



"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™

May 2025

Golden GRRROWL

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

Mookie

by Kate Secor and Suzy Secor

Mookie was as a long-time resident at Phoebe's Place. He resource guarded and wasn't great with other dogs so it was hard to place him. All of the walkers loved him so it's especially heartwarming to see that he found a forever home!



Mookie: Life at GRRR

by Kate Secor

I am a member of the GRRR dog walking team. The first time I met Mookie I was totally smitten with his handsome face and soulful eyes. I quickly learned that he was tennis ball obsessed! I have never met a dog that loves playing fetch more! Instead of walking, we would go to the "Woof" yard and play ball for my full one-hour shift. I was so taken with him, I was going to GRRR three times a week. Spending time with Mookie brought me so much joy!

I was out of town the first time he was adopted, and I was so sad that I wasn't able to say goodbye. However, Mookie, age 7, was returned after a few months because the adopter said he was resource guarding. While I was thrilled to see him again, I was sad that he was returned. He was overweight and seemed a bit down in the dumps. I was concerned that some people weren't seeing Mookie the way I did (and I'm sure a lot of his other favorite volunteers at GRRR thought the same!). He would bark and "act out," but it always seemed to be driven by attention, not aggression. I was determined to help make Mookie's next home stick. So, I started going to see him more and I made sure to give commands while we were playing to show him that he could let a ball go and get it back! I know Mookie was very popular with dog walkers and was getting spoiled by so many friends. All those volunteers were also so dedicated to helping him lose the weight, improve his behavior, and get him ready for his future home.

One day I asked Mary Kenton, GRRR's animal caretaker, if Mookie could spend time as a foster with my husband (Mike) and me at our home. Mookie learned that having treats, food, toys, etc., was a normal part of life, and not something he had to "guard." Mookie also learned to live with our resident dog, and he made several dog pals in our neighborhood. It was a long road, but after 18+ months, Mookie was officially adopted in October 2024...by my sister, Suzy! I'm not sure who was more excited, me or Mookie! I was so thrilled that I would be able to see Mookie regularly, and that he would have the best mom. My sister is a teacher, and she has that perfect balance of compassion and structure, both things that Mookie needs to thrive.

Life in Mookie's Forever Home

by Suzy Secor

I met Mookie through Kate and Mike and was immediately charmed by his puppy dog eyes. We went on a few hikes together and shared plenty of snuggles, and even after our visits ended, I could not stop thinking about him.

I knew Mookie had been through a tough journey. If I was going to adopt him, I wanted to be all in—ready to give him the love, patience, and stability he needed to feel safe enough to trust and commit in return.

Fast forward six months, and I truly cannot imagine life without him. Mookie is a constant source of joy. He loves playing ball in the yard, going on long walks, and curling up next to me for naps. He also has a signature move—greeting people by proudly bringing them a toy (or a slipper, if one is easier to grab). It does not matter if it is early morning or when I come home later in the day, he always finds something to carry as a welcome gift.

One of his favorite places to visit is his grandparents' house. His grandma will even leave a toy out in his path, thinking he will grab it on his way in, but Mookie always zooms right past to pick out his own perfect toy before coming back to say hello. It's his little ritual.

He is also a big fan of car rides. The moment he hears the keys, he is ready. He rides in the back seat but likes to “help” navigate, popping his head between the front seats to check on our route and offer his silent guidance.

When I first brought him home, Mookie did not like having his paws touched—he would pull away when I tried to check for burrs or brush him. But with time, patience, and gentle reassurance, he has learned to relax. Now he allows me to check his paws and brush him without fuss, and he has even had a successful trip to the groomer and a nail trim at the vet. This may seem like small successes, but these events speak volumes about how far he has come and how much trust he has built.



Mookie has also learned to wait patiently on his bed for meals—no barking, just quiet anticipation. In the yard, he used to push his ball under the fence during fetch and would dig to retrieve it, but with a little redirection, he has stopped going to the fence altogether. He is a quick learner and always wants to do the right thing.

He recently made a new dog friend named Bandit, and the two are thick as thieves. They wrestle, chase, and share toys. Bandit is even teaching Mookie how to bring the ball all the way back during fetch—which is still a work in progress, but they're both having a blast.

Adopting Mookie was one of the best decisions I have made. Watching him come into his own, find joy, and build trust has been a rewarding experience. I look forward to many more years together! 💙



Above: Suzy and Mookie

Below: Kate and Mookie



Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Bringing Murphy to his forever home has been more wonderful than we even imagined. We were hoping to find a stereotypic Golden Retriever with a joyful attitude, friendly toward everyone, and a goofy personality, and Murphy has fit the bill in every respect. He loves going on walks and to the dog park where he's well known for running around to say hi to all the owners. He is a ball thief, but is cooperative in giving the ball back after a little bit of fun resistance where he turns his head from side to side. We've learned that he really enjoys a chuck-it ball thrower and will chase a ball for quite a while. We've also learned that Murphy can be highly food motivated. We made the mistake of leaving some things on the kitchen counter where he displayed his talent as a "counter-surfer." We lost an 8-pack of hamburger buns on one day and chocolate chip cookies the next before we learned to keep things consistently in the pantry.

