



NORCAL GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE

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

VOLUME XXVI, ISSUE NO. 2 ~ FALL 2020

COVID-19: NGRR Update

by Deborah Armstrong

Like so many other organizations, NGRR has been affected by COVID-19. Back in 2008, when we experienced our previous economic slowdown, some California homeowners faced foreclosures. People lost jobs or obtained work in other parts of the country. Many folks simply needed to move into apartments where pets were forbidden. That financial crisis forced loving owners to surrender their Golden Retrievers, giving us the opportunity to make many adopters happy.

Now, we're seeing a different crisis. People are working remotely or those who are newly unemployed are staying close to home. Separated from social interactions, people value their pets even more. NGRR has received so many applications from families wanting to adopt a Golden that we decided to freeze adoption applications. We didn't want families to get their hopes up that they could adopt a Golden during the pandemic, when we've had very few dogs available for adoption. While we are unable to do home visits with new applicants, we are grateful for our families that are repeat adopters who return us to add a new family member when

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Thanks to Laurie Higuera for writing this story and to Margaret McNamara for submitting it.

Shortly into California's Shelter-in-Place order, I began exploring local Labrador Retriever and Golden Retriever rescue websites. It wasn't because we lacked companionship – quite the contrary. We are lucky enough to have Luna, an amazing female black lab we rescued/adopted eight years ago from Central California Lab Rescue as our family companion and a frisky black kitty named Velvet. Instead, I knew there would likely be senior dogs that would need a good home for their golden years, and other adopters would likely be looking for that “perfect” dog. You know the one... 2 years old, calm,

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Theo

(Continued from front page)

trained, good with children, good with other dogs, able to roam the neighborhood off leash without issue. Have you seen this dog?? Me either!

After broaching the subject with my husband and 19-year-old daughter who is suddenly home from college, everyone agreed that offering a home to a senior dog would be perfect. You see, we have had lots of dogs come and go around here. For the last seven years, we have hosted countless puppies/dogs for Warrior Canine Connection, an organization that enlists



recovering Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. We even had a few service dogs in training visit during the first three months of quarantine, but all the while we kept up the search. I couldn't believe how hard it was to find a senior dog. A part of me was sad, but my heart was happy that so many people were finding their forever dogs!

I first saw Theo on the NGRR website in late June and was immediately drawn to his adorable photos and bio. Unfortunately, he wouldn't be available for adoption until late July/early August because he needed a medical checkup and non-invasive surgery. Fast forward three weeks, and I see Theo's page has been updated to show he is now available for adoption. Yippee! I share his details with my husband and daughter, after emailing NGRR with all the reasons we are the perfect home for Theo! Multiple emails, phone calls, and three days later, Theo arrives in Napa to meet us. We are immediately smitten. Honestly, who could resist such a sweet, gentle soul?!?

Theo has been with us for three weeks now, and he is thriving. He and Luna are the best of friends. He loves the freedom to relax by the pool or take a stroll to



the vegetable garden. Last weekend, we welcomed a new service dog in training to our family, and Theo was front and center to make sure the new recruit knew his place in the family hierarchy. Today, Theo had his first deer sighting, and I marveled at his energy running to the fence to show who was in charge! Every day is a gift with Theo, and we will be forever grateful to NGRR for giving us the chance to be his family! 🐾



COVID-19: NGRR Update

(Continued from front page)

the time is right.

We also have been flooded with new foster applications. People want to open their homes to our dogs, but unfortunately we just don't have many dogs for them. Most people who have Golden Retrievers are now even more able to lavish them with attention, so we're not seeing many surrenders. This is true in Golden retriever rescues across the country. The dogs we are receiving tend to have serious medical issues, and we are happy to give them the veterinary care they need. We have a stable of reliable fosters who can make that long-term commitment to nurse a dog back to health. We also have gotten a few dogs with serious behavior issues. It's unfair to task a new foster with the responsibility of caring for a dog with significant physical ailments or behavioral issues. If you've read this newsletter for a while, you have

enjoyed the wonderful success stories of dogs returned to vitality from the very doorstep of death. So the kind of foster we need most today is someone who can work with a currently unadoptable dog. If you are that person, please contact your Area Coordinator.

If you hear of any families having to make the difficult decision to rehome their Golden, please tell them about NGRR and let them know of our commitment to placing surrendered Golden Retrievers in a loving home.

NGRR has also decided not to have any in-person meetings this year. We had hoped to have regional meetups where Golden owners could get together for lunch, games, and mutual admiration of our beautiful pups. We're absolutely looking forward to some in-person gatherings as soon as it's safe to do so. 🐾

Buddy the Wonder Dog

Thanks to Karen Shore for submitting this story.

Buddy was surrendered to NGRR when he was 12 years old and a bit overweight. At his first vet visit, Buddy was found to have tumors on his thyroid glands, and after seeing a specialist, these tumors were determined to be inoperable. This didn't sound very promising...



