



"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"™

November 2024

GOLDEN GRRROWI

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

2016 Turkey Dogs

Intro by Francie Rakiec

In 2016, we started rescuing Golden Retrievers and mixes from Istanbul, Turkey. Initially, these dogs were status symbols there, but as they aged, they were abandoned on the streets. Yasemin Babin and her team stepped in, providing food, medical care, and spaying/neutering services. They partnered with rescues in the U.S. and Europe to find these dogs loving homes.

Between 2016 and 2019, GRRR brought over 160 "Turkey Dogs" to Colorado. However, the pandemic led to a ban on importing dogs. The ban has been lifted but new USDA regulations make it challenging to bring these dogs to Colorado. Additionally, the cost to bring one dog from Istanbul exceeds \$3,000. Due to these changes and increased costs, as well as the rise in dogs being surrendered to us by people and breeders, GRRR's primary focus is to help the dogs in our region.

Laura Johnston (our database manager) and I discussed Turkey Dogs. She and her husband Scott adopted Tellie. We wondered if these dogs have a lower risk of cancer compared to their American counterparts. This curiosity led us to a project where Laura emailed all the Turkey Dog adopters to check on their pups and find out how many had been diagnosed with cancer. The response was overwhelming, with adopters praising their Turkey Dogs (and their soft ears). We decided to share the 2016 updates (edited for length). We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did!

Note: As of the date of publishing, of the 57 responses we received, 24 of the dogs have passed away, and of those, 12 passed due to cancer.

Volunteers with the dogs after they arrived at DPA

Honey's passport



Lalla, formerly Bailey, by Leila Coveney & Daniel Smith

Lalla, who joined our family eight years ago, was part of the first group of "Turkey Goldens." We were fortunate to get her, as I know some of these dogs arrived with emotional and/or physical health issues. Lalla, on the other hand, showed resilience and confidence from the get-go. She clearly had had no training at any level, yet she made herself at home with us right away, self-potty trained, advanced by leaps and bounds in obedience classes, went on to agility. She was certified as a therapy dog, all within a year of her adoption. Lalla has accompanied us on hikes, makes weekly visits to patients and staff at a local hospital, and has been a cheerleader for local kids in library reading programs. She is now 10 years old, in excellent health, and has mellowed, but is still full of life and joy. She connects instantly with everyone she meets. We are so blessed to have her in our lives. Like most Goldens (she is our second GRRR rescue), Lalla loves attention and treats and gets plenty of both. She is truly a family member and has added much joy to our lives. Thanks to GRRR and Yasemin who made it her mission to save these Goldens.



Brush, by Barbara Kreisman

Our dear Brushy was in the first cohort of Turkey Dogs. He was six then so now he is 14 and still as beautiful and going strong as ever. He went through training as a therapy dog and we continue to visit hospice patients and individuals in senior care facilities. He is still perfect. His health is stellar—no problems now or ever. No sign of cancer at 14, which is twice as long as most of our previous Golden Retrievers born and bred in the US. People just adore Brushy.



Tosh, formerly Durango, by Austin Liddicoat

Tosh is awesome! I am very grateful that he is still with me and in good health. He has been a great adventurer. We moved from Denver to San Luis Obispo to San Diego and are heading back

to Denver in November, and the entire time Tosh has adapted well to each location. Tosh loves the dog beaches! He is very loving and greets everyone with a friendly demeanor. I take him almost everywhere and he loves going everywhere with me, except to take a bath. He loves to swim but not to bathe. He is the sweetest dog I could have ever asked for.



Parker, by Jim & Sue Okerson

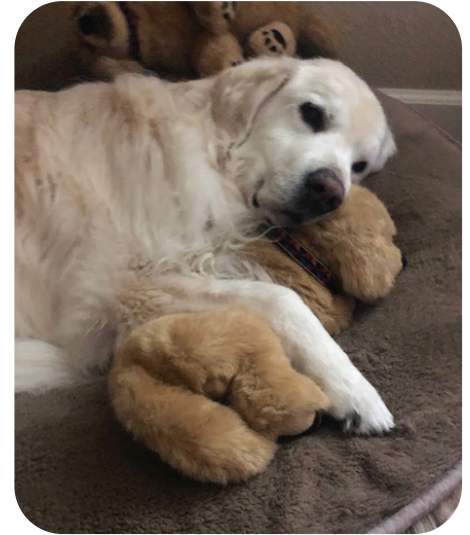
Parker is now 10 years old. She's pretty healthy except for a heart murmur, but we're able to treat it with a heart supplement. I moved to Seattle and Parker loves all the new smells! She also loves jumping into puddles and doesn't mind the rain here at all. Parker is a love bug who's incredibly flexible while also being stubborn about which way we go on our walks! We traveled for a year pulling a small RV while I was volunteering with



Habitat for Humanity. She was great in each of the places we visited, becoming the camp mascot wherever we went throughout the southeastern US. Parker is my best buddy. We know she's in the later part of her life, so we're making sure to savor each day with her.