Murphy is great with people and other dogs and always has a big smile on his face. Murphy has really had a positive impact on Maddie in helping her to be much less fearful of the world. After watching Murphy play, Maddie is much more social with other dogs at the dog park, and will engage in play and chasing a ball in ways we hadn't seen before. When we first adopted Maddie, our dog Peyton (who recently passed away) taught her how to "be a dog," but it was Murphy who taught her how to be a Golden Retriever.

Murphy always wants to be near us and it's such a joy to have him lie next to us and put his head or paws on us. Apparently, he doesn't want me to be alone, especially in the bathroom, so I've come to accept that I'll have company even in there since he's learned to push the door open. Murphy has already filled our hearts with joy and laughter and is everything we wanted. We're very thankful that you reached out when Murphy arrived at GRRR and we couldn't imagine our lives without him.

Blessings, Dwight Podgurski



Murphy & Maddie



Dear GRRR:

We lost our sweet Golden boy, Charlie, at 7 years old due to a genetic condition. We were devastated. One of our challenges was how to let Charlie's sister Gloria, our Golden Doodle, know her brother wasn't coming home. She had never been without Charlie and was as sad as we were.

On February 8, sweet Savannah came into our lives. She was from a breeder and we were determined to give her a new life in our home with Gloria and our sassy cat, DJ. The first three days were interesting as Savannah paced around the house trying to find her place. We let her know that the four dog beds and 125 dog toys were all hers. One of the cutest things she did was taking five or six toys and placing them in all the rooms of the house as if to mark the rooms as hers.

Gloria was gentle and patient with Savannah. DJ, our sassy kitty, was another story as she lurked around the corners waiting for Savannah to chase her. Now they are all besties. My favorite photo is one where Savannah smiles with Gloria, having found her forever home with us. We are so grateful to give her the home and love she deserves.

Thanks to the GRRR family for helping us and turning a sad time into a new chapter of love.

Bryan and Sandy Kibling

Savannah & Gloria

Recent Rescues

Hello GRRR!

We adopted Buck, now Duck, back in October. He is the absolute best addition to our family. Our older Golden, Gordon, loves having a little brother to show the ropes and romp around with.

Duck is a sweet, excited, and curious guy that always has a mischievous look on his face. He's a floppy noodle when it comes to doing anything he doesn't want to do and a cuddle bug all the time, and likes to hold hands. We recently celebrated his second birthday and went to Golden in Golden. We love him very much and are super grateful to GRRR for introducing and allowing us to add Duck to our family.

The Frielings

Duck and Gordon



Dear GRRR:

Maverick has been the perfect addition to our family—he even joined us for our engagement photos and was the star of the show! He makes us laugh every day and brings us endless love, entertainment, and cuddles.

We recently bought our first home in Superior, and he loves running on the open trails and exploring the open space every day. We're looking forward to summertime when we can take him swimming! He's such a ham, and all of our friends and family absolutely adore him.

Maverick just turned three, and we brought him home the same week we got engaged. We're so excited to include him in our wedding and can't wait for our future children to grow up with the most loving, energetic, sweet, and goofy Golden Retriever.

A huge thank you to Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies for bringing Maverick into our lives—we couldn't imagine our family without him!

Best,

Alyssa Walde

Maverick

Hi GRRR:

Here is the latest picture of Boris! We love him so much and are so thankful we were able to adopt him.

He and Nala really like each other and he is Roger's companion!

Barbara Husbands

Boris



Hi GRRR!

Cooper is doing great living here in Colorado Springs. We take advantage of all the recreational areas around us. Garden of the Gods and Red Rock Park are walking distance from the house. Since we live so close to the foothills, it is easy for us to go hiking along any of the trails. We also walked down to old Colorado City, which has many tourist shops, restaurants, and bars.

Cooper went to the veterinarian for his yearly check-up and is doing great. We're still working on his weight, and he's losing it, slowly but surely. All in all, everything is going great.

Cooper is constantly with me and goes everywhere I go. I couldn't be happier and I'm sure he couldn't be either.

William Webber

Cooper



Hadley & Gracie

Hello GRRR:

Here's a picture of Hadley and Gracie (and Clark). Hadley is in the back, enjoying the summertime.

As of tomorrow, we will have Hadley for exactly one year. We have fallen in love with her. She and eight-year-old Gracie, get along quite well.

Hadley is happiest when we are petting her. She does crave attention. Because of this she has taught me that sitting and looking into those big brown eyes is good for both of us.

Thank you for blessing us with her.

Jacquie Hall and Clark Bolser

Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Crue (formerly Bruce Wayne) is the best doggo ever! He is so incredibly loving and cuddly, as evidenced by the amount of dog hair on all of our clothes (but that's ok!). He loves his walks, car rides, stuffies (which he never destroys), going to Day Play at Come Sit Stay Pet Resort, and an occasional bit of a nice NY Strip. He keeps me warm at night in bed and greets me each morning just so happy.