But wait! Fast forward TWO YEARS! Buddy was placed with a first-time NGRR foster family, where he started living the dream. Buddy now has two best friends – Jojo and Cece – who are his human sisters, ages 11 and 8. Along with their parents, they make sure Buddy knows how much he is loved every single day – they always incorporate him in their daily activities such as walks in the neighborhood, art projects in the yard, soccer games, kayaking, and this summer, a

month at the beach with another family who brought their Golden.

As the Area Coordinator who brought Buddy into NGRR, I take him to the vet sometimes – he's now on a new medicine to help manage his high thyroid levels. Every time I see him, I am amazed at how great he looks, how happy he seems, and how much he loves and is loved by his family. At almost 14 years old, Buddy is a true wonder dog who is clearly a testament to what can happen with the love of a devoted family! 🐾



A Volunteer Reminisces

Thanks to Vicki O'Malley for submitting this story.

I started fostering for NGRR in 2011. These are a few of the dogs that shared a short time with us and their stories.

My first foster dog, Libby, was a 9 year-old female. She was very sweet, and it only took three weeks to find the perfect fit for a new forever home.

Another dog came from an animal shelter as a stray and they labeled him Lucky. He was 6 years old, matted and dirty. After being washed and brushed, he was very handsome. We nicknamed him Wilson/Willie because he loved tennis balls.

There was the large, tall male found on Craigslist called Herby. He was only 1 year old and had lots of energy. He was so long he could look out our tall family room windows standing on his back feet.

We also had Summer, a 1 year-old



Kayla

female that got hit by a car and had her front leg amputated before she came to us. That didn't slow her down. She was so cute and was always trying to pick up two balls at once.

The 4 month-old puppy, Hope, was only with us for a week before a family that would take on her skin condition adopted her. She was so sweet and already house trained.

Another 9-year-old female was surrendered due to a tumor on her tummy. Her name was also Hope. NGRR provided the surgery for the tumor and spayed her. She was in foster for three months with two foster families. She never barked but would gurgle and prance when waiting for her meals – that always brought a smile to my face.

Then there was Tom, who was a 10-year-old male that was over 100 pounds. We had him for 3½ months and got him down to 94 pounds. He was great with our cat (test kitty) and would play with my dog by nibbling at his back. He was a good boy. I was happy to see him go to a home on the beach. I wanted to go with him, heehee.

I have been asked how I can give up the dogs I foster. All the dogs that came into our home did find a place in our hearts. For one thing, during that time, I had my own dogs so I couldn't adopt. Plus, it made it easier because of all the awesome families I met. They have opened up

their homes and provided the love and necessities to fulfill these beautiful Golden retrievers for the rest of their lives.

Being involved with NGRR for a while now, I really appreciate how the organization is totally committed to the dogs that come in to be rescued. It is so important for them to be fostered in a home before being adopted. They are checked by a vet so the necessary medical needs are addressed. The foster family can evaluate for any behavioral issues that need to be worked on and start training if needed.



Dakota

When the dog is ready for adoption, families that have already been approved that look like a good match can be contacted.

Unfortunately, I can't foster right now. Fortunately, there haven't been many dogs coming into NGRR at this time. I do miss the challenges and love of the dogs looking for a forever, loving home. I hope they are out there with families that appreciate them. Thank you NGRR for all you do for all these incredible creatures. 🐾

The Three Golden Brothers

Thanks to the Lewis, Aitken, and Severson families for submitting this story.

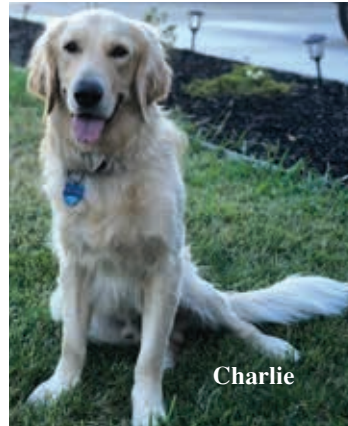
Three Golden brothers – Baxter, Charlie, and Sprout – were rescued from a breeder in late December 2019 at the age of eight months. It was evident early on that the three brothers were suffering from high anxiety and lack of socialization. Three families took these beautiful boys in and are helping them become the amazing Golden Retrievers they were meant to be. The three families continue to share struggles and celebrate victories as they work with their Golden boys. Here are their stories...

