

# NORCAL Golden Retriever RESCUE



*A nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to finding new homes for displaced Golden Retrievers in Northern California*

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE No. II ~ FALL 2012



## NGRR Wag 'N Walk – Another Great Success!

The annual Wag 'n Walk has come and gone and once again, we were blessed with continued great success in raising funds for Rescue! Lots of people and their Golden Retrievers enjoyed a sun-drenched day filled with walking, swimming (of course) and fun at this year's event. There were great demonstrations by the National Disaster and Rescue dogs (pretty amazing). We also had lots of silent auction items. A great time was had by everyone. Thanks to all who helped and attended, especially Frank Castro, Jill Morgan, Gail Jackson, Margaret McNamara, Sandra Olson, and the many other volunteers who helped during the event.



## *Come One Come all to the* NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue **Parade 2012!**

**October 20, 2012 -  
Alameda Fairgrounds**



NORCAL Golden Retriever Club invites all Golden Retriever rescue dogs to participate in a parade at their Specialty Dog Show at the Alameda Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 20, 2012. This event, which takes place during the lunch break, has always been a great success as it shows everyone present what great work our adoptive families have done with their dogs. There are a limited amount of spaces for this event so be sure to get your application in early.

**Deadline for Application:  
October 10, 2012**

Dogs must be at least six months of age. There is a \$10 fee for entering, and each entrant will receive a special gift. Application forms can be downloaded from the web site at [www.ngrr.org](http://www.ngrr.org) or contact Marilyn Ormond at [miscnow@comcast.net](mailto:miscnow@comcast.net).

# Worth the Weight!

*Thanks to Larie Flaherty for submitting this.*

After our dearly loved and beloved golden, Bailey passed away last fall, our hearts were broken and our life was left a little less full of the love and spirit she had brought us over the last 13 years as our first “baby.” After a few months we began fostering animals from a nearby shelter with hopes of helping the animals and our family, both in need of a little extra companionship. Our kids and Dolly, (our King Charles) enjoyed the love and distraction that the foster dogs brought but they were no substitute for our Golden. I had remembered a conversation we had at a local Pet Fair with an NGRR member about the possibility of adopting but at the time we were not ready. A couple months later we found ourselves in a better place and looking to have a Golden back in our lives.

Linda Gomoll contacted us about several possible adoption opportunities and after



*Alaska &  
Bear at Tahoe*

a couple of them did not pan out we were called about a pair in need of adoption. We had told Linda we were interested in a single younger female. She informed us that not only were there two Golden (who could not be separated), but one was an 11-year-old male and both had significant weight issues! I thought why is she calling me about them?! But we arranged a meeting at Jeanne Hanlon’s house anyway (she was caring for them). I went with little hope of this being a good match. I met Alaska and Bear and was immediately taken with their kind eyes and gentle sweetness. And I would be remiss if their weight didn’t make a big impression on me as well! Bear was 136 lbs and Alaska 97! But I could see past their mass and see what beautiful dogs they were. But there were still two of them and one was a lot older than what my kids were wanting to handle having just gone through the hardship of the death of our dog. But we found ourselves intrigued by this Golden pair. Forging ahead, the kids, my husband and our dog, Dolly were introduced to Alaska and Bear. They all fell immediately in love and Alaska and Bear soon became an important part of our family.

We love Bear’s curiosity about everything around her, seeing things as if it were the first time, chasing butterflies and watching birds. She almost was renamed thumper for the sound her enthusiastic tail makes as she greets you every morning. Alaska is so kind with his trusting eyes and is never too far away from someone. They are also both so sweet with one another, licking each other and when one is out of view the other will look around until they find them. They also were great with



*Just arrived home!*

our dog, Dolly and the three soon became inseparable. When we would walk them down the street people would comment that it looked like the Golden were Dolly’s bodyguards. Everyone who met them could not believe how wonderful they were and how much they reminded them of Bailey.

We enjoyed introducing them to all our activities including going to Tahoe and watched as they experienced snow for the first time (although we found that hard to believe having a name like Alaska). They were so happy, running, rolling and eating the snow and could not be coaxed inside! In the summer they loved swimming and could not get enough of it. It was particularly great for Alaska who successfully underwent knee surgery (at Corte Madera Vet Hospital) earlier in the summer and is doing “remarkably well.” With all the swimming (and a strict diet) the dogs are trimming down. We are happy to report Bear is getting her girly figure back and has lost 26 lbs and Alaska is looking very svelte having lost 18 lbs and has hit his target weight. They have been such a gift to our family and we could not imagine our lives without them. They are truly worth their weight in gold!

Thank you NGRR, Linda, and Jeanne! 🐾

## Thank You For Your Donations!

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion over the list of donations that we publish in the first newsletter issue that comes out each year. That list of donors is for those donations that we receive specifically through our year-end drive. Unfortunately there are other donations that come in at that same time – and throughout the year – that don’t “make the list.” Please know that no matter when or how your donation is received, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Every donation, no matter its size, is ever so important to NGRR and to our Golden. 🐾

# “Zin” (a.k.a “Huxley”)

Thanks to Star Pooley for writing this and to Jeanne Hanlon for submitting it.

**April 4, 2012** . . . a day we had dreaded finally came. Our beautiful Golden “boy,” Scout, passed away in our arms at the age of 11 ½ years old. We adopted Scout in 2002 from NGR. He was a light in our lives and we surely thought we could never feel the same for another Golden. We had another Golden we adopted from Homeward Bound named Sadie and she needed a buddy! She seemed so lost without Scout.

