



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”™

Golden GRRROWL

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

November 2023

Tonks

by Laura Knudsen

For several years, my family and I have been fostering dogs for various local animal rescues in Colorado. We've had 32 dogs of various breeds come in and out of our home, along with a few “fospice” (fostering a hospice dog) situations. Some were difficult to let go, some came with challenging behaviors, but all of them felt the love of having a home and family to look out for them.

Although I loved having each and every one of those dogs in our home, I always felt a strong tug in my heart for the Golden Retriever breed. I even filled out applications at various Golden Retriever rescues in Colorado to be put on a list for incoming rescue dogs. Then, in the fall of 2022, a dear friend of mine (and Executive Director of Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies), Francie Rakiec, informed me she was fostering a sweet Golden named Tulip and sent me a photo of the cutest, chubbiest Golden Retriever I've ever seen. Francie informed me that Tulip came to GRRR at 142 pounds, and likely had a thyroid issue that might be fixed with medication. She doted on Tulip and commented on her sweet disposition. Because I already had two finicky resident dogs at home, I knew the next resident dog would need to be somewhat submissive and laid back. So I packed my dogs into the Jeep and headed down to GRRR to meet Tulip.

When we arrived, Francie brought Tulip outside and allowed me to meet her before my dogs did. She was the sweetest, most lovable “loaf of floof” (as my kids say). There wasn't a big backstory about Tulip other than her excessive weight problem was likely caused by lack of exercise, poor diet, and a thyroid issue. I felt these were factors that could easily be remedied. Next, the real test was how well Tulip would get along with my two dogs, as they can be very picky with who they like. We put all the dogs in the fenced-in yard, and, to my relief, all the dogs pretty much ignored each other. At this point, I knew Tulip would be the perfect addition to our family and immediately signed the papers to adopt our new girl. Francie weighed Tulip that day and discovered she already lost 20 pounds during time she fostered Tulip at her house!



Before: 142 pounds - Sept 2022



After: 76 pounds - Aug 2023

Tulip was loaded into my Jeep with the assistance of a ramp (she couldn't jump in because of her weight) and transported up north to meet the rest of the family. Once we got home, my kids came running out and greeted Tulip with hugs and kisses. They instantly loved her, and I knew Tulip felt the love too. The rest of the day we let Tulip roam the yard and inside our home to feel comfortable. Typically, when we bring new foster dogs to our home, it takes a few days for the dogs to warm up and feel comfortable with their new surroundings and people. Well...within approximately 15 minutes, Tulip tried to climb up on our couch and watch the football game with us. Although the attempt was unsuccessful

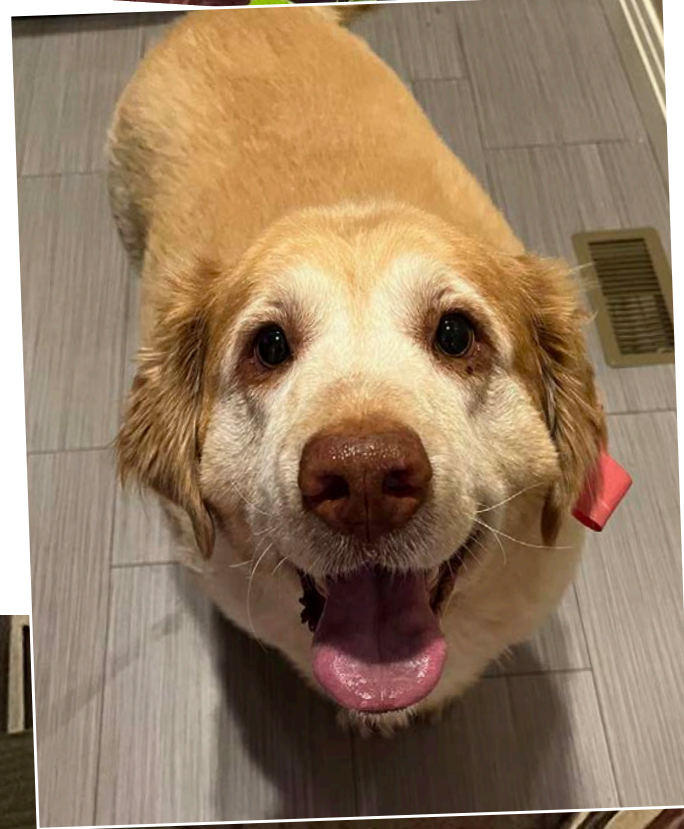
because of her weight, I knew she felt at home and that made me happy. The kids decided to change her name to a character from the Harry Potter movie series. After some deliberation, we all agreed on the character name Tonks. Over the next few weeks, we used the name Tulip Tonks when we called her, so she'd get used to both names. She now answers to Tonks.

