



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”™

Golden GRRROWL

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

August 2021

GRRR's 25 Years: A Look Down Memory Lane

by Mary Kenton

GRRR is celebrating 25 years of amazing work to rescue and rehome thousands of Golden Retrievers. We have given each of these dogs a new life and a loving family. None of this would have been possible without the amazing “Golden People” who volunteer, support and adopt these wonderful dogs. We are ALL pretty incredible and should be so proud of what we have accomplished.

Without Laura Terroux stepping up and volunteering to take on the rescue part of the Mile Hi Golden Retriever Club (MHGRC), we wouldn't have a GRRR. Laura is responsible for so much of what we have and what we have become. Laura created GRRR, a new non-profit, making it separate from MHGRC and focusing all of her energy on rescue. We are very indebted to Laura for all of her insight and work to make GRRR something special. Laura had shown her Golden, Garth, in the ring, and he had every title possible. But she discovered that there were cataracts in his line and made the responsible decision to not breed him to pass on that genetic disorder. Garth was the sweetest, smartest, and most handsome Golden you could ever meet. When Laura took over rescue, I would imagine she never dreamed of what an amazing organization would transpire over the years.

In the Beginning

GRRR physically started operating out of Laura's living room and then moved to Sage Valley Pet Center, Laura's boarding facility. GRRR had a small, very crowded shed on the property... aka “The Hut,” where we conducted adoptions and surrenders, did all the paperwork, and stored food and supplies. Sage Valley gave us an incredible advantage as a rescue: We had a place to call home. The biggest problem with most rescue groups, including ours, is having great foster homes. We were able to have Golden Retrievers dropped off to await a foster home to be found. We knew the Golden Retrievers were safe inside, well fed, and getting medical care. We also had a trainer, Ted Terroux, to evaluate

and work with dogs who had issues. We had groomers to give spa treatments, a facility to safely introduce the Golden Retrievers to potential adopters, and a

meeting place for fosters and other volunteers.

And look where we are now... Phoebe's Place! We bought the property with \$389,500 cash in 2012 after a capital campaign to raise the money. I don't think anyone ever imagined something as wonderful as having Phoebe's Place. We are so fortunate and blessed to have this place for GRRR's Golden Retrievers. Our Golden Retrievers come here and are loved and cared for until we can find the best possible new home for each of them individually. I have always called GRRR a “Golden Family” and this is our home. This little piece of heaven started out as a dilapidated 5-acre horse property. Our wonderful Golden supporters worked hard to raise money and physically change it into a great place for our Golden Retrievers. It has taken a lot of hard work to make the property what it is now, including installing a new bridge over the Farmers Highline canal, turning a garage into our day kennel + kitchen, and raising money to make repairs after “The Flood” in 2013, and all done with a lot of love for our Golden Retrievers and the Golden Retrievers that will need us in the future.

Some of you may not know that Phoebe's Place is named in memory of Phoebe, a very loved GRRR Golden Retriever who was adopted by Mitchell Graye and Pam Hollister. Because of their very generous lead donation to our Capital Campaign, we were able to add more donations from other generous donors and make this dream come true.



The Jones' donated a new bridge



Work Day at Phoebe's Place 2013



The original Hut at Sage Valley

Continued on next page

Memories of Events, Parties, and Fundraisers

Our events were always fun, and we did many community outreach events to get our name out there. We often had informational booths at Petsmart and Petco and local nurseries. For many years we walked in the Buffalo Bill Day parade and the Parker Days parade, sometimes complete with a float! We had a booth at the annual dog show at the Stock Show halls for many years, and had a fun event at four galleries in Cherry Creek called "Four Dog Night."

For years we had a huge booth at Cherry Creek Arts Festival. In the early years we sold a lot of merchandise and talked with so many great people; then we downsized and only brought our dogs with "begging vests" for some exposure. Oh so many memories...the heat, the downpours, the wind that had volunteers holding onto the tent for fear it would off to another part of Denver, and shoes floating away down the street! These events were a lot of work and our booth always looked awesome. We had great times, met lots of great people, and got the word out about GRRR. And still after 25 years the same questions are

always asked at any event: "Who would ever give up a Golden Retriever?" and "Why would you need a Rescue for Golden Retrievers?" Getting awareness out there for GRRR was a big thing and we were very fortunate to have so many volunteers willing to do events, including TV appearances on Petline 9 where we proudly wore our GRRR t-shirts and our Golden Retrievers proudly wore their "begging vests" to help support GRRR.



Cherry Creek Art Fest booth

The best day of the year, our Annual Reunion Picnic, started back when we were smaller in 1997. We gathered at Lyons Park in Golden; it was beautiful there with a pond for the dogs to play in. It was also the start of the infamous Great Ball Toss! It was more of a carnival with some silent auction items, a lot of wonderful food, and like it still is today, lots of very happy Golden Retrievers having fun with their new people and the



Buffalo Bill Days Parade

"Goldens in Golden" 2013 - over 1000 happy Goldens and their people!