And so the search began for another Golden . . . a buddy for Sadie and a dog to help mend our broken hearts. We contacted NGR, but no luck. We finally decided to buy a purebred Golden puppy from a breeder when we received a phone call from our local NGR representative. She had a 10-month old male Golden who had just been placed with foster Mom, Jeanne Hanlon, in Novato. My first thought was, who would get rid of a purebred Golden at such a young age? What’s wrong with him? I spoke with Jeanne several times by phone and we decided to go to Novato to see “Huxley.”

**June 9, 2012** . . . a day we anticipated with great joy and expectation. We arrived at Jeanne’s home and were introduced to Huxley, a beautiful, energetic, Golden blonde boy! It was love at first sight! I remember petting him for the first time and thinking to myself “Scout would want us to give another Golden the wonderful



life he had for 10 years with us.” So, Huxley became “Zin” and joined our family that day.

Zin is a very busy boy! He loves to run, play, chew, and snuggle. He is a ball of energy from morning until night. He is curious about everything! He makes us laugh with his antics . . . loading as many balls, sticks, and bones, as he can in his mouth, letting the wind blow his ears back as he leans out the car

window, and chasing & biting at the water as it comes out of the hose. He is an excellent swimmer, loves the water and being out on our boat. He has even brought Sadie out of her shell getting her to swim with him, a first for her!! They have become the best of friends, playing, running, and “face fighting.” Sadie loves to lie next to him and give him little licks on the nose or in his ears. He just lies there and enjoys the attention. He has the softest fur and loves



to cuddle on the couch. The only thing he truly dislikes is cats! He will chase and bark at them if given the chance.

He has stolen our hearts and filled that deep hole left by Scouts’ passing. To those who lose or have lost a dog and feel, “I never want to feel that sorrow again,” I say to you, “the joy they give you outweighs the sorrow of their passing.”

Our thanks to NGR and the many foster parents and volunteers for all they do for these beautiful dogs. You are angels in disguise! I would like to share this poem with all who have lost or loved a dog. I believe it was written for every stray, abandoned, or surrendered dog. **ADOPT A RESCUE DOG!** 🐾

## “If I Could Write A Will”

*When humans die, they leave a will  
To leave their homes and all they have to those they love.  
I, too, would make a will if I could write.*

*To some poor wistful, lonely stray  
I leave my happy home,  
My dish, my cozy bed, my cushioned chair, my toy.  
The well loved lap, the gentle stroking hand,  
The loving voice,  
The place I made in someone’s heart,  
The love that at the last could help me to  
A peaceful painless end  
Held in loving arms.*

*If I should die, Oh do not say,  
Seek out some lonely, unloved dog  
And give my place to him.  
This is the legacy I leave behind -  
'tis all I have to give.*

Author Unknown

# Penny in The Biggest Loser – K9 Edition

*Thanks to Priya Misner for writing this article.*

I stood outside my house, jumping from one foot to the other. I was so excited; our new foster dog from Jill Morgan, was going to be arriving any minute now! We have a wonderful golden called Oliver who also came from Jill. After a few more minutes (they felt like hours!), a silver SUV pulled up to our drive. Paul, who had kindly transported the doggie over to us,



got out of the car opened the trunk door. My eyes beheld the fattest, most obese dog I had ever seen in my life. She looked like a rectangular table with legs and a cute golden face stuck on the front. Jill had warned my mother about the “fat, fat, fatty dog” but nothing prepared me for this!

I whistled for her to jump out of the car and greet me, but she just sat still. Two more whistles later, the dog still hadn’t moved. I was completely puzzled. Why wasn’t she getting out of the car? Suddenly it hit me; maybe this gorgeous, russet golden couldn’t move her super sized body over the small ledge of the truck. Paul confirmed

my suspicions. This dog couldn’t get out of the car under her own steam. So my mom, Paul, and I got behind her and pushed her out of the car. She landed on the ground with a loud thump! She began to wag her tail and look around, breathing heavily, while we gazed at her dumbstruck. We knew her name was Oso, which, by cruel irony, means “bear” in Spanish. This was exactly what she looked like. But, what really sprung to my mind was “O so fat!” This name wouldn’t do at all! On the spot, we decided to re-name her “Penny,” after her flaming, copper colored fur.

Before Penny was surrendered to NGRR, she lived in a house with 18 cats and four dogs. Clearly, the 80+-year-old lady who owned Penny never had time to walk her. This, coupled with the fact that Penny seemed to have dined on cat food the entire day, made her the 122-pound sumo-wrestler she currently was. Miraculously, Jill’s vet said, that Penny had no heart problems but that Penny needed to drop to a reasonable weight (about 65-pounds) and soon, if she was to remain healthy. We measured her middle – 39-whopping-inches and 26 inches around where her neck ought to be. Her tail stuck straight out her back. She was only about 26 inches tall. It looked like a daunting task ahead of us.

Within a day, Penny had inserted herself into our household. She showed Oliver very clearly that she was boss! Now, anywhere you look, there is Penny. If you speak, she is in front of you, certain you are talking to her. Whether we are doing homework, attacking those irrepressible weeds in our garden, or just reading a book, Penny is there, demanding attention, pushing her cold nose at you. At times, she can get a

little bit irritating and be a BIG pest. But, one look at her wagging tail, wet nose, and twinkling eyes and you can’t stay mad. She has also developed a fondness for stuffed toys. She always has one in her mouth, and I mean, always. One of her quirks is that she carries her current toy to the water bowl, drops it into the water, drinks her fill, and picks up the sopping, wet toy again. It makes me laugh just thinking about it! My mother is not amused at the mess. Some nicknames she has earned from our family are Met-Life (her favorite toy, a stuffed dog with the Met-Life symbol on it), Tank, and Red-Rocket (she loves to bolt out of the front door, given a chance).

