that they can train to be a long-time companion. Some people want to share their life with a dog but aren't up for all that goes with having a puppy (think no sleep, house training, your favorite things/furniture getting chewed up, etc.) so they adopt a young, but grown dog from a shelter or rescue. But what about older dogs? Those that have half or less of their already short lives left to live? Sadly, in regular shelters these dogs are often overlooked.

There is nothing sweeter than a senior Golden with their “sugar-face,” soft eyes and oh-so-stinky breath! But even so, most of our adoption applicants are looking for dogs under 3 years old. We do get a fair number of older dogs throughout the year. At GRRR, we love our seniors. Just ask Ben, the office dog extraordinaire! Ben is 14 now. He came to us when he was 12. He is Francie's best buddy in the office during the day and if Mary needs a friend to go along on a car ride, count Ben in! He is so loved even though he can sometimes be a bit grumpy to younger, rambunctious pups. He definitely puts them in their place!

But of course, we can't keep all of the seniors permanently at Phoebe's Place – as much as we would like to. Luckily, special

Winky, Dakota, Brittany, Sasha, Maggie



people open their hearts and homes to senior dogs, taking them in and giving them a wonderful life for their remaining years or months. To all of our senior dog adopters, we are so thankful.

When it comes to senior dog loving, there is no one we know who compares to dedicated GRRR volunteers Barbara and Bob Crook. The Crooks are unique for GRRR in that, in 12 years, they have adopted over 45 dogs (some foster/hospice dogs), almost all seniors! I caught up with Barbara to gain a little insight into their lives with a constant handful of sugar-faces. I asked her to start at the beginning.

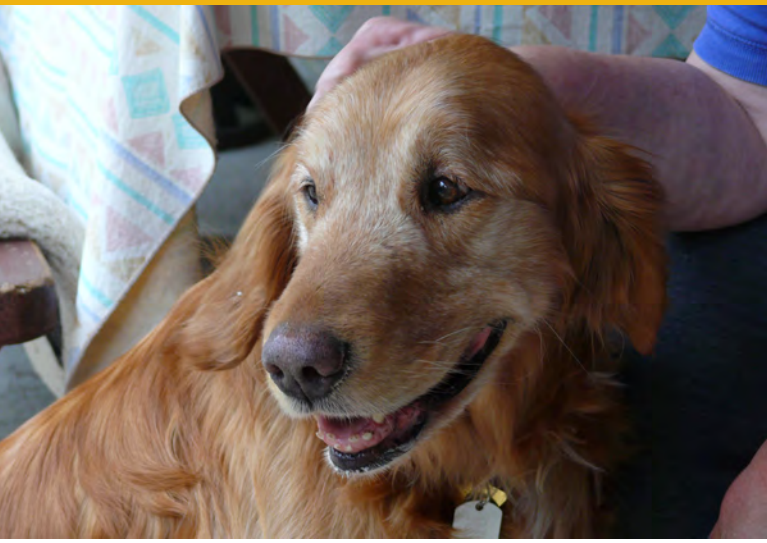
The Crooks had always had dogs and cats. They love animals but Barbara says they didn't really understand animal psychology too well – especially dogs. They had a Cocker Spaniel named Butch who they dearly loved. He lived to be 14 years old. It was so very hard to lose him that they decided no more dogs. Then they started watching Cesar Milan – Dog Whisperer and other dog shows. They learned so much about dog energy, living with dogs and being the leader of the pack. It made so much sense! So “no more dogs” turned into “we need to adopt a dog!” Barbara and Bob decided on Golden Retrievers with their sweetness and lovability. They thought they would go for an older dog because they weren't up for the high energy of a puppy or young dog. It was 2009.

They got in touch with GRRR and before too long they were coming out to meet a couple of dogs. Right off the bat, a 3-year-old male named Chester “picked” them. He knew it and they knew it! He said, “you are mine!” So, getting an older dog went by the wayside at that moment. Chester moved into their home and took over their hearts. He was Barbara's boy, a beautiful, deep red Golden. Their adventures with Golden Retrievers had begun. They decided, as many people do, that one Golden is not nearly enough, so back to GRRR they went and adopted Sadie, a senior girl, and before long, Nanna, another senior girl.

You Get the Dog You Need and the Dog That Needs You

Barbara says they quickly found that you get the dog you need and the dog that needs you. It just so happens that there have been a lot of dogs that the Crooks needed! They started fostering dogs and often would become “foster failures.” Barbara and Bob decided to make a pact after a while: No one goes to GRRR, and if you do, do not come home with a dog!

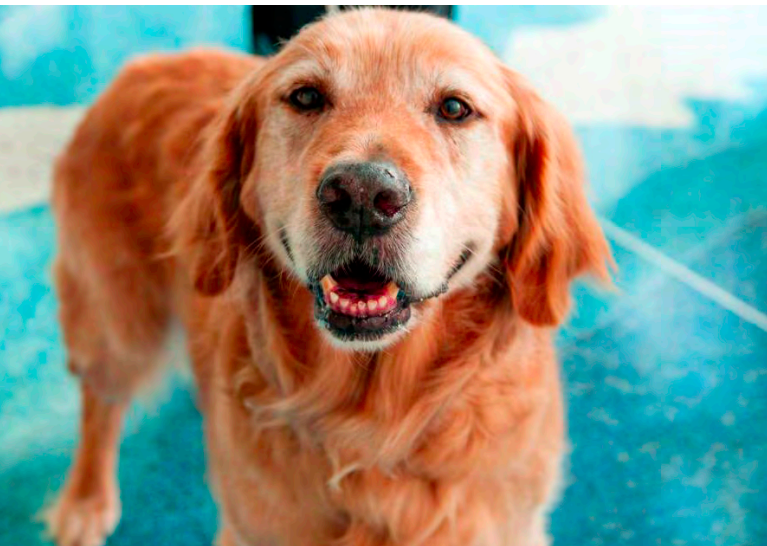
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BEN



WINKY



CASEY

I asked when it became clear that senior dogs were their thing. Barbara says senior dogs have a calm energy that fits their lifestyle. They both work from home so the dogs have them 24/7, which is good, especially if they have some special needs. Dogs can need a retirement home just like people! Senior dogs don't have anything more to prove, so the pack mostly gets along really well. They have the occasional dustup but not too often. They always bring the more dominant dogs to GRRR to meet "new recruits" for the retirement home on neutral ground. That, plus a ride home in the car together, and all is established about who's more in charge. It is mostly a very happy and relaxed bunch. The gang enjoys lots of naps, belly rubs, and following Barbara and Bob around.