The next day, Tonks received a full medical evaluation from our veterinarian, who agreed she should stay on the thyroid medication that GRRR started her on. Other than her obesity problem, the vet said Tonk's health was good and, hopefully, a healthy diet and lots of exercise would do the trick. So, for the next couple of months, I was strict about giving her two cups of healthy weight dog food daily. The dog treats we provided Tonks were limited to carrots and cucumbers, which she refused to eat initially. However, after a couple of weeks of Tonks watching our dogs eat the vegetables, she quickly realized that beggars can't be choosers and eventually gave in. Funny enough, the girl loves vegetables so much now that she ate my entire broccoli plant this summer.

As far as Tonk's exercise regimen, it was fairly slow to start since she carried so much weight around with her. Initially, our walks included a lazy stroll about three houses away and back. There were days when even that was too much for Tonks, and she would lie down during our stroll. Eventually, though, the strolls got longer and longer until she was walking, without pit stops, to my kids' bus stop (about half a mile one-way). Although Tonks has never been the long-distance runner type, she has always loved her walks (even when it was three houses away). Throughout the year, Tonk's weight dropped quickly. During a vet visit exactly one year later, she weighed in at 76 pounds...about HALF of her body weight from the previous year! She is svelte and loves her new healthy life. I'm proud to say that Tonks now likes to run after her "hooman" siblings and jumps onto couches and into cars with ease.

Tonks is a blessing in our lives, and we're so proud of how far she has come. Although she is half the size that she was when we got her, I think Tonk's love for life has doubled. We can't imagine life without our sweet Tonks, and we are so thankful that GRRR saved her. 💙

Happy and svelte Tonks loving her life!



Volunteer Spotlight



Debbie Stratton

Making a difference is my driving force. I have a passion for helping dogs who need good homes, and this is the mission behind GRRR. I am proud to be celebrating 25 years of volunteering for GRRR! I think I'm the longest (not the oldest!) active volunteer. I'm a graphic designer by profession and by designing fun materials for GRRR, I help them look professional, raise more money, raise awareness, get people interested, and ultimately help dogs who need good homes. I spend many hours volunteering for GRRR in addition to my full-time business, so it's very important to me that GRRR is a grassroots organization with just a few paid staff. I have volunteered for other organizations over the years, but GRRR is where my heart is.

I started out by redesigning the GRRR newsletter in November of 1998. I could see their newsletter needed help and I knew I could make it look better. I started out slowly and then got more involved through the years. Now I design all of GRRR's print materials including newsletters, party invitations, stationery, brochures, annual report, apparel, and the awesome yearly calendar. The calendar is my pet project, starting in 2006! It's so fun to see people send in pictures of their beloved dogs every year. I also send out the e-newsletters and design online fundraisers, and whatever else is needed.

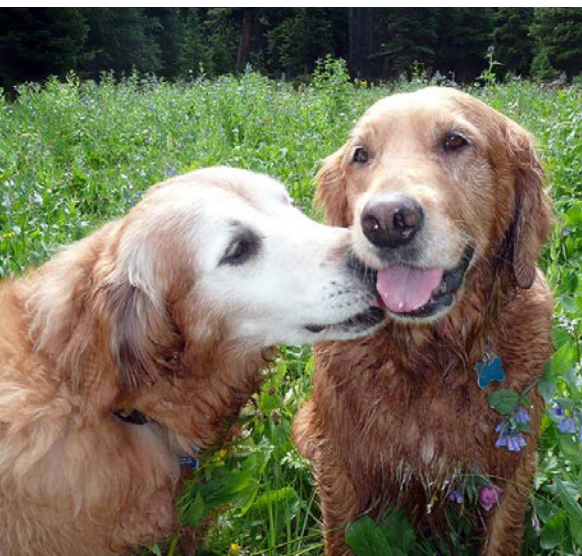


Debbie with Bodhi and Joey

At one point I realized that people were submitting volunteer applications, but no one was calling them back, so I was the volunteer coordinator for a few years. I was the event coordinator for a while too, and still bug people to volunteer for our events. I was also on the Board for a few years. I am honored to have been named a Volunteer of the Year, and was given a Lifetime Membership Award.

Mary Kenton (the heart of GRRR) calls me the cheerleader because I try to keep other volunteers engaged and feeling appreciated. I do a lot for GRRR, but I get so much more out of it. I have adopted the BEST dogs from GRRR. I think *I* get the best dogs, and other people think *they* get the best dogs too...and they are right.

Winona was my first dog, a non-rescue from a friend, but she got me involved in rescue. My first GRRR alum was Chaska the goof. Every time I opened a sock drawer, he pulled out some socks. And he licked my legs after I put lotion on. Next came Maui the feisty girl. She barked (a lot) in the car and everyone knew when I arrived at a GRRR event when they heard her barking. Rio was my protector with a huge smile and was smartest dog ever. Darby was sweet and feisty and loved being driven around (driving Miss Darby). Currently I have Bodhi, the biggest love ever. Since he is so chill, he is also a therapy dog at a hospital where he is a rock star visiting patients and staff. It was fun to have Bodhi as an ambassador dog at the 2022 gala. New kid on the block is Joey, only 2 years old and a clown. Never a dull moment with this boy who steals everything not tied down. He stole my heart too.