Right from the get-go, Penny was on a very intense weight loss plan. We had prior experience with Oliver, who came to us in April 2010 at 110 lbs and was now sporting a trim 78lb figure. Her diet is one cup of dry dog food plus one-third cup of pumpkin puree twice a day. The pumpkin puree fills Penny up without a lot of food, provides fiber and sends the food through her system faster. This limits the amount of weight gain. In



the beginning, Penny refused to eat the food. Clearly, she was not used to eating dry kibble. We softened the food up with hot water so that it resembled the wet cat food that she was used to. Also, after a few days of Oliver stealing her food, she realized that

*(Continued on facing page)*

# Phoebe

*Thanks to Rolf Thorson for submitting this.*

Last Monday my Golden girl, Phoebe, died. She had been battling bone cancer in her front right shoulder for some months but her quality of life had deteriorated dramatically the final couple weeks and, as difficult as it was, I knew it was time to say goodbye.

Phoebe was born on November 11, 2000 at the Portola Valley home of Jack and

Colette Agresti while the NGR Auction was being held, I think that year at the Elks Club in Palo Alto. We got word during the auction from Colette, who was attending the auction, that Jack and Nancy Mendel had delivered momma Peggy's puppies and had successfully resuscitated one of the puppies who was born not breathing. They named that puppy "Miss Nancy" who later we renamed "Phoebe."

Phoebe was unique in her looks with her 3/4" tall Mohawk hairline down her forehead and her triple cowlick halfway back the top of her head that looked like a princess' tiara...her "splasion." (I never let the groomer trim that crown of hair but let it grow thick and full.) Phoebe was with me for over 12 years and I miss her greatly. She joined me and was my constant companion when I moved up to Sea Ranch on my own and changed careers from software to wine (!). She got me out of bed early for breakfast and was eagerly waiting for her walk at the



end of each work day bouncing up and down off her front paws while spinning pirouettes. We would walk along the ocean bluffs watching the sea lions and go down to the beach to dig in the sand and sniff all the interesting smells. Phoebe would walk with me for miles and, if I turned back home too early for her, she would "put on the brakes," give me a pleading look, and convince me to go just one more block further.

As a young dog she had a little fear aggression tendencies but grew out of them as she got older and more confident. She always liked greeting new people and old friends and enjoyed meeting new dogs (except the occasional noisy little yap yaps who she would correct with a deep woof). One of her joys was sitting in the kitchen waiting for her share from the cutting board of cut up vegetables and fruit. She actually liked crunchy romaine lettuce! Each morning I shared

a banana with her before I left for work and said the three dreaded words "guard the house," which told her she couldn't come with me...this time.

My house is pretty empty now without her but I feel her presence constantly and remember all the joys of being in her company. Goodbye little Phoebe, The Princess, The Phee, Phoebes, and all the nicknames given you. I will always remember and cherish the time I had with my little Phoebe. 🐾

## Penny *(Continued from facing page)*

she had to eat all her food in one sitting if she wanted to eat at all and that meal times only came twice a day. She was no fool and caught on quickly!

I am her official walker. At first, even walking a few blocks was extraordinarily tiring for her. She just sat down after about 40ft, breathing very heavily and loudly. I felt awful for her – it was not her fault that she was unable to support her weight on her legs adequately. On our first walk, when we returned home, she slept for four hours straight after drinking an entire bowl of water. But, soon, her stamina began to build. Within a week, she was up to two walks a day and had no difficulty. Now, after 3 weeks, I can walk to the park, school

and back (about a mile and a half) and she has a lot of energy left to play steal-the-soccer-ball with my brothers when we return home. Our walks are not that long, just about fifteen to thirty minutes at a brisk pace. This is a great work out for her.

Though she still resembles a table, she is posting some good numbers. During her stay with us here, Penny has lost 10 pounds in 3 weeks. Thanks to some weight loss in her hindquarters, her tail now hangs down at a more normal angle! She measures 31 inches around her middle and 22 inches around her neck. She goes on long walks down to the bay lands, and drools every time her dinner is about to be served- a drastic change from when she first arrived!

There is even a dent of a waist.

Penny has a long ways to go before she is a good weight for her size, but she is making great progress. Last night, she even managed to heave herself onto my brother's twin bed. Boy, did she look self-satisfied! She is a true golden who is happy to climb into your lap (ooooomf!) to cuddle and endlessly carry around her soft toys and balls. I am glad she came into my life. When she finds her forever home, she will make some family very lucky indeed and I will miss her!

*EDITOR'S NEWSFLASH: The Misner family couldn't give Penny up – they are now her forever home and Penny is a sleek 71 lbs today!! 🐾*

# IN TRIBUTE

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In Thanks to Debra Gee-Merkle for making NGRRescue part of her employer matching gift program.

In Thanks to all who donate to Norcal Golden Retriever Rescue via their Employee's Charitable Campaign fund.

