



"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™

February 2026

# GOLDEN GRRROWL

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

## Jezebel: The Heart Who Holds Us Together

by Francie Rakiec

"But Jezebel... she was different. She walked in with quiet confidence, as if she already understood she had found her home."

Some dogs arrive in our care quietly. Jezebel arrived with a presence.

It was March of 2020 when she came to us – thin, tired, and fiercely protective of the four puppies pressed against her side. Their father, Ralph, hovered close, doing his best to look brave. The little family had been found at a business in Eastern Colorado, where the owners were threatening to "get rid of them." One of our volunteers didn't hesitate. She called Mary, hoping GRRR could help.

Mary said yes before the sentence was even finished. It was during COVID and our intake was at an all-time low so it was the perfect time for us to take in this cute little family.

Within hours, all six were safe at Phoebe's Place.



The puppies, with their round bellies and impossibly fluffy coats, melted hearts the moment they tumbled out of the car. Ralph won everyone over with the enormous, toothy grin he flashed at anyone who walked by his kennel. But Jezebel... she was different. She walked in with quiet confidence, as if she already understood she had found her home.

What we didn't know then was that she was stepping into a role that had been waiting for her.

Mary had recently lost her beloved Pyrenees mix, Stella – the dignified queen of the household who watched over every dog from her couch-throne. Stella kept order. She kept peace. She kept Mary's heart full.

And somehow, Jezebel knew.

From the moment she arrived, she slipped into that empty space with grace and

certainty. She became the steady presence the other dogs looked to. When a new dog enters our care, Jezebel is the first to greet them, offering a gentle but unmistakable correction if they forget their manners. She has never harmed another dog, but her growl and stance speak a language every canine understands: You're safe here. But behave.

If she hears a scuffle, she's there in seconds – darting between dogs, restoring calm, ensuring everyone remembers the rules of her kingdom.

Over the years, Jezebel has become a fixture at the rescue. Volunteers call her name the moment they step through the gate, and she knows exactly who carries treats. Sometimes she'll stretch out across the entrance, demanding a "toll" of ear scratches or biscuits before granting passage.

It's her world – we're just lucky to be invited in. 🐾



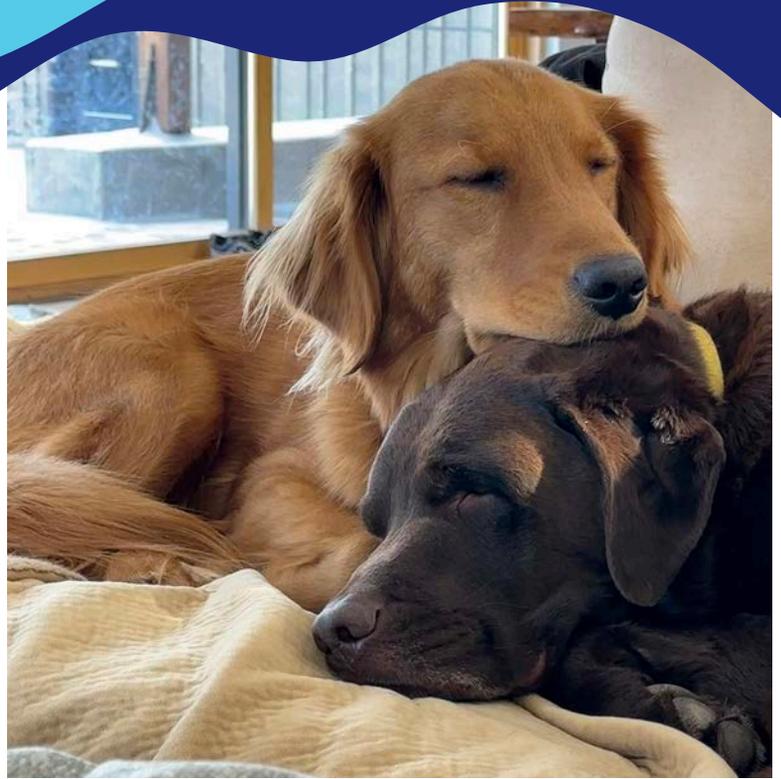
**Jezebel and her puppies**



**Smiling Ralph**



# Recent Rescues



**Daisy Duck & Walter**

Dear Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies:

Hello from me – formerly Skye, now proudly answering to Daisy Duck (and occasionally “Crazy Daisy,” “Miss Daisy,” and “Hey, Daisy, stop that”). I wanted to send you an update straight from my paws about how life has been going since you helped me find my forever family.

I’ve been with them since April of 2024, and I can confidently report that I am extremely happy, very loved, and – this is important – completely spoiled.

I have a big brother named Walter, a chocolate lab who I absolutely adore. I follow him everywhere. Everywhere. If you’re looking for me, I’m probably glued to Walter’s side. We play fetch, tug-of-war, and a very serious sport called wrestling, which I usually win (but I let him think otherwise sometimes).