Golden Retriever Nationals Rescue Parade participants in Greeley 2010

GRRR volunteers who made it all possible. It wasn't long before we outgrew Lyons Park and we found ourselves at Chatfield Reservoir having a great time. Golden Retrievers were everywhere enjoying the bigger ponds with their people. We outgrew Chatfield and parking was also an issue, so off to Boulder Reservoir we went. This is a magical place with a sandy beach, a dock on the water, lots of wet Golden Retrievers, their new people, volunteers, good food...and the dang wasps! The Great Ball Toss is a site to behold here. We've had to move the party to Phoebe's Place a few times because of dangerous blue-green algae and then Covid, but we are lucky to have our own facility where we can have our parties. We have small kiddie pools instead of the big reservoir, but the dogs and their people still have a great time.

Our volunteer parties are some of my best memories ever! We had lovely volunteer appreciation parties in Laura's back yard, and our annual volunteer holiday parties were amazing. We were a small but growing group so the annual "Nasty Santa" gift exchange was something we all looked forward to. Those parties will make anyone who attended smile at the memory of the ruthless group of people trying to get those cool gifts that everyone had their eyes on!

We did smaller fundraising events back then, and had donation boxes on tables at events, dogs wearing "begging vests," articles in our newsletter, bake sales, photos with Santa, bath day at Sage Valley Pet Center, the fun Bowling for Bones fundraisers, a wet and soggy garage sale, and a few treasured appearances on Petline 9. Now our fundraising has really flourished and we mainly do larger events. We still have GRRR merchandise and the yearly calendar contest and beautiful calendars. We write grant requests, make TV





Parker Days parade complete with float!

appearances, publish Golden Angel stories in the newsletter, and have a lot of followers on social media. Our extraordinary member events are always fun and help support GRRR with fundraising too, and I love the Reunion Picnic, Spring Fling, and the Halloween Parties. We helped organize the amazing “Goldens in Golden” event on Super Bowl Sunday, 2013. Bigger fundraising events are Colorado Gives Day which has grown every year, our Golden Angel Fund, doing Puppy Mill rescues, getting Turkey Dogs, and our Annual Gala! But it all comes down to our amazing “Golden People” – supporters who generously contribute, and so many hard-working volunteers who make GRRR’s continued growth and quality care of our Goldens possible.

It Was All Done by Snail Mail

Intake and placements have definitely changed. Early on, we depended on the GRRR hotline that was monitored by volunteers, and applications that were snail-mailed! Having 100 dogs a year was a big deal; most rescues had 10 to 20. It was big stuff when applications started being done online. Now we have had up to 400 dogs coming into GRRR and thousands of applications each year, including 6,000 applications in 2020. We were lucky that early on we had a website. Dean Dubach



was the original “tech guy” for GRRR. It was pretty impressive for a rescue group to have a website back in those days (and now we couldn’t survive without it)! Dean and Shawn Dubach were some of GRRR’s founding members and still remain in touch, adopting a little black Golden mix from us last year, and she has blossomed in their care.

One thing that hasn’t changed is that Dr. Scott Carpenter has been our veterinarian for 25 years. His location and staff have changed, but his continued care and dedication to GRRR and our Goldens has never changed. GRRR’s new on-site veterinary care room has been a godsend. Having a place for Dr. Carpenter to come and do exams and treatments, and a place to keep the dogs isolated and safe (and keep a constant eye on them) is a dream come true. Many puppies have even called the vet room home until they were old enough to be adopted. We are so grateful to Bob Sturm’s donation for making that dream come true!



Bob Sturm shows off the vet room

Our newsletter, I have to say, was what “got me.” I read it and I was hooked. I loved this organization from just reading one newsletter. This newsletter has grown too...we used to name each volunteer who helped and list every donation. And we always worried about forgetting to list someone! It is still so important that you all know that each volunteer and every donation is deeply appreciated. We would never be here for 25 years without each and every one of you! Our award-winning newsletter (which used to be snail-mailed to all members and now is also available online in color) has been such a unique and inspiring way to keep us connected with each other, to know what is going on with GRRR, and to get people involved to help our rescued Goldens.

GRRR has come a long way in 25 years! We have gone through a lot of changes and the numbers of Goldens we have helped is pretty incredible...would you believe we have rescued 5,760 dogs?!? The biggest change from what I have seen is in the numbers: the number of Goldens taken into GRRR, the numbers of dogs we have been able to provide substantial medical care for, and the astounding number of people who volunteer and donate to GRRR. This generosity of money and time has given GRRR the ability to never refuse to take in a Golden in need. Because of GRRR, thousands of lucky Goldens (and mixes and other breeds too) have found amazing new homes, lived great lives, and given so much love to and changed the lives of their lucky parents, too. After all, our motto is “A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”

I am so proud of GRRR, what we do, and how far we have come. Thank you all for everything you have done for GRRR...and here’s to another 25 years! 🐾

Plum Creek Dog show booth

Mary Kenton: The Heart and Soul of GRRR – by Debbie Stratton

Some of you may not be lucky enough know Mary Kenton, but she has always been the heart and soul of GRRR. She started volunteering almost 25 years ago, learning from Laura Terroux and gradually taking over as President. She was pretty much involved in everything GRRR. Mary is now Director of Animal Care where she can focus on what she likes best...the dogs.