Baxter – Lewis Family

The best gift the Lewis family received on Christmas Day 2019 was a text from NGRR indicating that an eight-month-old male Golden was available for adoption. Two days later, the Lewis' were on their way to Oakdale to pick up Baxter. Baxter was breathtakingly handsome, but anyone who entered his bubble caused panic. The next several days were spent on the floor with Baxter introducing him to his house and backyard. For the first two days, he had to be carried everywhere because of his fear of the unknown. Over the months of gradual introduction to his new life at his pace, Baxter has blossomed. His nickname of "Ferdinand the Bull," comes from his love of sniffing and laying in flowers, and his adoring and "chill" demeanor. Baxter has learned to play, but his favorite role is devoted companion. He still doesn't love car rides or strangers, but recently he has made incredible strides by spending the day socializing with a family member and her dog. By the end of the day, Baxter was comfortable, confident, and displaying his Golden smile. Baxter has a way to go, but we are confident with the continued support and training from Toni at Peacekeeper K9 Services, he will become the trusting and loving companion he was meant to be. We love our Baxter to the moon and back!

Charlie – Aitken Family

Charlie is doing well, and he has made tremendous progress since we adopted him in January. He loves going on walks and gets super excited whenever he sees his leash, and he has conquered his fear of cars. He loves going to the dog park, and since COVID started and I have been home more, we go on daily walks to the dog park where he has a couple friends :)



He still is working on his stranger danger and his fear of small children. He has gotten a lot better at recognizing people who come over often, which has helped. He also loves hiking, and we have enjoyed taking him up to Lake Tahoe and Folsom Lake to give him some exercise. He is continuing to grow and is full of energy. Quarantine has been a blessing for him as I have been able to stay at home a lot more and he loves not being alone. Other than that, we are still training him on becoming more and more relaxed and like a typical Golden, but we are so thankful we adopted him. My husband and I absolutely adore him and are thankful for the blessing his addition has been to our family.

Sprout – Severson Family

When we first met Sprout, he wouldn't let us within 10 feet of him, but stubbornly we showed him love. We gave him a home and started showing him the good in the world. He was especially fond of running in the backyard, getting belly rubs, and playing with his cousins, a couple of black lab mixes. The first couple of months we had to get him used to the leash, the car, and to our house. We took him to the dog park, and he really started to open up. It's definitely apparent that he is more comfortable around dogs than he is around people, so we use that as a way to introduce him to new situations. He loves adventure and nature. Hiking around water is a weekly activity; he runs free and swims like Michael Phelps. Recently, we caught him trying to play fetch with himself by dropping the ball from a height into a lake and running down after it, only to get it and swim around. He's come so far, and we're so excited to continue his growth. 🐾

Beware: Online Scammers Waiting to Sell You Perfect Golden Puppy

Thanks to Karen Shore for submitting this story.

You hear it everywhere, and NGRR certainly gets many inquiries: Where can I find a dog to adopt? If there are no adult dogs or puppies to rescue, where can I buy a puppy? With more time at home during this pandemic, many people are looking to add a new pet to their family. We know it's incredibly difficult to wait when you have your heart set on adding a new Golden to your family. But it's beyond disheartening

to hear about the many online scams that are targeting people looking for a dog – stories about cute puppies that are "stock" photos or ones downloaded from an individual's social media page without their consent that are certainly not for sale, or for someone who inquires about an online posting, replies requesting funds be transferred to another state in order for a puppy to be shipped when there really is no puppy or it's actually a puppy that is very sick.

This is definitely a case of "buyer

beware" and a call for due diligence before agreeing to pay anyone online for a puppy. There are many potential pitfalls and things to consider if you and your family decide you cannot wait to rescue a dog. Definitely trust your "spidey sense" that something might be a scam – for example, if information is inconsistent between the online ad/posting and what the seller says in follow-up phone calls/texts/emails, if the price is "too good to be true", if the puppy will be shipped to you once you send money, or if the seller asks for a gift

Baxter

NGRR gets many adoption applications for young dogs, especially those under 2 years old. It is rare when we get these youngsters, and when we do, they are often “Diamonds in the Rough”. Many have limited socialization and have spent their short lives in a backyard with a bowl of food and water. Our wonderful forever homes and trainers are committed to bringing these Diamonds out of their shells. This is just one example.

Thanks to Toni Matthews of Peacekeeper K9 Services for writing this story and Debi Lewis for submitting it.

Once upon a time, 3 Golden Retriever puppies didn't have the best beginnings. You see, they were part of a planned litter by an irresponsible breeder. After his sisters all sold but he and his two brothers did not, they were kept in a barn for 8 months. They were never socialized to know anything about the outside world, and as we can only speculate, not knowing the love of humans.

Upon learning of the situation, NGRR stepped in and pulled all 3 boys, and after fostering, placed them in carefully vetted homes. However, all 3 suffered the effects of poor upbringing and neglect such that it would take months to establish any form of trust. This is my account of the honor I have had to help one of those Golden Retrievers.

My first meeting with Baxter, you would hardly know a dog existed in the house. The terror he felt by a person simply walking into his environment created panic and a need to quietly flee and disappear. Seeing any dog, especially a Golden Retriever, with that level of anxiety and fear was heartbreaking, I knew we would have a long road ahead of us to gain his trust. It was my job as a trainer to help ease him into the world. He would most likely never completely conquer all his fears, but if I could do anything to quell his fears and help him find his place where he was comfortable and calm, I was willing to assist.

