



"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™

February 2024

Golden GRRROW!

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

More Puppies!

GRRR has been inundated with pregnant females the last few years, mostly from puppy mills. In 2023, we had 5 pregnant dogs from puppy mills, and 44 adorable puppies who went to happy new families!

Here are the updates about Mama Reese and her pups who went to their new homes last November.

Mama Reese

Reese is a Golden who was surrendered to Golden Retriever Freedom Rescue (GRFR), the other Golden rescue in Colorado. She was placed with a good family in a foster-to-adopt situation, but when Reese was brought to the vet to be spayed, they found out she was pregnant!

GRFR didn't have a foster home available with experience to deliver and whelp her pups, so they contacted Mary Kenton. Of course Mary said "yes." What's one more litter?

When the puppies were 8 weeks old, we placed the 9 adorable pups with happy families, and Reese went back to her adopters (a former GRRR volunteer).

On the next few pages are the adorable puppy updates. Warning...cute puppy photos will make you smile all day!





Quinn

by Maureen and Patrick Phillips

This is Quinn, our third GRRR rescue. He is calm, sweet, happy and gentle-natured. And growing so fast. A perfect addition to our family. Our 3-year-old rescue, a miniature Goldendoodle, is his best pal. She is 37 pounds. At 14 weeks Quinn is only 8 pounds behind her. He's going to be a big boy. Last summer we lost our beloved 15-year-old GRRR, Angel, who was 75 pounds

Our entire experience with GRRR has been wonderful. From our Angel hosting at the Tivoli Gala (in black tie and tail), to our new puppy. With deep appreciation to all the committed, wonderful people at GRRR, we offer heartfelt gratitude. Everyone should own a Goldie once in their life!

Emmie

by Jennifer Bayer

Emerald "Emmie" Joy is a beautiful little girl, growing SO quickly and quite the spitfire! Quick to learn, calm and cuddly one moment and a little bit of "crazy" the next. She loves her balls, squeaky toys and bones. She is quick to sit on our feet and flop for a belly rub. She also has a hesitant side, especially when outside. The world is a big place and she is slowly becoming more comfortable in it. She has been a wonderful addition to our home.



Sadie

by Emily Bellendir

Sadie fits wonderfully into our family. Her big brother (a Samoyed) is great at teaching her how to be a dog. She wants to do everything he is doing and has begun copying many of his behaviors, including begging for ice by the fridge, watching the neighbor dogs, and hiding toys under Mom and Dad's bed. They play together for hours and then cuddle up next to each other to nap, and repeat that cycle all day. Sadie is very curious about her two cat sisters and the shower/bathtub (she is always climbing in whether the water is on or not). Sadie is a quick learner and has made us proud with all the tricks she has learned already. She is so loved!



Isla

by Cecilia and Tom Eager

We adopted our puppy Isla in late November, and brought her home to Gunnison, which is about a 4-hour drive from metro Denver.

Isla is learning every day, and is delighted to discover balls and toys. She had her first powder day with the recent 12-inch snowfall and loves it. When the temperature drops, it's hard to convince Isla to come indoors. She is especially focused on watching the birds, and is spellbound by the many deer who wander through the yard. She's growing fast!



Georgia

by Dawn and Don Sullivan

Georgia is the sweetest, smartest little spunkie puppy. She continues to melt our hearts. Her favorite activities include daily walks, playing fetch with her tiny squeaky ball, making snow angels, and pretending to be a baby shark (biting machine)! She has learned some basic commands and will start puppy training soon. We absolutely adore Georgia and are so thankful she's a part of our family!

Sully

by Lelania and Tim Howard

Sully joined our family in late November, just prior to our three children returning home from college and work. We called him our early Christmas present. Sully was the highlight of our December as family, friends, and neighbors all stopped in to meet the new addition. On Christmas morning, he was filled with enthusiasm and opened his presents with skill and determination.

Sully has a curious and silly personality, thinks every shoe, sock, pant leg, and tree ornament are his personal toys, and loves to take adventures outside. Sully will come running from any corner of the house if he hears his leash latch jingle. He plays with all his heart until he reaches exhaustion, and then he burrows under the couch or into a cool corner to nap and recharge for the next round.

Sully has spent the last several weeks playing in our yard, taking walks through the Highlands neighborhood (Little Man Ice cream is his favorite stop), playing with a few known adult dogs, and snuggling up with the family to watch holiday movies. He is currently one week away from full vaccination when we plan to introduce him to several new puppies in the neighborhood who will surely become his lifelong friends.





Mochi

by Tammie and Dan Kingsley

Mochi is a blessing and we're so glad she's a part of our lives! She's beautiful, sweet, curious, smart, and fun to be around. She's growing so quickly we can barely keep up. She's super mellow but has her velociraptor moments, and can I tell you about those sharp little teeth! It took them a week or so but she's getting along great with her big sister, another GRRR alumna, Fendi. They play constantly and sleep together as well. Fendi is teaching Mochi how to stay out of trouble and Mochi is teaching Fendi how to share her tennis balls. What a great addition to our family!