Chaska & Maui



Rio & Darby

GRRR people are the best and the friends I've made are priceless. I'm so grateful to be involved with such a great organization and have met so many golden people. Whether it's a close friend that I see often, or friends who I see a few times a year at GRRR parties, I appreciate each and every one of you, and I am honored to know you.

It's so true that a Golden Retriever — and GRRR — will change your life. 

Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR:

Here is a photo of Gatsby (we changed his name from Flash). He is a wonderful member of our family, well-adjusted and affectionate. When we adopted him, he weighed 104 pounds, way too heavy. Through a careful diet and lots of walks, he lost 23 pounds and now is a very trim and healthy dog.

Please count this as a very successful adoption. Keep up the good work!

Chip Horne and Jan Kennaugh



Dear GRRR:

Annie has been with us for a year now. She has settled in nicely and has become the queen of the house. Annie likes going on walks and really likes going to the ball field to see her dad play ball. Well, not so much to watch him play, but to get all the attention from everyone. She loves people.

Annie has been a wonderful addition to our family. We love her so much.

Thank you,
Tracy & Mike Jekel



Dear GRRR:

I wanted to send an update on Blake, our 5-year-old Golden Retriever adopted from GRRR in May. Blake has settled in and has many adoring fans. He is very affectionate and almost always looks like he is smiling. He loves family walks, meals, and any opportunity to carry things in his mouth. Stuffed toys are his favorites. Blake has been such a great addition to our family, already bringing much happiness and love.

Thank you,
Karen Vizyak



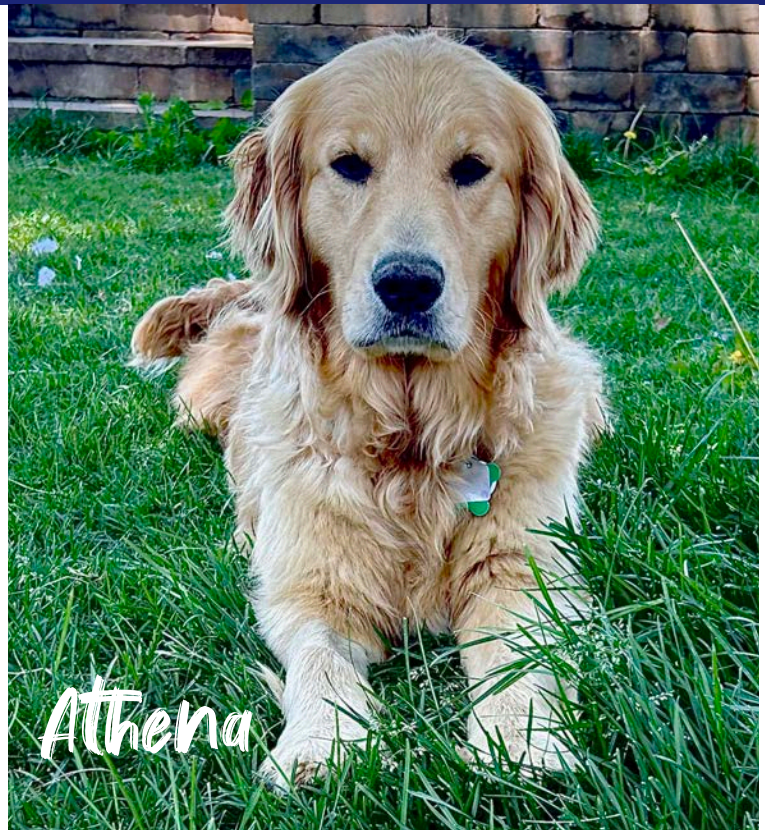
Dear GRRR:

Our journey to find Athena was a quick one – she was just meant to be part of our family! An application on Saturday, and she was home with us on Tuesday. She wasn't familiar with stairs when she got here, but learned quickly from her brother, Ryder. He wasn't too sure about her at first, but they love each other so much now. She took off her extra weight quickly from all the wrestling and playing together! She is not a fan of thunder, and can smell a storm before it even shows up over the foothills.

We had some incidents with potty training, but she figured it out quickly. Once we figured out how much she loves to counter surf, and that we couldn't leave ANYTHING out, her tummy troubles calmed down and she learned how to ask to go outside. A couple loaves of bread and some fruit were all it took for us to figure out what we needed to do to help her.