Wrigley, formerly Bennett, by Bruce & Sally Hutton

You hit us at a sad time as we just had to say goodbye to our dear Wrigley about three months ago. Wrigley was pretty healthy when we got him. He had very thin fur but within a year he grew the most magnificent thick, soft white coat. It was obvious right away that he was a very smart dog. He was never a barker, didn't jump up on people and was just a real gentleman. Wrigley got along with all dogs and was so gentle and kind. Everyone in our neighborhood knew and just loved him. As he aged, which we suspected was older than on his passport, he developed lower back and spine issues. Regular chiropractic treatments and acupuncture helped, but he slowed down dramatically. We've never had a geriatric dog and having the responsibility of knowing when to say goodbye was so very hard. The quality of his life was so diminished that we finally realized it was time. Wrigley was a wonderful dog and we loved him completely, every day. We would adopt him again in a heartbeat.



Sophie, by John Himmelmann

I'm happy to report that Sophie is still with us and doing well. GRRR thought she was about two years old when I adopted her so she'd be around 10 now. She had her regular checkup in July and has had no health issues. Sophie has made lots of friends on our daily walks. More than one neighbor without a dog of their own keeps dog treats close at hand for Sophie's visits. One neighbor occasionally contacts us to request a Sophie visit because Sophie's company helps relieve his stress. She does have a very calm demeanor (except when she sees a ball or a squirrel or hears a skateboard). Sophie has been a delightful companion since that first day when she jumped eagerly into my car in the GRRR parking lot, ready to start her new life in Colorado. Thanks again for bringing her into my life.



Tellie, formerly Chloe, by Laura & Scott Johnston

Tellie is doing great and enjoying life in the Tetons. We initially thought we were going to adopt a different TD but Tellie came up to my husband and placed her paw on him, saying "Here I am!" and didn't let go! Initially, she had a bit of a rough start. Soon after her arrival, she was diagnosed by Dr. Carpenter with a form of transmissible cancer that is very rare in the US. She became a Golden Angel (thank you, GRRR supporters) and went through six rounds of chemotherapy. She recently retired from her work as a registered therapy dog. She is sweet and gentle with all, which made her a perfect therapy dog. Tellie loves everyone

young and old but is especially gentle, loving and tolerant of young children. Her best buddy is our Golden Colter, also a GRRR pup. We think that Tellie is around nine, having arrived in June of 2016 and having just weaned a litter of pups. She especially loves our 16-month-old granddaughter! Tellie is greatly loved!



Tina, formerly Cora-Tillie, by Jim & Sukie McMaster

We saw a fundraising solicitation for Turkey Dog II with a picture of a terrified, pitiful Golden puppy huddled against a wall. We decided to sponsor her. We greeted her at the airport and decided to adopt her. She was very shy but started to warm up pretty quickly. Tina continued to grow as part of the family. She was just the sweetest dog you can imagine, even if she was always a bit timid around strangers and loud noises. She was an ambassador at a GRRR Gala. She did pretty well but stayed glued to Sukie's lap for the entire time she was on stage. Tina was our Golden girl for eight years, but then she got really sick. She had



untreatable liver cancer and we had to let her go on June 6, 2024, eight years to the day after we met her at the airport. For those eight years, she was spoiled and cherished by everyone who knew her. She is forever in our hearts.

Ollie, formerly Blizzard, by Mike & Mary Lynn

Ollie was a true gem! He had the funniest shenanigans and was a very special soul. While he was rough around the edges when we got him, he melded into our family with such love and gentleness. He had a noble grace that was beautiful both physically and in his demeanor. Ollie loved to hike, travel across country, camp, and hang with his family. With much sadness, we said good-bye to Oliver in February of 2024 after his decline was affecting his quality of life too much, both physically and cognitively. Now we cherish our memories of him. He was a foodie and ate

just about anything. He had a great dilemma on a walk when he picked up a tennis ball and then a bagel. He dropped them both after many blocks and ate the bagel!

Everyone loved our Ollie and our lives are enriched beyond measure having loved him! We keep little tufts of hair we find on the floor as our treasured keepsakes. We thank GRRR for the opportunity to love Ollie. We believe he had a good life with us, and he enriched our lives immeasurably!



Joy, by Jay & Barbara Brophy

Joy has been such an amazing part of our family since Christmas of 2016. She loves adventuring outdoors just as much as we do. She loves toys and tug-of-war. She is spunky and has a ton of personality. Joy can be found napping outside in the sun, lying in any body of water she can find, or snuggling as close as possible to me to get some pets and attention. Joy is very patient with other dogs and loves hanging out with the other dogs in our extended family, especially if they like playing tug-of-war! Joy is about 9 but still has the energy of a puppy. We adore our Joy girl and are so blessed to have her in our family.