Scarlet

by Gary Kochel

Scarlet is an amazing pup! She is playful, curious, and sweet. Her favorite thing to do is to play with her 2-year-old Goldendoodle sister, Sugaree, who was also adopted through GRRR in January 2022. They spend their days playing tug of war, cuddling, and exploring the outdoors. Scarlet also loves her cat brother, Mr. Charlie, chasing toys, and snuggling on the couch. She has mastered "sit" and is learning more every day. She loves meeting new people and dogs, and enjoys being out on the town. I couldn't have asked for better dogs!



Hank

by Jess and Chris Fischer

We were looking for an easy going, chill little brother for our 4-1/2-year-old Golden boy, Zebulon. We noticed a quiet puppy who sat quietly with the other puppies - he seemed perfect. After only one day, we knew he had used trickery to catch our eye. He led us to believe he was calm and dopey. Unbeknownst to us, we brought a wild man into our home. We had met our match!

Hank's first nickname was Scrappy Do. This little pup wasn't afraid of anything...except the trumpet. He loves his big brother, Zeb, and roughhouses with him for hours on end. Zeb is patient with Hank and looks out for his new baby brother. Face-bitey is played daily, along with tug, wrestling, and high-speed chase in the backyard. Zeb thinks Hank is totally nuts (and he's correct). Hank is super high energy, rambunctious, and mouthy.

Hank has a precious face and the sweetest eyes. His little personality is developing and he is getting smarter day by day. He is a good snuggler and has become family. He's even gets along with our two cats. We are thrilled that Hank tricked us into bringing him home to live with us.



Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR:

We adopted Aiden on Wednesday and renamed him Bennie. He is a great addition and so loving, even to my one-year-old grandson.

Thanks for all you do!

Curt Nesbitt



Aiden



Danny

Hi GRRR:

We wanted to share an update on Blue, one of Ruby Rose's puppies.

He is absolutely thriving and is bringing so much joy to our family. He LOVES his toys and is definitely showing his true retriever nature with his love of balls and his new frisbee. He's also a tug-of-war champ. He loves all his doggy "cousins" and hasn't met a person he doesn't love. Blue is a smart boy who has conquered potty training and is learning all sorts of commands. Thank you so much for our boy!

Warmly,
Verena Daigle

Hi Roberta and GRRR!

I can't believe it's been one year already! Danny is the best. He's a happy, sweet, sensitive, silly guy. He's famous around our neighborhood for always carrying a toy on his walks. He makes everyone smile, but especially when he's carrying his favorite toy – a very large stuffed unicorn! I can't imagine a day without him. We love him so much. Thank you!

Devon Booth



Blue

Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR:

I hope this day finds you and all people and dogs at GRRR doing well. Jazzzi and I are doing great. I'm attaching a picture I took yesterday of her two-year 'Gotcha-Day.' She was 'helping' me with some leaf clean up.

Jazzi has made a lot of progress in the two years she has been here. Her vet recently diagnosed her with inflammatory bowel disease and started her on a daily low-dose steroid. She is remarkably better since starting it, physically as well as emotionally. I think she is finally figuring out how to be a dog, a pet, and a Golden Retriever. Her coat is much fuller and softer, and her shedding has decreased by about 75%. And even better – she's acting like a Golden.

Thank you to everyone at GRRR – especially Francie, Mary, Roberta, and whoever transported her from Missouri – for bringing her into my life!

Dara Miller and Jazzzi



Hi all of you at GRRR!

Here is Lola, who seems to think she is still a lap dog...NOT! She was part of the litter that came from South Dakota last year. We adopted her March 17th, 2023, and she has been nothing but a joy. Is nice to have a dog back in the house again. She was easy to housebreak and never even goes out of her yard (unless the dogs next door are out).

Lola LOVES people and a normal 20-minute run to the store turns into an over-an-hour outing as she thinks EVERYONE should love on her. Her tail is always wagging – it even wags in her sleep. She is a happy girl for sure!

Thank you for finding her for us and all the things you do...GOLDIES ARE THE BEST!

Pam and Anthony

Hi GRRR:

We adopted Fenway on August 12, 2023. In our 30-plus years of marriage we have rescued a variety of cats and dogs, always as puppies or kittens or young adults. My husband and I are both retired, the kids are out of the house, and in June of 2023, we lost our big dog, Knuckles Muldoon. We have a small dog and two cats, but our house felt empty. So after much thought and research, we decided to adopt a senior Golden Retriever.

Believing that things work out like they are supposed to, we ventured forward to our meet-and-greet, with Peaches, our 12-year-old Chihuahua/Dachshund mix, in tow. She is very possessive and we were a bit apprehensive, but we would follow her lead.

