

N O R C A L Golden Retriever R E S C U E



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

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE No. 2 ~ FALL 2015

‘Field of Golden Dreams’ Held in Sonoma



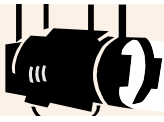
Thank you Jill Morgan for submitting this.

Sunday, September 27 was the annual event “Field of Golden Dreams” held at Cline Cellars in Sonoma. The weather was absolutely perfect; we couldn’t have ordered a better day. Fur families, friends, and over 125 Goldens enjoyed the great lawns at Cline. A special thanks to all the volunteers, donors, and everyone that made this come true.

Chef Kelly MacDonald and staff from the Napa Valley Wine Train prepared and served a fantastic lunch. Stasia Walters, Area Coordinator for Humboldt County, provided a memorable customized card of your dog to take home. Amanda Schaffner, Area Coordinator for Sacramento, brought in a pet psychic and a canine masseuse. Cynthia Stevenson and Carole Mason, Area Coordinators for Contra Costa County, brought one of their long-time volunteers, Gene Stoegbauer, a professional photographer who offered personal photos. Carole Mason also coordinated the Taiwan Parade with red, white, and blue bandanas, after which each Golden and family were rewarded with a “SITizenship

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Spotlight on Fosters



Day in the Life of Our Foster Family

Thank you to Georgine Nordin for submitting this.

Like all NGRR Area Coordinators, we could not do our jobs without our very committed volunteers, especially those who open up their home for the Golden entrusted in our care until we find their forever home. I am very fortunate to have a large network of very special foster families in Santa Clara County. I could recognize each and every one of them for their commitment to our all-volunteer organization, opening their homes at a moment's notice with very little time to prepare for their new four-legged visitor.

What we ask from these wonderful families: We call on any day of the week and ask to drop off a Golden the next day . . . What they say? They need a moment to weigh in with the rest of the family. Who is their family, you might ask? Well they are households that include working families, retired couples, single parents, and families with kids, dogs, cats, birds and

any combination. We assess each Golden's needs when weighing in on the perfect foster home for our new Golden. You see, we are looking for that temporary home that we would place our own beloved dogs into when we are away. It usually only takes a few minutes to get a yes from the entire family.

We show up at our family's home with a young unruly backyard dog, a dog that has not seen a bath in a year, a well-behaved certified therapy dog, a bonded pair or a senior with sadness and confusion in their eyes.

These Golden walk into a warm, loving home, with a clean bed, a ready brush, a bowl of fresh water, high quality food, and an array of toys. Children and dog jump for joy. Cats run and hide, peering from behind doors as they assess what kind of Golden is here to visit.

Our families get up throughout the first night to calm their new Golden's fears, take them outside and reach over throughout the night for a loving pat on the head.

Our families shuttle these Golden to and from the vets for spay/neuter, vaccinations, flea treatments, ear infections, dental extractions, and complex surgeries.

Our families practice sits, stays, downs, comes, heels, and leave its.

Our families provide a home as if their temporary Golden is one of their own.

The ultimate sacrifice is when one of our beloved Golden comes into rescue and the diagnosis is not what we want to hear. These loving families understand and open their home until the dreaded day arrives and they are forced to make the compassionate decision to take away the pain and suffering of the Golden they have come to love. Our beloved family packs up their beloved foster dog and provides the love and moral support through the process. They say their loving goodbyes with tears in their eyes and know they have made a difference no matter how brief the time. This is the ultimate commitment to the breed we all love unconditionally.

We believe each Golden that touches our lives gives back as much to our volunteers as we give back.

So rather than single out that one special foster, I thank each family opening up their home for a brief stay. For that one special couple I asked so much from, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We recognize we need to do better at extending our thanks and appreciation. We could never do what we do without the loving care of our foster families. 🐾

Angel

Thank you to Barbara Crespo for submitting this.

Our Angel went over the Rainbow Bridge this summer. We want to thank NGRR and Jeanne Hanlon for the 12 years we had our sweet Angel. To think when we adopted her we would change her name? Little did we realize at the time what a true Angel she was!!!! An article was published in the last newsletter regarding Angel's continuing story. This would be her final story. We sure miss her. 🐾



Hope

Thanks to George and Deborah Hart for submitting this.

This is Hope..aka Jade. Our special little Taiwan girl. She came into our lives a little over a year and a half ago. Hope is just as sweet as she looks. Since she is so small, only 39 pounds, people think she is still a puppy. Hope loves her daily long walks, playing with her Shih Tzus and helping customers at our pet shop, Dusty's Den. She is a quick learner, very playful and wants to please. Hope looks forward to welcoming another Golden into her pack next year. We are so thankful for her! 🐾



Posie

This article was obtained from nbcbayarea.com on September 4, 2015 written by Jodi Hernandez, Scott Budman and NBC Bay Area Staff. Photos provided by Brook Rudas.