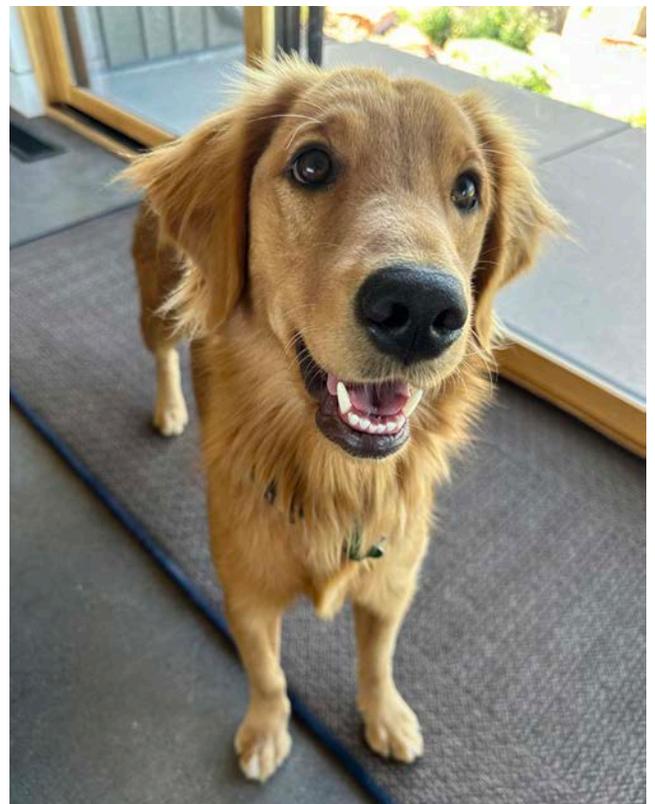
My home is filled with stuffed animals – truly a dream scenario. My current favorites are a very squeaky pheasant (the squeak must be tested hourly) and an oversized teddy bear that is perfect for shaking, ramming into my brother, providing a head rest, and dragging triumphantly through the house. In the warmer months, I even have my own swimming pool, which I splash in with great enthusiasm. And when we go on road trips – yes, I do those now – I’ve learned that lakes are basically the best things ever.

I’ve been working hard on my manners, too. I can sit, shake, and I’ve mastered jumping up to give hugs (which I believe should be required of all dogs). I love belly rubs more than anything and have become quite bold about requesting them; pawing at the humans is very effective. I’m also developing what my family calls a “sassy personality,” complete with a big-girl voice that I use when I feel it’s necessary to share my opinions.

I’ve put on some healthy weight since joining my family, and my coat has grown in beautifully. My adopted parents especially love my long, silky ear feathers, which I love to fill with grass every chance I get from rolling on my back in the yard. I also enjoy keeping the local rabbits on their toes (purely for fitness reasons, of course).

Life is full, joyful, and safe, and I know that none of this would be possible without you, GRRR. Thank you for rescuing me, believing in me, and connecting me with the family that was meant to be mine.

With endless tail wags,  
Daisy Duck (and Amanda Hansen & Tyler Robison)



# Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR,

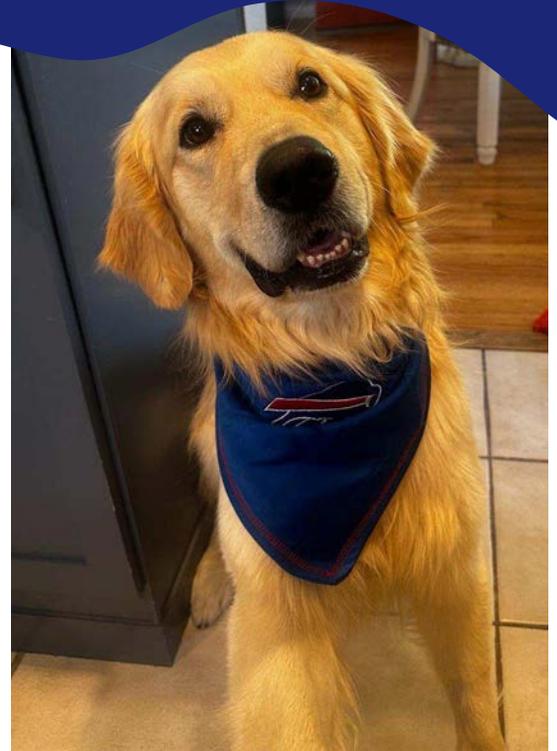
We adopted Bud (formerly Duncan) back in October and he has been such an incredible addition to our family! We are so grateful to GRRR for connecting us with such a sweet, entertaining, loving pup!

He loves coming on all of our adventures on the hiking trails and joining us on car rides. Bud likes holding hands and cuddling as close as possible with anyone who will let him. While he does not quite live up to the “retriever” in his name, he really enjoys carrying around as many toys/balls as he can fit in his mouth.

Overall, Bud has been adapting amazingly well and is such a loving, silly dog! We are so happy to have him in our family and he seems to be happy with us in our home too!

We love him so much! Thanks for all you do, GRRR!