Because I was going to be gone more often for work, we decided he needed a friend. Thus the picture of Crue and his 6-month-old sister, Colbie (an English Cream Retriever, and not a GRRR dog). They are having so much fun together!

Thank you for the honor of being able to adopt Crue. Our lives have been immeasurably blessed because of him. We celebrated his first Gotcha Day on December 31.

Best, Patti Kallery



Crue and Colbie

Dear GRRR:

We are in love with our Louie (son of Ivy). He is a SMART, happy, lovable, sensitive, and beautiful English Cream Retriever.

Louie loves playing with his brother, Jesse, and going on hikes. He also learned to swim this summer, but we can't tell whether he loves the snow or water more.

Please tell Roberta we are so glad she called us — even though we thought we didn't want a puppy! Thank you again for all that you do in your rescue program.

Alexander Walterspiel

Louie and Jesse



Dear GRRR:

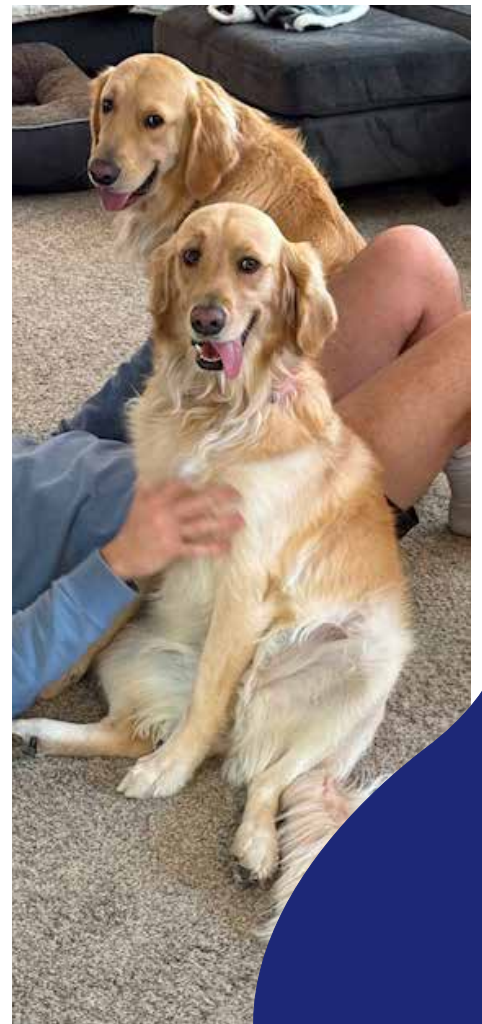
We adopted mom and pup Mollie and Casey (formerly Kiki and Juice) December 24, 2023.

Casey is a big boy at 80 pounds. Mollie is petite at 68 pounds. and always has a ball in her mouth.

They are really good dogs! We love them very much.

Cindy Arndt

Mollie & Casey



Dear GRRR:

Marley is adapting well in his new home. He is sooo sweet. I'm so happy I adopted him!

Deanne Roon

Marley



Dear GRRR:

Hi, I'm Max. My prior owner died so I had to find a new home. At first I didn't like this new home: my new mom didn't feed me as much as I wanted and made me walk. Can you believe it?!

Well, something made her change her mind and I now get much more food. I found there is more to walking than just going out to do my business.

I like my life so much better now and tell mom all the time. She said losing 30 pounds makes me a new dog. That, and the medicine that Dr. Carpenter gave me, both have made me feel so much better.

Ellen Staton



Max

Hello GRRR;

Thank you for reaching out to us about our recent adoption of Bodhi (formerly Colby). This is our second adoption through GRRR, so we are well aware of the challenges and wonderful things that come with a rescue. Honestly, Bodhi has been quite the challenge, but with lots of love and LOTS of chew bones, he is turning into a wonderful addition to our family. We have always heard to wait six months and you'll see the true personality of your rescue. It has been wonderful seeing this with Bodhi.

We are now installing three foot tall fence around our raised beds because Bodhi gets in them and digs to China - heading that off before we plant! He did have a lot of anxiety when we first brought him home but we hardly see that anymore. Frequent trips to the dog park and as I said, LOTS of chews help.

Bodhi means "state of enlightenment" in Buddhist and he shows us that daily. Thank you, Roberta, for all the help you have given us with our adoption with Bodhi. He is very cherished.

Michele and Cary Orsborn

Bodhi



Volunteer Spotlight

Judi Servoss

I'm often asked how I got from the corporate telecom world of the late 1990's to the wonderful world of dog rescue. The simple answer is the chaos of mergers and acquisitions at that time drove many to an early retirement – not unlike today's world facing Federal employees. The longer answer I like to call serendipity. Retirement came earlier than planned, and I had no clue what would come next. I'd always loved dogs, and had recently lost my third Golden Retriever. I met a friend looking for a Golden Retriever at Sage Valley Kennels, where GRRR was running its operation at that time. While wandering around, I came across a pitiful looking Golden in the back of Deb Kneale and Bob Jorgensen's van. Inside the "cone of shame" was a sad face, with one eye and a dusting of white fur. He came up to me tentatively, and I could see many sores went with his timid demeanor. Deb and Bob were fostering "Riley" (named by Mary Kenton) following eye surgery to remove what turned out to be a benign tumor. The rest of his story was unknown---a stray out of Wyoming who fortunately came to GRRR with one of our volunteers. A visit with my husband led to Riley becoming Golden #4 and a glimpse into the world I was about to enter.