Our hearts go out to Brook and Alfredo Rudas on the loss of their Golden, Posie.

“Sonoma County public health officials are warning the public to keep pets away from the Russian River just ahead of Labor Day weekend.” But it’s too late for Brooke and Alfredo Rudas’ dog Posie who died after swimming in the water, which contains a lethal toxin. The Department of Health confirmed Friday the 3-year-old Golden “tested positive for Anatoxin-A, which is a blue-green algae toxin.”

“She started foaming at the mouth and we knew something was seriously wrong,” Brooke said, adding that Posie’s “eyes rolled back into the back of her head.” Health officials are keeping the river open, but admit the algae can be especially dangerous for pets. “We are warning people to keep animals away from the river and away from isolated side pools of water and algae on the shore,” said Dr. Karen Holbrook, Sonoma County Deputy Public Health Officer.

Toxic algae has been a problem in other waterways in the recent past, as officials point to the drought as the likely culprit. It’s common for toxic algae blooms to break out in warm weather, but the park rangers have



said that the drought is likely making the situation worse. Warmer temperatures prevent water from mixing, allowing algae to grow thicker and faster. Also, warmer water is easier for small organisms to move through and allows algae to float to the surface faster. And algal blooms absorb sunlight, making water even warmer and promoting more blooms.

Oakland’s Lake Temescal has been closed all summer, for example, and Quarry Lakes in Fremont was also closed this summer because of a toxic algae bloom. And in some cases, the algae has been deadly for pets, including three dogs who died in January and February at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley. A porpoise found dead this week in the Russian River also likely died from toxic algae, the Napa Valley Register reported.

To that, a distraught Brooke added: “I hope that other people hear my story and just don’t go near there. I don’t want this to happen to anybody else.” 🐾

Is Your Dog the Right Weight?

Thank you Peg Aten for submitting this.

Is your dog losing its nice lean look? Walking slower or even got a little limp? Having trouble getting up because their weight is climbing? Too many doggie treats, too much kibble, not enough activity? If your doggie’s weight is climbing and your vet has suggested you lower their intake and increase their activity, then do it please.

Please ask your vet to show you the problems dogs can have with obesity. Just like with us humans, it is very hard on their bodies. NGRR has had several dogs come to us this year with significant amount of weight to be lost, usually about 10 pounds, but some have had 40 pounds or more to lose. Having to lose 10-40 pounds is a job. After being in foster care, getting good kibble, exercise, and medical care, their weight starts to drop. Slowly.

I have had several dogs through the years that have had to go on a diet when they came in. By the time their weight is good, they feel and act so much better. Please talk to your vet about a good healthy weight. Most vets have a really good visual aid on healthy to extreme weights and can speak with you in depth about your pet’s weight and the risks.

Google “Pet Obesity” to see several sites. It will be shocking what you see. I am a visual learner and this really put good weight into perspective for me. 🐾





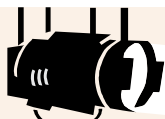
'Field of Golden Dreams'

(Continued from front page)

Certificate.” Our famous Yellow Ball 50/50 raffle had four-legged and two-legged participants in the ball playing with a chance to win \$300, \$200, or \$100. We sold all of the 60 tennis balls and everyone had fun, win or lose.

Thank you also to the vendors: Second Chance Greeting Cards, selling NGRR greeting cards, and Nature’s Select Dog Food for educating everyone on the nutritional values of dog foods and giving out treats and samples. Thank you to the many generous donors to the Silent Auction and Raffle, and to Cline Cellars who provided wine tasting and to the many Cline employees who came out to participate in “Golden Field of Dreams.”

We had such a successful and enjoyable day, we are planning on a 2016 repeat. Watch for the upcoming date. 🐾



Spotlight on a Serious Senior



Thanks to Jan Dryer to writing this – and for being such a special mom!

Nine years ago I got a call from the County Shelter that they had a Golden that was 8 years old but in such bad shape they were going to put her down if I didn’t rescue her. Her epidermis was flaking off black skin, her coat a mess and she looked like she could barely

walk to the corner. Of course I went and got the old girl, got her on some good food, treated her ear infection, and gave her lots of love. Annie is 17 years old and although she has a little trouble lying down, she is medically sound and still trots down the street with me for a 1/2 mile walk every day. And they were going to put her down! You never know what the power of love can do. 🐾



Thank you Jean Stamatis for submitting this.

We always wanted a dog, but were waiting for the ‘right’ time. We had three boys, ages 7, 5, and 3, so our hands and hearts were full. Then one day, we met two lovable Golden Retrievers who were NGRR rescues. We went home and filled out the application, thinking it would take forever to find our forever dog.