GRRR brought out Fenway to meet Peaches. Shockingly, Peaches was the most well behaved she'd ever been, ever. However, that wasn't the biggest shock of our day. To say that Fenway was thin is not quite an accurate description. He'd been with GRRR for 30 days and we were told that he'd gained weight in their care. GRRR was feeding him three times a day. We were so stunned, but with Peaches surprise acceptance we took him home, hoping on a wing and a prayer that we be able to give him his best life.

Honestly, we didn't think Fenway would make it through the first night. He'd had a hard day - vets, grooming and now a new home. But to our amazement, he woke us up in the morning! We made an appointment to see our vet and began our mission to give him his best life. We also decided to change his name, giving him a new lease on life, so Mick Finley Owens was born. Finley to his friends and family.

All the things we worried about prior to this new adventure - how our new rescue would get along with Peaches, our 2 cats, our lifestyle, it never dawned on us that what we actually needed to worry about was how to get a 12-year-old dog to eat!

Finley wasn't terribly thrilled with the various concoctions we came up with. We kept him on the same kibble but tried to add a variety of things to entice him to eat more. He was the pickiest dog we'd ever had. He literally turned up his nose at some of our ideas...he didn't like canned pumpkin but canned yams were okay. Cottage cheese, eggs, beef broth, and yogurt were all no go's, as was adult canned dog food. Finally adding canned puppy food did the trick and we were able to get him to eat on a regular basis.

Then we went to the vets, and were told he needed to gain another 8-10 pounds. We knew that Finley had an enlarged heart, so our vets recommended a visit with a cardiologist. Sadly, the cardiologist found a hemangiosarcoma on his heart and gave him 12 days to live. Another shocker! Typically, the vet would have recommended chemotherapy immediately, but we all agreed he was too thin to withstand the side effects of the chemotherapy. We were assured he wasn't in pain, so off we went, armed with some

joint meds, two kinds of mushrooms, and our new mission: to give Finley just one more day of his best life!

Finley has three beds, all the love he can get, good food, and mushroom medicine to keep him feeling his best. He has blossomed into the most beautiful, engaging, eccentric dog you can imagine. He barks at any animals on TV from llamas to raccoons to cats, and of course dogs! We would love to know why he barks at the animals on TV as it does make us laugh each time. He patrols the inside of our home two to three times a night to ensure we are safe. He has gained 10 pounds now and he gets two 1-mile meanderings through the park each day. We meander because we don't want to stress his heart. If we are lucky, he meets all his new friends, including Sally and Sammy, also GRRR alumni. They bring Ms. Linda with them, who has the best peanut butter treats!



Finley's most favorite thing to do is lie on his back and make angels in the grass, leaves and snow - snow angels are just the best! When he wants to go out or get our attention, he gives a little hop, skip and a head wave that is just too cute for words. We are two and half months into our 12-day diagnosis and we can't describe the joy each day brings.

We are grateful for GRRR for giving us this wonderful dog, and to the people who surrendered him. We are sorry you were in such a position as to have to give him away, but please know that he is well loved and very happy.

While we know there is sorrow in our future, in our present there is joy, delight, and gratitude. Each night we will continue to ask for just one more day with our Finley.

Thanks for all you do at GRRR,

Mary and Gary Owens

Recent Rescues

Good morning GRRR:

We wanted to share our adorable Sunny, whom we adopted from GRRR last December.

She gets and gives lots of kisses. We just LOVE her. Thank you

Marie and Todd Hauer



Dear GRRR:

Ellie and I have been on so many amazing Colorado adventures in the last two months since we met. Lots of hikes, finding Colorado beaches, chasing groundhogs, and our favorite part – lots of bedtime snuggles!

Ellie and I have such an amazing emotional bond. We're practically soulmates! I couldn't ask for a better companion. Thank you!

Sophia Baldwin

Hi there!

This is Bear, our 3-year-old English Cream Golden. Both he and his big sister, Penny, came to us from Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies. He is super sweet and a total goofball. He is an absolutely wonderful guy. We couldn't possibly love the two of them more!

Lee Duhl



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 May 2024 issue is April 6, 2024. Thanks!

President's Report

by Judi Servoss, President

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying the early days of 2024. I always love when the parties and football games end and we can focus completely on our pups! For some reason, I think they appreciate it too!

Many of you have asked me the status of our Phoebe's Place construction process. If you have been there, you've obviously noticed the lack of progress on the house addition and remodel. It seems the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department permitting process has been more complicated and demanding than we had initially anticipated, which has delayed the project. A team from GRRR is assembling the necessary information to continue to move the project forward. We hope to meet with the county officials soon to address their concerns and move on to the next phase.

We will continue to keep you updated as we proceed. 💕



Perry

The Year in Review

by Francie Rakiec, Executive Director

2023 was another GRRReat year for GRRR. We had another record-setting year for the Gala. Colorado Gives numbers were a little lower than we had hoped for, but we had two very large end of year donations that pushed us well over our goal!

We were also able to upgrade our cargo van and purchase a newer van for Mary. Our new cargo van fits four more crates than our old one, and has a better rear A/C unit that doesn't cause as much strain on the engine. It has already been on two outings to pick up dogs! Spring is just around the corner, so I'm sure there are many more adventures in store.