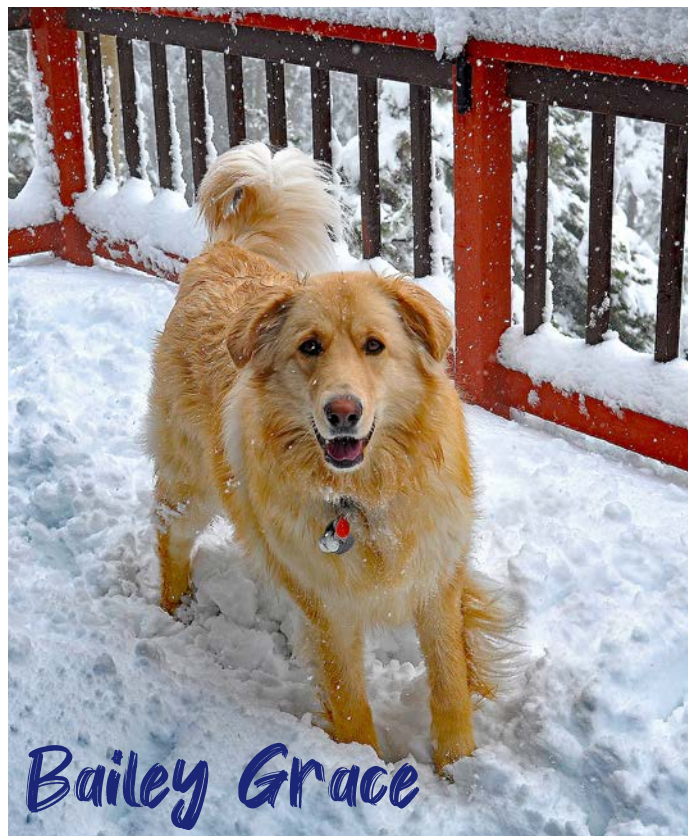
She is a lover, snuggler, rabbit hunter and the sweetest girl ever. We are so happy to have her as part of our family!

Christine Clark



Dear GRRR:

Bailey's name was originally just 'Bailey.' However, I felt she needed a middle name. It took a few weeks, but, I came up with the name Grace. The trail of buff-shaded fur on each of her front shoulders is what triggered the name. The trail of fur reminds me of angel wings. My wild child is slowly becoming graceful and her true angelic personality is starting to develop (as long as the bears, deer, foxes, raccoons and the birds of the air are not in sight; then she is a little stinker, lol). She has been a 'diamond in the rough.' Watching Bailey become more confident as her knowledge increases has been a profound experience.



As her personality continues to blossom, she has become a very loving being. Bailey Grace loves hugs and kisses, and loves to snuggle on the couch with me in the evenings when we watch TV. Her favorite thing so far is getting brushed every morning, and she follows me everywhere. When I take a bubble bath, she lies right next to the tub. At night when we sleep on the big bed, her back lays against my legs all night long. She is an amazing little girl. I am so lucky she decided to come home and join my family.

Bailey Grace is a very intelligent little girl. She knows the difference between her collection of toys and the array of balls in her midst. Her favorite toys at the moment are her tennis balls and tug-a-toy.

I am still trying to get Bailey into the truck when I run errands. She gets into the truck about half of the time, so we are making progress. It is slow. I cook rib eye steak then cut it into bite size pieces to lure her into the truck. I have also tried butter croissants, chicken, hot dogs, and cheese, but they have not always worked. Our progress will need to continue in baby steps, but we will eventually be successful 100% of the time. Once I can get her into the truck 100% of the time, her world will open and she will be able to embark on all new experiences with me.

Thanks,
Jeanne Cooper

Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Here is Little Eleanor Murphy Halverstadt – we had to change her name to Murphy – there were too many Eleanors in town!

Murphy was adopted September 23 at 8 weeks old. Her name at GRRR was Thistle.

She is doing fantastic and part of the family.

Julie & Tom Halverstadt



Hello GRRR:

We just wanted to thank you again for our sweet, loving, high energy, smart, funny girl, Faith.

She is our everything.

Wendi Wagner



Hello GRRR:

Clover is a stunning girl who loves every human and animal she encounters. She loves to swim and chase balls. She is a total sweetheart and I am so thankful for her in my life.

Attached are pictures of her first birthday and a recent hike along with a short video of her leaping into the water after her ball.

Thank you for checking in on her.

Sheila Cullen





Breck

Dear GRRR,

Breck gets a 5-star rating! We brought Breck home last Father's Day. She has brought so much joy, laughter and love to our home.

Despite some naughtiness and 4:30 am wake-up calls, we are so thankful to GRRR for allowing us into her life and hers into ours.

Erik Myli



Lucy and Avery

Hi GRRR:

We wanted to share an update since we adopted Lucy almost 3 months ago! She is doing great. She is loving having a sister (Avery) and getting to romp around the backyard and play and explore. She fits right in! She has also been camping, swimming, hiking, and visited a few breweries in our area since we brought her home. She is a true Colorado dog. We love her so much and are so grateful to GRRR for your help in her adoption and finding the right fit for our family.

Best, Cassidy and Blake Graf



Toby

Dear GRRR;

Our one year Gotcha Day with Toby is fast approaching. October 15 is the big day that Doug and I brought Toby home! Toby adapted instantly to his new name (changed from Tovie), new home, and new humans!