In Thanks to Sharon Tereshta and Jorene Morratta  
"Many thanks for your hospitality and generosity. We really appreciate it."  
Donation by Debby Dieter & Kathy Vieira

In thanks for your good work!  
Donation by Mary & Jim Kleinbach

In Honor of "Taj"  
"Thank you so much for Taj. He is fantastic and has already become a major part of our lives. He will be introduced to our neighbors next week – the rabbits, birds and deer already know there is a new 'sheriff' in town."  
Loved by his new family, the Parsons

In Honor of the success stories of "Bear," "Alaska," and "Flaherty"  
Donation by Larie Flaherty

Happy Birthday to my Aunt Sharon McConnell!!!  
"Her Golden, Charlie, has been by her side during her recent rehab from knee surgery. Another loyal Golden – that's why we love 'em!"  
Donation by Kimberly Daly

In Celebration of the Marriage of Turk Stancavage and Vicki Flynn  
Donation by Mary & Gene Martin

In Honor of Burt Mabel's birthday because of his love of Goldens  
"May you have a wonderful day and year!"  
Donation by Julie Mabel

In Honor of Ellie Green and "her special birthday"  
Donation by Feralee and Charles Levin

In Honor of Felix Young  
"This donation is made on behalf of Felix with UVA Law School. Felix participated in the LexisNexis Customer Innovation Team program and selected your organization as his choice charity to receive this donation. We are pleased to make this donation to show our appreciation for Felix's valuable time."  
Donation by LexisNexis

In Honor of Alex Kim and his beloved "Ribbon"  
"Happy 30th Birthday, Alex. Ribbon was an amazing dog. She was 16 when she left us. She loved swimming, eating frozen yogurt), and being with her family. She was a loving dog who brought us many years of happiness. She is missed every day."  
Lovingly donated by Andrea Kim

In Honor of "Diego"  
"Thank you for rescuing our beautiful Golden Retriever Diego!! Keep up the GREAT work!"  
Donation by Jim Maloney

In Loving Memory of Thomas Ferguson  
"In loving memory of our dear friend, Tom, and 'Sammy', the cat. We will miss you and love you. You were taken from us too soon."  
Donation by Lee and Suzanne Stout

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky  
Donation by Mary & Walter Pesch

"In Memory of all the dogs I have loved and lost."  
Loved by Bernadine Stader

In Memory of "Abbie"  
"Abbie was our Golden Girl of 15 years. It was an honor to be your owner. You gave us smiles every day and we miss you terribly. Thank you for being such a beauty inside and out."  
Loved and missed by Mary Ellen & Joe Kordas

In Memory of "Cody"  
"Cody was a well loved member of the Pfendt/Walker family."  
Cherished by Eva & Sig Pfendt

In Memory of Bill Little  
"Bill was a remarkable man with a contagious smile for everyone. He was a wonderful caring person and a great lover of Goldens. He and his wife, Ronda, owned several and special ones who traveled all over the U.S. with them in their motor home. Bill loved his last Golden, 'Classy,' dearly. They went everywhere together. We will miss Bill very much."  
Heartfelt sympathies to Ronda and family from Janet & Bill Hellums

In Memory of David H. Putney  
Donation by Jo & Virgil Wenger

In Memory of "Dusty"  
"He was the best friend our family ever had. We each miss him so much and every day. He was quite simply the best."  
Loved by the Atkinson Family

In Memory of "Libby"  
"Libby, the happiest of girls, who loved life and living it, we will miss you. My heart goes out to you Ann Brown and to your husband Ken for the passing of your wonderful lady. I know she will always be a shining light in your hearts."  
Loved by Ann & Ken Brown  
Donation by Penny Hurley

In Memory of Jordan McNair  
Donation by Nancy Skallerup

In Memory of "Lucky"  
Our Beloved Golden Retriever  
"Lucky passed away on 3-8-2010 and he is still greatly missed by all of us who loved him so much!"  
Cherished by Chi-Kai Kuo

In Memory of James Margason  
"In memory of my wonderful cousin. I miss you."  
Donation by Julie & Roy Wash

In Loving Memory of "Charlie" aka Charleston Chew  
"In loving memory of our Charlie – 4/21/12 would have been 12 years since you blasted into our lives in a blur of gold. It has been a long 6 weeks since you went over Rainbow Bridge, and we miss you every day. Happy Anniversary, Fuzzy Butt. :)"  
Missed and loved by Michelle & Kevin Burke

In Memory of "Lili Marlene"  
"Lili Marlene was an abandoned stray who came to us through NGR. The fourth golden to share our lives, she was special for her daintiness and habit of hugging in bed. Lili was also a warrior princess who loved to swim and chase squirrels. She was named Lili Marlene because she was a flirtatious redhead. Cancer took her from us."  
Loved and missed by Eve Nyrem

In Memory of "Riley Olsen"  
"This donation is in loving memory of Riley. Thru this donation, we hope that another dog can experience the happy life that Riley had with our friends and colleague, Kathryn."  
Loved by Kathryn Olson  
Donation by The Leadership Team at the Women's Sport Foundation

In Memory of "Rebel"  
"May Rebel forever run through sunny fields and jump in cool flowing water. Our sincerest condolences."  
Achingly missed by Andy Rivenes & Family  
Donation by Nancy & Clement Spafford

In Memory of Jim Margason  
"In loving memory of my wonderful cousin. I miss you."  
Donation by Julie & Roy Wash

In Memory of *"Barkley"*  
*"Barkley was a fabulous golden member of the Lunbeck family and will be sorely missed by his Lakeside neighbors."*  
 Cherished and loved by Rob & Kathleen Lunbeck and family  
 Donation by Laurie & Mark Berman