GRRR would not be what it is today without Mary. She hates fanfare and instead recognizes the whole team, but the loving, caring environment we have always had, focusing on the best for the dogs, is in big part due to Mary. Mary has taken care of and loved all of GRRR's 5,760 dogs, comforting the ones who were afraid, nursing the ones who were sick, and letting many of them sleep on her bed! Longtime adopters might know Mary from when she did placements. She has an uncanny ability to match the dog to the right person. She still helps Roberta make the perfect match sometimes.

Back in the "award years" of 2005-06 Mary was the recipient of the Minoru Yasui Volunteer Award. She also won the local Jefferson Award for community service, given to ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward (that perfectly describes Mary). She was also a 9Who Care Volunteer. Mary didn't really like all the personal attention, but she recognized that much of this exposure focused on GRRR and helped to spread the good word about rescue groups in general.

I am lucky to be one of Mary's friends and she is a big part of why I have been volunteering here for 23 years. She will do anything to give these dogs the best life they can have, and will give you the shirt of her back too. She calls me "her cheerleader", but there's a lot to cheer about when it comes to Mary and GRRR. Thanks for all you do Mary, you are the best.

And cheers to another great 25 years. 🍷



Recent Rescues



Hello GRRR!

Gosh, life with a puppy is busy! Benjamin came home with us in March, just before the Blizzard. He is living his best life now. He gives a special “paws up” to camping, swimming, and playing fetch with his human boys. We are enjoying all the chaos and snuggle time, too – thanks forever to GRRR for sending this boy home with us.

Take care,
Anne Powley

Dear GRRR:

This is Luke, a Golden/Cocker mix (GoldCo). He adopted us when he was 8 years old. We can't believe his former family gave him up. We're pretty sure he's going to keep us.

Thanks and Love,
Trudie and John Skaradowski



Dear GRRR,

This is our sweet boy, Jake (formerly Markie), who we adopted in October 2020. Jake is 6 and was rescued from a puppy mill in Missouri. We are so thankful to GRRR for saving his life. Roberta told us of the challenges of older puppy mill dogs but also told us how amazing and rewarding the experience is once they learn they're in a safe place. Big sister Lucy (also a GRRR rescue in 2015) was thrilled to have a new friend and she's been an outstanding mentor and buddy to Jake.

So many things were scary for Jake the first couple of months – doorways, fence gates, a dog door, riding in the car, TV, men, loud noises, sudden movements, ceiling fans, stairs, treats – it was an adjustment for all of us. But slowly, and with the help of a trainer, Jake has learned to trust and how to be a DOG. It's a joyful sight to watch him play with toys, lay in a dog bed, jump on our bed, or chase around the yard.

He loves whipped cream and has learned to enjoy car rides because they usually include a trip to the dog park and then a stop at Starbucks for a Puppuccino.

Thank you to everyone at GRRR for the amazing work you do and for helping Jake find his forever home. We adore him.

Mary Jean Gradisar and Andy Medvec

Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

We adopted Jessi from GRRR in October of 2012 after having lost our beloved Newfie, Joy, to cancer. Joy was almost 12 when we lost her. Jessi is nearing the same age but doing pretty well except for some arthritis in her hips.

Her name at GRRR was Tara, and you got her from Adams County when she was found running around in a neighborhood not too far from where we live. Her estimated age was 1-1/2 years. We named her Jessi for a little girl named Jessica Ridgeway whose body was found close to GRRR and the same week we adopted Jessi.

Jessi has been an awesome dog. She loves all dogs and people, and even the cats like her but she is nonchalant about them. She knows how to say “please “

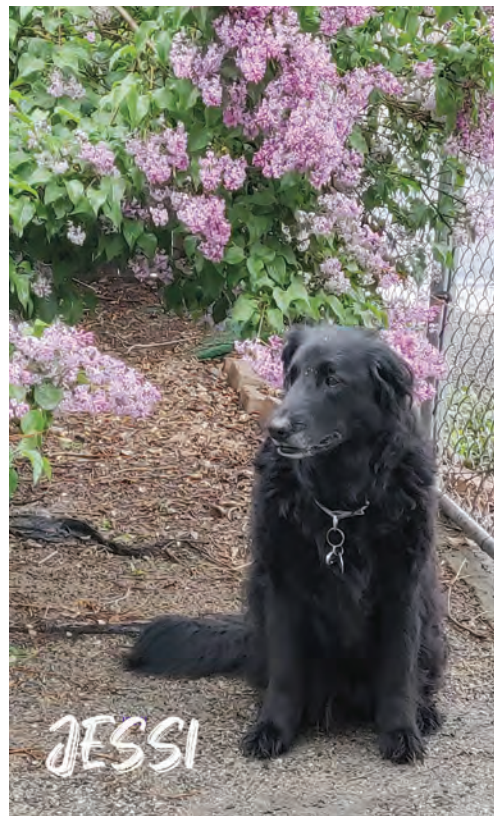
(instead of “speak”), sit, lie down with verbal or hand signals, and stay. She jumps on people a little (to lick their face), and sometimes is hard to walk because she wants to stop and smell everything (what dog doesn’t?), and when she was younger, she ran if she accidentally got out (that’s how we ended up with her).



