



# Golden Tales

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February 2021

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## A Message From Our President



Hello Friends,

This year has been slow in terms of new dogs coming in. We have had six dogs come into GRR with five of those being our Turkey dogs. You can read more about them [here](#). All dogs are doing well in their foster pending adoption homes. Applications are temporarily closed right now as we process those that are currently in our pipeline and we remain ready and willing to help Goldens in need.

I want to talk a little about something that has come up a lot over the past several months

from many of our foster families and adopters. That is, how do you deal with the possibility of separation anxiety that may be created as so many people are home now more than ever. This is a very real concern and something that pet owners really need to get a handle on before it becomes a problem.

Pet owners can start by leaving their pets for brief periods of time, even if it is just to go in the yard or the garage for a few minutes. Do not make a big deal about leaving and don't make a big deal when you come back. Gradually increase the time your pets are on their own. You can offer a treat when you leave that is something of real high value that they only get at the time of you leaving. If being gone longer is necessary, you can use things like stuffed, frozen Kongs or similar food dispensers to occupy them. I often hear "we really do not have any place to go". I recommend that you start with taking a short drive around the block and increase the duration. Setting up a camera in the main areas of the home is a great way to see what goes on when you are gone.

Begin to slowly adjust your schedules if you know going back to working outside the home is coming. Do things like walks and feeding at the same times you will be doing them when working away from home will be necessary again. Work on your dog being comfortable with being alone in different rooms of your home. Also be mindful that it may be necessary and is often recommended that you arrange for a pet sitter/walker to come to your home while you will be gone for several hours of the day. You can implement this into your routine, so your pet gets used to a new person in the home before you will be gone all day. The use of training, enrichment activities and calming tools are a great way to work on your dog being relaxed before you must leave them alone. Remember, this needs to be a gradual process so you set your pets up for success.

I hope that you and your families are doing well and staying healthy. Happy Valentine's Day!

Warm regards,  
Michelle Goldberg

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Do you have questions or comments for the Board? We value your input. Please send a note to [grrboard@grr-tx.com](mailto:grrboard@grr-tx.com) and include **Questions For The Board** in the subject line. We hope to hear from you! The next board meeting is **March 20, 2021**.

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**Great Things Come in Pairs! Honey and Jo Jo**



**Honey (20-077)** and **Jo Jo (20-078)** are a senior mother/daughter bonded pair who are waiting for their forever home. Both are sweet, calm girls who love hanging out with their humans. They are housebroken, good-natured and LOVE going for daily walks. Honey and JoJo need a loving family who will enjoy these senior gals, give them lots of love and attention and keep them together.



Honey (left) and Jo Jo (below) were owned by an older couple whose living situation changed due to health challenges and they were no longer able to care for Honey and Jo Jo. The couple gave the pair to family members but, after a couple of years, the family's living situation changed and they needed to rehome the pair. GRR to the rescue and since they were older and bonded, we brought both into GRR care. They are currently together in a foster home and need a forever home where they can live out their lives together.

Their ideal forever home would be a family who is content to just love two low-key senior dogs. They have been bounced around a bit so they need a forever home who will ensure their lives are truly "golden."

If you are interested in these sweet girls and would like to learn more about Honey and Jo Jo, please contact [Michelle](#) or [Paula](#).



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## Meet Our 2021 Turkey Dogs



### It's Turkey Dog time!!

Our five Goldens from Istanbul arrived in Houston on January 22nd. They were met by GRR Volunteers, spent the night at the Houston La Quinta Inn and then arrived in Austin the next day for vetting. They are now in their GRR foster or foster-to-adopt homes and are doing wonderfully..

(Left) At Buc-ee's on the way to Austin.

We are so excited about our Turkey dogs who are on their way to wonderful, changed lives;

### Dream 21-002T

Dream is a spayed female approximately 3 years old from the city of Izmir. She is very sweet and social.

"She loves her home filled with tennis balls, bones and lots of attention. She would play fetch all day if she could. Lots of cuddling is a must for little miss Dream,"



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### Truth 21-003T

Truth is a spayed female approximately 9-10 years old and was found in the forest, abandoned by her breeder owner. She is very friendly.

From her fosters: "She scarfs her food still. She is calm/low energy, but not fearful of new people. She gained 3 pounds in under 3 days! She loves to roll in the grass every time we go out!"