In Memory of *"Chylee"*  
*"My sweet Chylee...may your spirit continue on in many other Golden's."*  
 Lovingly donated by Jenny Kenton aka Mama

In Memory of *"Diana"*  
*"Remembering your sweet, wonderful companion."*  
 Loved by Gayle Rivers and Lois Breton  
 Donation by Susan West

In Memory of *"Casey"*  
*"Casey was a great dog with a heart full of love!"*  
 Cherished by the Hogan Family  
 Donation by Kim & Tim Sheehan

In Memory of *"Hunter"*  
*"In memory of our Beloved Hunter who gave us and everyone who met him a warm and happy greeting. He will live on in our hearts and memories."*  
 Loved and missed by the Clarey-Lawler Family

In Memory of *"Abbie"*  
*"A beautiful Golden"*  
 Loved by Sandy Blitch  
 Donation by Joan Lawson

In Memory of *"Suzie"* Hitchcock  
*"Suzie was Deb's best friend and will be very sadly missed."*  
 Cherished by Deb Hitchcock  
 Donation by Holly Walczak

In Memory of Alice Bullard  
 Donation by Pamela Lavin

In Memory of *"Chelsea"*  
*"Chelsea was a loving, goofy, sweet and loyal companion. She lived a wonderful life surrounded by gardens and other dog companions. In later years, she loved to be 'escorted' down the street to get some exercise. Always ready to play, or cooling herself off lying in the cool ivy under the oak trees. We see her now, running through the grasses at the horse park, or catching the wind on the beach."*  
 Achingly missed and loved by Julie Mickelson  
 Donation by Cynthia Lovewell

In Memory of *"Dorado"*  
*"Dorado's person, Marta, shared this sweet dog with her co-workers. He participated in 'Bring Your Dog to Work Day,' walked in the Christmas Parade with us, came in costume to a Halloween event, and showed us his bilingual skills. He simply brought many of us joy each time he came into our office, he will be missed."*  
 Adored and missed by Marta Moreno  
 Donation by his Snowline Friends

In Loving Memory of *"Bubbles"*  
*"Bubbles" is loved, cherished, and missed by her adoring family. She thanks you for being such a great family for her."*  
 Missed by the Owens Family  
 Donation by Dan Fink

## *Memorial & Tribute Donations*

Donations may be made to memorialize or pay tribute to a special person, Golden, or pet of any kind. Send your donation and information (for whom the donation is being made and their address, your name, address, and phone number, plus words of personalization) to:

**NGRR**

**405 El Camino Real, Suite 420  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240**

A handwritten letter will be sent shortly thereafter acknowledging that a donation was made to NGRR. Give us a call if you have any questions.

## Shape up with Shadow Update

Thanks to Shirlee Thomas and Rachel Kertz for submitting this.

Shadow is the "poster child" for NGRR's program "Shape up with Shadow" that we reported on in the last newsletter. Shadow arrived at NGRR at 136 pounds and had plenty of supporters to help him lose weight. Today he is a part of Rachel Kertz's family and is a svelte 90 pounds and still working on it!! Recently, The Kertz family made a \$500 donation to NGRR through Pet Food Express, who does a portrait of your dog and hangs it in one of their stores. Shadow is in the Marin Pet Food Express Store. Shadow goes to work with his mom every day and here's what the folks at Autodesk have to say:

*"At four years old (going on 30 in human years), Shadow discovered his true home and place of employment with Rachel Kertz less than a year ago. Shadow's work responsibilities include sleeping, the random walk around the building, eating, and did I mention sleeping? A constant attention grabber from his cube mates and other four-legged friends, Shadow's cool demeanor really helps to keep*

*tension down and moods up. He is a true customer service professional giving 100% for the 10% of his time that he's awake :)"*

Rachel reports that Shadow has become so much a part of the family. He loves to visit the kids at her son's school, loves going shopping, to the beach, a baseball game, or any place else where there are a lot of people. He loves being the center of attention!! 🐾



# The Story of Dusty

Thanks to Loreen Atkinson, Castro Valley, for writing this story.

Dusty came to us through the Rescue when my kids were young. My daughter was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and my boys were in elementary school. He wasn't a particularly large Golden but when we got him he was bigger than my youngest and could kind of boss him around a little and keep him out of trouble. He was everything my family needed and more.

Dusty's story is that he belonged to a couple with a daughter who divorced and they had to give him up. Apparently he was quite bonded to the daughter because he bonded to mine almost instantly. It was perfect as she was very shy. Now she had someone to tell all her secrets to, who would listen and share all her hopes and dreams. With my boys he would play and play in the front yard and at the dog park. He loved nothing better than to fetch his favorite tennis ball and they loved nothing better than to throw it for him. He was very well trained when he became our foster and soon after when we adopted him, he had to be pretty well trained too. He was recovering from hip surgery and so he and I would go down to the nearby reservoir and he'd jump in after the ducks and I'd hold his long leash while he swam in place. It was great therapy. Soon we were hiking the hills together near our home, he leading the way. After the kids left for school each day, he helped me do everything that needed doing around the house, always right at my side, including tolerating getting bathed on hot sunny days after hiking with his best friend, Winner, the English Cocker Spaniel who lived next door. He got up with my husband every morning before the rest of us and enjoyed a few scrambled eggs and ham with Dad. He made sure he found a way to look after each of us.