Rudy, by Karen Ogard & Pasquale Riggi

We adopted Rudolph from the holiday delivery from Turkey. We



lovingly call him Rudy, and he's been the best companion for us. He's a chill boy until he gets to the dog park. He's got a ninja jump when playing with other dogs and acts two instead of 9-1/2. He brings us such joy. He's in really good health too.

Lacey Hope, formerly Hope, by Andy Kramer & Katherine Hunt

We adopted our Turkey Dog at Christmastime, In 2016. Our neighbor convinced us we needed a dog, as we were mourning the loss of our son Alex. Lacey Hope has been the most amazing



dog we have ever had. Not only did she help our sadness, she brought some joy and hope to our lives as she helped us move through the grief process. Today she is thriving and everyone who meets her wants to have her too! She has the softest coat and runs like the wind! She has the personality of a Retriever and the athleticism of a Saluki!

Comet, by George & Kathryn Hardgrave

Sadly, Comet died in Feb 2020. He had a type of lymphoma that



took him very quickly. Up until that point, he was overall healthy. Sigh. When we first got him, he was a bit "ungolden" but with time his Golden personality showed through. I called him my scavenger, using the Turkish word. He would pick up trash on a walk and carry it until we got to a trash can. We teased that he had

little horns tucked by his ears because he could be mischievous. We went camping with friends and their dishwashing scrubbie was missing. Comet walked around nonchalantly waiting for someone to notice and take it away from him. He was a special boy. Thank you for the opportunity to be his people.

Liberty, formerly Merrie, by Troy & Hollie Drake

My Turkey Dog girl is still with me! I changed her name to reflect her newfound freedom. She has made many friends and everyone just loves Libby. She quickly learned how wonderful daily walks are. Libby loves going for car rides and trips to any park with water so she can drag her belly in the cool waters. She absolutely adores the youngest members of the family. Libby has become a steady support system for her brother Bo, who suffers from seizures and displays a secure attachment to her. We have no regrets about bringing this girl home and including her in the family.



Scooby, formerly Kringle, by Barbara Bleeker

We have two Turkey Dogs! We have Scooby from 2016, and Izzy from 2018. They have been two of our best dogs, and they are the best friends of any two dogs we have ever had. It's amazing how wonderfully sweet these dogs are in spite of how their lives started. Scooby is the dog that came in with leishmaniasis and it's been a tough road. He requires medicine from Europe to battle the bugs, and since it's not curable, he has a relapse every few years. We figure he was about 11-12 years old and our vet

guessed he wouldn't make it past seven. We're glad we've kept him healthy for so long but unfortunately, we just had to put Scooby down. The leishmaniasis finally got the better of him. He was the best dog ever and loved us more than any dog.



Penny, formerly Penrose, by Sonal Karnik

We were told at the time of adoption that Penny was around five, so she is over 13 years old now, and with whatever she may have gone through, she is doing well. She loves her younger brother



Stanley, who we got as a pup about nine months after we got Penny. Penny is the sweetest Golden, always in good spirits, and enjoys car rides. She also enjoys our deck and backyard, the comfort of her soft bed, and always looks forward to her meals and snacks.

Butters, formerly Colorado Honey, by Anne Enright

Over the last eight years, Butters went from a wild child to a very chill old lady. That is, until it's time to eat. She's never lost that street dog, independent spirit. She'll go with flow as long as it's what she wants to do. She moved to three different cities with us and always settled in with ease. She's happy to hang out anywhere as long as there's a good view, nice bed, and lots of food. She's been the sassy little sister to Willie B, who we adopted at the same time. After he left us, she became the queen of the house and very tolerant when we brought Murphy home from GRRR. She has some strange quirks, like sitting on our foot and smelling our face. Like the best of them, just when you think you know her, she surprises you. But she's always been the best Butters we could ask for.



Henry, formerly Hayden, by Chris & Annie Bement

Henry and our other dog Jack played, loved car rides, walks, and meeting other people and other dogs. He was the most handsome, sweetest, goofiest, snuggliest, most natural born comedian. Henry never met a person he didn't like. And people adored Henry. He was so sweet and easy going; he was equally happy snuggling on the couch as he was going for a hike in the mountains. He was so smart - he learned his name, new commands, our routine, how to play with toys - he learned it all so quickly and so easily. And he loved cheese. I left the dogs in the car for a few minutes with some groceries. Henry devoured some Gouda cheese and ripped open a bag of powdered sugar. It was everywhere - both dogs were covered in it. But Henry was so pleased with himself; tail wagging, big happy grin, no remorse. How could anyone ever be mad at this boy? I never left cheese unattended again. In late November of 2019, he was found to have leishmaniasis, a fleaborne disease that attacked his immune system and kidneys. We tried everything but in June, 2020, he died peacefully in our backyard with his family right there. Henry's loss is still devastating. He was the best dog I have ever had. He was the happiest pup ever - right up until the end. I have loved all my Golden Retrievers, but Henry was so special and so unlike any other dog. We are so lucky to have had him.