Over the months of gradual introduction exercises, we exposed Baxter to social situations with a low-pressure approach, allowing him to take steps out of his comfort zone at his own pace. Slowly but surely, we started to see a willingness to try things for himself. He created trustworthy relationships within the household and began seeking affection and eventually play. These were outstanding milestones that showed us this training and treatment was working.

In July, 4 months after our first meeting, I suggested a new



introduction to assist Baxter in his growth. While mom was skeptical, she agreed to give it a shot. We introduced a dog into the situation on safe ground for Baxter – a 6 year-old Belgian Malinois named Bulleit. Now, Bulleit is a very nonreactive and confident dog who loves people. The goal was to help give Baxter a positive experience that he had never encountered before. Baxter showed a curious yet cautious demeanor, but he did not try to run and hide. He stayed in the room with his owners, and we gradually allowed him to get closer until he could sniff the other dog. This was a huge advancement in his journey and showed his willingness to accept change – something he had never been willing to budge on in the past.

Most recently, Baxter has made leaps and bounds in his growth. He will willingly walk through the garage and out to the front lawn. Recently, we brought Bulleit back and witnessed an act of complete faith and bravery from Baxter. With the contagious confidence of Bulleit, Baxter was willing for the first time to leave the boundary of the front property lawn and take a walk down the street. While still noticeably nervous, he was willing to follow the companion dog's lead for multiple trips a short distance from his home.

Baxter is showing remarkable improvement every time I see him, which is no easy feat by any means. He even allows me to pet him now, and every once in a while, I get the “nudge” from him if I stop. He may still have a long way to go, but I am so honored to be able to witness his bravery and willingness to try. I look forward to seeing his progress as he blooms more and more. Baxter, you are my hero! 🐾

card as payment. Unfortunately, most puppy sale frauds are done over the internet because online animal sales are still unregulated. Check out the NGRR website for some good articles on puppy scams and things to think about if you're looking for your new furry friend online. The articles talk about red flags for puppy scams, tips to avoid falling victim to an online puppy scam, and how to safely find a breeder or puppy seller online. Some highlights from an article on the Top Dog Tips website are below:

- At least 80% of online pet sales ads and websites are fake

- Frequent sources for online puppy scams include a fake breeder's website that you find from an online search, postings on websites like Craigslist or eBay, and Facebook postings where scammers pose as real people re-homing a dog
- Scammers often target people in their late teens and twenties
- Western Union and MoneyGram are the primary outlets used by fraudsters
- U.S. states with most scams are California, Texas, Florida, and New York
- Most scammers are from Cameroon, West Africa

- The average amount victims lose is \$300 but in some cases is up to \$5,000
- The most popular breeds are the ones most likely to be found in fake ads because many people want to own them and they're more difficult/expensive to get

It may take a little longer to find your next Golden family member if you get fully informed before acting, but you'll be glad you did when you find a healthy puppy from a reputable source. As part of your search, be sure to check out the NORCAL Golden Retriever Club's puppy referral page. 🐾

IN TRIBUTE

In memory of Pam Ammondson
Cindia, Rick, Rose and Sam Brody
Lara Endorf
Connie Johnson
Linda Kislingbury
Lily Kurokawa
Joe Matthews
Marlie Rowell
Marilyn Thomas

In memory of Danny Lonergan
Anne Carey
Charles and Joyce Bors
Nancy Thompson and Andy Kerr

In honor of Gregory Lindahl
Mike and Susan Price

In memory of "Oscar"
Brent and Linda LeBoa

In memory of "DJ Maxwell II" - Super Dog!
Diane & Dave Frazier

In memory of "Lady" Maggie May
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In Honor of David C. Ely for his devoted
public service
Gary Rinehart

In memory of "Brandy"
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In honor of George Topor
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In memory of "Parker"
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In memory of "Merlin"
JoAnn Bonner

In memory of "Sunny" and "Teddy"
John and Leona McCabe

In honor of Jan Dreyer
Jonelle McCallister

In memory of Kim Alfaro
Karen Scarpulla

Donation to the Zoe Fund
Kathryn Coffey

Tribute to Zscaler
Keith Smith

In memory of Hanna, an NGRR Volunteer
Kermit Sveen

In memory of "Amber" and "Daisy"
L. J. Korn

In memory of "Marshall" and "Sutter"
Lesle and Dean Thomas

In memory of William (Bill) James Casey
Linda Casey

In memory of "Shadow"
Loren and Rachel Kertz

In memory of Cynthia Riedel
Louise Korn

In memory of "Sneakers" and "Freddie"
Marla Miyashiro

In memory of "Dharma"
Michelle Godwin

In honor of Steven G. Johnson and
"Sherman"
Peter Hom

In honor of "Toby"
Randi Brenowitz

In memory of Duke Rocha
Rebecca Gipson

In honor of Christopher Doyle, Deborah
Salomon, and Jonathan Doyle's beloved
Golden "Annie"
Roger, Brad, and Emily