Through those early years Dusty knew his job: he'd go into each bedroom and jump up on the bed and nuzzle each child until they woke up or, if they didn't, then they'd get a bark right in the face! He didn't start out loving the car rides to school but he knew his job and into the car he'd go with me as we dropped off and picked up every day. The years went by and soon enough my daughter went off to her Senior Prom. Usually the "morning after" picture is taken with the date, but she wanted her picture with her dog. It sits on her desk even now. They were inseparable. He slept every night on her bed, helped her with her homework, and every craft project. He made friends with our cat who was here first and older than him and he was very sad like the rest of us when she passed. A year later, when our son brought home a kitten, Dusty became the light in the kitten's eyes every time she saw him. If anyone had a bad day, he was the first to know it. He would stay right by the

side of whoever was feeling sad until they weren't sad anymore. He also took his duties to look after us when we were sick very seriously too, usually by spending the day sleeping at the sick one's feet or at their side and letting me know if anything was needed.

When our daughter went off to college, it helped them both when I took Dusty with me once when I went to visit her. He couldn't stay in her dorm room for very long of course but he seemed better after that. With her away, he turned his attention to the boys. He began sleeping on my youngest son's bed and we continued going to the dog park but not too much hiking as the climb up the hills affected the arthritis in his paws. He was still my constant companion and after a while, he began sleeping next to my side of the bed. We made him a bed at the end of our bed and that became his place. After my daughter graduated college, she

moved home for a short time until life carried her off to the far reaches of the world. She had his companionship until that very day.

Sometime in the last two years, he began having kidney issues and we did our best to look after him and get him outside when he needed it. About a month after our daughter left to start her life, he woke me in the middle of the night by staring me into alertness. It was clear he was in great pain. I followed him around the house to find out what he was trying to tell me. Nothing helped him. Finally, he stared at the television and then looked back at me and I understood. He wanted some noise to distract him from his

pain. We watched TV together for about an hour and I thought "nuts" to the directions on his pain prescription. I gave him another pill. It helped but neither of us slept that night. In the morning, I crawled into my bed to nap and told my husband, it was time. Then I spent the rest of the day in tears. Sunday I left a message for the vet and Skyped our daughter so she could say goodbye. Monday morning Dusty woke up and was himself again. We spent the morning outside on the sidewalk across from our house where he liked to sit with our neighbor while we chatted about the neighborhood. Our youngest son stayed home from school that day and we went together to see our good vet. Dusty held my gaze until he was gone. He was 14. He had cancer through his urinary tract and it was a kindness to let him go before he suffered. He was the best friend our family has ever had and there isn't one day that I don't step away from the end of my bed as if his bed were still there. We each miss him so much and every day. He was quite simply the best.

We have a new dog now. How could we live without one after living with Dusty for so long? It's a tribute to what a great dog he was and how dearly we loved him. 🐾

*He was the best friend  
our family has ever had  
and there isn't one day  
that I don't step away  
from the end of my  
bed as if his bed  
were still there.*

# Care Bear

Thanks to the Bongi family (Kim, Tom, Brendan, JB and Bear) for submitting this.

After our golden lab went to doggy heaven, it took a bit of time before we were ready for another four-legged friend in our family. After a while, our house got a bit too quiet, the big back yard was lonely, and the last bits of old dog fur that hid deep under the sofa were officially gone...It was time! Time for some doggy love in our world again. We put in our application with NGRR and after some time we got a call asking if we were still wanting to adopt a 3-5 year-old female golden... "Yes!" "Of course..." I said. Next thing I know, my son JB and I are driving to Marin to pick up the sweetest dog named Bear and bring her back home. On the drive back, understandably so, Bear was very nervous and shy. My son put his hand next to her in the opened crate and she just rested her soft furry head on his hand and looked up into his eyes the whole rest of the ride. I swear if she could speak she would have thanked JB for just being there for her. JB and Bear have been best buds ever since. She trusts him so much.

She was shy and quiet for the first week or two. She was unsure of her surroundings so we took it easy with her. We took her for long walks on the trail, on a few car trips to the beach and spent long evenings hanging out watching Giant's baseball games together in the family room. All of the activity sealed the deal of love. Fast forward a few weeks and this silly, sweet, affectionate, well-mannered, playful, tummy-rubbing love dog emerged!

Bear loves everybody and every dog that she meets. She loves to take long walks and frolic in the back yard with her new toys. She minds her manners so well. Bear gets so many compliments on being a lovely girl (although she is often

mistaken as a boy because of her name). And Tom (her dog dad) was forever smitten when Bear started getting the morning newspaper up off the driveway and delivering it to his breakfast table each and every day! What???? Holy cow, that sealed the deal that is she is probably the bestest, cutest, and smartest dog ever!! We LOVE our Care Bear. I am not sure if we rescued her or if she rescued us...

Thank you to Marilyn & Bob for being her foster parents as well as Sharon for introducing us to Bear. We are forever grateful to you for bringing doggy joy back into our world! 🐾



# A Tribute to Larry – and his Golden, Alex

*Thanks to Sandy Filby for writing this and to Shirlee Thomas for her response that follows.*

In September of 2001, my husband, Larry, and I came to your house to see if “Alex” was the right dog and we were the right humans. Larry had been diagnosed with cancer and steps away from diagnosis he said: “I can’t go through this alone; I need a golden retriever.” Alex was the perfect match. At an estimated 3.5 years, Alex and Larry went through refresher obedience training and became fast friends. Alex recognized that Larry was the “alpha male” and I was the “other.” He also knew when Larry was having a bad day, and he and his bear were there to put on a show and lay on his foot.