Monty, formerly Peace, by Pam Hollister and Mitchell Graye

When we adopted Monty, our pack included our other two dogs, Bella and Sunni, both GRRR alumni, and our tabby cat Abby. Four days later, on Christmas Eve, I rushed Monty to the emergency vet after he had accidentally piddled on our patio and it was full of blood. The vet diagnosed a bladder infection. He also went to the emergency vet when he put his face into a cholla cactus, got Valley Fever, a fungal disease, and a rattlesnake bite. Monty is now 9-1/2, healthy, happy, and enjoying his golden years. He is our seventh rescue from GRRR, and lives with Molson, number eight, and the alpha cat dog Abby. I have loved all my Golden Retrievers, but Monty is special. He loves being close to us and is the most cuddly dog we have had. He is so even tempered, such a gentle soul, so well mannered, it is our good fortune that he came into our lives. ❤️



Dear GRRR:

Here's Bailey whom I adopted in May. We really enjoyed GRRR's Senior Play Day. When we returned home, I pledged \$25/month towards GRRR's Rescue and Adoption Fund. I pledged it in memory of Judy Barker, a close friend who had adopted several senior dogs from GRRR. Matter of fact, one of the last times we were together her dog Brandy (age 14) snagged the baguette from our table!

Bailey is my sixth Golden, and I also had a rescue yellow lab. I'm so grateful for the work you do and for the organization.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelly

Bailey



Dear GRRR:

Blue is doing great! He has been the absolute best addition to our family.

Thanks for checking in! I've attached a couple of pictures. He's the best boy!

Kindly,

Verena Daigle

Blue



Dear GRRR:

Breeze

Breeze, formally known as Remi, has made major strides from fear to confidence ... one day at a time. Loud noises still scare her but we're helping her with that. She now comes upstairs to sleep with the rest of her pack (she slept in the corner of our family room for the first 10 months).

She loves our other dog, Joey, who she loves chasing, running zoomies, and taking daily walks with. She is a sweet little girl and her nickname is Breezy Boop. She boops me (poking me with her nose) to let me know she's ready for her treat (dessert) after dinner.

We are so blessed to have her. Thank you.

Lani Beach & Greg Johnson.



Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR,

Hello! I wanted to update you all on Brooks. He is adjusting so well with us. He loves it here. He enjoys playing with his brother and hanging out with his new family. We absolutely love and adore him and just feel so lucky he has his forever home with us. Please tell his family before us that he is doing so well and that he is so loved.

Rachel Bergeman



Brooks



Hello friends at GRRR:

This is Cedar from Paris, Texas checking in. My mom and dad filled out an adoption application and I'm what they got! I came to GRRR heartworm positive, and when Roberta initially called mom, she and dad decided they did not want a heartworm positive dog. Then Roberta Miller called back and said Dr. Carpenter thought we might be a good match, although I am not quite sure those were his exact words. She suggested that maybe we all should meet at GRRR. Dad was going out of town the following week and mom had a lot of appointments so they did not think it would be a good idea to bring a dog home, but that sneaky Ms. Mary Kenton and Ms. Roberta said "no problem, we should all go home for the weekend and mom could bring me back Monday morning." Well, as you can guess, the rest is history. I never went back.

We got through the heartworm with lots of loving and patience and a lot of walks involving sit and leave it. Mom and Dad learned more about heartworm than they ever wanted to, and mom worriedly call Ms. Mary many times. Ms. Mary was so kind and understanding whenever mom panicked, but low and behold, I am now heartworm free and taking my heartguard faithfully every month.

We walk every morning and I have met a lot of dog friends in my neighborhood. I swear we could have our own Golden Retriever parade because there are so many of us. I have play dates and never tire of rough housing.

I cannot thank you all enough for rescuing me and finding me the right home. I wake every day happy and go to bed every night with a tired smile on my face. Thank you so very much from the bottom of all our hearts.

Cedar, Marjie and Jeff Steel



Cedar

P.S. This is my calendar picture – yep at a friend's encouragement I entered a calendar contest and was one of the winners. This is the photographer's pic of me. I think I will be Mr. April!

Hi GRRR!

Moose is still doing great. He loves his new pack, is doing great on walks, and enjoys hiking/being outside! Moose is just the sweetest boy. He adjusted to his “new normal” so fast and we love our new family!