I got to know Mary and others at GRRR and soon after was asked to join the Board. I had experience with nonprofit boards, but I quickly learned that Colorado Ballet was a lot different than dog rescue. I think I came to love it most because it wasn't about the Board or individuals. Egos were checked at the door and the dogs were all that mattered. And when drama reared its ugly head, it was escorted out.

Several years later I was "invited" to be Board President...a mere 13 or so years ago. It's a "simple" job on paper: Lead the Board, develop strategy, oversee the staff, succession planning, and put out fires (like angry phone calls from an adoption denial or the IRS deciding we weren't really a charitable organization right before Colorado Gives Day). Helping with the rezoning process for Phoebe's Place has probably been my biggest challenge (or some would say "educational opportunity").

The fun part is seeing all the people and dogs at events, knowing so many people care about this organization and so many dogs have benefited from that caring.

Along the way, Riley passed over the Rainbow Bridge at about 13 years, and Cody entered our lives as Golden #5. He was a beautiful 3-year-old red Golden from Ft. Carson. A caring soldier about to deploy overseas knew that the kindest thing he could do for his beloved dog was to see that he found a loving, stable home. I never knew the man, but thought about him often. Unfortunately, Cody succumbed to the Golden cancer curse at only 9 years of age.

When you're grieving, just go to a GRRR Board meeting right after a litter of puppies is born. We hadn't had a puppy for nearly 30 years, but two hours later I had succumbed to the "you need a puppy" chant, eventually telling my husband that "we" needed a puppy. So, Perry was that pup eight years ago, born to Turkey dog Nutmeg, who unknowingly snuck into the country with special "baggage." He is proudly Golden #6 and has finally become a downright delightful adult dog.

Yes, I'll keep on being President, for now. Funny, the President Elect box on the organization chart always says Vacant. I've yet to find anyone willing to step into that box, knowing what it involves. But I truly believe that being with GRRR was serendipity, and the best thing that ever happened in my life! 💕



Riley



Judi & Cody



Judi & Perry



Jeanette's montage showing past dogs, L-R top: Sage, Chelsey & Cassie, G.G. Bottom: L-R: Simon, Kodiak, Roxie

Jeanette Dubois

My first dog was one I found when I was six years old. She was a puppy roaming in the alley behind our house with no collar or tags. I begged my dad to let us keep her, and after he put up Lost Dog posters and called the local dog pound with no luck, we made her our dog! Jiggers was a mixed breed and grew to about 40 lbs. She and I became inseparable, and when she was about 17 years old, I moved from Ohio to attend a graduate geology program at Indiana University. It was hard to not have her by my side. That year she died while I was home for Christmas. This was my first HUGE heartbreak.

It would be four years before I could get my own dog after graduating, moving to Colorado, and getting a house with a backyard. I wanted to get a Basset Hound because they're pretty cute. A friend said their short legs would make it hard to hike in the mountains. I met my first Golden Retriever at a festival, and it was love at first sight! As they say, "the rest is history." I got an 8-week-old Golden Retriever puppy named Chelsey and two years later I added a 5-week-old Golden Retriever mix named Cassie.

Boyfriends were "evaluated" by their love of my two dogs! My future husband was on the floor playing with my dogs when he came to pick me up for our first date. He passed the dog test and readily "adopted" my dogs when we married several years later.

Fast forward to 2012, when we lost two of our three old Golden Retrievers in a period of four months. That's when I found GRRR and were delighted when we adopted Simon, a handsome 2 ½ year-old Golden. Our female Golden, Roxie, was 11 years old at the time and those two became fast friends.

I volunteered for some years at Denver Dumb Friends League in dog adoptions; placing dogs into good homes was now in my DNA. In 2016 Roxie passed away, so we turned to GRRR again to adopt another Golden Retriever, an English Cream we named G.G. She was a breeder dog from Kansas, and at 7 years old, she was retired after having three litters. We moved to Golden in 2017 and I "retired" from DDFL and started volunteering at GRRR in 2018! Last year both of our old GRRR Golden Retrievers passed away, and immediately I fell in love again with Murray (a.k.a. Buddy). He immediately filled our lives and hearts with that Golden love! We added another Golden girl, Farrah (a.k.a. Elsa), on April 1, 2025 and hope these two will become fast friends!

My volunteer time at GRRR involves walking the dogs, spending time in their kennels if they're shy, shadowing new volunteers as a buddy on their first duty, and helping on various GRRR events. Being a volunteer at GRRR is so rewarding because the dogs give so much more to the volunteers than words can express. What a wonderful rescue group of people, too, who are dedicated to the welfare of Golden Retrievers and other dogs in need. If there is heaven on earth, GRRR is it! 🐾



Murray & Farrah with Jeanette

GRRR Stats

January 1 - March 31, 2025

Number of Dogs Placed: 68
\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$26,125

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 August 2025 issue is July 7, 2025. Thanks!