In October of 2004, Larry came home to die. Alex was always near the bed until one night he jumped on the hospital bed and spread himself all along Larry’s side leaning against him. After several hours I called to Alex to come outside to go to the bathroom. He wouldn’t budge. I walked over to pull Alex off -- and Alex growled at me - the first and only time. When Larry took his last breath, Alex had been laying next to him for 12 hours. He jumped off the bed and went

to the back door. I know Larry knew the comfort of his pal - there to the end.

Now, almost eight years later, I am still the “other.” Alex knows I’m a softie. We are veterans of many great walks and trips to the beach (his favorite) – and he is my comforting shadow. Alex is 14 with his spine disintegrating in two places and he enjoys his medication crushed in peanut butter so he can walk. My beautiful golden is now more silver with cloudy eyes and a face I adore. Still, every morning, he does an old dog rush into the house after breakfast to throw his stuffed bear in the air. Even fast asleep, he knows when I get close to his leash for a possible short walk to the park. I know our time together is short now. I also know Larry will be the first to greet Alex, a one-of-a-kind, loving golden, at the Rainbow Bridge. There is no way to thank you for the priceless gift of Alex in our lives.

## **From Shirley . . .**

I too have a story. When Alex came to us his family loved him and it was genuinely a painful decision for them to let him go. He was a very good-looking dog and sweet as could be. Every dog that came to my home was quickly put into the pool so that they knew where the steps were just in case they fell in. Alex didn’t pass the dunk test. He

was vertical in the water and sinking fast. He went down twice and the third time I kicked off my shoes and jumped in to save him - good grief I’m saving a golden retriever from drowning!

Another unique feature about Alex was his love of cats. When he arrived he came with some toys, but he also came with a tube of Petromalt – Petromalt as you know is given to cats to help them pass hairballs. Alex apparently groomed the family cats and the family gave him Petromalt!

Finding the right home is always important and I knew that Alex would be easy to place. After your home visit I was excited to make a match. There was something about Larry that you couldn’t help but like and admire. He definitely had a way with the dogs. I enjoyed hearing from you now and then through the years and knowing that Alex was being well taken care of and loved.

I feel very fortunate to have met you both and that you were sent to me for Alex. I know you will miss him and I am sure that Larry is waiting to have his boy back in his arms. Thank him for me for being a good boy and bringing you and Larry so many years of joy.

---

## Annie

*Thank you to Myra Kelley and Janet Nottley for this.*

In 2008, Kris Williams was called about “Scarlett.” who was found tied to the gate of the Reno Shelter. Myra Kelley had just lost her rescue dog, Ginger, and took Scarlett into her home. Scarlett was diagnosed with mega-esophagus and given a year to live by the doctor. She also developed some stress-related skin problems. Thanks to Liz Berry and Vet committee, she was put on medication for that and had the huge tumor on her rear leg removed. After a year, she was doing fabulous and Myra knew she had to do what was right for her and let her go to her new home. Immediately, she received a call from Janet Nottley wanting to meet her. She too knew the moment she saw her that she was to live at their house.

Scarlett had never left Myra’s side until she met Janet and their rescue boy, Jake. She immediately jumped into their truck



and was ready to go home. They were meant to be together! Her name was changed to Annie and she fast became a part of the family. She was an insecure dog and Janet knew exactly what to do to help Annie heal. They gave her a job!! She was in charge of helping to take Jake for a walk in his cart (he had cancer) then they added the job of helping to feed the horses in the morning (she brought the carrot out) and exercise them. She thrived! They quickly brought in another rescue golden, Ellie May, and

they became best friends. She spent three heavenly years being loved to the max with her big family of kitties, chickens, horses, doggies and of course her beloved mommies, Janet and Jen. Sadly, Annie died but she never suffered and Janet reports: “Thank you to NGRR for believing she was worth saving. Once she came to Napa she never had to take any meds again. She only needed love, which she got in abundance.”

## Donating to NGRR

Since our organization is staffed entirely by volunteers, every penny of your contribution will help pay for veterinary care, food, and other direct expenses required in our work to rescue and find loving homes for hundreds of Golden Retrievers each year.

### Gifts by Check or Credit Card

A gift by check or credit card may be made outright or as a pledge to be fulfilled over a period of up to five years. If you itemize tax deductions, your contribution is fully deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income; any excess can be carried forward for up to five additional years. To make a gift by check, simply fill out the donation slip, write your check, and mail to NGRR. To make a gift by credit card, please also tell us the type of credit card, card number, expiration date, and name as it appears on the card.

### Payroll Deduction

The simplest (and most painless) way for many of us to manage our gift giving is with an easy payroll deduction. Each year United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and other charitable campaigns give working people the opportunity to allocate payroll deductions or make a one-time contribution at work. Ask your employer for a Donor Option Card to direct your United Way contribution to NGRR.

### Matching Gift

Over 6,000 companies encourage their employees' philanthropy through a matching gift program whereby your employer will match your individual donations. This generous program doubles – and sometimes triples – your donation. Ask your human

resources department if your employer has such a program. If so, you will be given a matching gift form to send to NGRR with your donation, and we'll do the rest!

### Appreciated Securities

Your outright gift of long-term, appreciated securities (stocks, mutual funds and bonds) is exempt from capital gains taxes and, in most cases, enables you to obtain a charitable income tax deduction equal to the market value of the securities at the time of transfer, for up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.

### Gifts Through Your Estate

For many of us, making a gift through our estate is the most realistic way to make a substantial contribution to NGRR. At the same time, a carefully planned estate gift can reduce or eliminate federal estate taxes, depending upon the size of your estate.