Eleni and Keaton Fleckenstein



**Bud**

Hi GRRR:

We adopted our Golden, Emmett, from you this past June. He is just about to turn 9 months, is such a sweet boy, growing into his long legs, and rapidly became a loved member of the family.

Todd and Beverly  
Allenson

**Emmett**



Dear GRRR:

Here is a picture of our pups, a happy, handsome George with his sibling, after their grooming sessions with Dee today.

John & Kayla Dickson

**George**



Dear GRRR,

We adopted Sir Chubbo two years ago. He's the happiest boy on the planet! He loves to hike, swim, and play with all his doggie friends. And at the end of the day he curls up with us!

We LOVE him SO much!

Diane Murphy



**Sir Chubbo**



**Lola**

Dear GRRR:

Lola is one of Josie's puppies and just celebrated her 3rd birthday at the beginning of the month!

She is an absolute goober and makes us laugh every day with her outrageously dramatic antics. She loves canine conditioning, a mouthful of nice dirty socks, sticks, antagonizing her big sister, and belly rubs.

We are so grateful to GRRR for bringing Lola into our lives!

Lara Crenshaw

Good Morning GRRR:

I took this photo of our sweet Turkey Dog Maizie this fall up in Vail and wanted to share it with you. She is roughly 9 and still doing amazing, hiking, traveling, rafting and enjoying life in the mountains. Forever thankful to Penny Morris for sponsoring our sweet girl.

Lisa Lutz



**Maize**

# Recent Rescues



**Finn & Morgan**

Dear GRRR:

Here's a brief update on the boys. They seem to be well adjusted and comfortable here. They both sleep all night; Finn is the early riser. They notice our two chickens but not even a bark. We get an occasional bark at a squirrel, and this morning Finn was in a stare-off with a squirrel that was perched on the fence. No bark - just prolonged eye contact, very funny actually.

Morgan would play fetch non-stop and could play outfield for a pro baseball team. They are excellent walkers, no pulling and unaffected by other dogs as we pass.

I do want to again express appreciation for your help in getting these great additions to our home set up. Happy new year and perhaps we'll see you at a GRRR event.

Bill & Debbie Blank



Dear GRRR:

Hello! We adopted our Hatty girl from you when she was just 8 weeks old. Today she turns 7. Just wanted to send a thank you for bringing her into our lives and let you how loved she is!



She's the best girl  
Thank you!  
MaryEllen  
and Kevin  
Meyers

**Hatty**

Hello GRRR

I wanted to share this picture of Jasmine who we adopted 10/16/21. She is 10 now and has become a beloved member of our family.

Thank you for all you do rescuing these beautiful babies.

Warmly,  
Lynne Walters

**Jasmine**



Dear Peeples at GRRR,

My name iz Ralphie (wuz Porter befor my peeples adopted me) and I jus wanted to tell u all dat I am doin reely well in my first eber reel home! I'z been wif my new family for 6 munths now and hav lerned so much about bein a real doggo!

When I first got heer I wuz a little scared, I admit – I'd never been allowed to jus come and go as I pleez thru my very own doggo door so I wuzn't sure what dat wuz all about but my new mom and dad said I wuz very brave and smart to figure it out so fast! I haz also lerned how to sit and wate for my foods very pashently just like my doggo brudder Cody does, to take treetts gently (I get lots of treetts heer) and to be da best boi on da leash. My peeples reely want me to come up on da couch or da bed wif dem, but I still haz sum troubles wif jumping – I never had to do dat before! Also I jus lerned dat rasslin wif my doggo brudder Cody is lots of fun! No one ever taught me how to play wif other doggos, and my pawrents were so excited when I joined in to play wif him da first time!

My peeples say I iz such a good boi and dat dey luv me sooo much – dey are very happy dat I iz a part of da family now and dey say I will never hab to live anywhere else! Tank u for finding me a loving family where I won't ever hab to be used for breeding again.

Luv, Ralphie (and humans Tonia & Steve Lowe)



**Ralphie**



Dear GRRR:

An update on Razzie and Charlie. We discovered about 18 months ago that Razzie has an abnormally small liver and a large, shunted vein. We were referred to Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital to work with experts, and the team recommended surgery to close the main shunted vein. We were referred to CSU Veterinary Hospital for surgery, which Razzie had last February. The CSU team also assesses her progress every 90 days. While nothing surgical can be done to correct a small liver, closing the shunted vein appears to be successful and her blood work indicates she is stable. We can manage the liver issue with a prescription diet specific to liver issues in dogs. I am very impressed with the CSU team and feel lucky to have access to them. Razzie is not showing any signs of being compromised by her liver (toxicity can build up) and is a happy, vocal, and energetic 6-year-old.

Charlie is happy and in very good health as well. She takes her responsibility of monitoring the perimeter of our home seriously with two thorough 'walk and sniffs' each day. She also enjoys sunning on our deck.

While Charlie and Razzie have very distinct and different personalities, they are closely bonded and play tag daily.