Thanks for the opportunity to love this beautiful, sweet dog.

I’m also attaching a picture of where she mostly spends her time these days... watching the world go by and protecting our home from delivery men and visiting stray cats, but not from turkeys or squirrels, as you can see.

Thanks,
Erin Toon



Dear GRRR:

Luna was adopted in May, 2008 she was 8 months old. She came to GRRR from New Mexico and the rescue was at Sage Valley Kennels at that time. My son, Darin Martens, fell in love with her immediately.

She is 13 years old now and has just a small touch of gray. I guess living in Jackson, Wyoming most of her life has been a benefit. That and never-ending love.

I was able to spend a weekend with her and she is just the sweetest dog. She followed Darin no matter where he went. She is a black flat coat retriever and super smart.

I wanted to brag about my grand-dog and send a photo of her.

Karen Martens





Dear GRRR:

We are so lucky to have found GRRR! After losing our beloved beagle, Archie, we waited a year before we decided to get another dog. Someone we know recommended GRRR to us and Ruby (formerly Avery) joined our family.

Two years have flown by. Ruby had a leg amputated (due to a birth defect), recovered, grew up, and we retired. Along the way the decision was made to spend our summers in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lucky for us, Ruby is a true water dog. Her days consist of cooling off in the big lake, swimming, and lying in the water (a tough day).

To say she has enhanced our lives would be an understatement. She is a treasure. She does love a good exploration of other beaches and waterfalls also.

Thanks to GRRR for all their hard work that allowed Ruby to be part of our family.

Steve and Linda Jorgensen



Dear GRRR:

Sadie is a wonderful addition to our family. See her walking on water in the photo! She is very chill. I take her everywhere I go. She is everyone's new friend.

Sadie sits by my chair at home when I do Zoom teletherapy. When I bring her to work at my psychology practice, she greets each client with calm affection. (I've never seen her jump on anyone.) She's made friends with our cat and tries to groom her. My husband and sons are totally in love with her, too. I wish I knew what happened to her puppies or even when she had them.

We have a video of her effortlessly opening her closed dog door. She no longer has a dog door. She is GREAT dog. We are so fortunate.

Thank you Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies. You are a wonderful organization. Every aspect of this adoption went smoothly. We are so grateful for your work.

Lesley, Joel, Jordan and Dan LaFevre



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 November, 2021 issue is October 6, 2021. Thanks!



Recent Stats

January 1 – June 30, 2021

Number of Dogs Placed: 87
\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$46,729

Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

We lost our beloved Golden Retriever, Hope, unexpectedly in the very early days of the pandemic; she was somewhat of a legend at GRRR, having raised her 10 puppies there in late 2013 with significant assistance from Mary Kenton.

When a beautiful 3-year-old Labradoodle arrived with nine day-old puppies just a month after Hope's passing, Mary asked if she could name her in honor of Hope.

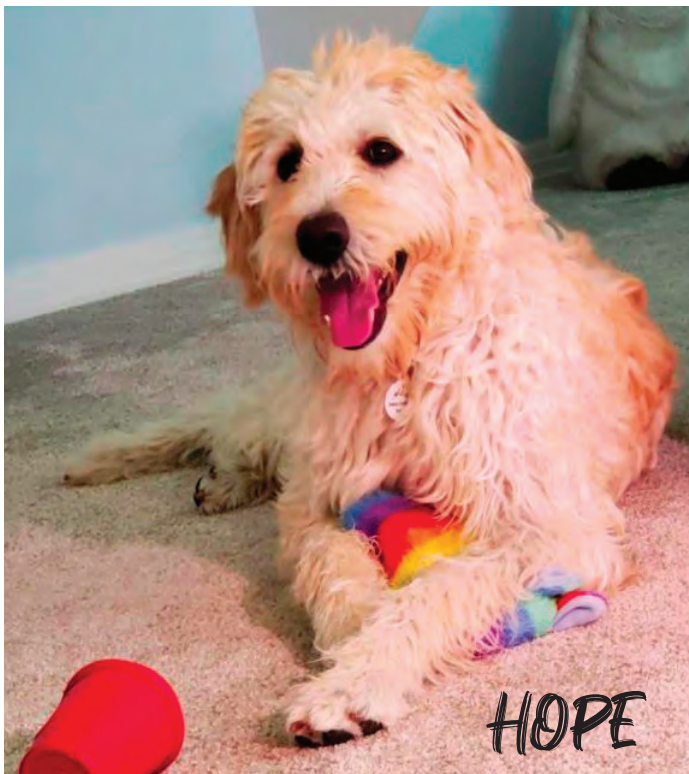
Naturally, we were very curious and headed up to GRRR to meet "Hope, Too" and her tiny offspring. Rescued from a breeder, Hope had much to learn about trusting people and sleeping indoors on chilly nights. Thinking we were Golden Retriever fans through and through, we met this girl and instantly fell in love!