Then we met Joan Green from NGRR, who told us about TJ. TJ was 5 and surrendered due to a

family move where dogs were not allowed; he was also very overweight. At first, we didn’t think TJ was our dog because of his age, but we wanted to at least meet him.

When we looked at TJ for the first time and he looked at us, we knew he was ours. From faithfully walking next to our boys riding their bikes, to being a patient listener as our son reads to him, TJ is part of our family. He’s also steadily losing weight and becoming who he’s meant to be. We are so grateful and love TJ with all our hearts! 🐾

I Know Why The Caged Dog Howls *(Sorry Maya Angelou – I just couldn't resist)*

Thanks to Laura James for writing this.

My dog, Andy Flynn, and I walk at Fort Funston every day and usually it's a nice calm walk. But, about a month ago, we had an interesting thing happen... We were just about 5 minutes from the water fountain when my friend June's phone rang. After she answered it, she handed it to me. What? It was a mutual friend of ours, Mai, who said she was at the water fountain and there was a woman trying to give away a Golden Retriever puppy, was I nearby? I don't have to tell you, I was there in a flash and indeed, there was a tall blond lady with a beautiful puppy talking to Mai.

I introduced myself and she, Rachael Elliott, said the dog, Huey, belonged to a neighbor who got Huey a few months ago and now the pup was being left in a small kennel in the yard all day and night. She asked if she could walk the pup and they said sure, so here she was, but she really didn't like seeing the pup being treated like that, and she wanted to find it a new home.

I explained to Rachael about how NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue worked and told her that as much as I would like to take Huey, I couldn't, that I needed to have the owners surrender Huey. Rachael gave me her phone number and the owner's address and I drove over and dropped off some information about NGR, a Surrender Form, and a note asking him to call me that included my name and number. I also visited with Huey...poor guy was in his kennel. I left, then



came back, then left, only to go back, then left one more time and had to fight the urge to go back. Guess what, I didn't hear from them...

Rachael and I talked every day for the next 3 days at Fort Funston. The owner and his girlfriend went to LA and left Huey in the kennel. Rachael fed, watered, and walked Huey every day. When he came back, she went and talked to him. He said he would sell him to her for \$800. She didn't pay that much, she was able to talk him down to less but not that much less. She called me, we met at my house and we took Huey to his forever home in San

Bruno. Huey now lives with Larry and Faye Saxton and we get to see him at Fort Funston!

Huey's story brings a few questions to mind. Why would someone buy a puppy just to keep it in a kennel in the yard? What kind of person thinks this is all right? What can we do to stop this?

Another question – Why didn't Rachael keep Huey? When she first noticed Huey she brought him to her house and her 16-year-old son started coughing. Seems he is allergic to dogs. Rachael knew this when she "bought" Huey but that didn't stop her; she intended to surrender him so he could have a good home. I offered to refund the money, all of it or at least some, but she said no. So, what can I say, I'm so sorry that Huey had to go through what he did – solitary confinement for a month or more, but I am so happy that I was able to meet Rachael. It makes me believe that there are some really good people left in this world. 🐾

Molly's Story

Thanks to Rosie Mann for submitting this.

For the first 4 years of my life, I lived with a family who kept me in a large pen in the backyard. I had very little exercise and food was just thrown at me. All I did was eat and sleep. Soon I was about 107 pounds, very unhealthy, and all matted.

In June of 2011 my family decided they had no time for me and Kris Williams from NORCAL in Truckee came to Reno to pick me up. The next



day, Rosie Mann came to look at me and she decided that she wanted me. Kris and Rosie could hardly lift me into the back of her car.

The first thing Rosie and Monk did was take me to the groomer and I had to be shaved because my mats were so tight. I looked like a very fat lab and my back was so wide I looked like a coffee table, literally. Then they took me to the vet and he thought I should be around 75 pounds because I was just 4 and I was way too fat. They did all sorts of tests to make sure I was otherwise healthy, and luckily, I had no heart issues, diabetes, or other problems from being obese. Rosie and Monk put me on really good grain-free food and measured it out so I would get 3 cups a day, 1½ cups in the morning and the same at night. I was amazed that I got to eat two times a day out of a bowl and I also had clean water at all times. Rosie began taking me for short walks.



At first I could not walk to the next house because I was so out of breath and she was afraid I would have a heart attack. I had to go to the vet every two weeks or so to get weighed and before long, my weight began to decrease. It wasn't long that I could walk further and by the end of the year, I was in good enough shape to go snowshoeing with Rosie. The next summer she taught me how to swim and that is so much fun!

I am 8 years old now, hiking, chasing after bunnies and other small animals, enjoying the puppy times that I never had. I love being healthy and able to live my life like a Golden should. 🐾

IN TRIBUTE

In Honor of "Nala"
Loved by Deanna & Mark Johansen

In Thanks to ALL the generous lovers of Golden Retrievers who have donated to Norcal Golden Retriever Rescue via United Way!