The Crook's backyard backs up to a local park so the dogs can see people walking in the park, plus squirrels, raccoons, birds and other dogs. The pack has divided themselves into the front guard – the ones who charge the fence to make sure squirrels don't dare to enter the territory, the rear guard – who cheer on the front guard, and the officers – who stay on the porch and bark encouragement. The funniest is Daisy Mae who is blind. She gets around very well by smell and loves to join the front guard barking at the squirrels. She doesn't have a clue where the squirrel is exactly, but she gets very excited by the whole thing!

Life is never lonely at the retirement home – mostly quiet, but never lonely. There's always a herd following the Crook's wherever they go. Cooking lessons are one of their pastimes, and they always have a very attentive and eager audience who would love to sample their new dishes!

Over the years, the Crooks have had mostly Golden retrievers with a few other breeds mixed in. Max and Charlie Spinner were found together as strays. Charlie Spinner was a Golden with a brain tumor and Max was an older Border Collie. Max tried so hard to herd the dogs and get them to work together. It never worked, but Max tried! And who could forget Peyton – now Joey? When he was surrendered to GRRR, the owner told Mary he was an older Golden mix. When they arrived and he jumped out of the car, here was the funniest little terrier mix with a snaggle tooth and the biggest personality! Not a speck of Golden in him! He joined the pack at the Crooks and has been making them laugh ever since because he thinks he is the top dog!

So many beautiful and amazing Golden characters have spent their golden years with the Crooks. Casey, the ultimate Golden – a big, beautiful boy with a strong personality who claimed his space. Lily – the most beautiful and gentle girl of all time who was neglected and taken from a bad situation by authorities at age 10. Nellie who had a squinty smile that they knew was nothing but trouble. Bob went to GRRR with a friend and Nellie saw him and claimed him on the spot! Holly was an aging puppy mill momma who had no idea she was a dog. Living with a group of dogs who were fairly balanced helped Holly in ways they could not imagine. She would find a quiet space where she would just watch all of the happenings around her. It took her a very long time to take any food by hand. She never fully relaxed, but she did have a good friend in Dakota, and Barbara and Bob would smile when the two of them would run together. There was Lola who Barbara calls a force of nature because she had an impressive presence and was determined to do what she wanted to do. And Amber who incredibly went into heat at age 14! That just confused everyone, especially little Joey who thought he ought to be doing something about that!

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Saying Goodbye

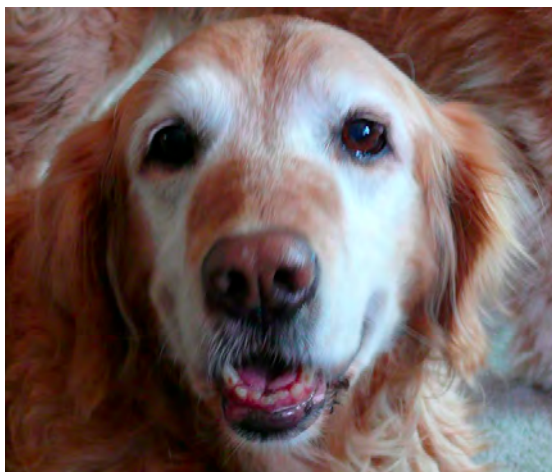
If you are like me, saying goodbye to a beloved friend is one of the hardest things in life. So, naturally I wondered, as most people who meet the Crooks do, how they can handle having to say goodbye so often. Barbara says that it is always unbelievably hard and that they always wish they could have known the dog longer. But they have come to know that they wouldn't trade the months of love and joy they have with each dog to avoid the sorrow at the end. Barbara says that the best thing they can do is give each dog a loving path because they give so much to us. She says it's amazing to watch the other dogs say goodbye and how well they understand what is happening. Each time it is sad but beautiful.

Barbara and Bob have had amazing things happen when a dog crosses the rainbow bridge that send chills. When their beloved Ben passed in the backyard, right after he took his last breath and they sat back, a butterfly flew into their circle and landed on his collar. With another dog, on a calm day, suddenly the wind chimes all began to sing as the dog crossed the rainbow bridge. Barbara and Bob will keep adopting seniors.

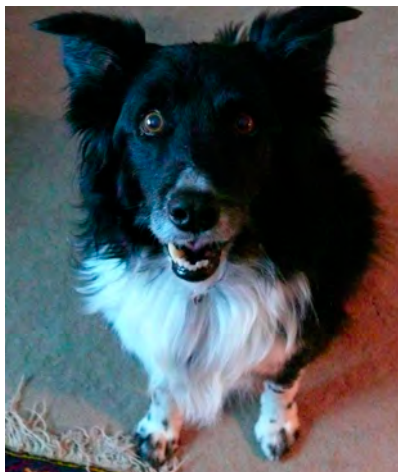
For the Crooks, having senior dogs is the best thing they have ever done, and for GRRR, we are eternally grateful and in awe of them and the pack! 🐾



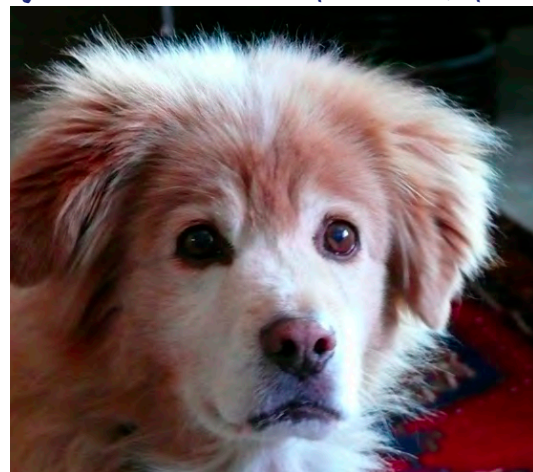
Roxie, Dakota, Holly, Tanner, Nellie, Lola, and Hope on Santa's lap



DAKOTA



MAX



HANK



Here's one of their favorite poems:

The Last Will and Testament of a Dog

Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, giving their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray, I'd give my happy home; my bowl and cozy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap, which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur; and the sweet voice that spoke my name.