I attached too many pics of him doing his favorite things: going on hikes, playing with his new brother and sister, taking afternoon dog naps, sunbathing, and cuddling!

Lauren King & David Montroy,
Moose’s new parents!

Frankie, Moose, and Tanner



Dear GRRR:

I am a big fan of GRRR and we are so grateful we could rescue and adopt through you.

I work with Dr. Carpenter at Homeward Bound and am one of their veterinarians. We love Mary and everyone there.

We adopted little Poe and called her Potato because she was a sack of lazy potatoes at first, then became a Golden potato, and her name just stuck.

Thanks

Jeff, Andra, Elise, & Hazel Gerlesits

Potato



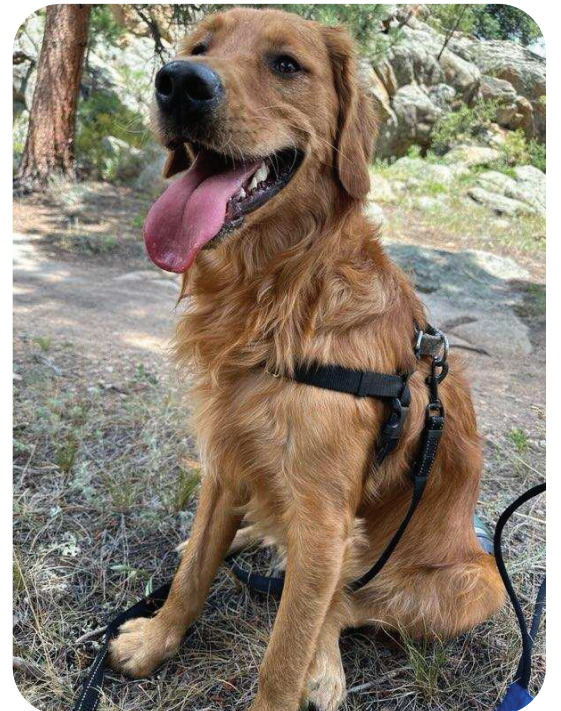
Dear GRRR:

We are celebrating Sully’s first month with the family and I cannot even express how absolutely wonderful it’s been! He is an amazing dog that just gets better each day. He is the sweetest little thing and gets more comfortable, relaxed and sure of himself in his new home every day. His brother, Cooper, has embraced him and they play constantly which has been wonderful!

Thank you again – we could not be happier and more grateful!

Jim & Corrie Pierce

Sully



Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

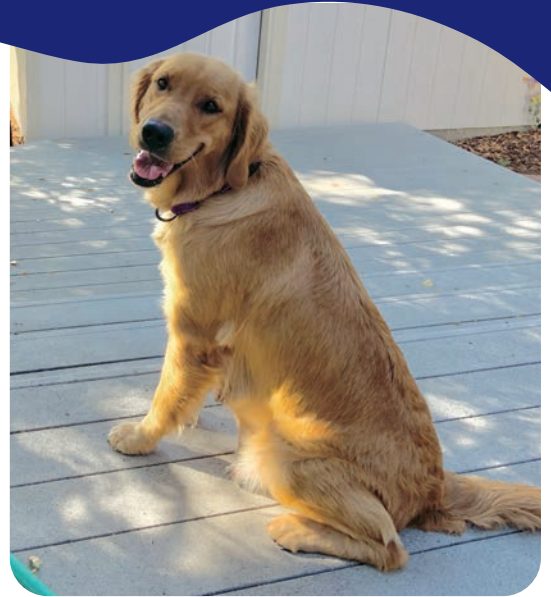
Happy to report that Sadie has come to her forever home! I got to meet her briefly after the GRRR picnic and decided I was ready for "Golden" times again. My Katie had passed last summer and I was waiting for the right time.

Sadie is two and a recent mother. I love my senior rescues but I decided she would keep me young. She is affectionate, very confident, and wants to engage with people and dogs. Everyone who has met her thinks she is beautiful and very sweet. They are so right.

Thank you GRRR for letting me bring Sadie into my life.

Cindy Kuehn

Sadie



Yogi Bear, Bentley, Maple

Dear GRRR:

Yogi Bear is doing great! He is such a sweet cuddle bug. He is having fun playing with his 6-year-old Australian Shephard sister and tormenting (kidding) his 12.5 year old Cavalier King Charles brother. Yogi loves hanging out on our deck and watching for a squirrel that comes to visit. He will stay out on our deck for hours at a time.

Yogi has the sweetest disposition and is so loving. We feel so blessed to have him in our family and love him to pieces. That's our boy and we love him so much! Thank you, GRRR. We are so grateful and tell all our friends about this amazing rescue.