And finally, we had FIVE litters of puppies born at Phoebe's Place and were able to rehome 309 dogs in 2023. What a year!

Of course, we couldn't do all these amazing things without the help of our wonderful volunteers, members, donors and adopters.

To kick off 2024, GRRR will be participating in Golden in Golden again this year. If you haven't gone, it's a bucket list item for sure. SO MANY GOLDENS taking over downtown Golden! This event will take place on February 3, 2024 (weather- and no canine respiratory virus-permitting).

This year we will be "Going for the Gold" at the 2024 Gala. Our event will be held at a new venue called Social Capitol located in Arvada. We are very excited to try out this venue and are looking forward to ample, kiosk-free parking as well as a much larger indoor space for us to spread out. Be sure to mark your calendars for June 22, 2024. Hope to see you all there! 💕



Ivy

Volunteer Spotlight

Laura Cunningham

I retired in December, 2018 and moved from Minnesota to Arvada, CO. I love, love, love dogs, so I began looking into organizations to do some volunteer work. Fortunately, my search led me to GRRR. I have never owned a Golden, though GRRR was close to my home and I liked the flexibility it allowed for its volunteers. Little did I know then that GRRR would become such an important and gratifying part of my life!

I was doing VIP visits to the kennels about once a week, when GRRR rescued a group of former breeder dogs in November of 2019. I had never seen such traumatized, neglected dogs...their vacant-looking eyes, tucked tails, cowering postures, and fear and mistrust of humans, broke my heart – and ignited my passion. I started coming to the kennel nearly every day in an attempt to begin to build trust and connection with them, even though I didn't have a clue how to go about this daunting labor of love.



Luckily, I met Jeannie Miller, who also had a passion for connecting to these abused, former breeder dogs. She mentored me, and we started working as a team. With a commitment to consistent visits, patience, unconditional love, positive regard, creative methods, team work, and acrobatics (picture me crawling through doggie doors...not pretty nor graceful, but effective in getting closer to the scared dogs), we started building trust with these mill dogs.

I cannot tell you the joy I felt the first time Athena (from that first mill dog group) honored me by taking her first HUGE step towards building trust with me. Someone witnessing it may not have even noticed because it was very subtle; however, I knew it was an enormous step for her! After weeks of just sitting in her kennel, she stopped her constant circular pacing and stood just out of my reach, then sort of leaned her head towards me, so I could gently pet her. There are no words to describe the gratitude, appreciation and excitement I felt at that moment! Humbling and powerful, to be sure. And I am so fortunate that I get to have this profound experience time and time again, thanks to GRRR's dedication in their mission of saving former breeder dogs.

I am so grateful to GRRR for allowing me to be a part of their fabulous organization. My life has been forever changed and enriched...especially working with the Fearful and Shy (FAS) dogs. I am profoundly grateful to, and in awe of, the FAS dogs. Their courage and capacity to forgive is unfathomable. It brings tears to my eyes and a lump in my throat every time I pause to think about it. They are beautiful souls indeed. 💙

Janet Cunningham (no relation) holding Buttercup, with Laura and Janet's other dog Sophie, at their feet. "Buttercup is one of the most traumatized mill dog I have seen to date. She was at GRRR for 8 months, until Janet adopted her in May, 2022, goddess bless her! Roberta Miller and I still visit Buttercup about once per week for walks and trust building. It is so gratifying to be able to witness Buttercup's continued growth and see her in a loving home!"

GRRR Stats

January 1 - December 31, 2023

Number of Dogs Placed: 309

\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$110, 221

Paige Soffas

Kind of a funny story. I have always been an animal lover – to the highest degree. When I was a young kid, and I saw those devastating commercials of pets in cages needing help, but for only \$20 a month you could save these animals from neglect, etc., etc. ...

Well, when I was 10 years old, what sort of help could I possibly provide with no money of my own? I always thought to myself, “when I am older, I’m going to hustle and make enough to help animals!”

My husband and I had moved from Chicago in 2014 and bought our first house in Arvada in 2015, and shortly after I stumbled across GRRR. I’ve been volunteering for GRRR now for around eight years. I don’t remember exactly how I ran across GRRR, but I do remember thinking “This place is doing incredible things and I think I’ve finally found my place to give \$20 a month to.” Especially after one Annual Picnic at Boulder Reservoir, I was sold! What a fun community and what a better group of people than a huge group gathering to share their love of dogs – hellooo?!

I started out my volunteering position as a dog walker, since I lived close to Phoebe’s Place. After a move to Boulder, I realized it was a bit of a far drive, so I started being an avid event volunteer. I have worked the last 7-8 years at the Annual Picnic, usually at the welcome booth with my sidekick, Millie (calendar cover girl!). We also volunteer every year at the Golden in Golden event and the Annual Gala. For the past year, I have taken on the joy of being the head of the Card Writing Committee – with a strong group of gals behind me. We crank out hundreds and hundreds of beautifully handwritten thank-you cards every year to our incredible supporters.