FAST Report: George

by Laura Cunningham

In the May 2024 issue, our cover article detailed GRRR's new FAST (Fearful and Shy dog Team) program to rehab shy and fearful dogs coming from puppy mills. Here is an amazing success story about George.

George came into our FAST Family on October 12, 2024. It was a cold and dark evening as Mark Springston pulled the GRRR van up to the Meet and Greet gate. Mary Kenton and I assisted in unloading the two crated Golden Retrievers while Mark shared that both dogs were so traumatized, it took him two hours to crate and load them for transport. Neither dog had a collar on, much less a leash, which made the process that much more difficult.

George was a stunning young, thin Cream Golden. Daisy, his travel mate, was an older, small red mill mama, who also appeared to be quite timid and scared. We released the pair into the meet and greet area to let them begin decompressing. They stuck together, though hesitantly began to sniff around, gathering intel.

At one point as they lay next to each other, they let me pet them. However, once we tried to get collars and/or slip leads on them, the TLC time was OVER.

We weren't able to wrangle either dog. Daisy was terrified and ran circles around us, while George watched us warily with a look that said, "I am scared of you and I don't want you to get near me...especially with that collar." We honored that look and did not try to put a collar on him. For the first time in the four years that I had been participating in welcoming former breeder rescues, I left before George and Daisy were escorted into a kennel. Eventually Mary, her son Clay, and Hank, Clay's dog, were able to lure George into a trap, and place him in a kennel with Daisy.

For such a young pup, I pondered the horrors George lived through to be so traumatized and fearful of humans. Thank goodness he had Daisy to help him decompress over the next two days. FAST members were able to pet George, as he stayed near Daisy. However, since neither dog had been "fixed," their time together sharing a kennel ended. It became impossible for us to get near George. He still did not have a collar on, and he would not stay inside his kennel for visits. He was still giving "the look" anytime we tried to get near him. A week later, FAST member Mark Vallejos managed to place a collar and leash on him. We call Mark our "Dog Whisperer!" The collar stayed put; however, the leash did not make it through the day. George was NOT having it and promptly chewed off his leash--all but about a two-inch piece, giving the impression that he was sporting a bow tie.

We were back to square one, as George's fearfulness continued to be displayed by his incessant pacing and utter mistrust of humans. FAST experience has taught us that each rescue is unique, and we needed to think outside the box, as George was shaping up to be a challenge beyond our scope of expertise. I let the other team members know I was going to be focusing solely on George and would not be participating in their fantastic job of rehabbing Daisy.

I began a mission intent on building a bond with George. For a few weeks, I spent an hour or so sitting in the middle of his outside kennel, allowing him the space to check me out while he continued to pace all around me. After a few days, I began to reach out my hand and touch his side, as he zoomed past me. No wonder he remains so thin; he moves constantly!

Trust is not, nor should be, easily gained. George may be blond but he is no dumb bunny. He is making me prove to him that maybe, just maybe, I can be trusted. On November 3, 2024, three weeks after his notorious arrival at GRRR, George finally slowed down enough to let me pet him. I was hesitant to get my hopes up because George was just in the infant phase of his rehab. I spent more time sitting with him, allowing him to continue building trust. Then we knew we needed to move on to the next phase of his rehab.



George having fun playing with Mallie

Multiple FAST members met to discuss creative options to “get George out of his comfort zone.” We opted for a unique plan indeed. George appeared to like his kennel neighbor, Mallie. Our plan was to block off an area away from the other dogs, then bring Mallie out on a leash and see how George responded. It worked! George came out of his kennel and the two of them hit it off immediately! They got into play mode, distracting our boy just enough so that we were able to “lasso” him with a slip lead. We had him follow Mallie out the grooming door, then they both trotted right out to “Bob,” the big turfed fenced area behind the house. We were all astonished, and let out our collective held breaths. We watched in awe, gratitude, glee and HOPE, as they chased, romped, and rolled. To say we were relieved is an understatement. We were in uncharted territory with this guy; none of us knew if we could get him to this point. We discovered that George’s true “Happy Place” was playing with other dogs. To be sure, November 14, 2024, will be memorialized in the annals of FAST.



George’s progress from then on was truly remarkable. We continued to use the “BFF Mallie” and the barricade/lasso technique to get George outside for another week, as we continued to remove the slip lead after each outing so he wouldn’t chew through the leads. We still moved very slowly doing this, as having a human approach him, especially near his neck, was still such a trigger and very difficult for him. After another week, we placed a clip lead on him and left it on when we got him back to his kennel with the hope that it would remain intact. Success! His lead was still on when we arrived the next day, although the handle had been chewed through a bit. However, it was enough, along with a little help from kibble, that we were able to retrieve George and lead him his out of his kennel regularly.