Debra Inman



Hi GRRR:

I am just sending a quick note to say thank you to your rescue organization. A little over two years ago we adopted Scarlet (now Sallie ... because she is a Sallie). She was a recent mother and likely had multiple litters. She was shy and had obviously not had many positive experiences. But it was obvious she was a sweet girl.

She is indeed a sweetheart and now owns the heart of all of the family (including grown children). It took a while for her to gain confidence and for us to understand some health issues. But her health issues are under control with diet and her confidence has grown while keeping her incredible sweetness. She is so different from our previous Golden who was strong willed, incredibly intelligent and playful. Sallie is calm, lower energy but just an awesome accepting pup.

We are so happy you trusted us with her care and are doing our very best to help her live her best life.

Thank you for your work.

Woody Barela

Sallie



Dear GRRR:

Saturday marked our 3-month anniversary of adopting Rosie, and we couldn't love her more. We have taken the 3-3-3 rule with adopted dogs very seriously, and marked every milestone. As Saturday passed, we celebrated with a big pup cup and a weekend in the mountains, where Rosie hiked, played fetch, swam, and snuggled all weekend.

Rosie has been the most amazing addition to our lives, and has completed our little family. We love taking her for walks and play dates with her growing group of dog friends, including her "Uncle" Finnegan, a Golden that Rosie loves to play and hang out with. Rosie loves to sunbathe in our back yard, play with our neighbor dog Scout, check on her vegetable garden's progress, and snooze in the grass. She loves to pass the workday at home sleeping in "her chair" and keeping an eye on the street. We love her playful personality and she definitely keeps us entertained.

We are extremely grateful for all the love, care, and time that her first family put into raising and training her. While we are still working on training, she really is the sweetest and most loving dog, and we cherish every day with her. We hope we are giving her the life you hoped she would have when you brought her to GRRR! She is a huge light in our lives, and we look forward to a lifetime of adventures together! Thank you and we hope you are doing well!

Brendan Witt



Rosie



Dear GRRR;

We want to check in with you about one of Evelyn's pups from last winter (formerly Thistle). Our girl, now Suki, has been a definite challenge at times. We've previously rescued young Golden Retrievers but were unprepared for the exuberant willfulness of a Doodle. Thankfully, there are many good resources to help guide us and better understand the breed, among them a podcast "The Doodle Pro". We've worked privately with a behaviorist for Suki (though mainly for us) along with completing two puppy classes and, soon to finish, basic obedience with the Terroux's.

Suki's high energy attracted my husband and she has not disappointed. Along with running through daily training commands, we give Suki morning massages to ground her a bit as, in new settings, it's still four feet *off* the ground.

Other than her puppyish exuberance, we're also working with a mouthy tendency and making headway there. She had her first daycare experience last week where she did well with socialization. Other dogs are her jam!

All in all the experience has been a good one in which we've learned so much about our new pup, as well as ourselves!

Best regards,

Heather, Richard & Suki [woof!]



Suki

Katie Bates

Volunteering for GRRR has been one of my most rewarding experiences since moving to Colorado. As someone who has been a huge dog lover for as long as I can remember, I knew when I moved to Colorado, I would need to build community...and of course I had to start with the four-legged community.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to share my life with two incredible Golden Retrievers, one of whom left lasting pawprints on my heart when he passed away unexpectedly from cancer. His name was Chance, and boy did he get me through my 20's. As I sit here and write this, my current Golden, Meadow, is right beside me snoozing, and I can't help but look at the scar left by her recent surgery. She is five and was just given six months to a year left due to an inoperable tumor. It's a feeling I don't wish on my worst enemy, but it has also deepened my understanding of how important it is to provide love and care to these dogs, especially when they are in need.

That's why I feel so passionate about volunteering with GRRR. Dogs like my Golden Retrievers, and countless others, need homes where they can be loved and cherished.

Unfortunately, not every dog is fortunate enough to have a family from the start. Many end up in shelters or worse, abandoned, due to circumstances beyond their control. This is especially true for older dogs or those with health issues like cancer. But every dog deserves a second chance, and GRRR helps make that possible.

I'm deeply committed to making a difference at GRRR and ensuring that everything runs smoothly for the dogs and the team. Along with walking the dogs, I manage the e-blasts you receive, keeping everyone informed, and I take charge of sending out the crucial updates for Colorado Gives Day, one of our most important fundraising days. I also jump in to help at on-site events we host—though somehow, I always miss out on signing up for pooper-scooper duty! Who knew it would be so popular? It's all part of doing whatever it takes to make a real impact!

For me, volunteering isn't just about spending time with the dogs and helping fundraise (though I do love doing both!). It's about being part of a community of people who are just as passionate about giving these dogs a better life. I am grateful for the opportunity to advocate for them and help spread awareness about the importance of adoption. Every dog deserves a loving home, and through my work with GRRR, I feel like I'm helping make that a reality.