Toby knew he was home the instant we turned in to the driveway, and it was love at first sight for all three of us!

Many thanks to GRRR for bringing us together! It is a match made in Heaven, and the three of us are crazy about each other!

Lorraine, Doug, and Toby

Recent Rescues



Maggie

Hi GRRR:

Maggie is the smartest, most easy to love of any dog I've had! It's like having another human living here! She understands everything I say, walks on a leash like a pro, and is good with dogs...but prefers humans!

She buries all her bones and then sometimes forgets where she put them! Hope all is good at GRRR!

Ann Lacefield



Ginger

Dear GRRR:

We are beyond thrilled to have rescued this girl and she continues to be the most wonderful dog we have ever had! Ginger enjoyed camping with us over the summer.

Ginger loves running with dad, visits to the dog park, sleeping on her back and SO MANY SNUGGLES. She is the snuggliest dog I've ever had. Thanks for bringing this girl into our lives.

Sincerely, Holly Lopez

Hi GRRR,

We wanted to update you on Jake (adopted October 2020) and Bella (adopted October 2022). Jake was a 6-year-old breeding dog who was rescued from a commercial breeder in Missouri, and he has definitely been the most challenging rescue we've ever adopted. He was frightened of everything (stairs, gates, ceiling fans, loud noises, men, etc.) but with the help of a trainer and a lot of time and patience, he's become a happy, content Golden. He gets more confident every day and it's been such a joy to see him come out of his shell and learn to trust us.

Jake's life changed a lot after we adopted 3-year-old Bella last year. She is the goofiest, happiest, most loving girl and very playful. She's taught Jake how to destroy all the dog toys, and she is the official guard dog who keeps a close watch on the front door and all those pesky Amazon drivers. Jake and Bella have become the best of friends and it is so heartwarming to see the bond that they've developed.

We are so thankful to GRRR for bringing these two (and all our previous Golden retrievers) into our lives.

Mary Jean Gradisar & Andy Medvec



Jake & Bella



HI GRRR:

Lulu loves spending time with her two sisters Daisy (GRRR adoptee) and Ginger.

She is the star of the neighborhood and everyone knows her name and that she loves belly rubs. She makes so many people smile, including our family on a daily basis.

We can't thank GRRR enough for letting us keep her.

Best, Jenn Gehring



Dear GRRR:

Jason and I are happy to say that Maple, who we re-named Sandy, is thriving! She joined our family one month ago and fit right in with our one year old Golden, Dolly. The girls love to play, go on walks, swim, run laps out back and cuddle each other and us!

Sandy has learned to love car rides, has mastered stairs, knows sit and stay, has gained 7 pounds and her coat gets softer everyday.

Thank you GRRR for matching us with Sandy. We love her!

Jason and Kelly Turner



Hi GRRR:

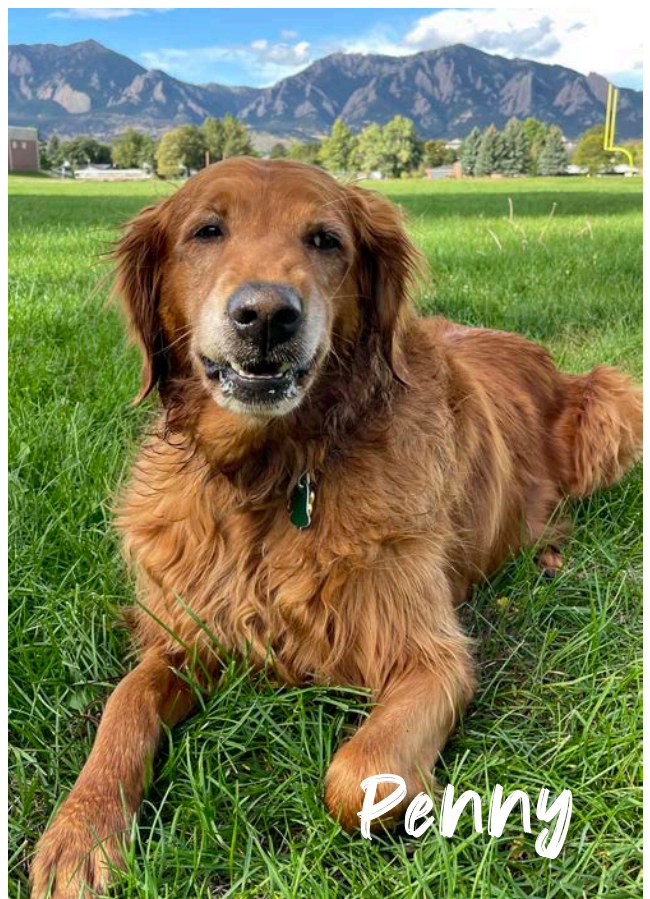
Today is Penny's one-year anniversary with us from GRRR, even though she is 8-1/2 years old. She is so precious to us, and is also called Pretty Penny, Princess Penny, Precious Penny and Precious Princess Penny. She is the sweetest girl. She loves all people and her walks. She has accepted our adult kids' three dogs as her occasional housemates and friends, though she doesn't play with them - they just hang out together. She is clearly in charge of them all - hence the "Princess" label. Her favorite activity is rolling on her tennis ball in the grass, changing position, and doing it all over again.