We got our very first dog in 2014 – knowing hardly anything about dogs. We got lucky with a Great Pyrenees/



Border Collie mix... my absolute true love. But man, no wonder everyone loves Golden Retrievers! Due to his rambunctious and never-ending mischievous attitude, we realized we needed another dog, but one more calm to balance out the Pyr mix. Which led us to a pure angel, our sweet Golden girl, Millie. She made me understand the epitome of sweetness, a creature who wouldn’t hurt a fly and has true undeniable love.

Professionally, I am a full-time residential real estate agent with milehimodern. I truly have incredible clients, and supporting people who buy and sell real estate across the Front Range is just another way of building true relationships within my community. Proudly, for the last several years I have chosen to give back a portion of every real estate transaction to GRRR.

It really takes a village to help these dogs, and I am nothing short of being completely honored to be a part of it. 💕

2024 GRRR Events

Goldens in Golden

Saturday, February 3, 11am - 1pm
Washington Ave, Golden

GRRR Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, March 3, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Colorado Tap House Event Room
14982 W. 69th Ave., Arvada

Spring Fling

Sunday, May 19 at Phoebe’s Place

2025 Calendar Photo Contest

begins in May. Start snapping now for the calendar contest! Deadline will be sometime in July.

GRRR Gala

Saturday, June 22
Social Capitol, Arvada
Virtual Silent Auction is June 15-June 22

Senior Play Day for Dogs 8 and over
Sunday, August 24 at Phoebe’s Place

Annual Rescue Reunion Picnic
Sunday, September 15 at Phoebe’s Place

Halloween Party
Saturday, October 19 at Phoebe’s Place

Stay tuned for more info on all of these events.

Golden Angel: Bruce Wayne

by Jeannie Miller

Look at this cute face! This is little Bruce. His original name was Batman. He was a breeder dog that was given a 'B' grading and was given to the breeder's godson. He was left outside by himself all the time. He was very lonely and sad. It is so not fair for such a sweet, beautiful boy to be treated that way. The new owner's wife did not like Batman and yelled at him all the time to stop barking. He was so lonely and bored that he barked at everything to entertain himself. When the wife had a baby, she declared that Batman would have to go. Normally, this is a sad day for most dogs. For Batman, this was his lucky day! The breeder reached out to GRRR to see if we could take him. We are so grateful that we have developed some relationships with breeders who trust us to take their dogs and find them good homes. Of course, we said we would absolutely take him in!

Volunteer Chris Dudley drove to meet the owner close to the Nebraska/Colorado border and then she met Pete and Nancy Lynch in Brush to make the hand off and bring him to Phoebe's Place. Mary Kenton was astounded at the pitiful condition he was in. All he wanted was attention and to be close. He ate up every chin scratch and kind word Mary gave him. She decided that he deserved a better name than Batman so she named him Bruce Wayne! When Dee Delay and her son Justin came to groom him, they too were astounded and furious at how he had been treated. His skin was raw and infected, and his ears were just so sore. Flies had been biting his ears for a long time. He took in every bit of gentle kindness that they gave him. Poor guy probably had not ever been given this kind of attention before.

The next day, Dr. Carpenter saw him and prescribed antibiotics and twice weekly medicated baths due to his infected skin and ears. He had to wear the cone of shame so that he wouldn't scratch his ears. It turns out he also had mange, which required separate treatment. And he had a growth behind his ear which had to be surgically removed.

After a couple of months of medical treatment, good food, and lots of loving care, Bruce was doing just great and was very happy. He was ready to find his own home and his own people. Just before the end of 2023, it happened! Bruce is in his forever home where he will get the love he so deserves! Yay! We are so happy for you, Bruce! 💕



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!

Greta

Greta by J Bloom

My Greta passed away in November of this past year. She came to me through GRRR when she was 5-1/2 years old, as a Missouri puppy mill mama rescue needing a quiet home environment. She came with a tremendous amount of trauma and PTSD around uncountable things.

Through the challenges we faced together, she ended up teaching me just as much, or perhaps more, than I taught her. After seeking help from multiple trainers who knew “fearful dogs,” we found Sunny Weber, a true blessing, who wrote the book *Beyond Flight or Fight: A Compassionate Guide for Working with Fearful Dogs* and who gave me all the tools I needed to give Greta the opportunity to find her doggie self.

With the help of anxiety medication and consistent, patient persistence in giving her time to become familiar with and trust her environment and peeps, she made occasional leaps and bounds (sometimes repeating the lessons over as if she had never done them before). Once she was able to move out of her shell, Greta showed us the sweet, loving friend she had been



hiding, not even knowing it. She often retreated to her safe place, but eventually she became my elderly mother’s daily companion and loved to come close for pets, check her dish in the far-off kitchen for treats, and walk with me around the cul-de-sac on her leash and harness.