Hope, Too joined our family in June of 2020 after bidding each of her adorable puppies goodbye as they left GRRR with their new forever families. She shook with fear as we drove her from Arvada to our home in Denver.

A year later we joyfully share that Hope, Too has bonded beautifully with our 7-year-old Golden Retriever Emmie (who happens to be the offspring of Hope One.) Emmie has taught Hope, Too that there are no limits on the number of warm beds in the house or toys in the yard, that meals and treats are served on a regular basis, and that there's absolutely nothing more exciting than a ride in the car.

We will be forever grateful to Mary and Roberta for helping make Hope, Too a part of our family!

Ellen Rabinowitz and Roxanne Sabin



Hi GRRR:

This is Bear (formerly Martin). Anyone who doesn't believe in love at first sight has never loved a Golden! My heart skipped a beat the first moment I saw him and now our family can't imagine life without him.

Bear has had an exciting two months of playing with his big brother Ranger who is a lab/ husky mix. He also has two bunny brothers that he is learning are friends and not squeaky toys. He enjoys taking Ranger on his daily walks and even had his vet's office in stitches at how he takes control of his big brother's leash.

Training is going great with learning leash manners and he enjoys getting treats when he sits and lies down. He is even learning to ring a bell when he wants to go outside. Bear gets very excited when a family member returns home and he grabs their hand or clothing, leads them inside and won't let go until he gets a good snuggle.

Bear is quite the gardener and has dug many holes in the backyard. He also helps with the laundry, making sure dirty socks, underwear and t-shirts end up organized in his bed.

Bear has been such a blessing, and the joy he brings is immeasurable. We look forward to the years of cuddles and adventure that he will share with our family.

The Warren's - John, Debbie, Joel, Joshua

Golden Angel: Avery

by Mary Kenton and
Karen Stickland

Avery is a beautiful 15-month-old Golden Retriever who came to GRRR after she had been surrendered to an Idaho shelter. She had lived her life outside; she even slept in an open crate outside on the deck. That must have been extremely lonely for Avery, and no life for any dog. Her owners knew she had a heart murmur and thought she might outgrow it, but she hadn't. Her condition required an echocardiogram that they couldn't afford, so they brought her to the shelter.

The shelter didn't have the resources to care for such a severe medical condition and contacted a Golden Rescue closer to the shelter, but they also didn't have the resources to help Avery. We were forwarded the email, and GRRR said YES to Avery. The shelter staff was very excited that this sweet girl was going to be given a chance.

Avery was transported from the shelter and they met up with GRRR volunteers Laura and Scott Johnston who now live in Idaho. They fostered Avery for a while and then transported her to GRRR. Laura and Scott fell for this little girl and knew that GRRR would give her every possible chance at having a wonderful and normal life.

Avery was your typical playful puppy, but would tire out a little faster than most puppies do. We took Avery to Dr. Hanes at Rocky Mountain Veterinary Cardiology in Boulder for an echocardiogram and exam. Dr. Hanes had some unfortunate news for us - Avery had severe subaortic stenosis (SAS) with additional complications. We had hoped that Avery could have surgery and be able to have a long and healthy life, but that was not to be. Medications will help her live with these problems, but there is nothing to permanently correct her conditions. Most dogs with SAS will pass suddenly before the age of two. It was a very sad ride back to Phoebe's Place.

Avery is on a medication that may need to be adjusted. She is very loved and well cared for and never left outside. Little Avery is what we would call a "heartbreak waiting to happen." She is not allowed to have the full and crazy fun life of a normal Golden. She needs a home where someone isn't an active hiker or looking for a running partner. She will need someone with a willingness to accept that each day is a gift and tomorrow is not a guarantee. Avery will need to have routine echocardiograms to monitor her heart condition and medication dosage.

Update...Home is Where the Heart is – by Karen Stickland

Avery was not to be denied a new home and on May 2, she found her forever home and came to live with two cats that she thinks are fun, a big backyard, and a new owner who understands her severe condition but welcomes the chance to have her as part of their home.

This sweet girl can give a lot of comfort. Her new neighbor has a wife who has suffered a stroke. As he comes home from the hospital every day, he texts to see if he can come in and see Avery. She knows his voice and when he comes into the house and sits on the floor, she curls up in his lap and he buries his head in her sweet fur. Then they play a gentle game of fetch and he goes home a little better because of his time with her. This girl with a broken heart is helping others heal their hearts.