### Life Income Gifts

You may be able to make a gift and receive direct financial benefits. Some financial vehicles, such as charitable trusts, can provide you and/or your spouse with an income for life and a charitable income tax deduction as well. These vehicles often pay a rate of return that exceeds money market and CD rates. In addition, they typically help avoid capital gains taxes and reduce estate taxes. Gifts can also be made through your estate while preserving assets for your current needs.

### Gifts of Real Estate

You can make a gift of commercial or residential real estate and receive substantial financial benefits. If you give the property outright, you can qualify for a charitable income tax deduction based on the appraised value of the property.

### Tell NGRR How to Use Your Donation

There are several ways you can direct NGRR to allocate your contribution. You may choose to spread your donation across all funds, or you may tell us to apply all of it to a specific cause.

### General Fund

Contributions to this fund will pay for ordinary veterinary care, food, and other expenses directly related to our Golden Retrievers in foster care. Any excess monies in this fund are allocated to NGRR's emergency reserve to help cover catastrophic events, such as earthquakes and puppy mill raids, in communities throughout Northern California.

### Senior Golden Retrievers

Contributions to this fund will be used exclusively to support the extra veterinary and foster care usually required for dogs eight years and older – our well-deserving Golden Oldies.

### Special Needs Fund

Inspired by "Zack," a severely dysplastic Golden taken in and treated by NGRR, this fund was established to provide extensive veterinary care, surgery, and rehabilitation to young and deserving Golden Retrievers who are critically ill, deformed and/or injured. These dogs need immediate access to funds to restore their quality of life – and, in extreme cases, to save their lives – without financially burdening their adoptive families.

### For More Information

For further information, please consult with your financial planner or tax advisor. More information about donating to NGRR can be found on our Web site at [www.ngrr.org](http://www.ngrr.org).

## Volunteer Interest

I would like to learn more about volunteering for NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue. I am particularly interested in the areas noted below. (Note: This form may also be submitted through our Web site at [www.ngrr.org](http://www.ngrr.org).)

### HANDS-ON DOG WORK

- Area Coordinator
- Area Assistant
  - Foster Care
  - Home Visits
  - Vet Appointments
  - Shelter Checks
  - Phone Calls
  - Grooming
  - Transportation
- Senior Golden Retrievers Program

### FUNDRAISING

- Grant/Letter Writing
- Event Coordinator/Worker
- Auction & Wine Tasting
- Wag 'n' Walk
- Calendar
- Merchandise Sales
  - Event Coordinator/Worker
  - Order Fulfillment
  - Catalog

### OPERATIONS

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Weekly Dog List
- Mailing List
- Inventory Tracking

### PUBLIC OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- Event Coordinator/Worker
- Newsletter (and other literature)
- Web Programming (experienced)
- Education Program Coordinator
- Fight Against Puppy Mills

### PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING

- Veterinary Medicine
- Animal Behavior
- Dog Law
- Non-Profit Corporate/ Tax Law
- Non-Profit Accounting
- Education
- Fundraising
- Public/Media Relations
- Publishing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NGRR is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation under the IRS Tax Code. Tax ID #77-0392584

### Mail to:

NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue  
405 El Camino Real, Suite 420  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240

NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.  
405 El Camino Real, Suite 420  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240



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## How to Contact NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue

**Mailing Address: 405 El Camino Real, Suite 420  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240**

**Hotline: (650) 615-6810  
Website: www.ngrr.org**

### Officers for Calendar Year 2012

**PRESIDENT**  
Jeanne Hanlon

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Marilyn Ormond

**SECRETARY**  
Kathy Quiroz

**TREASURER**  
Dave Ball

Liz Berry  
Dave Ball  
Judy Guild

**DIRECTORS**  
Jeanne Hanlon  
Martha Kessler  
Pat Lynch  
Jill Morgan  
info@ngrr.org

John Murray  
Marilyn Ormond  
Kathy Quiroz



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Goldens in the Park” was held on July 8 at Laguna Lake Park in San Luis Obispo. There were over 300 Goldens, plus their humans and other dog friends. This event is put together by Lenny Jones as a fundraising event for the no-kill Woods Humane Society & Animal Shelter & Adoption Partners (A.S.A.P.) NGRR made a contribution to the event and was featured on the T-shirts and NGRR’s own Jan Dryer has always been involved with the event. For 916 (!!!) fabulous photos of the day, check out their web site at [www.SLOCountyGoldenRetrievers.com](http://www.SLOCountyGoldenRetrievers.com).

### Key Contacts:

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Trish King .....(415) 250-0446  
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Events Calendar..... Kathy Quiroz..... [Kathy.quiroz@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathy.quiroz@yahoo.com)  
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Volunteer Coordinator ... Peg Aten ..... [pegsgoldens@gmail.com](mailto:pegsgoldens@gmail.com)  
Website ..... John Murray ..... [ngrr@ngrr.org](mailto:ngrr@ngrr.org)

### Other Contributors:

Acknowledging hand written donations ..... Jan Dreyer  
Acknowledging emailed donations..... Marilyn Ormond  
Dog Inventory Records.....Nancy Fedders  
Foster Coordinator .....Lynne Hall  
Mail Box Distribution .....Judy Guild  
Public Relations / Fund Raising..... Jill Morgan

**www.ngrr.org**  
Stay up-to-date on our web site!

See front cover for information on

# NGRR Rescue Parade

October 20, 2012  
Alameda County Fairgrounds