I'd will to the sad, scared, shelter dog the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and the pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to him.

This is the only thing I can give...

The love I left behind.

– Author Unknown

Recent Rescues



Hi GRRR:

Here's our new Golden, Penny, we adopted in December. She is a sweetheart!

Thanks,

Laurel, Joe and Penny Robinson



Dear GRRR:

Carlos is an angel who came into our family a short two months ago...we are all so happy he did!

He is 8 years old and was found at a shelter in Utah, sadly not being adopted although he was always happy to greet visitors. To their credit, GRRR saw him and brought him in as a welcome mixed breed...clearly exhibiting all the great genes in his past.

Carlos is such a happy boy with a waggy tail and constant smile. He greets us every time he makes eye contact. This is a velcro doggy, which I adore. Anytime I speak to him he tilts his head back and forth...awww...so cute!

We thank GRRR for sharing this fabulous guy with us. He is such a gift and we feel so blessed to have him join our pack

Bobbi LaPlaca



Hi GRRR:

This is our cute Austin, a Golden mix. We think he's crossed with an Australian Shepherd. We adopted him in late March 2020, just at the start of the lockdown, a perfect time to be sheltered with a new pet. He was 13 years old and is still going strong, loves long walks and running. We have a high mountain cabin where we have spent most of our time since March, just my husband and me, Austin and our cat Maggie.

Lynn Russell and Stoney Davis



GOLDY

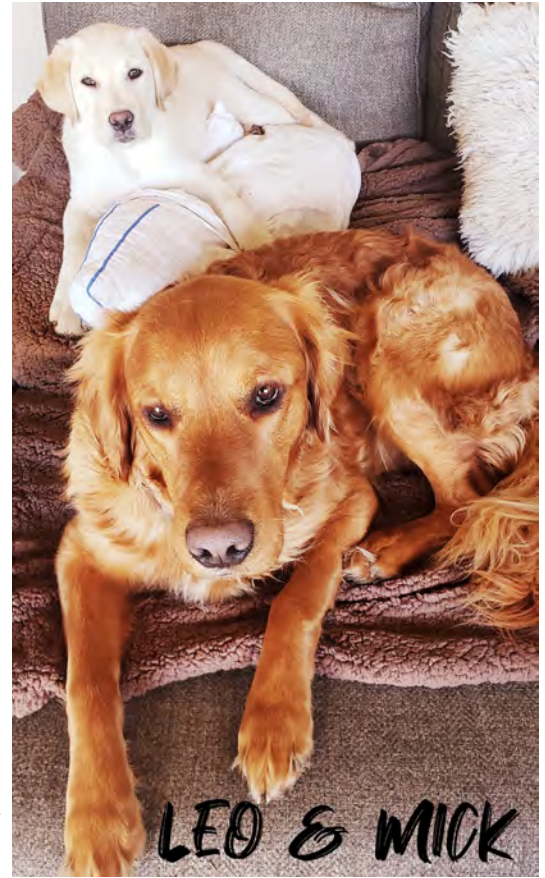
Dear GRRR:

Goldy is a wonderful dog, loving and part of our family. We are so glad we were able to adopt her. She has lost close to 30 pounds! She goes on walks every day and then still wants to play with a tennis ball.

Best wishes,

Jim and Anne Mack

- Hi GRRR:
- GRRR knew we wanted a buddy for Leo, our high energy 3-year-old Golden. Someone had bought a lovely yellow Lab pup and had to surrender him to GRRR. They called us and we knew with his moxie he would be great! We brought him home and named him Mick.
- We are excited to introduce him to our boat and water as well as the RV and our 80 acres down near the Sand Dunes! We predict fun times for our boys! They are getting to know each other and having fun playing and hanging.
- Kelly and Jack Klein



LEO & MICK



JOURNEE

Hello GRRR,

We wanted to give you a little update on Journey. We adopted her from GRRR back in early December 2020. Journey was a little scared when we first brought her home, but within a week she was settling in to her new home.

Since then she has filled out and looks more like an adult dog now. She's right around a year and a half old. She loves toys that she can chew on. Probably her favorite thing to do is playing in the snow and doing zoomies in the yard, so I guess it's a good thing we've had quite a bit of snow lately.

Journey is still getting used to car rides and walking on leash, but she is eager to work for treats and learn new things so she's getting better at them. Her favorite activity besides the snow is fetching her ballie ball. She's very good at it and understands that if she wants it thrown again, she has to bring it back and drop it.

She's a very loving and silly goofball and we couldn't love her more. We are so grateful we have her in our lives.

Thank you again GRRR,

Jim and Janice Harper

Recent Rescues



Hello GRRR friends!

It's been 3 months now since I joined my mom and dad in Pine, CO. They adopted me when I was just 13 weeks old. Since then I've graduated from puppy classes and basic obedience school with my friends at Terroux Dog Training. I'm still working on some things, like not stealing socks and shoes. It's just so fun to make my parents chase after me! I also love to meet new dogs, animals, and people.

My new home is surrounded by open space so I get to go for long walks on trails every single day. My dad is a park ranger so he knows all the best spots. Some of my other favorite things to do are chasing pine cones and chewing on sticks. I also love to break off huge chunks of ice from the river bank. It's sooo fun! I've also been hiking in Breckenridge recently. The snow was so deep I was able to jump in it just like a bunny! I can't wait for spring and summer because I'll get to go camping and explore more places! I really am enjoying my forever home. Thank you, GRRR !

River (and Ty and Chad Goare)

Dear GRRR:

Dug (formally Rocket) and I were introduced to each other in November. He's my second GRRR dog. Dug is a five-year-old with issues. He has seizures which his meds control, but the side effects were terrible. He was overweight and would sleep for hours in the bathtub. Everything he did, he did slowly.