Happy Birthday to Susan Connolly
"Happy Birthday, Susan. I made this donation because I know how much you love Teddy. He is such a good dog and I know you absolutely adore him."
Donation by Debi Clark

In Honor of "Penny"
"Penny is my third Golden and is doing well at about 9 years of age. She is a love!"
Adored by Stephanie Bigelow

In Honor of "Molly"
"We were lucky enough to rescue Miss Molly from you in November 2005. She came to us scared to death, 62 lbs, and not in perfect health. She thrived from the moment we adopted her. At 9 1/2, she is the picture of health and a precious member of our family. Our whole neighborhood loves her! She is our 4th Golden...our fourth furry blessing. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of these incredible, sweet, smart, and loving dogs."
Donation by Joani & Garry Deuel and "Miss Molly"

In Honor of John and "Sky Pilot"
"We adopted Sky Pilot Thanksgiving weekend in 2008. She had been neglected and not treated well. She has been so great! She leads the life that she was meant to, finally. She's so grateful for everything. We are very lucky that she rescued us!"
Loved by Debbie & John Edack

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.

In Honor of "Teddy"
"Teddy is doing well. Sweet old dog."
Loved by Leona & John McCabe

Happy Birthday to Josh Lauder
"Happy Birthday my friend! So proud of the young man you have become."
All of our Love, Tamar and Charlie Johnson

In Thanks to Shannon, Tom & Alex Aiken and "Nico," "Amelia," & "Jensen"
"This donation honors the Aiken family. They are a foster family for NGRR. They took my Norcal Goldens for two months while I went through a stem cell transplant at UCSF. My Sammy and Holly Berry were cared for and given lots of love while I was gone."
Donation by Judy Johnson

In Honor of "Moxie"
"Moxie is the sweetest girl ever!"
Loved by Harvey Veon
Donation by Aunt Jean Connors

In Honor of "Bud"
Donation by Britt Magg of dogdoodlez.com

In Thanks to Daniel Switkin
Donation by Ryan Bushek

In Honor of Kristin Luker
"My sister, Krista, has a golden heart for Golden Retrievers and their needs."
Donation by Kelly Luker

In Honor of "Riley" and "Serra"
Donation by Robert Diestel

"Thank you for all the wonderful work you do!"
Donation by Linda Honeysett

In Thanks to Gregory Anderson DVM at Calaveras Veterinary Clinic who generously donated on behalf of an anonymous donor.
"She was a lovely person with great reverence for the animal world."

In Memory of Allan Porter
Donation by Loran Peterman

In Memory of Allan J. Porter
Donation by Roberta & Tom Williams

In Memory of "Casey" Fisher
Adored by Joan & Phil Fisher
Donation by Martha Lewis

In Memory of Allan J. Porter
Donation by Mary Miner

In Memory of Allan Porter
Donation by Joan Goldenberg

In Memory of Allan Porter
Donation by Pat Canino

In Memory of "Nova"
"Nova was a beautiful girl who was very loved."
Cherished by Marie & Don Ratto
Donation by Linda & Brent LeBoa

In Memory of "Lucky"
"Lucky was my dog for 10 years till 3/9/2010. He was one of the most adorable dogs I have ever seen. And my family was very lucky to have him, especially my kids while growing up. He was loved by all of us and all of our friends who have seen and played with Lucky since the first day he came to our home at 6 weeks old. He had a happy life but too bad, it's too short for us. I'm sure he is resting in peace in Heaven and we all miss him dearly."
Donation by Chi-Kai Kuo

In Memory of "Buster"
"Our wonderful Buster was a best friend to us and to 'Buddy.' We miss him!"
Loved by Esther, Tim & "Buddy" Timberlake

In Memory of "McCovey"
"Karla, when you rescued McCovey, he was the luckiest dog around. You provided a wonderful home for him, and he knew it. He was such a very sweet boy, and he will always be missed."
Cherished and loved by Karla Robson
Donation by Carol Hankins

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by Bob Carr

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by Robert Levin

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by C. Texas East

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by Scott Ewers

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by Robert Michelson

In Memory of Bruce Goronsky
Donation by Richard Neely

In Memory of "Chase"
"Beloved pet of the Farrells"
Missed and loved by Marcia & Doug Farrell
Donation by Arlene & Charles Folkers

In Memory of "Savannah"
"April 24th will always hold a special place in my heart. It was the day I adopted Savannah from NGRR. She spent 10 1/2 years with my family. She will be loved and missed forever. Thank you for the great work you do and the joy you have brought to the lives of those who have adopted through NGRR."
Cherished and loved by Tracey Carrasco

In Memory of "Buddy"

"Thank you all for your hard work. This donation is in memory of Buddy, whom we adopted from NGRR about 4 years ago as a Senior Golden. He was loved and will be missed."