I am so grateful to have these wonderful angels in my life.

Best Regards,

Laurene Heinsohn



**Razzie & Charlie**

# Recent Rescues

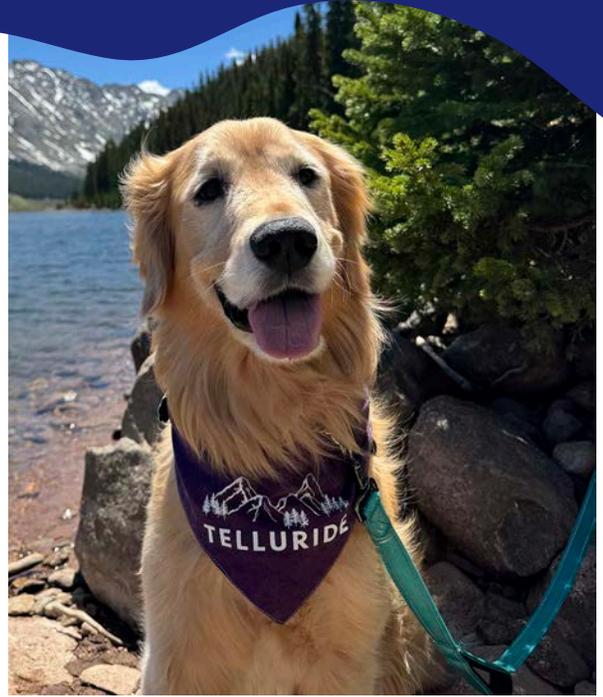
Dear GRRR:

We adopted Rocky in February and are so proud of how much he has grown since then. When we adopted him, he did not like other dogs and didn't know how to play with them. He now has become friends with a few dogs, loves to play with them, and loves to see other dogs on walks. He loves when we take him camping and fishing. He also still brings his Buc-Ee's stuffed animal around that he came with from the shelter.

We love Rocky so much and can't believe it's almost been a year since we adopted him from you all! We will keep in touch.

Tucker Willingham and Alexandria Lundquist

**Rocky**



Hi GRRR:

I was planning to wait until the 3 month gotcha day of Lady (now Nessie the Love Monster) but just could not wait. This sweet girl has brought us so much joy in the past two months and we are delighted to see her true personality emerge! She has already come a long way from the terrified girl who we had to lift into our car on the day of her adoption. Meeting new people was so scary for her – she literally shook like a leaf when meeting my dog-crazy coworkers. At home she became acclimated pretty quickly to us and to her new territory, but the outside world was still pretty intimidating. But after weeks of daily hikes, car rides, two hotel stays, an hour and a half road trip, dog park visits, eating out in restaurants, a poker party at our house, and overnight guests, she has become so much more confident and animated! She even jumped up on a tall man with a Golden at the Chatfield Dog Park yesterday in her excitement. Was this naughty? Maybe a little, but the gentleman did not care, and it made my heart soar to see Nessie respond to him that way. Males were pretty scary to her early on. She is now confident with other dogs but not bossy. We watch her very closely with smaller dogs and she has been fantastic! Her FAVORITE thing in the world (and the thing that makes us beam with happiness) is meeting a dog that will chase her in large circles repeatedly. I swear there is some whippet in her background because she is fast, fast, fast! Oh lawd, and snow....she is a snow dog for sure! We can't wait to get more snow so we can watch her zoomies and wallowing again. Just hilarious.



Nessie has broadened our world in so many ways. We are back to hiking as often as possible (almost daily) and exploring new dog-friendly activities. We have never had a dog who wanted so badly to please us. She just lights up when she hears what a good girl she is! And she hears that a lot! She loves a variety of "woobies," her stuffies, and does eventually disembowel them, but it is not the five minute process of our past dogs. Is it possible to gently disembowel a stuffy? Yes, yes it is, and Nessie is the Master. Again, we are so grateful to GRRR for allowing us to adopt this special girl. We are so happy to be able to give her the life she deserves and feel so incredibly lucky to be the ones to give her a loving home. Thank you, GRRR!

Sincerely,  
Barbara Markey

**Nessie**

Dear GRRR:

We adopted our Wolfman (formerly Maui) from GRRR on October 7th and he is a wonderful addition to our family. We lost our Lab and Goldendoodle during the last year. Both were fifteen, and losing two dogs in a year was devastating. We felt that our remaining six-year-old Goldendoodle, Zombie, needed a new companion. From the moment they met, Zombie and Wolfman got along and they are now inseparable. Wolfman has a very chill personality which is great since Zombie is a wild man. They have some very rambunctious play sessions, something that never happened with our senior dogs. Zombie outweighs Wolfman by thirty pounds but Wolfman holds his own.



GRRR didn't have much information about Wolfman but did know that he came from a Missouri puppy mill. Zombie is also a Missouri puppy mill rescue so we are so happy to have been able to save two dogs from the awful breeders, especially since they are both black and black animals can be harder for rescue organizations to place. GRRR thought that Wolfman was a Goldendoodle but we had his DNA tested and it turns out he is 41% Great Pyrenees and rest is Lab and Poodle so he is a Pyrelabradoodle! Even though he is 0% Golden, he's 100% our dog and we are so grateful to GRRR for bringing him into our lives.