With a lot of visits to the vet, we were able to change his seizure medication and get him on a diet. Dug is a completely different dog now. He loves his daily walks, which are getting longer and faster. A day at doggy daycare ends with a bounce into the car and backyard zoomies. Dug doesn't know it yet, but there's a doggie daypack and day hikes coming his way.

Dug is all dog and a gem, and we're perfect for each other.

Rick Jacobs



Newsletter Submissions

We all love reading about your Golden Retrievers and we'd like to hear from you! If you'd like to submit a letter AND photo of your GRRR rescue, email the letter and digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com, or mail to GRRR at 15350 W. 72nd Ave, Arvada CO 80007. Deadline for the August, 2021 issue is July 6, 2021. Thanks!

Recent Stats

January 1 - March 31, 2021

Number of Dogs Placed:	42
\$ Spent on Medical Needs:	\$19,608

Dear GRRR:

Sawyer has had no problem getting comfortable in his new home. I don't think he knows how big he is and is growing more and more each day. He's already graduated from a "Delightful Dog" 6-week class but I'm not sure I would say he's always delightful...I think I jinxed myself by giving him a name with SAW in it! Some days my arms look like I went swimming with sharks so I can't wait for these baby teeth to fall out.

We have a trainer who comes to the house to train both of us - it's so rewarding to see when we ace something. We still have lots to learn. He makes me laugh every day and he sure can help turn a bad day around. This charmer has the neighborhood wrapped around his wagging tail and is conquering his fears on our daily walks. Can't wait for the day we can all play together but until then, we will continue to learn how to navigate the world and stay social with those we can. Thank you for all you do for these Golden gems and thank you for making my family complete!

Stacy Schafer



Hi GRRR:

I wanted to give you an update on Hubble, formerly Gary, who we adopted 10 months ago. Hubble is doing great and enjoys long walks around the neighborhood and the park. He likes to hangout with his older brother, Tycho; and his new little brother, Bunsen. They love sleeping in the bed, and occasionally leave room for Tracy and I to join them.

We discovered that Hubble has epilepsy shortly after he came to live with us. With help from the Vet and the support we got from GRRR we were able to make sure that Hubble received the medication he needed to keep the seizures at bay. After one rather frightening first weekend, we haven't had another occurrence. We are honored to give Hubble his forever home, and he brings much love and joy into our lives.

Yours, Toby Swaford

Dear GRRR:

Our 10th Golden Retriever (the last 5 adopted from GRRR) joined our family in early October. We decided to change his name to one that looked to the future, and so we gave him the name Keeper. And, indeed, he is a keeper!

Keeper was a timid and scared boy from the midwest, transported to Phoebe's Place by loving GRRR volunteers and nurtured by GRRR until we met him a few weeks later. Definitely a very handsome boy, he also was definitely lacking in confidence. When we first brought him home he would startle frequently and would never approach anyone new. With the great help of his older Golden sister, Louise, and with lots of love and patience, he has blossomed into a much more confident and happy Golden. While the TV picture used to make him extremely anxious, it is now more a curiosity - he runs up to the screen, plants his feet and literally seems to enjoy the show...especially if it includes horses (his favorite)!

Yes, Keeper is definitely a keeper - a wonderful, gentle soul. Thank you GRRR for this precious boy.

Cathy and Russ Jones



GRRR 2022 Calendar Photo Contest

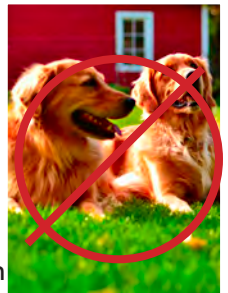
The Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies' 17th Annual Photo Contest is now open! Your Golden could be featured in a full page photo in the 2022 calendar! The Grand Prize Winner will also have their photo on the cover. Last year's calendar was another big success—we received over 500 entries!

Submission Guidelines:

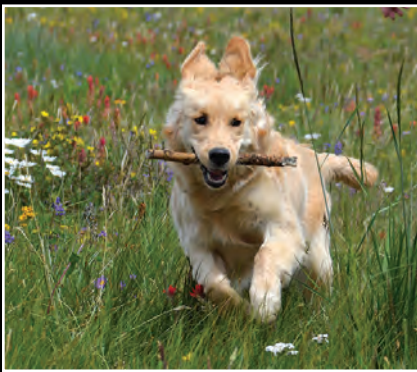
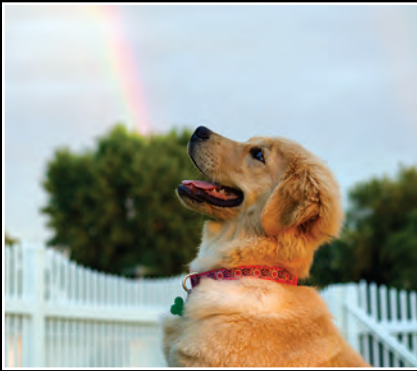
- \$5 per photo entry fee. No limit to number of photos you can submit! 12 Monthly and 12 Honorable Mention winners all receive a free calendar.
- Golden Retrievers or Golden Doodles only; doesn't have to be a GRRR or Rescue dog.
- Horizontal (landscape) shots only, not vertical (portrait)...that means 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 printed 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 also 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 16, 2021, 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 Angel: Tovi

by Jeannie Miller

Take a look at this little bundle of total cuteness. Her name is Tovi and she is now 5 months old. She was brought to GRRR and surrendered by a person who purchased her from a breeder in Texas with the goal of using her as a breeding female. She is a beautiful dog and will grow up to be stunning with her cream-colored silky fur. Surely the person who purchased her was thinking that they would see beautiful pups from her.

But alas, that was not to be, because you see, poor little Tovi is the victim of a genetic disorder called megaesophagus that is very difficult to treat and to manage. When her owner learned of this, they contacted the breeder who said they did not want the puppy back but that they would send her another puppy.

So Tovi came to GRRR at 9 weeks old. She is the cutest and sweetest little girl. She immediately stole Mary Kenton's heart and the hearts of everyone who saw her. She fit right in with the characters in the house. She is a normal, playful, clumsy adorable little girl who has one big problem.