In memory of "Molly"
Rosie Mann

Matching In Honor of my Golden boy "Buddy"
Teri Stevenson



In memory of "Mona Lisa" Belardi
"Mo' gave us so many memories and smiles
and is dearly missed. We feel the best way to
honor her is to support Golden Oldies that are
in distress. Thanks to NGRR for your work."
Roberta LaPorte

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NGRR

**405 El Camino Real, Suite 420
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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.

Preventing Ear Infections

by Deborah Armstrong

Oh, those Golden floppies. How soft they are rubbing against your face while you and your Golden snuggle up in bed. How cute they are flapping up and down when he chases a ball. How easily they trap mud and crud when he stretches out on his side in the dirt or rolls on his back in a freshly dug hole! Yeast and bacteria love dirt and want to grow in moist, warm dark places, so the Golden Retriever's beautiful ears are a perfect environment for these invaders. Our Goldens' ears tend to keep the fresh air out and the nasty stuff in, unless we intervene.

Regular ear cleaning is essential to prevent infections and allow you to check for burrs, foxtails, and other nasty things that can damage your pup's ear. Foxtails are especially dangerous, and dog owners should avoid areas where they are prevalent. Whenever you are snuggling up to your pet, take a quick peek inside each ear to make sure everything looks pink and healthy. Notice if he begins to rub or shake his head, or scratch his ear. Guide Dogs for the Blind has clients diagnose ear problems using their sense of smell. A growing infection smells like yeast and is easily detected. Giving each ear a quick sniff helps you know what a healthy ear smells like so you can diagnose any infection earlier. Guide



Dogs also teaches clients to insert fingers inside their guide's ears to check for any problems. This inspection is often paired with a friendly scratch both inside and outside the ear. If you combine your regular ear inspections with treats and praise, dogs will soon learn to look forward to this intimate handling.

Many of the dogs we rescue come to us with chronic ear infections due to lack of maintenance. Regular ear cleaning is important. Most vets recommended a slightly acidic, non-alcohol based cleanser for regular maintenance. You should always check with your vet if you see any irritated red skin in the ears; never clean any ear that has an open wound or infection inside unless your vet recommends a special cleaner for that purpose.

Clean your pup's ears once a week unless you have different instructions from your vet. Routine cleaning involves moistening cotton balls with ear cleaner and carefully wiping inside the ears. You can also carefully maneuver a Q-Tip deep inside the twists and turns of the ear canal, gently wiping the sides of the canal to

loosen debris. You will want to use fresh cotton balls and Q-Tips on each ear so you don't transfer the infection from one ear to the other. Be sure to wash your hands both before and after the procedure. You can use a small flashlight to ensure the ear is free of grit, and clean fingers will also confirm the ear canal is squeaky clean.

Since Guide Dogs are often out working, the organization recommends clients keep unscented baby wipes handy for quick on-the-spot ear cleaning. The client is taught to wrap an index finger around the baby wipe and insert it deep into the ear to clean. The sooner you can remove any dirt, the less likely an infection will occur. This baby wipe technique also works on dogs who need regular cleaning but are afraid of other methods.

If your Golden does develop an infection, the vet will prescribe antibiotic ointment that will likely need to be applied daily for 10-14 days. Even if the ears look healthy after a few days, it's important to follow the instructions on the prescription. After the infection is cleared up, you can get a mild cleaning/drying solution, prescribed by your vet, that is safe to use, particularly after bathing or swimming.

A plethora of cleaning and infection prevention products are available online. If you are considering trying one, check with your vet to ensure it is safe.

Following these simple guidelines can prevent future misery and inconvenience, so don't forget to keep those Golden floppies clean! 🐾

President's Message

NO ONE DOUBTS that 2020 is a year for the history books! It is certainly challenging to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic that has changed all of our lives. Some of us are struggling with the disease itself, others have lost jobs, and some have had significant changes to our work or living situations. Shelter-in-Place orders mean almost everyone is engaging in fewer activities and spending more time at home. This has been a wonderful gift for some, and especially for our pets! However, it can be difficult for people isolated from their family and friends. I have a suggestion below for how we all can reach out and remind people we care about them.

At NGRR, we are always looking for ways to connect with those who share a fondness for our beloved Goldens – one example is that we planned to have regional in-person Golden

meetups this year. We unfortunately have had to table this idea until we can safely get together. Instead, we've decided to relaunch an e-newsletter so we can connect with Golden lovers more frequently. Watch your email inbox for the first *GoldenGram* coming soon! As the holiday season approaches, let's embrace new ways of connecting and caring for one another. How about checking your phone for a recent photo (A Golden or two? Your kids or grandkids? A sunset? A flower or bird or tree?) and sending it to someone you're thinking about and asking how they're doing? It will mean a lot to the person who receives it and hopefully make you feel more connected too.