Deepest thanks to the donors to the Golden Angel Fund and to GRRR. Without your generosity there would be less beauty, joy, and comfort in this difficult world. 💙



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: Zeke

by Jeannie Miller

Most of the stories I write about our sweet Golden Angels come from the dog's point of view or from a distant third person talking about the dog. This time, I thought I'd write it from my perspective. You see, I have this super soft spot for our rescued breeder dogs. Zeke is no exception.

Mark Springston and I got the call from Francie that GRRR had obtained five male breeder dogs at the June auction in Missouri. There were four 7-month-old pups and one older male, a 4-year-old. We got the transport van ready to go and took off on a Sunday afternoon heading east. We are always prepared for anything when picking up these dogs. They are usually terrified and have to be carried out to the van. We talk to them and tell them that they have just hit the jackpot, but it doesn't usually have a visible effect. They are just plain scared, and they don't trust people at all.



We got to the auction house early Monday morning and went to see the dogs. They were being kept in a 'large dog' room that had large kennels. There were easily 30 dogs in the room. The barking and the smell was pretty intense. In the middle of it all, there was Zeke. A medium-sized light gold-colored boy. He was quiet, and when we went to his cage he wagged his tail and came to the door to see us. Mark put a leash on him, and he easily walked out to the van and waited to be lifted into his crate. This boy was so sweet and calm!

We got the dogs back to GRRR safely late Monday night. Mary immediately fell in love with Zeke. He was happy to be out of the van and made all of us melt right away as he wagged his way around the play yard.

You are probably thinking that this doesn't sound much like a Golden Angel story but actually, Mr. Sweetheart has some serious medical issues. You see, he is heartworm positive. Most likely the breeder did not want to deal with a heartworm-positive dog and so they got rid of him. Left untreated, heartworm would slowly kill Zeke. If that isn't enough, he also has degenerative joint disease in his elbows, so he has some pain when he walks or runs. Dr. Carpenter says he needs to get through the heartworm treatment before we can address his elbows. The treatment for heartworm is expensive and it is hard for the dog to go through. Think of it like chemotherapy. The treatment makes the dog feel very sore and tired. They have to be kept quiet during the treatment as well. It is not easy for the dog or for the humans that love him or her.

Zeke was at GRRR for a couple of weeks. He loved the volunteers that came to take him into the play yard and love him up. And he fit right into the house, following Mary around, sleeping in her bed and was very social with the other dogs.

Zeke truly did hit the jackpot the day that John and Jamie Sharp brought their Husky mix Cody to GRRR to meet Zeke. He charmed them as he had us, and he got to go home with them! John and Jamie are up for seeing Zeke through whatever he needs to get healthy and live a happy life.

Thanks to the Golden Angel fund, we are able to take any Golden that needs our help with their medical issues and see them into the loving arms of their forever family.

Zeke is doing great with John, Jamie and Cody. His true Golden personality continues to reveal itself. He is still afraid of some things that he hasn't seen before – like stairs – but he is up for learning. He absolutely 'melts' into kids. The neighborhood kids come over to see if Zeke 'can come out and play'. He loves the grass in his new back yard and is learning how to play from his brother Cody.

Zeke is working with a trainer and is learning to sit and wait. He is eager to learn.

He had his first heartworm treatment. He had quite a bit of pain with it. Poor guy was very brave though. He will have another treatment in 3 months. It is important to keep them very quiet during these treatments. Jamie said that they took Zeke to a little creek the other day and he was like a kid there. After he finishes his treatments, it is time to learn to swim!

It makes my heart soar to hear how well Zeke is doing and know that he has a loving family. Zeke and I thank you so much for donating to the Golden Angel Fund! Please continue as the need continues! 💙

Golden Angel updates

Bella (formerly Tovi) by Rose Cassagrande

We got Bella on March 12, the day before the big blizzard. It was a very challenging time, not only with the weather but also finding out how to feed a dog who has megaesophagus disorder. Muscles that are supposed to close the esophagus after the dog eats so food will stay down in their stomach to be digested don't work. Dogs with this condition cannot keep anything – even water – down, so to help, we need to hold her up in a vertical position for at least 15 minutes after she eats. This was so easy when she was a puppy, as she would snuggle in under my chin and go to sleep.



As Bella grew, snuggling and holding her became impossible. GRRR made a chair for her which was wonderful, then we got a Bailey Chair where she sits upright after eating, which is perfect. She doesn't like the chair, preferring to be held, but she is adjusting. I am so happy to report Bella now weighs over 50 pounds and is growing very nicely.