You see, megaesophagus is a neurological condition where there is a lack of muscles in the esophagus. The muscles that are supposed to close the esophagus after the dog eats so food will stay down in their stomach to be digested. Dogs with this condition cannot keep anything - even water - down. Whatever goes down, comes right back up. There is no real cure and the only way to treat and manage this condition is for the dog to be upright for 10-15 minutes after they have eaten so the food will go into the stomach and stay there. Obviously, this requires significant time and dedication by a caring human. It's certainly not for everyone but GRRR took her in without batting an eye.

Tovi went to see Dr. Carpenter and had extensive and expensive diagnostic testing, such as ultrasound and x-rays, to examine her digestive system and to make sure she didn't have any other major medical problems. Dr. Carpenter placed her on a special diet of mild, runny/mushy food and antibiotics. Dogs with megaesophagus are very prone to pneumonia due to aspirating their food quite often.

Mary set about getting this sweet little girl into a good routine of eating and drinking water. Her water is drunk from a raised bowl. After she ate, Mary held her upright like a baby to make sure that food stayed down. Even though this is a huge commitment and requires dedication and patience, I think Mary secretly loved every minute of cuddling this little fur ball.

Tovi began to grow like a little weed and was really thriving. Megaesophagus is not something she will grow out of, so keeping her healthy and fed will always be a challenge.

Tovi's extra lucky day (besides the one where she was brought to GRRR) was when a wonderful woman named Rose (a previous GRRR adopter) stepped up to say that she would love to love Tovi and would take on the challenge gladly! Rose took Tovi home a few weeks ago and renamed her Bella. Bella continues to grow and is becoming too big to hold upright after she eats now. There is a special chair called a 'Bailey Chair' that GRRR purchased for Rose. The Bailey Chair is like a highchair for dogs. Bella sits in the chair to eat and then stays there for 10-15 minutes.

We are happy to report that Bella and Rose are doing great together at the beginning of their special relationship. We are grateful to Rose for opening her heart and home to Bella. And we are so grateful to you, our donors, for giving to the Golden Angel Fund, which allows us to help so many deserving dogs who cannot help themselves.. 💙



Please Donate to GRRR's Golden Angel Fund!

Many dogs coming to GRRR need extra medical attention, and sometimes extraordinary medical costs are the reason a Golden comes to us. With the Golden Angel Fund we can help more of them find a quality, pain-free life in a new and loving home. Your donation will help GRRR dogs in need of extra medical care including treatments for cancer, hip dysplasia, allergies, heartworm, infections, and special medications.

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: Hayden

by Linda Hartman

The Golden Angel Fund provides help and hope to Golden Retrievers who otherwise would not be able to live healthy, happy lives – or even have a life at all. Hayden is one of the most special Golden Retrievers we've ever rescued, but before he joined GRRR he had little to no hope of living the wonderful "Golden life" he so deserved. He just celebrated his first birthday shortly after joining us.

Sweet, frightened Hayden...how he melted our hearts when we first met our newest Golden Angel. He came to GRRR through a commercial breeder in Missouri who no longer needed him. Two of our wonderful volunteers – Steve Schmidt and Mark Springston – were more than happy to make the long trip to bring Hayden "home" to Colorado and into the loving care of GRRR.



When Steve and Mark first met Hayden, he was so scared he had to be carried from the breeding facility to their vehicle in a crate, and he literally stayed in the same position in the crate the entire 12-hour ride to GRRR. At every stop they made, Steve and Mark tried to get him to go potty, but he wouldn't move. He just stayed curled up and was very fearful. Steve and Mark worried that maybe he was unable to stand or walk at all. When they arrived at Phoebe's place, Hayden was carried in while still inside the crate which then had to be disassembled just to get him out. Finally, Hayden stood on his own, but when he moved, it seemed as if something wasn't quite right in his hind legs. He also had one eye that was very cloudy.

Hayden was reserved and cautious at first, but after a few days of rest and recuperation from his big adventure out into the world, he started to act more like a Golden. He even began playing like an overgrown puppy with some of the other dogs. Sometimes it seemed like he didn't really know how to control his body movements. He would sort of adorably "roll out" of his kennel for playtime. It has been so heartwarming to watch Hayden become such a lovable, happy, goofy Golden boy. He doesn't have an aggressive bone in his body and just loves everyone he meets – both people and dogs. We were so excited when he actually barked for the first time, and we could tell he was pretty proud and happy to hear his own voice, too!

We can't help but pause and wonder what kind of a life Hayden had before joining GRRR. We doubt if he ever got to play outside on soft green grass, go for a walk, enjoy the company of other dogs or romp in a play area. When we first met him toys were a big mystery, and he was afraid of soft dog beds and blankets because he had never seen them before.

When Hayden first started getting out on walks at Phoebe's Place, we could tell by his unusual movements that without a doubt something was wrong with his hind end. Dr. Carpenter (Garrison Animal Care Clinic) gave Hayden a thorough examination that included X-rays of his hips and hind legs. Hayden was diagnosed with exterior luxating patella – a condition in which the patella, or kneecap, dislocates or moves out of its normal location. Dr. Bauer (Colorado Canine Orthopedics) performed surgery on Hayden on March 30th and Hayden is now recovering in a loving foster home with Laura and Steve Zlogar. They absolutely adore this large, goofy, fun-loving boy, and we know he is having the best time of his life being very loved and gently cared for. Laura and Steve have done an incredible job of keeping Hayden quiet, safe and happy during his recovery.

Dr. Hammond (Eye Clinic Veterinary) diagnosed Hayden's eye condition as persistent pupillary membranes which is a genetic condition (strands of pigmented tissue which attach to another surface of the iris, or lens or cornea of the eye). He will always be blind in one eye, but Hayden doesn't seem to be bothered by it at all. His primary "focus" is giving and receiving love! As long as someone is around to share his love with, our Hayden is a very happy boy. When you meet him, you will never notice that his kneecap isn't quite in the right place or that he's blind in one eye. What you will see is a big lovable puppy who enjoys every minute of every day now that he's a GRRR Golden.