Greta loved to play with her “cousin,” the Border Collie, running in the backyard together. They would play a game of “who can box each other out for more petting?” She came to be able to happily greet those who came to the door with a smile, lolling tongue, perky ears and a tilt of her head. She was able to leave her past behind and find the loyal friendship every Golden deserves. She truly was our best friend! 💙

Oliver by Pat & Scott Rogers

A kind and gentle spirit was Oliver Rogers. It was reflected in his big, beautiful brown eyes. We have adopted several wonderful Golden Retrievers from GRRR over the years, but Oliver was different. He seemed to know that going home with us was in his plans. He quickly attached himself to us and our other GRRR golden, Ellie. Ellie is a hospital therapy dog as well as being involved in the Bark for Books program at the library.

Oliver was very content in his new home, going for car rides and walks almost every day. We are both retired, and having Oliver made our days complete, along with Ellie, who adored Oliver. They both made us laugh with so many of their antics. Oliver was a large Golden so his nickname was “Big O.”

The years passed so quickly, and we always had him with us wherever we went. As does happen over the years, Oliver’s back legs became weak. After determining it was a bulging disk in his spine, we started aqua therapy with the treadmill. He was a trooper and eventually his back legs got a bit stronger. We could go for walks again, being shorter ones, but he did well.

Then things changed. His eating declined and he did not have not much interest in the walks anymore. Also, his breathing became a bit more labored.

We adopted him at 5 or 6 years, and now he was going on 11 yrs. He also had difficulty getting up. We knew that it was time for the Big Guy. We needed to say our tearful goodbyes.

Oliver crossed the Rainbow Bridge on Oct. 27th. He had so many GRRR human friends as well. He loved everyone he met, and the tributes sent to him were amazing. Ellie is struggling without him. It will just take time. I didn’t mean to write a book on this special guy, but he deserves every word.

We thank you, Mary Kenton and Roberta Miller, for helping us to adopt Oliver. I think you knew where he needed to be. We both miss him so very much and think of him daily. We pray that he is living another best life in Heaven, playing and running pain free, as well as having an abundance of doggy treats. We will always love you, Big O.

Love, “Mom and Dad” 💙



oliver

In Memory

Waffles by Andreea Bendayan

I adopted Waffles on a cold evening in November prior to Thanksgiving. I received a call from GRRR talking about a new 5-year-old dog they just got from Turkey via Germany! At the time I was making waffles for breakfast (that's how he got his name). I was excited to get off work that day and drive to GRRR to meet him.

I met Waffles that night and decided to take him home. Waffles was shy and traumatized at first. He was extremely scared. However, with the passing of weeks and months, he learned that I was "a safe human" and our relationship started. The first few months were hard and stressful since he was diagnosed with severe late-stage arthritis of the spine, and there were times when Waffles couldn't walk at all and screamed in pain. I decided at that moment to dedicate myself to Waffles' recovery. My days revolved around giving him medications, supplements, physical therapy appointments, vet appointments, neurologist appointments, daily home exercises, daily stretching, and heat therapy. We also took walks on a rigid schedule, and he was fed daily homemade breakfast and dinner from scratch, with Ayurvedic principles to prolong his health and ease his pain.

I have to say that this lifestyle was my life for three years (this was like day and night 24/7 duty nonstop). Waffles had ups and downs during the three years but it was especially severe and stressful the first year. During our 3 wonderful years, Waffles loved going on daily walks (when he could), sleeping on my lap for hours while I studied, daily morning and before bed cuddles, and of course meal time. Waffles was with me day and night and taught me patience, grace, and to keep going despite the circumstances (the 3 things I was lacking in my life).



Waffles

We lived mostly in Colorado but the last four months of his life we spent living it up in Germany. I transferred to a German university and of course took Waffles with me. We traveled together in the cabin, and embarked on our expat adventure, just the two of us side by side. Our time together in Germany was the best, and Waffles was healthier and happier.

In December, Waffles developed some trouble breathing, so I made a vet appointment. The vet said Waffles had tracheal collapse and that he should be taken to the ER immediately. The vet office called a cab and we traveled 45 minutes to the nearest ER. When we finally arrived, the tracheal collapse was confirmed in the X-rays. In order to survive, Waffles needed surgery. However, if I proceeded with the surgery, Waffles would not be able to bark ever again, and there was a high risk that he would never walk again (due to his previous condition).

As a last gift of kindness, I decided to let him go. Waffles went for a nap in my arms like he did at home. When the medication was administered, Waffles briefly woke up, looked at me, and yawned. He died peacefully in my arms. His ashes will be distributed later this year in the alps. I and others will be forever grateful to Waffles for changing our lives and showing all of us that life is always worth it. 💙

Naming Tribute

Waffles, by Andreea Bendayan

Waffles changed my life because even though I was the one who rescued him, he also in a way rescued me and made me who I am today. I am forever grateful to GRRR for being the organization that brought our destinies together to heal each other. Waffles will always live in my heart and in all of the hearts he touched along the way. He will always be remembered by family, friends and community members as a hero who was able to push through all the challenges in his life. Waffles, I will always love you. Thank you for being the best friend I always prayed for.