George’s BFF and mentor, Mallie, was adopted on November 20, 2024. She was such a great role model and playmate for George! We were all so happy for her, though saddened for George. We kept his spirits up, however, with a continuous succession of new playmates: Talulla, Maeve, Mikey, Joey, Ruby, Aspen, Ava, Molly, Sissy, and Mowglie, to name a few. George has loved them all! Yet, as is the goal, they all went on to their new families, and he has had to say goodbye to them. Someday, sweet George, you will get your chance at a forever home.

FAST members have continued to expose George to new experiences. He is now an old hand at maneuvering stairs, keeping his lead on with nary a bite mark, taking a treat from our hands, and coming out of his kennel. We always keep a lead on him because his deepest fear or area of mistrust is letting a human get close enough to put a lead on. He doesn’t give “the look” any longer, though it is just so hard for him to let a human approach. He approaches us, when it feels good for him, and he now enjoys lots of TLC and the occasional brushing.

Other notable things George has accomplished: Playing and exploring “WOOF,” the huge fenced-in area with natural grasses, on his own, without making a beeline for the gate; fairly good recall; getting into and out of the van; cruising around in the van; heading inside the office to chill on the love seat; “sitting” on command; and, of course, continuing to make new furry friends!

On March 19 of this year, six months after our initial meeting, George was now sporting a cone as he completed the next phase of his rehab; he was neutered. This means that he is one step closer to an eventual meet-and-greet day!

George’s transformation from “untouchable” to the sweet, enthusiastic, playful boy he is today has us all beaming with joy. We will forever remember our time with George. He has given us quite the memorable workout. We love him and show him that humans can be GOOD!

Working with this amazing creature has stretched our patience, enlarged our capacity to hope, and bolstered our belief that every dog (including us two-legged types!), old, young, traumatized and/or disabled, has the ability to thrive, if we all just keep learning new tricks

BREAKING UPDATE: George was adopted on April 18 to a couple with a 5-year-old Golden! We are all thrilled! 💙



Golden Angel: Faye

by Alice Pflueger

Faye's story is one of resilience, love, and hope. At just a year old, this sweet English cream-coated pup has already faced more challenges than most dogs ever will. Diagnosed with two ectopic ureters causing incontinence, Faye's journey began with a family who tried everything they could to help her, even funding her first surgery with Internal Medicine at CSU, but she had one ureter that wasn't able to be fixed at that time. Her condition proved too overwhelming, and they made the heartbreaking decision to consider euthanizing her.

Enter Alice, a compassionate veterinary student at CSU vet school, who overheard Faye's story and couldn't stand by. She and her family opened their home to Faye, giving her a second chance at life. In her foster home, Faye blossomed. She became fast friends with the family's other dogs and cats, and her gentle nature shined through when she interacted with children. Whether playing at home or relaxing at a brewery, Faye's calm and loving soul made her a joy to be around.

Says Alice: "She is the sweetest, most relaxed girl so, I agreed to take her so she wouldn't be euthanized — this was always with the intent to foster her temporarily. She is accustomed to wearing diapers and being washed off once a day at night to prevent urine scald. She is a gentle soul and great with kids/cats/dogs and probably any other animal. She isn't fully trained, but we are working on crate training which is going well. She knows "sit" and is learning to wait for her food. She loves cuddling, carrying toys around, and ice cubes. Faye

always brings me something when I come home each day, but hasn't destroyed anything in our house. She sometimes has an accident in the house, but is getting the hang of potty training quickly (the breeder just let her go in her diaper all the time, so she's just starting to understand)."

Unfortunately, due to Alice's busy school schedule, she knew she could no longer give Faye what she needed, reached out to GRRR for help, and brought her to GRRR.

Thanks to ongoing care and medication, Faye's incontinence has improved significantly. What once required three diapers a day has now lessened to just a few occasional puddles. We are waiting for confirmation from a specialist to see if an additional surgery for Faye is an option. This surgery would be to correct her other ureter and to make it fully functional in the hopes that she can live a normal life.

Faye is more than her medical challenges—she's a perfect puppy with a heart full of love to give. Supporting the Golden Angel Fund can help ensure that dogs like Faye receive the care they need and the chance to find their happily ever after. Every donation makes a difference in giving these incredible animals the lives they deserve. Will you be Faye's hero? 💙

To help dogs like Faye, please send donations to: GRRR, 15350 W. 72nd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007 (make check payable to GRRR with "Golden Angel Fund" in the memo) or donate at goldenrescue.com/golden-angel-fund. Thank you!