Your donations to the Golden Angel Fund mean everything in the world to the precious Golden Retrievers who come into our care. It's hard to even imagine what would have happened to Hayden without all the love, support and medical attention he has received since joining GRRR. Hayden's new reality is that he will be adopted, adored, live a carefree life and be very loved. Even hikes in the beautiful Rocky Mountains are now on his to-do list. His enthusiasm and happiness is undeniable, and he brings a big smile to everyone who makes his acquaintance – all because of the incredible volunteers who have helped him and the kind and generous donors who have made his dreams come true. 💙

Golden Angel updates

Yogi by Steven & Jenny Paradis

We picked up Yogi from GRRR just two days out of surgery. He was scarred, hurt, and really grungy. We worked Yogi through the rehab of the surgery, and after what I think was his first bath ever, Yogi came out 5 shades lighter, and he felt a ton better. Since then, he gets a shower about every couple of weeks.

Yogi stayed quiet for the first few weeks, then started to know and use his dog bed and play with his toys. Today he seeks out affection and readily gives it back. His personality is now really showing. Yogi has the run of the house and uses a dog door to go in and out to the back yard. He is still unsure of stairs, but we are working on that.

Yogi has more dog toys than any dog I have seen. He really likes the squeaker toys. He will carry them with him, and really likes to have them with him when he is sleeping. The squeaker toys are ok when we are awake, but Yogi thinks they are really fun early in the morning when everyone else is sleeping.

We take Yogi to our office every day. The presence of a good dog just takes the edge off of the day. Clients who are accustomed to seeing him know and ask about Yogi's recovery. We have a client who was in a motorcycle accident with a truck. He met Yogi and the two of them bonded right away from the fact that they both had a pretty good case of road rash. It is truly amazing when you see the human / animal bond.

Our goal with Yogi is to train him for the AKC Canine Good Citizen and move our way up to AKC Therapy Dog. In only 3 short months Yogi is a different dog. He is well adjusted, seeks out affection and is respectful of his home. He adds so much to our lives and the others that he touches.

Jenny, Yogi and I want to say thank you to the volunteers of GRRR for making the long drive to New Mexico and taking him back and forth to Colorado Canine Orthopedics. We appreciate all the work from Colorado Canine Orthopedics for Yogi's medical care, and especially the benefactors to the Golden Angel Fund for Yogi's care. ❤️

Kaiya by Mary Kenton

A cystoscopy revealed that Kaiya had ectopic ureter, a low functioning kidney and a bladder that sat low in the pelvis, in addition to a hooded vulva that adds to the constant UTI infections.

Kai's surgeon, Dr. Turner at CSU, did an amazing job communicating with us regarding the options, potential complications and recovery process. The best procedure for Kaiya was removal of her kidney and ureter and tacking up her bladder, and repair the hooded vulva. Kaiya did well in surgery. Steve Schmidt volunteered to be her chauffeur for trips back and forth to CSU. Steve, like all of us here at GRRR, have fallen in love with this sweet girl.

Kaiya's incontinence has really decreased. She is still on medication for incontinence and time will tell if she will need the continued support of medication. But her reoccurring urinary tract infections should be over. Kaiya recovered quietly for two weeks in our Robert Sturm Veterinary Medical Room, which has been a godsend for so many of our Golden Retrievers during recovery and illness.

Kai and GRRR are very grateful to all the supporters of the Golden Angel Fund that helps change the lives of so many dogs who would never have had the opportunity to live a life without pain and suffering. Kai is slowly getting back to playing with her friends while awaiting a wonderful adoptive home where she will be loved and live a Golden Life!



President's Report

by Judi Servoss, GRRR President



It's full-blown mud season in my mountain paradise, and Perry is loving every moment. Even towels and baths can't deter him from digging, rolling and sharing the slush and muck. Dogs can teach us so much, with their ability to find joy in every different situation.

I find many of us humans are also loving the simplest of pleasures after life under pandemic restrictions—dinner with other newly vaccinated neighbors, hugging our grandchildren, and of course, looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Spring Fling!

I was at Phoebe's Place recently where I saw the emerging signs of spring and rebirth. A couple of dog walkers were there, and you could see smiles under their masks – crinkling eyes are a welcome giveaway.

Thank you to those who attended our virtual Annual Meeting. I was pleasantly surprised at how well it seemed to go (technically), but I admit to hoping we can meet in person next year. We've managed to do all the things we need to do to keep GRRR running smoothly, but couldn't have done it without Mary Kenton and Francie Rakiec. I know you join me in appreciating them! 💙

Phoebe's Place update

by Francie Rakiec,
GRRR Executive Director

It's hard to believe we're almost halfway through 2021! I hope I'm not jinxing anything by saying this, but things seem to be looking up. This year is GRRR's 25th anniversary. So amazing that we have been saving these wonderful dogs for 25 years! And our caregiver, Mary Kenton, has been involved almost the entire time! We fully reopened our VIP walking program on April 5 and are anxiously awaiting our Spring Fling on Sunday, May 16. Can't wait to see everyone's faces and all the furry friends we all truly enjoy seeing. Another big event on the horizon for us is our virtual Gala, which will run from June 19-June 26. For more information on the gala as well as our other events, please visit our website at www.goldenrescue.com

As most of you know, our dog intake numbers in 2020 were about 100 dogs less than what we generally see. Owner surrenders were down, we had one less Turkey dog rescue, and we were unable to get as many former breeding dogs as we did in 2019 due to COVID. However, intake numbers seem to be steadily increasing this year. We have seen an increase in owner surrenders so far in 2021. The unfortunate part of this is that most of the surrenders have been younger Golden Retrievers with severe health issues. We have seen everything from heart murmurs to tremors to megaesophagus and many things in between. Fortunately for these pups, they have landed at GRRR and are receiving the best care possible to treat and/or manage their respective conditions.