Honored and loved by Christina & Chris Millard

In Memory of "Henry"

Loved and cherished by Vicki
Donation by Kristie Wilhelm

In Memory of "Meadow"

"Meadow was a beautiful, smart, gentle Goldie with a sweet silly side. We loved her so much and will miss her."

Loved by Nikki & Dave Svoboda
Donation by Penny & Tom Silvester

In Memory of Allan Porter

"Allan is so greatly missed by all 2- and 4-legged. . . for whoever knew him. A wonderful family man as well as always giving to many organizations, one of those NGRR, which he set such an example in all his endeavors. Thank you, Porters, for your wonderful Husband, Father, and Grandfather. Our hearts are with you."

Donation by Jim, Justine, Sierra, and Bentley Eller

In Memory of "Olive"

"We are so sorry about Olive and are so happy we got to know such a sweet and special dog. In her memory we have donated \$50 to help the other sweet Golden find homes as great as yours."

Cherished and missed by the Noblin Family
Donated with big hugs by the Deason Family

In Loving Memory of my "Rusty"

"Forever loved, never forgotten!"

Loved by Joy Sacco

In Memory of "Pal"

Loved and missed by Mike Luna & Teresa Ortiz-Luna

Donation by Rick Partridge & Jack Black

In Memory of "Gabby" Elems

"Sweet Gabby. May she rest in peace with her other Golden siblings."

Missed and cherished by Carol Elems, Bill & Buddy

Donation by Lisa, Enrique, Jaco, Winona & Pearl Gaspari-Salmon

In Memory of "Sophie" Bettencourt

"Sophie was my Dad's beloved dog. She was ever faithful and stayed by his side."

Loved by Brad Bettencourt

Donation by Andrea Robinson

In Memory of "Amber" and "Daisy"

In Memory of "Lou" and "Cammie"
"Lou and Cammie crossed the Rainbow Bridge this year. Forever in my heart."

Loved by Louise Korn

In Memory of our dog, "Riley"

Cherished and loved by Newton B. Drury, Jr.

In Memory of "Bonnie"

Beloved girl of Jan Dreyer

Donation by Alice & Al Brill

In Memory of "Summer"

"We thought Summer was a wonderful Golden Girl and we will miss her when we visit. Our sympathy and condolences are offered on the loss of your precious girl."

Loved by Lynn & Charles Badger
Donation by Donna & Scott Albini

In Memory of "Sneakers" and "Freddie"

"They brought me so much joy. I think of them all the time. Thank you for all the good work you do."

Loved by Marla Miyashiro

In Memory of "Cassiopeia"

"Remembering beautiful Cassiopeia, who lived a long and very happy life. She could not have been more loved."

Cherished and missed by Kelly Moore
Donation by Elaine Leffler

In Memory of our Beloved "George"

"George was adopted from NGRRescue. He left us far too soon but brought us endless love."

Missed and loved by Megan & Ryan Whyte

In Memory of Shirlee Thomas

"In memory of Shirlee and all of her extraordinary work with NGRR."

Donation by Laura Hollis, Debra Gedecke, and Janice Scott

In Memory of "Hunter"

"Hunter was our first Golden from NGRR and one of the sweetest dogs."

Loved by Barbara & Austin Kilburn

In Memory of G. Mason Wallace

"Mase was the greatest guy in the world. He was more than my uncle...he was my pal, my golfing buddy, a big-time Golden lover especially of Brandy and Sierra, a humble Marine aviator, and a wonderful man!"

Donation by Mark Muir

In Memory of Oz Olsen

"Oz was a dear friend whom I miss very much. He and Jan had adopted Golden over the years."

Donation by Mary Masseur

In Memory of "Posie"

"Posie was a sweet, young, beautiful Golden girl."

Loved and achingly missed by Brooke Rudas
Donation by Joyce England

In Memory of "Dawson" aka "Fluffy"

"Dawson was nicknamed 'Fluffy' because of his very soft and luxurious fur. Dan is a very generous and kind-hearted man who took exceptional care of Dawson. Dan and Dawson had a very special bond and spent a lot of time together hiking and going for long walks. Dawson touched the lives of everyone who knew him. He was loved and will be missed very much."

Cherished and loved by Dan Fink
Donation by Debbie Yawn

In Memory of "Moose"

Donation by Dr. Cheryl Ramos/Pets Eternal Rest

In Memory of "Cody"

Donation by Dr. Cheryl Ramos/Pets Eternal Rest

In Memory of "Jake"

Donation by Dr. Cheryl Ramos/Pets Eternal Rest

In Memory of our beloved "Copper"

"...and the warmth he brought."