My best wishes for continued health, and for a safe and happy holiday season! 🐾

Karen Shore

Lulu

Thanks to Kathleen Nelson for submitting this story.

I heard once that people who don't believe in soulmates simply haven't met the right animal yet. The story of Lulu and me is a story of soulmates and finding a perfect fit in an unlikely situation.

First, let me tell you about Lulu. She was given to NGRR when she was two. She was fostered for a little while before they discovered she had elbow dysplasia. She needed surgery and afterwards limped quite a lot. NGRR was looking for a quiet, one-story house for her to recover and thrive.

I had lost my beloved Golden, Callie, not too long before this. She had been my pal for 13 years. I was also living alone with both my grown daughters out on their own. I decided I wanted another dog and looked into rescuing – something I'd never done before – which led me to NGRR.

Not too long after, Cynthia Stevenson (NGRR) did a home visit with her two dogs. She told me she had this dog that she thought I would really like. She mentioned that there were some health issues, and honestly, I was hesitant at first – not sure that I wanted to take that on. Cynthia brought her over to see if there was a spark. She left her with me for an hour and that was it. We bonded immediately. In that first hour, she even happily got in my pool with me.

Since then, Lulu and I have been inseparable. Initially she had strong



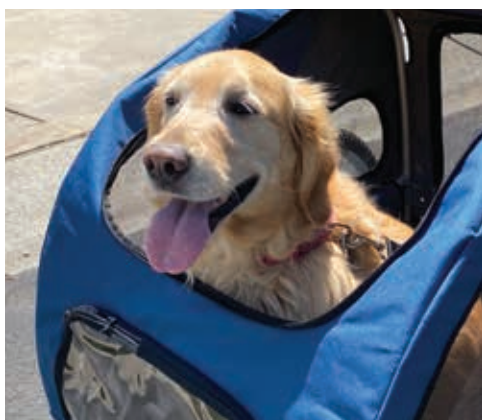
separation anxiety and didn't want me leaving at all, but she's become much more comfortable in our home and she trusts now that I'm always coming back. She's very snuggly and loves to be right next to me, even when I'm doing yoga.

Quarantine might be Lulu's favorite thing to have happened since I adopted her. She gets to snuggle with me and listen to James Taylor (our favorite) all day long. We go for walks and bike rides all the time, Lulu riding in her trailer behind my bike when she needs a break from walking. Her new favorite hobby is driving to the post office and mailing letters. She eagerly gets in the car and then stares at me until I roll down the back window for her.

I couldn't be happier that Lulu and I found each other, and I'm very grateful to everyone at NGRR for all their work



in matching the two of us. In particular, I owe much of this to "Team Lulu": Cynthia Stevenson, of course; Carole Mason, who coordinated health care in the early days; and Brenda Welch-Douglas, who fostered Lulu initially before she came to me. Thank you for finding my four-legged soulmate! 🐾



NGRR and Microchip Use

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of three articles written by my wonderful husband and NGRR board member, Robert Armstrong.

In our previous installments, we talked about what microchips are, how they work, and how they're used to reunite a lost dog with its family. This time I'll discuss how NGRR uses microchips, our policies on microchipping, and what fosters and adopters should expect to happen.

First, NGRR now has an absolute policy that all dogs will be chipped, with no exceptions. If a dog is already chipped when it's acquired by NGRR, then we'll use that existing chip number. If a dog isn't chipped, then we'll chip it at the earliest opportunity. Microchipping is a very simple, low-risk procedure, and no dog is too old, too young, or too sick to be chipped.

All Area Coordinators have a microchip scanner, the very same things that veterinarians and shelters use, and will scan every newly acquired dog for a chip. If the dog already has a microchip, then that chip number is recorded in the NGRR database, and that's the chip number we'll continue to use to register the dog. If a dog already has a chip, then it's likely that it is also already registered to the previous owner, and we will attempt to transfer that registration to NGRR. Unfortunately, due to the number of chip registrars out there, and because it's not always possible to locate the previous owners, this transfer doesn't always happen. This shouldn't be a problem as the latest chronological registration always takes precedence.

If the Area Coordinator doesn't find a chip when scanning a new dog, then NGRR will have a vet implant one. All dogs acquired by NGRR receive a basic checkup from a vet when they are surrendered to us. All Area Coordinators have a supply of brand-new microchips.

The Area Coordinator will take one of these new chips with them to the checkup, and the veterinarian will implant the microchip under the dog's skin between the shoulders. The photo shows a brand-new microchip in a syringe as used by NGRR.