In the end, it's all about the dogs. They give so much to us, and the least we can do is give back to them. Volunteering at GRRR allows me to do just that, and I'm proud to be part of such a compassionate organization! 🐾



Katie and Meadow

Debbie Pink

Volunteering for GRRR has been a privilege and an honor for me for over 20 years. I have loved Golden Retrievers my entire life and I am happy to do anything I can do to help our special breed. My current dog, Gambler, a Turkey Dog, is my third GRRR dog. Each one has been my favorite, as are all the other Golden Retrievers I have owned in my life.

My two main responsibilities with GRRR have been helping at events and mailing out membership renewals. I love helping at GRRR events and meeting the public and sharing information about our wonderful organization. I have worked at the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, the Plum Creek Dog Show in Denver, various pop-up events, and many GRRR parties. I was the coordinator for the Rescue Reunion Picnic at Boulder Reservoir for several years.

Another wonderful benefit of volunteering for GRRR is meeting all the other amazing people associated with GRRR. I have made many, many lifelong friends through this amazing organization.

A little bit about me: I was born in Minnesota and grew up with Golden Retrievers. I came to Colorado in 1969 to attend CU, and have been here ever since. I was an elementary school teacher for 40 years in Broomfield. My husband and I lived in Sunshine Canyon west of Boulder for 20 years. I now live in Gunbarrel. I enjoy skiing, hiking, reading, playing bridge, cheering on my sports teams, and spending time with dogs. 🐾



Debbie with Gambler and little friend, Howie

FAST Report: Evy

by Rhonda Greco

In the May issue, our cover article detailed GRRR's new FAST program to rehab shy and fearful dogs coming from puppy mills. Here is an amazing success story about Evy.

Evy arrived at GRRR in January 2024 as a former breeder dog from a puppy mill in Missouri. Because of her difficult past, she was placed in the FAST (Fearful and Shy Team) program to help her overcome her fear and trauma.

When I first saw her, she was scared and dirty, with her tail tucked between her legs. It was clear she'd been mistreated, and it was heartbreaking to see her broken spirit. I had the opportunity to work with the FAST team to help Evy learn to trust again. We started by patiently sitting with her in the kennel, slowly helping her manage anxiety and build confidence. Gradually, Evy found the courage to leave the kennel and allowed us to pet her. She even placed her paw on us, as if saying, "Keep going!" We found various ways to encourage her to walk through doorways and gates, and to go up and down the stairs. From the beginning, I had a soft spot for Evy.

After weeks of care, Evy was finally ready for adoption. However, she appeared a little chubby, and Mary Kenton suspected she might be pregnant. Dr. Carpenter confirmed that to be the case, and by the end of February, Evy gave birth to 10 adorable Goldendoodle puppies. I missed her when she left the kennel to raise her babies in the house with Mary.

Once her puppies were adopted, it was Evy's turn for a fresh start. I was so excited to see her on the GRRR website! I let Roberta know I was interested in adopting her, but she informed me there was already an adoption pending. Although I was disappointed, I asked her to keep me in mind for a similar dog. To my surprise, the original adoption fell through, and we filled out an application. On June 7, 2024, my husband and I brought Evy home. We are so fortunate to have her as a special part of our family. We love her so much!



Evy has come such a long way, and we celebrate each new thing she learns. She is a brave, calm, gentle, and beautiful girl who adores all animals and especially humans. I can't even count how many times people have commented on how pretty and sweet she is—and I couldn't agree more! Evy loves being petted, sleeping in her cozy dog bed, and doing zoomies in our back yard. She follows me everywhere and is the best companion!

I'm incredibly grateful to everyone at GRRR for rescuing and rehabilitating Evy and allowing us to be her forever family. Being part of the FAST team and watching Evy's transformation has been an amazing experience. 💙

Golden Angel: Ashton

by Pat Rogers

Adorable Ashton is a very young Golden Angel at just 16 months old. He arrived at GRRR in early December, 2023 from a South Dakota breeder, along with three other female English creams. Ironically, it was the same breeder where our first English Cream came from, 6 years earlier! Ashton was clearly in pain and limping badly for such a young guy.

GRRR's vets suggested that he get a total hip replacement to have a good chance of living a happy, pain-free life. Mary Kenton reached out to me and my husband, Scott. We recently lost our Golden, Oliver, and she thought we could foster Ashton to help him through surgery. We were not ready to adopt another dog yet but agreed to open our hearts and home to help Ashton. His other back leg was not in good shape either and the surgeons felt that he would eventually need the other hip replaced, but the best course of action was to do the first one and get him rehabilitated so he could be adopted. The recovery process from this type of surgery is very difficult and long. Usually, it is very limited mobility for up to two months before the dog can go up and down stairs and be let off leash in the yard.