Smiling Faye having fun with her foster sibling

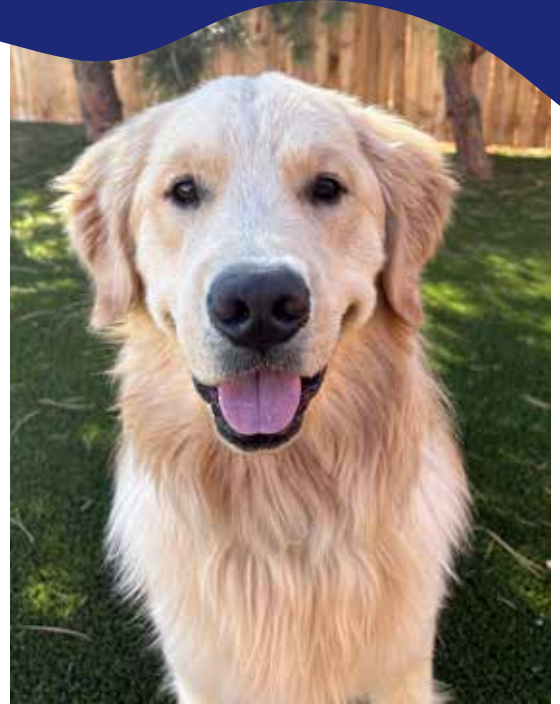


Hank Update

by Mary Kenton

Golden Angel Hank is making fantastic strides in his journey after a spinal cord injury when he was 8 weeks old! His physical therapy sessions, which include swimming and walking on the underwater treadmill, have been incredibly effective, and he's thriving. On top of that, Hank has proudly graduated from obedience school with Ted Terroux, showcasing his growing skills and dedication.

While Hank may still exhibit a bit of playful mischief at home, he's a star pupil in class, always demonstrating excellent behavior. His training will continue to ensure he becomes the well-rounded and polished pup we know he can be. Hank's progress is a testament to his determination and charm! 💙



Gala: A Party to Remember

Golden Retrievers, Comedy, and Celebration!

by Francie Rakiec, Executive Director



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald is a renowned veterinarian and accomplished stand-up comedian, celebrated for his unique ability to blend humor with his passion for animal care. With over three decades of experience at Denver's VCA Alameda East Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Fitzgerald has become a trusted figure in the veterinary community. He gained widespread recognition through his appearances on Animal Planet's popular shows Emergency Vets and E-Vet Interns, where his expertise and compassionate approach to animal care shone brightly.

Beyond his veterinary career, Dr. Fitzgerald has made a name for himself in the world of comedy, performing alongside legends like Bob Hope, Joan Rivers, and George Lopez. His comedic talents have earned him the title of "the hardest working

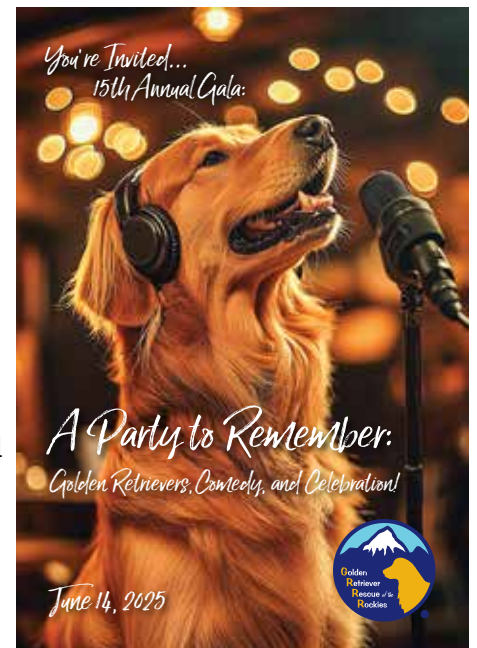
veterinarian in show business," and he continues to entertain audiences nationwide with his witty and insightful stand-up routines.

Dr. Fitzgerald's dedication to animal welfare extends beyond the clinic. He has lectured internationally on topics ranging from toxicology to exotic species care and has contributed to numerous scientific journals and veterinary textbooks. His commitment to conservation has taken him on expeditions across the globe, focusing on endangered species and their habitats.

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald will bring his expertise and humor to the 15th Annual Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies Gala at Social Capitol in Arvada, Colorado. As the guest speaker, he will undoubtedly inspire and entertain attendees with his remarkable journey and unwavering dedication to animals. This event promises to be a memorable evening celebrating the love and care for Golden Retrievers and the broader animal rescue community.

Please be sure to get your tickets before they sell out.

<https://aesbid.org/ELP/GRRR2025> 💙



GRRR members and your dogs invited...

SPRING FLING!

Sunday, May 18, 2025

11 am - 2 pm

**Outside on the fully fenced
grassy play area at
Phoebe's Place
15350 W. 72nd Ave.
Arvada 80007**

*Merchandise!
Raffle Baskets!
Potluck! BBQ!
Doggie Play!
Fun!*

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



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; you are fully responsible for your dog(s)' behavior. Thank you.

In case of bad weather postponement, please check website: goldenrescue.com



*Last day to bring
your Gala auction
donation.
Thank you!*

SHY DOG AREA

**Shy dogs welcome
from noon - 1:30pm
in the fenced grassy area
behind the house
away from the fray!**

You Made a Difference!

Porsche Club

The Rocky Mountain Region Porsche Club of America selects a charity each year for their annual spring event, and GRRR was chosen as the beneficiary again this year. As part of this honor, we were invited to participate in the club's new member event held on March 8th. The event was attended by over 150 individuals, and a remarkable collection of Porsches was present.