The chip itself is just a tiny thing inside the needle under the cover at the end of the

syringe. The packages are sterile and sealed, and the syringe is used once to implant the chip and then discarded. After the vet visit, the Area Coordinator will record the microchip number in the medical record for that dog as part of its record in our NGRR database.

As soon as a chip number is recorded for a dog, it's registered with the Michelson Found Animal Registry, www.found.org. This is the registrar that NGRR uses for all of our dogs, and they recognize NGRR as a dog rescue organization.

It's important that a dog's microchip be registered as soon as possible, even before they're adopted and while they're still in foster care, because you never know when a dog might get lost. New dogs are always a flight risk; they don't know that this strange house and family is really their new home after all, and there's a strong temptation for them to wander off. Should one of our foster dogs be found by a shelter, they will find NGRR's name associated with that dog's chip and will contact our main information number. Our volunteers can look up the dog in our database to find out which Area Coordinator and foster it belongs with, and then pass that information along to the shelter.

Once a dog is adopted, NGRR will have found.org transfer the ownership of that dog to its new family. This is done using the contact information supplied on the adoption application, so it's critical that both adopters and Area Coordinators ensure that this information is correct. In particular, we must have a valid adopter first and last name, at least one phone number, and an email address. Found.org uses the email address to create an account and will not register a dog without one. Found.org also requires that the primary contact for

a registration be an individual person. We often have dogs that are adopted by couples or entire families and they want everybody's name on the registration, but they must pick one person as the primary contact.

Once the adoption is registered, the adopter primary contact will receive an email from Found.org with their account information and instructions on how to log in. If the adopter happens to already be registered with Found.org (perhaps because they already have another pet), then their existing account will be used, but otherwise Found.org will create a new one.

Important tip: After adopting, be sure to check your email SPAM folder for messages from Found.org so that they don't get lost. If you are an adopter, then you can use your Found.org login to update your contact information should you ever move, change phone numbers, or change email addresses. And although Found.org allows only one primary contact, it is possible to add any number of secondary or emergency contacts to your account. These people will also be notified if the dog is found, and it can be handy to add a spouse or extended family members.

We'd also like to remind all Area Coordinators and those who assist them to type in those chip numbers and other registration information carefully. Your typo could lead to a lost dog not getting recovered, so accurate data entry is crucial.

That's pretty much the entire NGRR microchipping process, but one final tip before we close – adopters can also use their Found.org login to change the dog's name. NGRR will initially register the dog with whatever name NGRR uses, but many adopters prefer to pick a different name for their pet, and Found.org will allow that to be changed too. 🐾





Dear Abby—Gold

by Deborah Armstrong

Q: *Our dog destroys the house if we leave him. He becomes very destructive, tears up furniture, and scratches the door trying to escape. We tried to put him in a crate but that made him even worse; he chewed on the bars until his mouth bled. Why is this happening, and what can we do?*

A: Frantic destructive behavior often signals emotional distress. But puppies can also have a strong desire to play and with no one about to stop them, they can turn your table legs in to chew bones and your pillows in to tug toys.

Whether it's boredom, separation anxiety, or a combination, there are many strategies you can employ. First, teach him to like his crate. Give him rewards for lying in the crate with its door open. Practice coaxing him in to that crate and then taking him out immediately, giving him lots of toys and attention while doing so. Use the crate after a rowdy play session, even for a few minutes to put a young dog down for a nap. Encourage an older dog to seek out his open crate when he wants to rest.

Many owners feel crating a dog is cruel. This is because they wouldn't want to be trapped in a cage themselves. Noted animal behaviorist Trish McConnell believes this instinctive human fear of confinement is part of our ape ancestry. Chimpanzees lived in trees because predators stalked below.

Wolves and wild dogs sleep in caves. If your dog comes to see his crate as his cave, he's going to welcome the chance to be there.

And when we think about instincts, we humans, even though we are social, can engage in hours and even days of solitary activity. Just as we dislike prison, so too, our dogs dislike being alone. If we understand a dog's instinctive need to be with others, we can empathize with the emotional turmoil of separation anxiety!

Practice leaving the dog for just a few minutes. If you have a camera on which you can watch him, so much the better. If

there's no destruction, give lavish rewards. If there is anxious behavior, shorten the time you leave him, perhaps leaving him alone for only a minute or two.

Make sure when your dog is left alone that he has safe toys to play with. A sturdy bone or a Kong stuffed with goodies can go a long way towards entertaining and reassuring a nervous dog.

Do not give him the run of your house until he's earned it. Give him regular relieving times he can depend on and make sure he's gotten a chance to run, play, and relieve himself before you leave him alone. Confine him in a bedroom or crate when you leave. Try not to leave him for long amounts of time until he's successful for short periods. Make sure he's confined with his favorite things, like toys, his bed, and maybe a radio or TV playing.