Isabel Chamberlin

## Wolfman & Zombie



Dear GRRR:

Today is a year anniversary when we adopted our sweet boy Buddy!

This gentleman is probably 8 or 9 years old now and he loves his new life. He is sweet, protective and funny. He has around 25 toys all over the house and he's still acting like puppy.

He loves hugs. He gives us smiles and love every single day - we love him sooooo much

Beata Vernon

## Buddy



### GRRR Stats

January 1 - Dec 31, 2025

Number of Dogs Placed: 217  
\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$ 105,000

## Newsletter Submissions

We need more updates! We all love reading about your Golden and we 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](mailto:debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com). Deadline for the May 2026 issue is April 7, 2026. Thanks!

# In Memory

Dear GRRR,

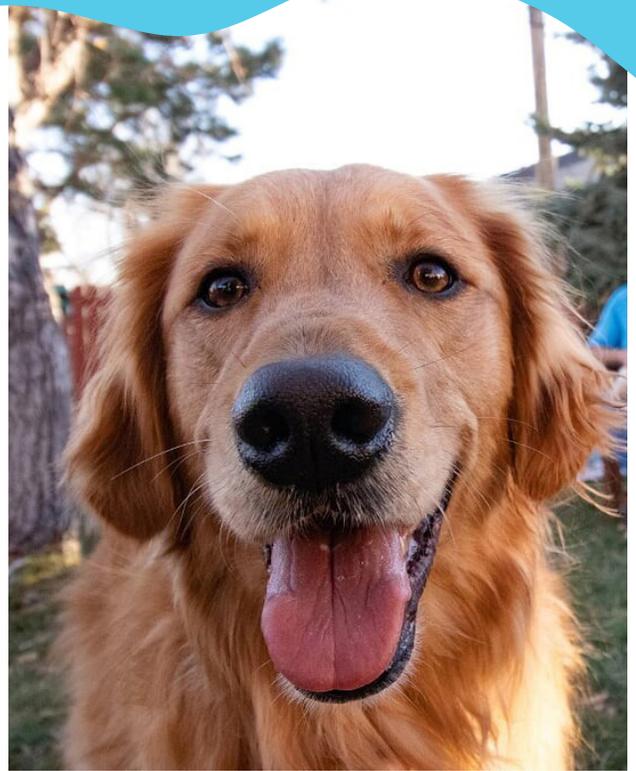
In May of 2017 we had the privilege of adopting a puppy from Penny's litter. She was the shy one of the girls, boy did she fool us.

We called her Olive and she stole all of our heart and the hearts of everyone she crossed paths with. Olive was the best host; she met people at the door when they arrived, checked on them through the party, and walked them to the door as they left. Once everyone had left, she would collapse into a deep sleep.

Olive enjoyed daily walks through rain and snow, and when it was cold, Home Depot did the trick. Her happy wiggle made everyone smile and chat with her during those walks. She did not appreciate car rides; like most dogs, to Olive it was not about the journey but the destination. She got a brother in 2019, and she and Dillon (aka Turkey dog Drac) had fun every day they were together.

Olive crossed the rainbow bridge in November 2025, way too early. We feel grateful for the time we shared with her. Her family cherishes her memory and feels her absence.

Brad, Patty, and Dillon Fritz



**Olive**



## 2026 GRRR Events

Hope to see you, and your pups, at these GRRR Events:

Feb. 7th, 9 am - 1pm

**Goldens in Golden!**

Downtown Golden along Washington Street. Come visit the GRRR booth in Parfet Park - new merch!

<https://www.goldensingolden.com/>

**Have a Heart Golden Angel online fundraiser** in February for Rudy, our Angel who needs heartworm treatments.

Donate: <https://www.goldenrescue.com/donate-golden-retriever-rescue-colorado/>

Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**GRRR Annual Membership/ Business Meeting**

Colorado Tap House, 14982 W 69th Ave, Arvada, CO 80007. (sorry, no dogs)

Sunday, May 17

**Spring Fling at Phoebe's Place**

Saturday, June 6

**Annual GRRR Gala**

Baldoria On The Water 146 Van Gordan St., Lakewood, CO

July 23rd at 6pm

**Paint and Sip** at 7134 W Alaska Dr, Denver, CO 80226. 50% of proceeds to GRRR

Saturday, Sept 19

**Rescue Reunion Picnic at Phoebe's Place**

Saturday, October 24

**Halloween Party at Phoebe's Place**



## Terri & Jeff Markland

Jeff and Terri Markland first became acquainted with GRRR in 2004 when they adopted two-year-old Maddie as a companion for their first Golden Retriever, Luke, who had been a stray at the Adams County Shelter. They were immediately smitten and quickly caught the Golden Retriever “bug.” Over the years, they adopted several more dogs through GRRR: Parker in 2008, Belyy in 2015, Oaklee in 2022, and finally Ripp in 2023. Each dog holds a special place in Jeff and Terri’s hearts and has provided years of joy and companionship.