Fortunately, we are retired and had the time to devote to Ashton. He got through the hip replacement just fine and was quite the easy patient. His sister, Ellie (our other Golden), helped in his recovery by always keeping a close watch. Linda Pierrel, a long-time GRRR volunteer had recently moved back to Colorado and was temporarily living with us, along with her dog, Cady, a 12 ½ year-old-Golden who is just a love. They were both such a huge help. Either Ellie or Cady was with Ashton at all times. Ashton always had a smile on his face and is one of the happiest Golden we have ever seen.

As Mary stated, Ashton was just barely over 1 year old and this surgery would allow him to live the rest of his life pain free. And, she was so right! After the doctor released him, he started going to aqua therapy for several months and continued some exercises at home. He just seemed to flourish.

Of course, as we all know, we were the typical foster failure, and wanted to adopt this special boy. He just loves people. The more someone pets him, the more velcro he becomes! Ellie is a therapy dog at a local hospital and she also volunteers at Bark for Books at a local library. We hope that in a couple more years Ashton can be trained for the same work.

We feel very fortunate to have Ashton with us. He makes us smile all the time, and keeps our "Diva" Ellie active. Thanks to all who donate to the Golden Angel Fund! 💙



To help dogs like Ashton, 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!

Angel Update

Rudy

by Francie Rakiec

Rudy continues to do well despite having multiple forms of cancer and only one functioning kidney. We did have a scare with him about a month ago when his lymph nodes began to swell. However, Dr. Carpenter quickly put him on prednisone and the swelling immediately went down. Although he is in hospice care, Rudy continues to live his best life. He loves going on walks with his foster brother, Fang. They both have the same leisurely pace and enjoy smelling and piddling on all the bushes in the neighborhood. Rudy loves his butt scratches too. However, I think eating is still his favorite pastime. He will woof at us if we're eating and he isn't.

And good news, we just adopted Rudy! Rudy is such a happy guy and always has a smile on his sweet sugar face. We treasure every day we have with this sweet old man. 💙



In Memory: Gunther

by Ellen Staton

Gunther had to say goodbye last week. I only had him 5-plus years of his 11-plus years, but they had to be the best years of his life. And he came to me at a hard time in my life. So we truly did rescue each other.

Gunther had the most unique eyes; I called them 'lion eyes'. They were the same beautiful color as his dark golden coat, not the usual dark chocolate brown.

We walked 30 pounds off him that he didn't need and just kept walking. Gunther was my morning 2-mile walk and hiking buddy. But he didn't walk ... he always pranced with a smile on his face.

In many ways he wasn't a "typical" Golden: he hated swimming, he would go get a thrown ball then lie down to chew on it, and he immediately destroyed stuffed animals like that was what he was supposed to do. During Covid, I tried to get some exercising and stretching in...but you know what any Golden thinks the only reason for a human to be on the floor is. I was mauled for pets.

Thank you pairing me with my best bud! I'll be visiting you sometime soon for another bestie. 💙



You Made a Difference!



Reunion Picnic

Raised \$4100 at the reunion picnic. This includes donations and merch sales. Thanks for coming!

King Soopers Rewards

309 households raised \$2,670,76. If you're not a Community Rewards Member yet, sign up here: [❤️](#)



President's Report

by Judi Servoss, President

With an unusually warm fall, the calendar just woke me up to the fact that Colorado Gives Day is coming soon—December 10 is just around the corner! And for those of you who like to be first, Early Giving starts November 1.



We have so many wonderful stories of GRRR dogs who came to us with decks stacked against them, and rose to be able to be adopted in loving forever homes. Whether physical ailments or behavioral trauma, GRRR never says no. They can be old or young; from good homes going through tough times, or not so good homes.

It costs money to make these love stories come true, and Colorado Gives Day is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We raised about \$150,000 in 2023 and we're stretching to try for \$175,000 in 2024. It can truly make a difference!

Please put it on your calendar and ask all your friends and families to help as well. Donors can give cash, appreciated stocks or tax-free IRA donations from Required Minimum Distributions. Instructions are on the Colorado Gives website: <https://www.coloradogives.org/> Just search for "GRRR". Thank you!

<https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/goldenretrieverrescueoftherockies>. [❤️](#)

GRRR Stats

January 1 -Sept 30, 2024

Number of Dogs Placed: 224
\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$ 87,874

Newsletter Submissions

We all love reading about your Golden and we'd like to hear from you! If you'd like to submit a letter AND photo of your GRRR rescue, email the letter and digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com. Deadline for the February 2024 issue is January 7, 2025. Thanks!

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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debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com

Happy Thanksgiving!



“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!

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Thank you for your support!
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