Loved by Linda Gibbons

In Tribute to "Blondie"

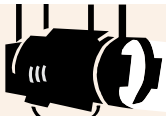
"When we got the call from Myke from NGRR to pick up 2 older Golden from the shelter, we jumped in the car to go get them. By the time we came home we were in love with Blondie and Ginger. We know that 10-12 year-old Blondie had a very happy, well-loved 14 months with us. She was a very special girl with a unique, cooperative, content personality and quite the character. She loved apples...the neighbor's apples! She sat next to the fence and made a crying/yelping sound to tell us to get those apples to her. She talked a lot, especially to Tom and knew the way to her happiest place, the nearby polo field. If we didn't make that right hand turn to go there, she'd raise loud, holy heck, barking in the back seat. Blondie crossed the Rainbow Bridge on August 7th. She was our treasure and will be greatly missed."

Missed and loved by Carol, Tom, and "Ginger" Bainbridge

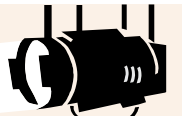
In Memory of "Roxy-Ann"

"Roxy-Ann was a sweet Golden Oldie and a wonderful family pet."

Cherished by Nicole Robinett
Donation by Julie Morsilli



Spotlight on Seniors



Bailey

Thank you to Bob Anderson for writing this and to Joan Green for submitting it.

Bailey is our third “Senior Golden” rescue. Yep, our third. We are what NGRR has referred to as (with the kindest possible meaning, of course!) “Serial Adopters.” Why is that? Because we have adopted not one, not two, but several Senior Golden Retrievers.

We intentionally choose Seniors because it’s all the Golden with none of the raising. Don’t get me wrong, because seriously, who DOESN’T love a Golden Retriever puppy? There’s a reason you see them in any ad where personality, intelligence, and “good times” are being conveyed. Seniors, however, augment all that adorableness with the added bonus of being potty-trained, knowing their manners, and being happy simply to have a place to call their own.

Bailey came to use when his family situation left him mostly outside and unattended. He had some minor health issues before



Kodi (left) and Bailey (right)

we adopted, but NGRR was on that like a five-year-old on ice cream. NGRR got everything taken care of, and Bailey was ready for a situation more in tune with his easygoing, lovable, and attention-sponge personality.

When Bailey first came to live with us, he was a little unsure of himself. The first several nights, he boxed himself into an absurdly small basket meant more for pool towels than as a dog bed. Over time though, he explored further until he became fully comfortable with his new home,

inside and out. Because he’s such a people dog (and really, what Golden isn’t?), Bailey always wants to be where the people are, even when that means in the pool. Bailey’s excitement at even the merest possibility of anyone going in the pool is such that he gathers all the tennis balls at the pool’s edge in preparation for the delight of getting to retrieve them.

Bailey shares the house with Kodi, another Senior Golden. Bailey and Kodi are the same age, get along well, and pal around the house and yard following people, toys, and, of course, treats. 🐾

Charley’s Story

Thank you to Jackie Hicks and Beth Yates for submitting this.



As I write this, Charley, our 8 year-old Golden adopted 3 weeks ago, is laying next to me with her nose on my leg. We will never know the story of her first 8 years, what experiences shaped her. We do know from past experience with adopting senior dogs that we sometimes wish for that. We will never know just how cute she was as a puppy or what she was taught that she is choosing to forget.

We won’t know why she crawls around on the bed rather than just getting up and moving from place to place. We won’t know why she wants to follow boys on skateboards or how she learned to send the right messages to our cat to keep herself safe. That’s the difficult part of adopting an older Golden, but the unknowns are minor compared to the joyful daily revelations we experience getting to know Charley.

While Charley came to us in an E-collar (designed so they can’t reach their stitches) after being spayed, having a large fatty tumor removed, and a two-year-old abscessed tooth removed, all thankfully handled by NGGR, she showed us her resilience, along with how she deals with stress. Understandably she was hesitant and guarded, but she was also curious about her surroundings, delighted to ride in the car, or roll around and be petted. Now, after three weeks, she’s showing us just how smart she is, how quickly she learns, how well-behaved she knows how to be. We’ve seen her play well with others, large dogs and small, and joyfully run around like a pup. We’ve seen how she wants to greet everyone she passes and expects them to, at least, respond with equal enthusiasm.

So, while we don’t know what Charley’s first 8 years were really like, we get to be a part of her story from now on. We get to watch her grow more and more confident of her place in our lives. We get to see her be a silly, goofy girl, relaxed and happy, and feeling safe. And, we get to feel her soft, warm body, her loving Golden spirit and her slightly wet nose next to us adding immeasurable joy to our story. 🐾



Chauncey Gets a New Life

Thank you to Margaret McNamara for writing this and to Jeanne Hanlon for submitting it.

Last September I received a call from NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue about fostering a 3 month-old puppy that was very, very sick. The puppy, named Chevy, had been rescued from the Animal Care and Control in San Francisco where his family had surrendered him and he was literally just clinging to life. Another story of "they couldn't handle his vet bills!" Chevy was just skin and bones, weighing in at 9 pounds. His situation was critical.