Jeff and Terri have a soft spot for middle-aged dogs who have come from less-than-ideal situations, and they are committed to spoiling them for the rest of their lives. Oaklee was a former breeder dog who arrived at GRRR with a torn ACL, and Ripp was a stray from Texas who was malnourished and heartworm-positive. Both dogs are now thriving—living their best, spoiled, and happy lives, exactly as they deserve.

Ripp’s favorite spot is the sofa, but he dances with excitement every day when it’s time for his neighborhood walks. He probably never had a bed, but he sure loves his now. He even served as a GRRR Ambassador at the 2023 Gala and loved all the attention he received from GRRR supporters. Oaklee’s favorite thing is food – she’s convinced mealtime should happen every two hours – and she patiently tolerates just about anything from Ripp. The two are wonderful friends and companions.

Since 2004, Jeff and Terri have been continually impressed with GRRR as an organization. They’ve volunteered as part of the VIP walking team, helped at GRRR workdays, sold GRRR merchandise at Halloween parties and reunions, and worked the crowds for donations

with Parker and Belyy at the Jackalope Arts and Crafts Fair (which was so much fun!). Since Jeff’s retirement, they have most recently joined the transport team. While that role can be emotionally challenging – especially when owners surrender their pets – it’s also deeply rewarding to see how those dogs’ lives are transformed once they find their forever families.

While volunteering at GRRR is always fun (after all, you get to be around Golden Retrievers!), it’s truly the people of GRRR – Mary, Francie, Roberta, Eric, and the many other dedicated volunteers – who make the experience so special. ❤️

Jeff with Ripp and Oaklee



Daughter Natalie, Jeff, and Terri with Ripp and Oaklee



Oaklee and Ripp awaiting their humans



# Golden Angel: Millie

by Francie Rakiec

## Millie's Miracle: From a Lonely Road to a Loving Home

Some rescue stories begin quietly. Millie's began in the middle of a lonely Southern Colorado road.

Three hikers happened to spot her as they came over the hill, a frightened pup sitting in the middle of a back road. They thought it was strange to see a tiny pup in the middle of the road so they stopped to check on her. Even from a distance, they could see something was terribly wrong. Her back leg hung at an unnatural angle, and every step made her wince. Terrified, she tried to run, but her injured leg slowed her just enough for them to gently catch her.

She had no collar. No tags. No one was around searching for her.

Knowing she needed immediate help, the hikers drove her all the way to Colorado Springs and brought her to the local shelter. They couldn't keep her, but they refused to leave her without a chance. The shelter staff quickly realized her injuries were serious. Her initial exam revealed a badly broken tibia, the kind of fracture that often leads to amputation. She also had entropion eyes, a painful condition where the eyelids curl inward causing the eye lashes to scratch and irritate the eye. The shelter placed her in a temporary cast and gave her medication to manage her pain. The shelter also found that she was micro chipped and did have owners at one time and that her name had been Sage.

GRRR had already known about Sage because a volunteer had seen the post that the shelter had made looking for her owners. Mary Kenton reached out to the shelter offering GRRR's help because she knew that Sage's medical condition was beyond what the shelter could handle. When the owners never showed up to claim her after the stray hold was up, the shelter reached back out to Mary asking if we could help. Of course she said yes.

On a snowy day, GRRR volunteers Ed Tanner and Cindy Charles made the trip to bring Sage into our care. When Sage arrived at Phoebe's Place, she greeted us with a wagging tail and soft, grateful kisses, as if she already knew she was safe. Despite her pain, she radiated joy – the kind of joy only a puppy who still believes in love can give.

Shortly after Sage arrived, she was taken to Homeward Bound Veterinary Hospital to see Dr. Carpenter. He estimated that she was only about six months old – small for her age, but with a full set of adult teeth to prove it. New x-rays were taken and her leg was recast to give her more mobility and protection. Because of the quick action of the shelter veterinarians, the break seemed to be healing in a position where she would not have to have her leg amputated. Now it was a wait and see situation. Sage would need to continue with her pain meds and be on restricted activity. She was kept in the isolation area of the vet room here at GRRR and didn't raise a fuss about being in there. She would play with her toys quietly, enjoy the company of any volunteers who came to see her, and loved spending time in the office. Volunteer Nancy Grant even took Sage home for a couple of weeks so that she could have more one-on-one attention in a real home.

Sage had x-rays every two weeks to check the healing progress and to get a new cast. The images told us everything we hoped for: her bones were healing beautifully. No amputation needed. Our sweet girl had fought her way toward a miracle.

But the best part of her story was still ahead.

The couple who found her never stopped thinking about her. They called Mary regularly for updates, unable to shake the little dog who had limped into their lives and hearts. They applied to adopt her, fully understanding she wouldn't be ready for several more weeks. They even made the long drive from Southern Colorado just to visit her.