While energetic outside, she has learned to walk well on a leash and is working on off-leash commands. Aside from her walks, she is unbelievably mellow inside and outside. We could forget that she is even around if we did not love her so much and want to give her lots of attention. She only barks when being tormented by the neighbor's cats.

We were a bit worried that a 7-1/2 year old commercial breeder momma might not adjust well to family life (it took her over three months to learn "Penny" was her name and she was being called), but she is happy and living a good life now. She has attached to us and we to her. We can't imagine our lives without her. We hope our Precious Princess Penny lives a very long, healthy life.

Thank you GRRR for saving Penny and bringing her to us.

Debra Welsh



Recent Rescues

Hello GRRR,

My wife Ronee and I adopted Orko, formerly Finn, on November 10, 2022. Not long afterward, we discovered he was even more special than we already knew. After being diagnosed with a bout of pancreatitis, an ultrasound showed that he was born with just one kidney.

While he'll remain on a kidney-friendly diet with frequent checkups for the rest of his life, Orko maintains his carefree (mischievous) puppy personality, despite turning a year old in August. His favorite activities are playing with his many toys, collecting twigs, and watching TV (especially when another dog gets screentime).

The attached photo shows him celebrating his first birthday back in August.

John and Ronee Baracani



Orko



Pearl

Hi GRRR:

Both dogs are doing great and very spoiled! Tango still has a lot of puppy in him and a big personality, while Pearl is pretty calm.

Their big sister Elsa (formerly Susan and adopted from GRRR) is enjoying their company after her other siblings passed last year (two old Labs).

We love them and they keep us busy and laughing!

Thank you, GRRR, for all you do for these beautiful dogs!

Jennifer Tresouthick Brown



Tango

Dear GRRR:

Jazmine is fitting in so well with our family and her three sisters! We love her to pieces! She has found her forever home and couldn't be doing any better!

Shannon Frenzel



Jazmine and sisters

Golden Angel: Violet


by Jeannie Miller

Who doesn't like a happy ending? Especially when the story involves an adorable, innocent Golden Retriever puppy. Meet sweet little Violet. She is a 5-month-old pup who came to GRRR from a breeder who thankfully surrendered her to us versus having her euthanized. A vet told them she needed expensive surgery to address what looked like a case of congenital renal dysplasia. Mary Kenton readily agreed to bring her to GRRR and let Dr. Carpenter see her, and hopefully help her. Mary is able to make those kinds of life-saving decisions because of our Golden Angel Fund, which supports any extraordinary medical expenses that we incur when rescuing Golden Retrievers.

Violet arrived in July and we immediately took her to Dr. Scott Carpenter. He did an ultrasound and saw the tell-tale signs of renal dysplasia in the left kidney and ureter. He recommended surgery to remove these defective organs. The right side looked pretty normal, so the hope is that normal function will result after successful surgery. If not, a second procedure may be required to widen her right ureter.

The surgery was performed on August 11, and Violet was fostered immediately afterwards by one of the vet techs who attended her in the hospital. She has since been adopted by the vet tech's mother-in-law, who is herself a veterinarian and has another dog with kidney issues. They renamed her Poppy and brought her to their wonderful home.

Poppy loves her new fur sibling and is growing like a weed! So far, there are no signs of additional incontinence and therefore no reason that Poppy won't be able to live a long, healthy and happy life. Like most Golden Retrievers, she loves to swim. Her new home is on a lake, so swimming is a daily activity for her. She loves people too. She gets all wiggly and silly when she sees someone new or someone she hasn't seen for 5 minutes!

I don't like speaking for dogs (although you've seen me do it in this column numerous times!) but I think if Poppy could talk to you, she'd say she is eternally grateful for GRRR and all we do. She'd say "thank you" to everyone who has donated so generously to allow us to operate. And thank you to all of our volunteers without whom we couldn't operate. Thank you from the bottom of her heart to the tip of her tail to the veterinarians and their staff who support us and give such excellent care to our pups. Poppy will get to live her best life thanks to you! 



Please Donate to GRRR's Golden Angel Fund!

Many GRRR dogs need extra medical attention. Your donation will help GRRR dogs with treatments for cancer, hip dysplasia, heartworm, and more. Please send donations to: GRRR, 15350 W. 72nd Avenue, Arvada, 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!

Recent Stats

January 1 – September 30, 2023

Number of Dogs Placed: 239
\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$73,301

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. Deadline for the February 2024 issue is January 6, 2024. Thanks!