I've been asked by many people why we're seeing so many "special needs" dogs coming into our care. My best guess is that some breeders are just trying to make a quick buck by breeding dogs that they know are not genetically sound. This isn't exactly a new problem because unethical breeders have been doing this for years, but I can't help but wonder if more breeders are possibly turning a blind eye to some of these genetic issues and just hoping that the traits won't get passed on to the puppies. Golden Retrievers have always been in high demand, but since COVID they have been in higher demand than usual. Breeders are now charging well over \$2,500 for Golden Retriever puppies, without any sort of health guarantees. Gone are the days of finding a puppy for less than \$1,000. The takeaway from this is that if you choose to buy a dog from a breeder, please be sure to research the breeder: Visit their place, see the living conditions, make sure you interact with the mother and father of the puppy you're purchasing. It's also important to ask for health guarantees and what sort of vet checks and testing they do on their pups. Yes, you will definitely pay a higher price for your puppy, but it will save you money in the long run – as well as a lot of heartache. 💙



anniversary

In Memory


Belyy by Jeff, Terri and Natalie Markland

When you adopt a senior dog from GRRR, you don't really know how much time you have left with him or her. We had Belyy (meaning "white" in Russian) a little over five years, and she blended into our family almost seamlessly. Those five years went by way too fast. We're so glad GRRR let us foster her, and then we happily became "failed foster parents" when we adopted her. We didn't want anyone else to have her.

Belyy must have been regal in her prime – she was a six-time champion show dog in Russia before she came to the U. S., pregnant and sick, so we were told. Apparently she was brought here to be a "breeder."

From our research, she accomplished that goal – we think she had four litters. She was surrendered to GRRR when her puppy-bearing days were over. We bet she was a good mom, but we don't know. We hope they treated her well, but we don't know. They said she wouldn't bond with people, but we learned that wasn't true. Her favorite place in the world was with Jeff in the office. Her second favorite was in the kitchen with Terri, sneaking scraps. She loved spinach. We laughed when she did her little "happy dance" before dinner. Belyy loved laying in the morning sun on the patio and smelling the outdoors. She loved just hanging with our other GRRR adoptee, Parker. She loved wandering, exploring the neighborhood trails and meeting new friends. All the neighbor dogs liked her because she was such a sweet, gentle mama dog. She grew to love car rides when she learned there was a home to return to, and we think we gave her a pretty good one.

As her wavy white hairs have begun to dissipate (they used to be everywhere), the fond memories of Belyy have overtaken the more recent sad ones of her final days with us.

We hope her time with us made her feel special and loved. That was our goal – to give an old mama dog the best years of her life. We'll miss her stubborn little ways and her quirky little habits. We even miss the white hairs that were everywhere. She's left a hole in our hearts forever. 

Zadie by Trish & Dan Hoyt

People were always baffled when I told them that our sweet dog Zadie was a "Turkey dog" rescued from the streets of Istanbul. I would hear, "You mean the country Turkey?" And I would reply, "Yes, she is now bilingual, and she is so smart and sweet!"

Zadie had only been in the U.S. for 72 hours when we met her on November 22, 2018. She was 10 years old. And, as we learned over the past 2 years and 2 months, she was filled with love and the sweetest girl, and a "comeback kid" kinda gal.


When we went to GRRR to meet two senior dogs who just arrived on the Turkey dog flight, Zadie instantly connected with Dan as she rolled over for a tummy rub. This was it, she was ours, and we went home with her right away. We were her new family – yay!

She whined when Dan left for work the first few weeks, as they had an instant bond. I would ask her, "What am I, chopped liver?" (I think I was a tad jealous.) Delightfully, my bond with the sweetest 4-legged being I knew grew tighter with walks, carrot treats, tummy rubs and playing with her toys. She knew the sound of me cutting veggies when preparing meals, and would come help clean the floor right away. I called her my Sous Chef.

Luckily, Dan's office was dog friendly, so Zadie would go to work with him quite often. She loved the car rides and just being with her BFF Dan all day! Zadie was notorious for sneaking up behind the CEO and scooted her head between his legs wanting to be petted. Of course, she got smothered with love. This was her act of kindness that she would do often with friends and strangers alike - basically all people. She loved humans.

The only brightness that came out of the pandemic of 2020 for us was that Zadie got Mom and Dad's attention 24/7! She diligently worked by Dan's side in his home office. It meant more time to play tug of war with her toys, and more truck rides too! She even had her own custom built "room" in the truck with her bed and some of her favorite toys. We went on many family road trips together with our new Airstream in 2020. She was never alone, always with us. She was in bliss.

Sadly, just after her two-year anniversary of becoming a US citizen and being in our family, her health started to really decline due to cancer. With a heavy heart and much sadness, we said goodbye to our sweet Zadie lady on January 6th, 2021.

GRATITUDE, this is something that Zadie really helped to deepen the meaning for me. Zadie had such happiness and gratitude for us rescuing her. But, as the saying goes, "I was rescued by my rescue dog." Thank you, our Zadie lady, for being part of our lives and sharing your happiness with us for 26 months! 



In Memory

Oakley by Clark & Carol Myers

Carol and I are testing just how broken two hearts can be. This morning around 9:00 a.m., Oakley passed away on the operating table. He suffered from a ruptured gallbladder and after the removal surgery, other organs were compromised to the point that the second surgery was not possible to complete. He was our boy, our son, our comfort, our joy every day and a loving presence every minute; we are not sure if the hole he left in our hearts will ever mend or if these words can express how devastated we feel at this time.

Oakley lived for the morning visits to Cave Girl Coffee with Lisa and Laura for his belly rub. He lived for Linda's treats and her lipstick marks on his forehead. He lived to hear Kelso say he was, "A fine, fine dog." He lived to wait at any car busy parking so he could go up to the door and get a pet from the unknown driver. He lived for Otto in the morning with his little treat can. Mostly he lived for every day he woke up in a new world with a forever home and all the love we and you could give him. Above all, he loved his Therapy Dog work at Longmont United Hospital and Alta Vita Memory Care (he was the August 2020 GRRRowl Cover Boy). Every patient and resident was special to him, every nurse his buddy, and every "Oakley Monday" a visit worth waiting for.

We would like to thank all of you who loved Oakley, who petted and hugged him, supported him and took care of him in the good times and not-so-good. Though he was with us for a short time after a rough life, we know he touched many many folks here in our community and beyond. You are part of the memories we have and they are precious. Bless you. Thanks for the love.



Sadie Mae by Dave & Linda Mullins

We said farewell to our beloved Golden Retriever Sadie Mae this Sunday (3/28). In early February we took Sadie to the vet because her left eye looked strange. The vet examined and initially treated her for an infection, but after a month her eye got worse. So, the vet then suspected that Sadie had developed a tumor in her left eye socket and sadly it had grown to an extent that it had blinded her and made life too painful for her to bear.