Each time they arrived, Sage lit up, running toward them with pure joy, as if she were saying, "You saved me. I remember." Today, Sage has a new name, Millie, and a forever family who adores her. She is safe, healed, and loved beyond measure.

Her journey from a lonely road to a warm home was made possible because of people like you. Your generosity gives Golden Angels like Millie the chance to heal, to hope, and to find the families they were always meant to have.

Thank you for making miracles happen. 💕

*To help dogs like Millie, 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](http://goldenrescue.com/golden-angel-fund). Thank you!*



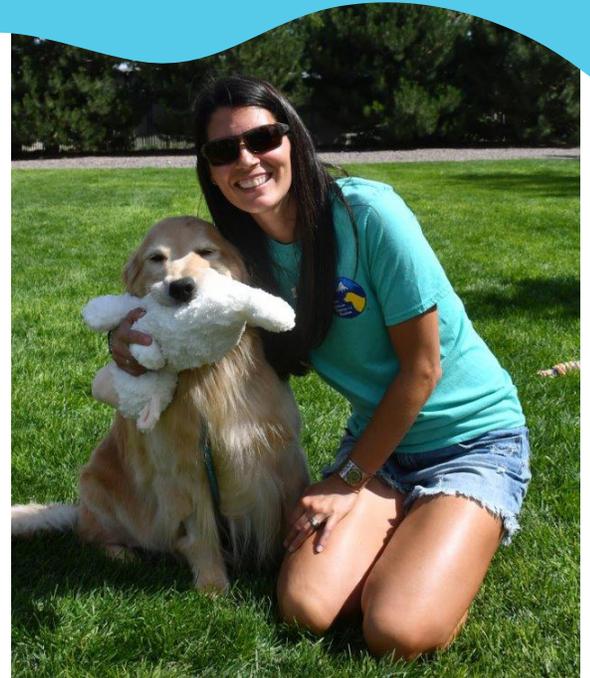
# President's Report

by Judi Sevoss, President

As most of you know, this has been a busy and “bitter sweet” time at GRRR, as Our Executive Director (ED) Francie Rakiec has chosen to step aside from the ED position after 7 years, enabling her to spend more time with family, traveling and exploring the next stage of her life. She’ll continue to be with GRRR, working part time and remotely on “dog-focused” projects she loves.

Katie Bates has been named the new ED, and the Board is confident we’ll have a smooth transition. Katie has been on the GRRR Board, managed Colorado Gives Day, written the member e-blasts, and acted as Board liaison to the FAST team. Her learning curve will obviously ramp up pretty quickly, but she has eagerly jumped in with both feet!

Below are some questions I asked Francie and Katie to address, to give you a feel for what they are thinking.



## Q&A with Francie Rakiec

### What has been the best thing/happiest memory about being GRRR’s Executive Director?

Working with the dogs and learning so much about dogs from Mary Kenton and Dr. Carpenter. Seeing how the shy dogs transform into confident “normal” dogs after the love and care they receive at GRRR. Seeing the organization grow every year in terms of overall donations and record Gala donations allowing the organization to rescue, medically treat, and place in forever homes a growing number of dogs. Also, seeing the growth and improvements made to the GRRR facility and grounds over the last seven + years.

### Why do you think GRRR is a special organization?

We have a caregiver (Mary Kenton) who truly cares about the dogs and has poured her heart and soul into this organization, and it shows. Also, we are lucky to have a core group of dedicated volunteers who really give of their time to ensure the dogs in our care feel secure and well loved while with us.

### What do you hope to see GRRR accomplish in the next 5-10 years?

I hope we continue to grow in a responsible way and that the dogs continue to receive the amazing care we are known to give them.

### If you could give your successor one piece of advice, what would that be?

Being the Executive Director in an organization like GRRR requires wearing multiple hats and getting pulled in multiple directions. You need to trust and rely on the capable and experienced staff currently in place, most who have been with the organization for many years. And be mindful that we are all here for the dogs and have their best interest in mind.

### What do you plan to do in the next phase of your life, outside of GRRR projects?

Spend more time with my husband Wade and my dogs; spend time with my friends; playing more volleyball; and, becoming involved with one of my newer passions, the Newfoundland rescue.



Francie with Moby and Ivy

# President's Report (cont.)

## Q&A with Katie Bates

### Why do you want to work for GRRR?

This role combines everything I care about... dogs, people who love them and the mission to make rescue and adoption a positive, life-changing experience. Being able to step into a position where I can help guide that work and honor the people and dogs who make it all possible feels like a natural next step in my journey, and it is truly the kind of role I've dreamed of.

### What do you feel are your most relevant skills/experience to be GRRR's Executive Director?

I come from a relationship-driven background, which strongly shapes how I lead. Fourteen years in real estate taught me how to navigate big emotions, high-stakes decisions and many moving parts, all while staying calm, organized and level-headed. At the heart of that work has always been the idea of home. It feels like a natural evolution to continue that work at GRRR, helping dogs find their new home. Pair that with volunteering experience, storytelling, event planning, public relations and donor communication at GRRR, and I bring both the business mindset and the heart that rescue work requires.