Ensure that saying goodbye is matter of fact. You can ramp up a dog's anxiety with an elaborate leave-taking. It does help to have a small and happy ritual attached with your leaving the house, for example, pulling out a favorite bone only when you are about to close the front door.

Your vet can also supply medications and supplements to help reduce your dog's anxiety. They can also rule out any physical problems such as pain that might be a contributing factor. Just think how much an injury hurts when you are alone in bed trying to fall asleep in comparison with how much pain you experience when you are busy during the day.

The Golden Retriever is an especially social and sensitive breed. Generations of Golden Retrievers have been selected for their willingness to work closely with humans, making them particularly prone to separation anxiety. If you take baby steps and gradually increase the periods he needs to be alone, your Golden will soon trust you are returning and will calmly chew himself to sleep when you are away. 🐾

Olive

Thanks to Nancy Chavez for submitting this story.

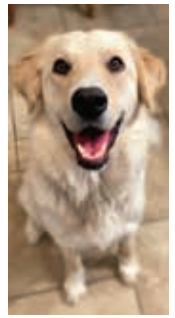
Our volunteer Adrienne found Olive online. A family found her running in the country with a rope tied around her neck. She was covered with fleas, ticks, burrs, and foxtails. She had no microchip or collar. The family listed her online on lost dog sites and posted pictures but could not find her owner. They gave a deadline as they could not keep her and said they would bring her to the SPCA.

Our volunteer contacted me, and we made a plan to pick her up and bring her into NGRR for care and to find her forever home. I brought her to the vet, which was interesting during COVID. The vet found her to be barely a year old. We restarted her shots and had a full exam. The vet noted she had enamel dysplasia on her teeth, which indicates she is a distemper survivor. She had burrs and foxtails behind her ears and stuck in her feathers, which were trimmed. She had a foxtail deep in her ear canal and foxtails embedded between the pads of her paws. These were removed under sedation. She was thin, and her fur was rough and dry. She had a bath and was started on heartworm and flea prevention after being tested for heartworm and other flea- and tick-borne illnesses.

I was her foster, and she didn't want anything to do with our other Golden Retrievers at first. Soon, she was running around playing chase and tug of war. She wasn't used to being inside and would slide on the floors. She quickly learned what dog beds and toys were, and she started to relax.

I matched her with a family of five who previously had Golden Retrievers that passed away. They had also lost a Golden to Parvovirus in the spring. We worked with the vet on a plan to transition "Olive" to their home that would keep her safe from Parvovirus. The family kept in contact by phone and pictures, and they visited her in my yard after sanitizing their shoes. She had her second round of shots and then was safe to transition to her new home. She is scheduled to be spayed in two weeks before her adoption is finalized.

Olive is loving all the attention and smiles often. Her hair is growing back and she is filling out nicely. Her new family loves her very much. 🐾



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 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, mail it 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. You can also donate online at www.ngrr.org.

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.

Vehicle Donations

You may donate a vehicle through NGRR's partnership with the CARS program.

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 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 website at 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 to the right. (Note: This information may also be submitted through our website at www.ngrr.org.)

Mail to:

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

HANDS-ON DOG WORK

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

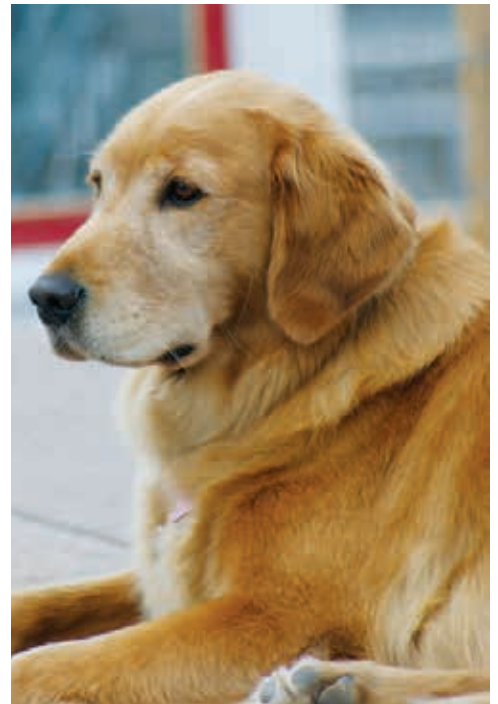
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Menlo Park, CA 94025-5240**

**NGRR Cell #: (650) 665-0964
Website: www.ngrr.org**

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Get our beautiful 2021 NGRR calendar and help support our mission to provide comprehensive veterinary care to the Golden Retrievers in our care! Featuring our wonderful rescued Golden Retrievers!

\$15 per calendar (including tax and shipping).

www.ngrr.org

Calling All Volunteers!

Would you like to get involved with NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue? We are always looking for volunteers. Perhaps this newsletter will inspire you to help out. If so, please contact us at info@ngrr.org.