Not only did the puppy require special food and round-the-clock meds and feedings, he also needed to be fed almost standing on his hind legs and held upright for about 20 minutes after every feeding.

After being fostered in the city for a couple of weeks (he needed to be close to the vet that had been treating him) they transferred him to a long-term foster. And that is how Chevy came into my house and my heart.

As it turns out Chevy had a congenital disease called Mega Esophagus (ME) and a critical case of aspiration pneumonia. Mega Esophagus literally means an unusual enlargement of the esophagus; the duct that carries food to the stomach.

This enlargement renders the system unable to close the valve that keeps food in once ingested and allows some of the food and drink to leak into the lungs upon repeated ingestion and expulsion causing the deadly lung infection we know as aspiration pneumonia.

Once under my care I researched Mega Esophagus and learned about the condition and ways to alleviate the problem. There is a special chair for dogs with ME called a Bailey chair. It is a sort of high chair for dogs. They sit in it and are kept upright to help food settle in the stomach instead of being expelled.



In the meantime Chevy was so tiny, he was fed on a kitchen step-stool and my husband and I took turns holding him. After about 3 days at our house Chevy was a little better and started playing my own 5 month-old Golden, Renly. Chevy continued to improve and became inseparable from Renly. They looked so funny together, Renly a big

brawny Golden and poor little scrappy, scrawny Chevy, wrestling on the floor. It was then that I decided Chevy should



have the best opportunity we could give him and be scrappy no more! Thus I started with changing his name to Chauncey to ring in his new opportunity-filled life! I designed him a Bailey chair and had my contractor build it. I painted it and decorated it for him and he was then fed in his very own throne-like chair! He did so well that when it came time to adopt him out we were afraid no one would take care of him

the way we did and we found we would be worried sick about him and could not give him up....and thus he became Renly's brother....forever.

Chauncey is now a little over 1 year old, healthy, and still running around with his brother Renly. Chauncey loves the ledge in our pool and we can't keep him off it! He loves cooling his feet in it and splashing about!

Without NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue stepping in to help Chevy he would have been dead in no time. The shelters simply do not have the time or resources needed to help a dog with such a serious illness.

NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue helped provide the immediate care Chevy needed to keep him alive and give him a chance and we gave Chauncey his forever home! 🐾

Danville Fest

Thank you to Peg Aten for submitting this.

Contra Costa County NGRR has been a part of the Danville Fest for many years. In June, NGRR was there with lovely Golden Retrievers greeting people, giving out lots of Golden love, and just having a great 2 days. And they were there again at the end of October. This is a great way for people to see NGRR out in the community. Thank you Cynthia, Carol, all the volunteers, and their Golden who came out to help. 🐾



Jimmy Chew's Story

Thanks to Michael Carsch for writing this and to Ken Raith for submitting it.

It was two years ago that our beloved Petey left for the Rainbow Bridge. Petey had been a rescue that traveled across country with us as we moved from Miami to Chicago to Colorado and points in between. Always ready to “go for a ride in Mommy’s car,” Petey was a truly special Golden Retriever...or is that redundant?

When we settled in Northern California, we decided it was time to once again look for a faithful and fun companion. Our thoughts turned to Petey, and our first Golden, Star, and there was no doubt in our minds what our next dog would be. However, where



to find such a friend? A breeder was never considered as there are so many animals that need to be rescued, but finding a Golden isn't always an easy job! We were fortunate to contact NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue and our friend Ken Raith was quick to assist us by explaining the program to save wonderful animals by bringing them from Taiwan!

This was a new and unexpected experience however we had to make a quick decision as a new shipment of Golden Retrievers was due in two weeks. Perusing the choices, we were like kids in a candy store – should we take this one or that one? Look at the smile! Look at the coat! Look at the personality shown across thousands of miles in a small picture and a medical record.

We decided that Jimmy was our choice. He was small, scrawny, shaved with a little lion's tail left, and honestly didn't even have the sparkling personality that others might have shown. But it was a life worth rescuing...and something told me that he would turn from the ugly duckling to the beautiful swan! He was also an English Creme Golden, which

means he is shorter than a traditional Golden but has a beautiful cream coat. He is definitely a showstopper when he is out for a walk.

The night of August 31, 2014 was a special night for all of us meeting at SFO. Waiting in eager anticipation with other new “parents,” volunteers, and well-wishers, the excitement in the air was palatable! Waiting and waiting... when would the doors open to allow us to meet our new children?! Finally the doors did open and the crates came out to the delight of all of us. We quickly looked for a crate marked “Jimmy” and there it was! How would he take to us? How was his health and how did he survive the long trip in the crate? And how badly did he have to pee?