Bella is quite the puppy. She loves to chew—anything and everything. This is a challenge since she can't swallow. When she goes outside, someone is usually with her taking the usual sticks, grass, rocks—yes even rocks—out of her mouth. Bella loves to play with my daughter's dog who is staying with us. They run races through the house. Being a puppy, Bella is clumsy and can fall off the sofa and run into a wall, but gets back up and runs again. She is so sweet and lovable. No one is a stranger—everyone she meets she automatically loves. Most of the time, she is pretty calm unless she is playing with another dog. Bella has brought so much joy, happiness, and love to our home. She has rescued us as much as we have rescued her. 💙



Charlie (formerly Hayden) by Laura & Steve Zlogar



Charlie is a loveable, growing boy who is getting stronger and healthier every day. You would never know that Charlie had major knee surgery 4 months ago. He has gained 10 pounds, topping the scale at 78 pounds, and is as strong and active as any 16-month-old Golden should be. His first trip to the dog park today was a big success. He was social with both dogs and humans and loved playing and running with no medical restrictions.

A few of Charlie's favorite things are car rides, chewing anything in reach, and meal time. He especially loves the rotisserie chicken from Costco (that might explain the 10 pounds). Charlie likes to pass time monitoring all activity in the kitchen from his post on the couch. We are so happy to have Charlie as part of our family. His journey has not been easy, from a Missouri puppy mill to major surgery and then being re-homed, all within 6 months. He is resilient and truly a great companion.

Thank you GRRR and all the donors to the Golden Angel Fund for helping make Charlie's journey a success. 💙

President's Report

by Judi Servoss, GRRR President



Volunteers Dianne DeGroff, Debbie Pink, and Cathy Jones

I've always been a baseball fan, so I eagerly tuned into the All-Star Game and Home Run Derby. I loved watching the competition, but there was something more – joy! Everyone was smiling. Competitors were hugging each other. The crowd cheered for every good play, and even some mediocre ones.

I realized it was a post-pandemic celebration – similar to what I saw at our Spring Fling. We were together again with our pups. Our events are always happy affairs, but this had a special feeling. Naturally the always cheerful Golden Retrievers didn't know this party was a sort of coming out day, but most of us humans sensed it.

As our volunteer dog walkers reappear at Phoebe's Place you can sense a return to normality and a lower stress level. And, it came just in time for our 25th anniversary.

I know there will be ongoing ups and downs in our recovery process, but I'm certain that GRRR will weather the storms. Just look at our repeat virtual Gala success. You and all our supporters were there for us. We can hardly wait to have a live Gala in 2022 – to experience the joy firsthand! 💕



2021 GRRR Lifetime Membership Awards

Congratulations to the following for their long time dedication and special efforts to advance GRRR and its' mission:

Mike & Dianne DeGroff • Jeannie Miller • Linda Pierrel • Steve Schmidt • Robert B. Sturm

Phoebe's Place update

by Francie Rakiec,
GRRR Executive Director

Celebrating 25 Years!

It's hard to believe that GRRR has been helping to rescue about 5,760 Golden Retrievers and Golden Retriever mixes (throw in a couple of labs and Great Pyrs here and there) for 25 years! Such an amazing accomplishment for any organization, but especially for an animal rescue. We truly couldn't have done it without the support of all of our loyal members, volunteers and adopters. And we definitely wouldn't be here today without our caregiver, Mary Kenton. To say that she is the heart of this organization is an understatement. Be sure to read all about GRRR's history in Mary's article. Some great information is included that I definitely didn't even know! And in honor of our 25th anniversary we will be selling 25th anniversary glasses at all of our in-person events through the end of the year. So be sure to come and check them out. Our next in person event will be Senior Dogs (8 years old and above) on August 22 from 10a.m. to noon.

Gala Highlights

Our Gala was a HUGE success again this year. While we didn't quite meet our goal of \$175,000, we came close, raising an astonishing \$170,862.99. I continue to be amazed by everyone's generosity and support. We raised \$140,000 in sponsorships, donations and fund a need donations alone. We also had a total of 135 bidders who bid a total of 1,575 times and that raised over \$30,000. Looks like there was some serious competition going on! From the bottom of our paws we would like to say thank you for another very successful gala!! GRRR people are the GRRReatest! 💕



Mary Kenton and friend

In Memory ♡♡

Gigi by Kenneth and Ta-Li Spatz

1 February 2010 — 19 July 2021

Goldendoodles Gigi and her brother Caleb were surrendered to GRRR in July of 2020 due to the passing of their original owners. After a GRRR health check and minor surgeries on both dogs, GRRR began vetting for potential new homes. On August, 23 2020 we grew our current family by two additional Goldendoodles to join current Goldendoodle, Cinder.

Gigi, being naturally skittish, took some time getting use to her new environment, but was comforted by her brother's presence, daily walks, new squirrels to bark at, uninvited head skritchies from her new family, and chillin' in the sun under the backyard cottonwood tree.

Over the months she enjoyed road trips, camping, began reminding the us when it was walk time, and finally coming over for some invited head skritchies and general loving while steadfastly using her free time chillin' under her cottonwood.