GRRR had its own table at the event where we showcased several of our alumni dogs and provided information about our organization. Volunteers Dianne DeGroff with Golden Doodle Izzy, and Emily Conners with Golden Retriever Clifford, represented GRRR. Additionally, during the announcement speeches, GRRR had the opportunity to share our mission and passion for rescuing Golden Retrievers. Izzy and Clifford met many new friends and received numerous generous gifts from the Porsche members. We extend special thanks to Porsche Club of America members Lisa Walsh and Grace Kennedy for recommending GRRR again this year as the charity for the gathering. The club donated \$315. It is encouraging to see the community come together to support such a worthy cause. 🐾



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Spring Market

Volunteer Paige Soltas started the Boulder Spring Market last year, a market showcasing a curated group of 20 small businesses, hosted during Boulder Arts Week. She had a few baskets of donated items and raised about \$250 for GRRR! Thanks, Paige! 🐾

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King Soopers Rewards

374 households raised \$2,544.63 last quarter. Thank you! Everything helps! If you're not a Community Rewards Member yet, use the QR code to sign up at no cost to you! 🐾



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2026 GRRR Calendar Photo Contest

The GRRR 20th(!) Annual Calendar Photo Contest is now officially open! Your Golden could be featured in a full page photo in the 2026 calendar! The Grand Prize Winner will also have their photo on the cover. We consistently receive about 500 entries and we are so thrilled that you support this fundraising project of love.

Still just \$5 per photo entry fee, and no limit to number of photos you can submit! The 12 Monthly and 12 Honorable Mention winners all receive a free calendar. Golden Retrievers, mixes, or Goldendoodles only; doesn't have to be a GRRR or Rescue dog but no people in the photo please. And remember...horizontal photos only!

Deadline for entry is midnight, Thursday, July 17, 2025 so start snapping! Winners will be notified by August 30. Calendars will be available at all GRRR events starting with the Rescue Reunion Picnic and on our website.

Get more details on the next page and get entry form at goldenrescue.com. Good luck!



GRRR 2026 Calendar Photo Contest

The Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies' 21st Annual Photo Contest is now open! Your Golden could be featured in a full page photo in the 2026 calendar! The Grand Prize Winner will also have their photo on the cover. Last year's calendar was another big success—we received over 500 entries!

Submission Guidelines:

- \$5 per photo entry fee. No limit to number of photos you can submit! 12 Monthly and 12 Honorable Mention winners all receive a free calendar.
- Golden Retrievers, mixes, or Goldendoodles only; doesn't have to be a GRRR or Rescue dog.
- **Horizontal shots** only, not vertical... that means more wide than tall! →
- You can submit the same photos as in previous years. Monthly and Honorable Mention winning photos excluded.
- Set your camera at the **HIGHEST** resolution (photos will be enlarged to 8.5"x11"). Please don't make the files smaller, send the original, largest file.
- The photo must have been taken by you or someone in your family; you can't submit photos taken by someone else.

SENDING PHOTOS:

- email contest@goldenrescue.com
- or via WeTransfer: <https://wetransfer.com> (free and very easy) to contest@goldenrescue.com
- or Text to 720-254-3124. Include your name and dog's name. Send original size.

IMPORTANT: You will receive an e-mail confirmation within 48 hours; if you don't receive confirmation, assume files didn't go through and re-send.

SENDING ENTRY FORM

- Fill out the interactive PDF. **MAKE SURE THE FILE IS OPEN IN ADOBE ACROBAT** (not just your web browser)! Fill out, hit the Submit button, and it will email to contest@goldenrescue.com.
- Or scan/take a pic and email contest@goldenrescue.com or text 720-254-3124
- Or print out and snail mail to address below

SENDING PAYMENT

- Pay online at www.goldenrescue.com (\$5 per entry)
- Or mail check to:
GRRR Photo Contest
Attn: Jeanie Peebles
8095 Holland Ct, Unit D
Arvada, CO 80005
Please make checks payable to GRRR.

Deadline for entry is midnight, Friday, July 18, 2025

so start snapping! Winners will be notified by August 30.

Calendars will be available at all GRRR events starting with the Rescue Reunion Picnic and on our website.

Thanks and Good Luck!



Horizontal shots like this!



**NOT like this...
this is vertical!**



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

Just shop at **King Soopers** or **City Market**!

**We received \$2,54 from
374 households in one
quarter last year -
every little bit helps.**

**Sign up once and you are
done...no cost to you!**

Thank you!



If you have a King Soopers/City Market loyalty card, a percentage of your purchases can be donated to GRRR through their Community Rewards Program.

It is easy...just shop and swipe (or enter your alt number)!

**To register, go to: <https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards>
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.**

It's as easy as that! GRRR will receive a percentage of what you spend when shopping. It's totally free to you. Thank you!



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

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

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

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Kate Secor
Katie Bates

Executive Director - Francie Rakiec
francie.rakiec@goldenrescue.com
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Stratton
debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com

Come to the Spring Fling May 18!



You're coming, right?

"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 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