Golden Angel update 💕💕

Ruby Rose, now Maggie Mae

By Ron and Michelle Elstun

Good Day Golden Retriever lovers! I'm Maggie Mae! Mama and Papa ask me to let you all know just how I am progressing (sorta) after my Gotcha Day October 9, 2023.

Tough subject. I'm 7 years old, coming from a Missouri puppy mill where I experienced trauma unfathomable. I came to GRRR (thank God), only to discover that I was, again, pregnant! What's this, 12+ litters I've endured? I also came with a heartworm condition. Enough already! Couldn't I have just gone home with my new family, full of love and affection? GRRR gave me a safe place to give birth, care for my 8 little ones, and begin the heartworm treatment. Spaying and more treatment is ahead! This makes 4 months that my peeps have waited for me. We all hung in there!

Progression, mentally and physically, is a day-to-day challenge. Each day we all start over as if we all hadn't lived these challenges yesterday. Wins are tiny, but Mama is keeping score! I eat very, very well and take my meds. Never had treats before, so I am giving them a thumbs up...not always do they convince me though. I'm a tough nut, hard to crack open, but so sweet inside. I'm called a good girl, beautiful and, yes, what my name is.

You see, my handlers most likely smacked me, yanked me in and out of cages, removed my babies way too early, underfed, and left me in the dark, cold, heat without even a thanks for producing their so called "commodity". I trust no one, I FEAR life, I shudder when walked by or approached, I dip my head and turn away as if invisible. I won't come inside or go outside so Papa carries me. He has shortened that route so I can try a few steps on my own. I'm terrified of a leash and collar and don't understand what all these soft, fluffy creatures are around my house and yard. Resting in my warm comfy bed takes time to settle in.

I live in a charming 1902 house in Colorado Springs with a backyard and front porch to live for! My peeps' neighbors adopted one of my little girls and named her Poppy. She has visited three times and then I turn into a completely different pup. It's as if she gives me that boost of confidence that I can be just as cute, lively and entertaining. I actually rolled in my beautiful grass and let her trample me while down. Kids!

I have a very long road ahead. My peeps are reaching out to those who have been through this and can give us all encouragement. If I were to wish upon a star, I would pray to turn my standing-like-a-statue, constantly-looking-for-an-escape-route into a beautiful Golden girl, head up, tail untucked and emotionally secure. GRRR, Mama and Papa are doing all they can and they love me so much. We all need your prayers.



Maggie Mae with new sister, Darby

UPDATE: Prayers abundant made dreams come true! Darby, a beautiful 6-year-old Golden GRRR girl, came to live with me on October 19th! I am in Heaven! I follow her lead as she is much more confident (my peeps call it pushy/bossy), adventurous and everything a Golden should be. She came from a 4-Golden dog family and she hit the ground running when we got home! I actually jumped out of the truck, whereas my first day they had to pull me out!

I'm learning the dog door and taking treats, and does everybody know just how good a walk feels? I've been on six of them so far with my Sis! Darby is straight from God. Even though she is largely looked upon as a therapy pup, she whispered to me that our peeps know that there are two number ones in this Golden Retriever home. 💕

Halloween Party 🍷



Thanks to all who came out for the fun!



President's Report

by Judi Servoss,
President

Colorado Gives Day Kickoff

Eleven years ago, in 2012, GRRR joined the one-year-old Colorado Gives Day program, with high hopes and cautious expectations. It took several months to develop our profile and other materials to be approved to be part of one of the largest philanthropy programs in the country.

When asked how much money I hoped to make, I nervously said \$10,000. It seemed like so much money for a first-time effort! Well, much to our collective relief, 275 donors gave us nearly \$27,000. With a sense of relief and gratitude, we thanked everyone and the Colorado Gives organization that created this wonderful program.

Through the years, we've increased both the number of donors and the amount donated to 464 donors in 2022 for nearly \$161,000, easily beating our \$150,000 goal. In fact, we surpassed our goals every year, except for 2020, which was understandable. That year we counted ourselves among the very lucky organizations whose donors stayed with us through those tough times.



I've always been particularly grateful for the large number of individual donors we have. We're not dependent on just a few large donations. We know that's truly special and we never take you for granted!

With that said, let's kick off the 2023 Colorado Gives Day campaign with Early Giving beginning today, November 1. Our goal is once again ambitious, but let's reach for \$175,000.

And please check to see if your employer will match your donation. Many do, and it's a great gift! Also, those of you of a "certain age" can donate all or part of your IRA Required Minimum Distribution and receive the tax benefit that goes with that.

Thank you from all of us at GRRR! 



Interested in Being on the GRRR Board of Directors?

Go to goldenrescue.com (under About, Organization) and look for the information about the nominations procedure. If interested, submit form by December 1, 2023. Thank you!