The onset of symptoms of lymphoma for Gigi were sudden and drastic. Fortunately, with an emergency visit to a vet hospital, a



quick diagnosis was known and the prescribed steroidal medication had an immediate symptom-relieving effect. An appointment with the our vet gave us the knowledge, options and normal outcome expectations. An appointment with an oncologist was set for the following week. Unfortunately the steroidal medication's effectiveness suddenly stopped. Another visit to an emergency vet hospital stabilized her and treated her pain. She stopped breathing peacefully.

We are thankful for the 11 months Gigi blessed us with. Her ashes will be buried next to the cottonwood under which she loved enjoying a dog's life. ♡



Maxie by Tony Carroll Williams

Max was a great dog. He was an all-around sweetheart and he will be sorely missed after 13 years. I picked him up in Loveland from a foster house and he jumped right into my truck without asking. He was always with me for next 13 years, and he never left my side!

Maxie was a lab from GRRR that rescued me, as we say. He was so loving and constantly showed me that his desire was to be with me everywhere and always. And although he wasn't a trained service dog, he acted like one with me. As a Veteran, he knew when he needed to sit with me for awhile in times of trouble. He was always there for others in need too, never missing an opportunity to say hi to passersby on walks and to play with other dogs in the park, always avoiding anything that looked like it wasn't "fun happy dog" time! I know he can't be replaced but I hope to have another dog like him soon. ♡



Rescue Reunion Picnic 2021

Saturday, Sept 18

11 am - 2pm

Phoebe's Place

15350 W. 72nd Ave

Arvada CO 80007

All GRRR members, family,
AND your dogs are invited!

- Potluck - we'll provide drinks, burgers or sandwiches but please bring side dish/app/dessert to share
- Limited Edition 2021 Picnic T-Shirts!
- Tons of merchandise for sale, including 2022 calendars!
We accept Visa, Mastercard & Discover.

REMINDER: Only well-behaved, well-socialized GRRR dog(s) and/or dogs in your family, whose behavior you know, are allowed. No small dogs, please. And remember – on or off leash, you need to adequately control your dog(s) at all times, and you are fully responsible for your dog(s)' behavior. Thank you.

Join Us for a Great Day!

Kiddie Pools • Raffles • Food • Merchandise • Fun
...and a Few Hundred Happy Dogs!

Art donated by Pat Saunders-White - meet her at the party!

Please check website for weather
postponements or covid-type changes
goldenrescue.com

GREAT
BALL TOSS
(land version)
at 1:00...
Don't miss it!

Donations in Memory or Honor

- Anonymous in memory of Lucy
- Anonymous in memory of Zach Skeff-Meyers
- In Memory of Mary Kenton's sweet boy Louie:
Russ & Cathy Jones • Deb & Bob Jorgenson
Pete & Nancy Lynch • Francie Rakiec • Peggy Sciumbato
Mark & Stacy Springston • Bill Urbanowski
- Sue Cluff in memory of Virginia Bauman
- Margaret Crawford in memory of Linda Turpin
- Judy Emery in memory of Chris Garyet
- Kelly and Steve Flynn in memory of Jackie Brutout
- Ann Fuller in memory of Dr. Jim Watson, DVM
- Susie Gerdes in honor of Sally
- David/Cary Goodman, in memory of Jeanne and Rich Josephson's Golden, Libby and her sister Cassie
- Jan Graham in memory of Nancy Gardner
- GRRR Donor Appreciation committee in memory of Sam Chin
- Michael, Gina, and Lucy Jeary in memory of Juliet
- Jeanne & Rich Josephson in memory of a pet dog, Bree
- Cynthia Kuehn in honor of Gloria LeFree
- Anne & Kevin Lillehei in memory of Montana
- Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly Matras
- Stacie McWilliams in memory of Palei
- Jean Peebles in memory of Gloria LeFree
- John Pensock in memory of Ziggy
- Ken Pyatt in memory of Susan Von Daudt's Kallie

- Ellen Rabinowitz & Roxanne Sabin in memory of Sam Chin
- Kristen Randall in honor of Cathy Dobratz
- Beth Rauh and Lisa Campbell in memory of Dre Schmidt's Penny (Miss PenPen)
- Sherri Sanders in honor of Andrea Sanders
- Stacy Springston in memory of Gracie
- Cheryl Welsh in memory of Laura Stephens and her love of Golden
- Dana Wright in honor of Jake

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



Naming Tributes



Clover by Debra Walz

My sweet, sweet Clover. I miss you dearly. Love you always.

Clover

Jake by Robin Reed

I would like a naming tribute for my old boy who crossed the rainbow bridge. He was simply the best and I miss him every day.



Jake

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/>

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

*Annual Picnic - Saturday Sept 18
at Phoebe's Place!*

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

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francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com

Newsletter Editor - Debbie Stratton
debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com



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

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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

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

I would like to receive my newsletter:

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

Please accept my additional tax deductible donation to help Goldens 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 _____

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