We adopted Sadie Mae from GRRR in August 2016 and had her for almost five years. Like most Golden Retrievers, she had her goofy ways and always was ready for some fun. Additionally, she was one of the calmest most loving dogs we've ever had. She loved being outside watching the world of her back yard, playing pull with her toys after dinner, getting tummy rubs, taking walks in the neighborhood, and was always on the lookout for the rabbit that sometimes hangs out in our yard.

We can't see ourselves without a Golden, so when the time is right, we'll adopt another dog who is looking for a forever home.



Donations in Memory or Honor

- Anonymous in memory of Zach Skeff-Myers
- Anonymous in memory of Skylar Ohms
- Anonymous in memory of Ochho Lakin
- In Memory of Gloria LeFree:
 - Deb Kneale & Bob Jorgenson • Pat & Scott Rogers
 - Peggy Sciumbato • Debbie Stratton • Mary Taft
- In Memory of Nala – beloved Golden of Francie Rakiec & Wade Stencel:
 - Jane Blatnik • Russ & Cathy Jones • Ellen Rabinowitz
 - Judi Servoss • Roxane Sabin • Judy Stencel
 - Mark & Stacy Springston
- Cynthia Berdan in memory of Maggie Schoen
- Timothy & Kathryn Bolinger in honor of Jon, Kat, Emily and Jon Sharp
- Lloyd & Jane Collier in memory of Oakley Myers
- Connelly/Riley family in memory of Brooke Milen
- Kent Dinkel & Vicki Moore in honor of Kenneth and Dorothy Dinkel
- Karen & Brian Heimerl in memory of Cody and Allie
- Bruce & Wanda Heimerl in memory of Allie
- Trish Hoyt & Dan Hudspeth in memory of their Turkey dog Zadie
- Jeanne Josephson in memory of Cary Goodman
- Ron Kandcer & Kelly Vlasin in memory of Haley, their GRRR angel
- Mary Kenton in memory of Arlo LeFree
- Mary Kenton in memory of Maggie Schoen
- Heidi & Maya Khoury in memory of Meagan Armstrong
- Will Koehler in memory of Kathleen Gail Miller

- John & Linda Lee in memory of Cody
- Stacie Markusfeld in memory of John Ellis
- Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly
- Maggie McLagen in honor of Barb Kreisman
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- Dr. Molly Miller in memory of Abby Hughes
- Holli Pfau in memory of Oakley Myers
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- David Reichert in memory of Carol Stine
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- Sherri Sanders in honor of Zach Sanders
- Stephanie Sandino in memory of Taylor, Tucker and Annie
- Peggy Sciumbato in memory of Sparky
- Tarra, Mary, Jaycee, Ellen, Elisa & Deb in honor of Pat Roger's Birthday
- Linda Vahrenkam in memory of Oakley Myers
- Gordon Webb in loving memory of his friend Ernest Sartario Jr., M.D.
- Donna Winship in memory of Carroll 'Buck' Herring
- Orena Young in memory of Cody



Long-time GRRR volunteer
Gloria LeFree

Thank you so much for donating in memory or honor of your loved ones. We regret any errors or omissions.

Naming Tributes



LizBeth

LIZBETH by Susan K. Dickinson

We adopted a retired show dog from a breeder. I had an immediate connection with her. LizBeth was calm, gentle, loving, intuitive and genuinely beautiful inside and out! She was a "heart dog" to me. I loved her more than I can say. In Loving Memory of LizBeth 6/9/15-1/31/21

NALA by Francie Rakiec and Wade Stencel

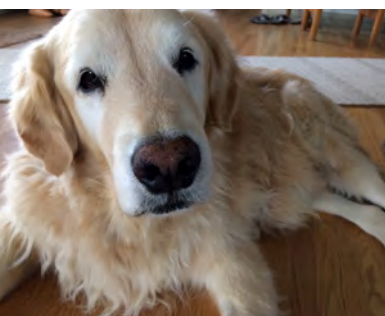
We were very lucky to have Nala in our lives for almost 11 years, but no matter how long they are with us it is never long enough. She was our mama dog. She always took care of us and the other pups. She would spend her mornings cleaning all their faces. Nala was the sweetest pup ever and we are going to miss her terribly. Until we meet again, sweet girl, you keep Daisy and grandma Barb company in heaven. Take care of each other. We will love you forever.

BARKLEY by Rob and Susan Miskowitch

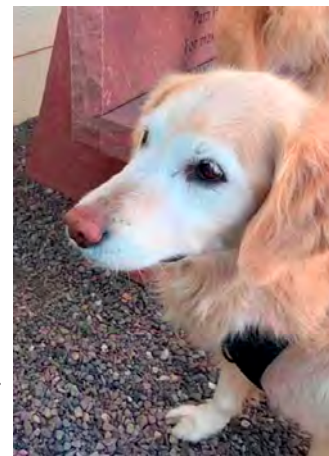
We adopted Barkley when he was 6 months old. He loved his daily walks and protecting the yard from rabbit invasions. He also loved his toys, especially toys that made noises, like his toy hedgehog. He made friends with every person he met. When we remodeled our house he got to know every employee at Home Depot – we couldn't go in without someone saying hi to Barkley.

COCO by Norm Klapper and Helen Toper

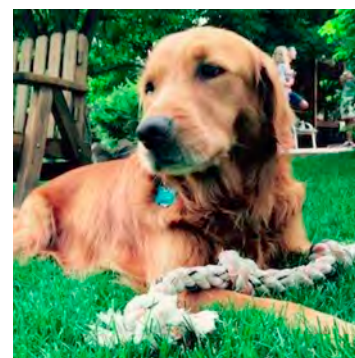
Beautiful to behold, intelligent and sensitive, emotional, quirky and funny – Coco was a wonderful addition to our family. We literally took him everywhere, and having the good fortune to work from home, we were hardly ever separated. A terrific dog...one in a million! Our lives were enriched by having Coco for the past 8 years. The Nobel King – We miss him every day.



Barkley



Nala



Coco

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

Spring Fling - Sunday, May 16!

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

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

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