Fall, a Time for Change

by Francie Rakeic,
Executive Director

With the changing of the leaves comes some changes at GRRR. The end of August marked the official retirement of our longtime database manager, Peggy Sciumbato. Peggy has been an integral part of GRRR for close to 20 years. She has been our "Wizard" behind the curtain, inputting donations, donors, adopters, as well as sending out our end-of-year tax letters and so many other things that help GRRR run smoothly. Peggy has been an amazing asset to us and we are very sad to see her go. Replacing her is longtime volunteer, Laura Johnston. Laura has big shoes to fill, but is doing a wonderful job thus far.

Speaking of changes, some of you may have noticed a lot of work going in the gravel play yard over the past month. Thanks to a generous donation from Robert B. Sturm, we were able to remove all the pea gravel and replace it with beautiful green turf, and replace the temporary fence (which has been there for years) with a 6-foot cedar fence. Our hope is that this area will now be more inviting for our volunteers who are there spending time with some of our dogs. So far the dogs have enjoyed having such a big area to play fetch and roam around sniffing out all the new smells! GRRR and all the dogs thank you, Bob!

And the final change is relating to the 2024 gala. Gone are the days of standing in line at the parking kiosks! We officially have a new venue, Social Capitol, located in Arvada. Social Capitol was founded in 2021 by the owners of Footers Catering who have been in business for over 40 years. We are so excited to be working with a local Arvada business. Be sure to save the date for our annual gala, June 22, 2024. You don't want to miss out! We are going to be "Going for the Gold"! 



In Memory ♡♡

Katie by Cindy Kuehn

My Katie passed away in June of this year at the age of 15. She came to me in May of 2014. Wilbur, my foster failure, had passed in the winter of 2013 and I was finally ready for a new Golden in my life. My friends had insisted that I could not have “large” Golden Retrievers anymore. I was explaining this to Mary and told her of my wish for a petite little girl. Mary, in her wisdom, said “I think I have just the dog for you.”

I met Katie the following weekend and we began our retirement adventures. She had been a breeder dog and was overcoming her shyness when I adopted her. Over time, she became more confident and sought out affection and attention. She even was a “begging dog” at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival once.

She became my “California girl” as we went there for a few weeks every winter, and she became well known at the RV/Cottage park we stayed at. With every trip, she became more outgoing, and I have videos of her playing with other dogs in the park. We settled into retirement together.

This March, while in California, she became ill, though recovered. However, when we got home, she continued to lose weight. Sadly, we found that she had a large liver tumor. Comfort became my focus and many friends came to say goodbye to her. June 14 was the first warm, sunny day in June. She passed at home on our deck surveying her realm, with birds chirping, as she crossed the rainbow bridge. She still seems to be present as I expect to see her in her favorite spots. She was my little red headed Golden and she is missed.” ♡



Donations in Memory or Honor ♡♡

- Kimberly Fitch In memory of Sammy Pierce.
 - Bonnie MacLaren in memory of Willow.
 - Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly Matras.
 - Catherine Oppy in memory of Maizy for Ron & Deb. “Our condolences on the passing of your beautiful Maizy and wish to honor her with this donation.”
 - Maureen Phillips in memory of Cooper, “our Golden Angel who passed at age 15.”
 - Tammy Shirtz in memory of Harley.
 - Faith Stevens in memory of Max Haley.
 - Tanya & Pete Sullivan in honor of Izzy.
 - The Women Golfers at Pradera In memory of Kathy Patterson. “Sending our sympathy to you and your family.”
 - Bonnie Behm-Geddes Dedicated to Kathy Patterson
 - Steven Bohren in memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Kasey Churchill in memory of Kathy Fry-Patterson
 - Dennis Cooke in memory of Kili Kreisman & Gus Cooke. “Hope the Gala was Grrand; sorry we missed it!”
 - Javonne Duink in memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Peggy Ellefson in memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Robin Elm in memory of Rusty & Ruby. “John and Jill: While nothing will fill the void of Rusty and Ruby, in their memory, we hope this will help someone else experience unconditional golden love. Hugs, Jim & Robin”
 - Bev Frier In memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Cathy and Mike Gilbert in memory of Kathy Patterson. “With sympathy and friendship.”
 - Sara O’Brien On behalf of Fenway
 - Renee Purdy in memory of Kathy Fry-Patterson
 - David Rathbun in memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Larry Schaap in memory of Kathy Patterson
 - Tammy Shirtz in memory of Harley
 - Eric Twesme in memory of Kathy Patterson
- We regret any errors or omissions.

Special Dedication

GRRR would like to dedicate this newsletter to Jan Whitt who passed away in October. She was a long time GRRR adopter, supporter, and friend. ♡

Looking for a **FREE** and **EASY** way to help **GRRR**?

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Click on **Enroll Now**, and add **Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies** as your charity. You can find us by searching for **DN758**. That page will also list how much has been donated by you every quarter.**

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"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"[®]

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



Happy Thanksgiving!

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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)

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:

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

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