Following a procession of crates to the parking lot, we spoke to our new friend and shared excitement about getting to hold him. Never did it occur to us that he had no idea of English...but those of us who know and love our Golden Retrievers know they respond to love expressed in tone of voice, touch, hugs, and kisses! The door was opened and Jimmy came out very timidly...scared, disoriented, and full of wonder that makes a Golden so special. And yes, he did pee!

It was a long drive back to Napa with my wife sitting in the back seat holding and speaking to Jimmy. We discussed whether Jimmy was the appropriate name for him, and while we liked it, it didn't seem complete. So, after careful thought – and perhaps in contemplation of whether he would chew, we decided on “Jimmy Chew” – the name fit and it seemed an appropriate fit.

The first few weeks with Jimmy were difficult. He had a bit of an eye infection but thanks to Jill's good advice, we brought it under control quickly. The change in diet led to some significant issues with his intestines, but that too passed over time. He wasn't fully housetrained...or just wanted to mark his territory...but there were a few accidents indoors that rapidly turned into an appropriate outdoor habit. And perhaps because of his upbringing in Taiwan, he was only interested in



doing his business on the sidewalk or driveway. Grass didn't appeal to him!

Jimmy's coat came in beautifully and he did become the swan that I had predicted. He still has some interesting issues that we deal with almost a year later. Walking on a leash is not his strongest suit! He enjoys it until he senses that it's time to go home and then he “freezes” in place and in spite of various methods, we still haven't overcome that issue. He isn't a retriever in the sense of tennis ball crazy but he does LOVE the doggy park and the many smells and new friends that he makes whenever he goes. Jimmy hasn't yet met a dog he doesn't like either.

About four weeks ago, we decided to take the plunge and “foster” another Golden that had been rescued from Modesto. We were warned that he had never been away from his mother but at three months it was time to separate the pup and mother. He was a foster for a very short period of time until we realized that Cooper (as we named him) had stolen our hearts – and everything else he could get his mouth on! Having had two Golden Retrievers before, we also recognized that they keep each other company and play with each other continually as well. However it does require a LOT of effort!

So here we are – Jimmy Chew and his new brother Cooper are constantly under foot, the house is a mess, we juggle feeding, watering and bathroom habits, and toys are everywhere. It is indeed a full-time job and the pay is lousy! However, there truly is no greater love than a Golden for his masters and that love is returned even at the 3am trips outside to coax Cooper not to pee in the house.

I am happy to report progress on that front...but our lives will again be much sweeter with two beautiful dogs at our feet and waking up to a new day full of surprises and wonderment! 🐾

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

Thank you Peg Aten for submitting this and Elena and Jane for all that you did.

Nicky, now 8 years old, was adopted by Elena Natividad and Jane Chapa. His life started out very badly born in a very bad situation of a "backyard breeder." The mother dog had Giardia that left her so sick, she couldn't lactate to feed her newborn puppies. She had 11 puppies and they were literally starving to death.

NGRR rescued them and took them to the vet right away. Sadly, not all the pups made it. They had to be bottle-fed. Elena and Jane came every week to help.

Finally the pups were strong enough to be adopted. They took Nicky home and his life has been very good. Lucky boy. 🐾



Left to right: Hope (Joan Green's Golden), Nicky, and Sophie, Nicky's sister.

Nicky

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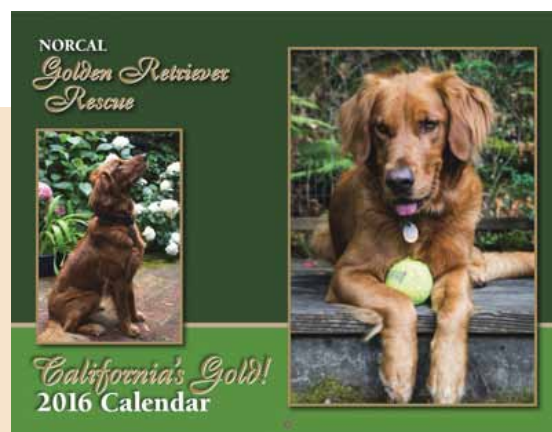
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HELLO! Our new board has been very busy since March. We have been updating our documents with the state non-profit laws, preparing to launch our new website, all the while our trusty team of volunteers have been working events and fundraisers on top of continuing to rescue, care for and adopt out our beloved Golden Retrievers. Whew! We have big plans for 2016! If you would like to get involved with NGRR or have any comments, we would love to hear from you. I'd love to hear from you! You can email me directly at gaylejaxon@gmail.com.

Gayle Jackson, Board President



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NGRR has teamed up with Second Chance Greetings to create a variety of unique birthday, friendship, get well, and everyday greeting cards featuring wonderful rescue Golden Retrievers like yours. And 50% of the proceeds will go directly to NGRR, so you can send a card to someone you love, and support a cause you love at the same time. Shop now at secondchancegreetings.com