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>

Donations in Memory or Honor

Laura Allen in honor of Martha Berge. "Martha, this sounds like a wonderful organization. I know you love Golden Retrievers. Merry Christmas!"

Jane Anderson in memory of Sally Towns

Brian Armstrong in honor of Bette Bushell

Susan Ash in honor of her beloved Bruin

Mary Bakke in memory of my latest GRRR dog Demi. "She got her wings 9/25 after a bit over 4 years with me."

Jim Bartley in memory of Duke

Beth Bates dedicated to Meadow

Katie Bates dedicated to Meadow and Chance

C David Beacham in memory of Cooper

Judith Becerra in memory of Lilly

Laural Bidwell in memory of Maverick, her first GRRR Golden

Jennifer Bloom in memory of Greta

Pam Boileau dedicated to Millie Mae

Robert Booty in honor of Bette Bushell

Stephanie Brennan in memory of Bobette Brennan

Anne Buderus dedicated to Sadie and Bogart

Marcia Burns in honor of Barb and Bob Crook

Suzanne Carter in honor of Romeo, Romeo, the wonderful canine therapist who hailed from GRRR!

Tracey Chevalier in memory of Abby, Sandy, Cady, Dakota & Amber

Kathy Clark in memory of Buddy Clark

Jim Cole in memory of Jema

Camille Colt dedicated to Mr. Leonardo

Jeanne Cooper in memory of Barney & MoeMoe. "My beloved Golden boys. I miss them deeply."

Gary and Mary Cowan in memory of Cooper

Margie Crawford in honor of Debbie Stratton. "Her service to GRRR is inspiring!"

Margie Crawford in honor of Mary Kenton. "Goldens don't have a better or stronger advocate!"

Tanya Crino on behalf of Joanne Slater

Martha Cross in memory of Sadie Kuehn

Joanie Culbertson on behalf of Rieger and Maddie

Lynda Delbaugh on behalf of Abbey and Paisley

Davie DiManna in memory of Auggie

Linda & Larry Doerksen in memory of Dixie

Joseph Douglas in honor of Suzanne Buerni

Peggy Dunbar on behalf of Susie Kerr

Susan E McMaster on behalf of Tina McMaster

Barbara Elliott in honor of Cathy and Russ Jones. "Cathy and Russ, Happy New Year! Love, Barb and Bud"

Michael Enright in memory of Bosco, Archie, Josie & Willie B.

Mary Lou Fehr in memory of Ellie, her beloved Golden girl

Michelle Fordham in memory of all the beautiful souls who have left us but never forgotten: Tank, Turbo, Riley and Champ

Robert French in memory of Belva

Katy Friedrich in memory of Reggie

Justin Gerard on behalf of Pattie and Tom Jones

Irene Gerty-Gomez in memory of Frederick Gerty who loved his dogs

Alice Gilbertson in honor of Argyle, Olivia, and Aubree Gilbertson

Nancy Grant in honor of Francie Rakiec, Mary Kenton, Roberta Miller, Steve Schmidt, and Debbie Stratton

Nancy Grant in memory of Arvada office Dillon Vakoff

Nancy Grant in honor of Aunt Marilyn Tercek

Erika Greenberg dedicated to Gillian Grant - So very sorry for your loss of Layla!

Karen Gronowski in honor of Susan Fosmire. "Lucky dogs at GRRR the day you signed up to volunteer! Thank you for all you do for the pups."

Dan Haley in memory of Max

Leslie Hamilton "thinking of good friends Cathy and Russ Jones"

Brinda Hammel dedicated to Linda Mikulec

Nancy & Carl Hane in memory of Hawkeye, Shane, BJ, Jack, Norman, Kona

Judy Hannigan in honor of Pamela Farrell

David Hespen in honor of Michael Hespen. "Per your Christmas wishes, Merry Christmas"

Josh Hilton in honor of Joanne Hilton-Gabeler. "Porter has made a donation to GRRR on your behalf - Merry Christmas!"

Josh Hilton in honor of Joanne Hilton-Gabeler. "Charlie has made a donation to GRRR on your behalf - Merry Christmas!"

Russell and Catherine Jones in memory of Oliver

Barbara Jones in memory of Louie & Calvin

Lori Kadin In memory of all my rescue dogs

Lori Kashman in memory of Sedona, Charlie and Simba

Sarah Kavanah in memory of Munson Kavanah

Mary Kenton dedicated to Bailey

Mary Kenton in memory of Oliver Rogers.

Mary Kenton in honor of Golden Angels

Mary Kenton in memory of Lisa Schell's Shyann

Lynn and Jeff in honor of Gail and Bill Korin. "In honor and memory of ALL our great dogs and for all you've done to make those Golden lives better! MERRY CHRISTMAS from Lynn and Jeff!"

Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgensen in honor of Peggy Sciumbato and all the has done for GRRR.

Heide Knopp for Suzanne Prien and all of the sweet dogs that need good homes

Barbara Kreisman in memory of Kili, Sundance, Autumn, and Dandy Lion

Kaye Lamb in honor of Dana Wright

Penny Landuyt in memory of Katara

Penny Landuyt in memory of Bentley, a wonderful dog. He brought love and smiles to all of us.

Lindsay Lyda in honor of Oliver Kay

Brian and Susan Lynch in honor of Pete Lynch

Sandra MacLeod in memory of Sophie

Leonard Marsh dedicated to Rick, Brenda and Wilson

Lesley and Russel Martin in honor of our dog Norman, Schwab Charitable check

Dan Matras in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly Matras

Valentina Mavor in honor of Jory Smith's birthday

Stephanie E. McCauley in memory of Madison Kiara - we miss you!

Ann McCloskey in memory of Our sweet Sherman

Nora McKay dedicated to Joe & Lissa Klingler

J. Frost Merriott "In memory of all our wonderful Goldens and our current rescue of 3 years, Breesy"

James and Joy Merritt in honor of George our beautiful Turkey dog and in memory of Chubby our beautiful Golden

Margaret Miller for those who cannot speak for themselves

Sybil Miller in memory of our beloved GRRR dog, Sandy Laura and Tom Moore in memory of our sweet Henry and in honor of our new rescue Teddy

Peter Moros on behalf of Alyson Moros - Happy Birthday!

Mike Morrow in memory of Connor & Midas

Kathy Niendorff in memory of Jax

Joey Peterson dedicated to Allison Johnson

Francie Rakiec in memory of Lisa Schell's Shyann, one of the sweetest girls around.

Robin Reed in memory of My beloved Jake, the best Golden Retriever that ever lived.

Shannan Reese in honor of Nancy Murray, "Merry Christmas!"

Gregory Robinson in memory of Bryce

Pat and Scott Rogers "in Oliver Rogers' memory"

Robert F Rosenthal in memory of Christopher Griffin

Walker, Sooner, Bo, Henry, Sage, Razz, and Abby

Robert F Rosenthal in honor of Sooner, Bo, Sage, Henry, Razz, and Zoey

Roxanne Sabin in memory of our sweet and gentle Hope

Roxanne Sabin in memory of Meredith Sabin

Roxanne Sabin in memory of Sophia Maria

Roxanne Sabin in memory of Deb Dawson

Sherri Sanders in honor of Zack and Andrea Sanders.

"Merry Christmas from Sam and Cosmo! "

Todd Schaberg in memory of Oliver Rogers. "We all will miss Oliver! Merry Christmas to you and family."

Robert Scharp in memory of Cody, our beloved Golden Tracey Schifferdecker dedicated to Lucy Schifferdecker, the sweetest girl in the world

Steve Schmidt in memory of Dusty & Skeeter - pure Golden smiles and hearts

Ed & Val Schwolow in honor of Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgensen

Tammy Shirtz in memory of Harley

David Shultz in memory of all the wonderful Goldens we have adopted.

Bonnie Simmons in honor of her dogs, "who always rescue me"

William Smith in memory of the late Juno and Kona

Lisa Smith in honor of Bella and Bentley

Robert Smith in memory of Golden Retriever Maui

Robert Smith in honor of Kuleana

Bonnie Sotire in honor of Pam Kramer and Anthonia Venisio. "Merry Christmas!!!! Woof woof!!!"

Susan Stark in memory of Pumpkin

Christine Steeger in memory of Cooter, who we still miss every day.

Josie Stewart in honor of Tucker & Addie

Margo Stewart in memory of Steve Stewart

Robin Strelow in memory of Bryce Strelow

Tanya Sullivan in honor of Izzy

Jill & Howard Synder in honor of Remi (Fiona)

Kathleen Taylor in honor of Jaycee Chinn

Claudia Thompson in memory of Zoe

Michelle Torres on behalf of Buster

Diane Turner in honor of The Crooks

Patti Walkenhorst in memory of Sadie and Cassie Walkenhorst

karen Walker in honor of Bob, Buddy, Jersey

Megan Walsh dedicated to Cotswold (Aurora) and Finnegan (BoBo) - thank you to Mary for these beautiful boys, one an angel above and one an angel on earth!

Debra Walz In honor of Clover and Bailey Walz

Carol Warner in honor of Kismet, who makes everything worthwhile

Kelly Weisberg in honor of Jorie Smith -Happy Birthday!

Kelly Winner in honor of Kathy Nuss

Steve and Heather in memory of Young Watson

(Sweet pup)

Janet Yuknas in memory of Toby

Jenni Zimmer on behalf of Michael & Simone Shormann

We regret any errors or omissions.

Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

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“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: 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 Golden Retrievers where needed most:

\$250+ Golden Champion \$100 Golden Hero \$50 Golden Star \$ _____

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

NAME _____

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Thank you for your support!

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