### How will you approach balancing the needs of multiple constituencies (potential adopters, employees, volunteers, donors, vendors, etc.)

I truly believe people want to feel heard and valued. My approach is to listen first, communicate openly and be transparent about decisions, even when they're hard. Volunteers, staff, donors and adopters are all here for the same reason: the dogs. If we stay grounded in that shared purpose, collaboration becomes easier and trust grows naturally.

### Tell us a little about yourself and your love for dogs/Golden Retrievers (including your current GRRR Rescue pup).

Dogs have been part of my life for as long as I can remember, and much of that love started with my Nana, a lifelong dog lover. She lived and breathed dogs, constantly sending me blankets from rescues she supported and checking in on my dogs like they were her own. The day she passed away was the same day Francie reached out to ask if I wanted to become more involved with Colorado Gives Day for GRRR. I couldn't help but feel it was a sign from her, gently nudging me toward the path that ultimately led me here.

My love for Golden Retrievers began in college, when my roommate decided she wanted a Golden Retriever. Four of us piled into a car and drove five hours west into the North Carolina mountains, where we picked out a female puppy under a star-filled night sky. Not long after, I rescued my own Golden and I was hooked. Since then, I've lost two Golden Retrievers to cancer, an experience that was heartbreaking but also deepened my commitment to rescue and advocacy. Today, my GRRR pup, Cowboy, continues to strengthen my love for the breed and serves as a constant reminder of why this work means so much to me, even on the toughest of days.

### Anything else you'd like to share...

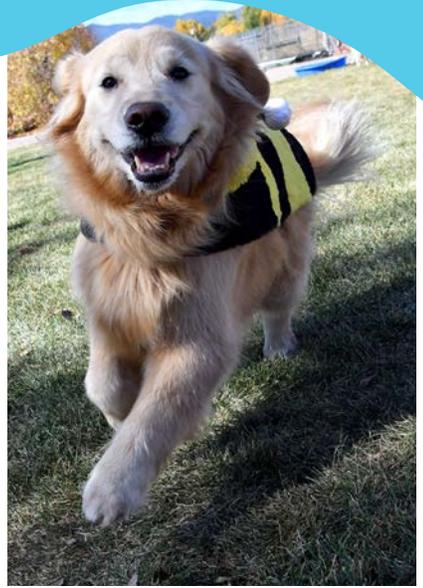
I don't take lightly the responsibility of leading an organization like GRRR. We exist because of the incredible volunteers, staff and supporters who show up day after day, and I have so much respect for the community that built this rescue into what it is today. My goal is to support the people doing the work, tell our stories honestly and help GRRR grow in a way that always keeps the dogs at the center.

And if you're at Phoebe's Place, please say hi! I may be listening to Taylor Swift, reading over my lunch break or sneaking dogs into the office, but I look forward to meeting every person who continues making an impact for GRRR! 💙



*Katie with Cowboy Cooper (originally Cooper)*

# You Made a Difference!



## Special Donation

Big thank you to Robert B. Sturm for providing the funds to cover our 2026 vet bills (excluding Golden Angels). We truly appreciate your support!

## Halloween Picnic

Thanks to all our members who bought raffle tickets and merchandise at the Halloween Party in October. We netted \$2,100 🍷

## Calendar Sales

Thank you to all who bought calendars - we sold out the initial 500 quickly, raising \$7,500, and ordered 100 more to fill more orders! Still need one? Get them here: <https://www.goldenrescue.com/grrr-calendar/> 🍷

## Colorado Gives Day

Wow! We are so humbled that we continue to receive so many donations. You all donated \$172,750 this year! This is a huge fundraiser for us. Thank you! 🍷

## Golden Angel Fund

We are so grateful that we can help so many Goldens with medical needs because of your generosity. We received \$6,500 for our Angels from generous donors in the first quarter of 2026. Thank you! 🍷

## King Soopers Rewards

391 households raised \$2,616 last quarter and \$10,421 was donated in 2025! 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! 🍷



King Soopers Rewards



## Goldens in Golden GRRR Merchandise!

Limited Edition 2026 GRRR merchandise for Goldens in Golden! Buy t-shirts at the GRRR booth in Parfet Park on Feb 7 from 9am-1pm, or you can order all sorts of merchandise (shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more!) from our special website! Your orders will be mailed to you about 2 weeks after you order:

<https://zamar.chipply.com/GRR>

# Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies

15350 W. 72nd Avenue  
Arvada, CO 80007

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

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katie.bates@goldenrescue.com

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debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com



## See you at Goldens in Golden!

### **“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”<sup>®</sup>**

#### 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](http://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](http://www.goldenrescue.com) to fill out the volunteer application. Thanks!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail to: Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies • 15350 W. 72nd Ave. • Arvada, CO 80007

Thank you for your support!  
[goldenrescue.com](http://goldenrescue.com)