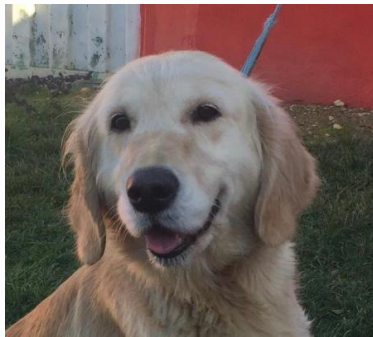


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#### **Harmony 21-004T**

Harmony is 2 years old from a shelter in the city of Izmir. She has a laughing face, she is extremely social and enjoys the company of all humans and all dogs.

Her fosters say: "She can be a little shy sometimes but seems to have good self-confidence, is curious, has average energy, likes to play; a bit stubborn in the backyard when told to go or come back if she doesn't want to."



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#### **Honor 21-005T**

Honor is a 3 year-old from a small shelter in the south of Istanbul. She is very social and friendly.

From her foster: "Honor is calm, although after a 36 hour bug, she did stretch up on her hind legs to get a slice of pizza off the stove. I consider that a good sign given that she did not eat for 36 hours from Thursday to Friday. She is very chill and she will come out of her shell in due time! She loves when I brush her coat and we are bonding very well.

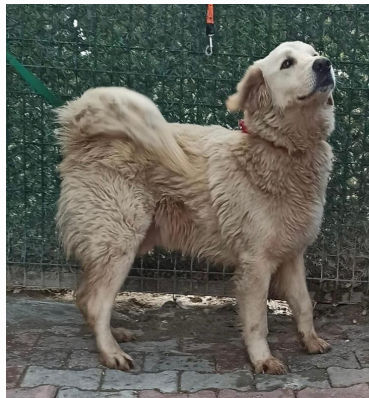
She is like a stealth fighter jet! Fast, quiet, elusive in a second. Very smart!"



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**Peace 21-006T**

Peace is from Istanbul and is a 3 year-old neutered male who was found in the forest. From his fosters: " Peace loves to smile and has a wonderfully golden demeanor! He loves being touched and belly rubs and seems to be a super fast learner! He loves being outside and alerts us of squirrel sightings He is a super sweet LOVER boy!! He loves being around Phoenix and his new people! He is incredibly sweet and adjusting nicely! "



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# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



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### **Sadie 20-026 Our Hospice Permanent Foster**



Sadie is a Permanent Foster due to severe kidney disease/renal failure. But no one seems to have told Sadie as she continues to feel great in spite of her kidney disease. The good news is that with prescription renal food, she is slowly gaining weight and her kidney values have not changed since July 2020!

Sadie is peppy and lively and enjoying life on the lake, having become an excellent paddle boarder. She has the sweetest, most wonderful personality and lives each day to the fullest. She loves kids and seems to melt into them for attention. Sadie plays well with other dogs and she has lots of friends---doggie and human---at the dog park. She is respectful of the family cat. Sadie is outgoing and is everyone's best friend. She adores her family and is basking in lots of love and attention from her foster family.



Sadie is three and a half years old and we have no idea how long Sadie's life will be, but we do know that she's happy, enjoys daily walks and hanging out with her foster family. For Sadie, every day is truly special.

If you would like to become Sadie's Golden Angel by sponsoring or co-sponsoring her for her medical care through our Permanent Foster program, please go [here](#) for more information and to sign up. Sponsorship is \$500 per year and Co-sponsorship is \$250 per year.

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### **Truman 13-037**

**Anne Williams**



Yesterday our "Little Man" Truman 13-037 crossed the Rainbow Bridge. He came to GRR and fostered with Candy O'Connor. He was adopted twice but returned. In each case it was a matter of the couple expecting perfection from Truman and not giving him time to adjust to

his new surroundings, which is so important. He returned to live with Candy and was a true GRR ambassador. He was always willing to welcome a new dog into her house.

As Candy's GRR foster teammate, I would take Truman on walks. He would come to our house on many occasions. When Candy passed away in 2017, he came to live at our house and we adopted him. He had a pack buddy Missy Luna 16-034 to live with and take walks with. Life was good. Lots and lots of love.

We want to thank Emily Oliver for the many cool laser treatments that she gave Truman these last three years to help with his arthritis. Now Truman has crossed the bridge and we are sure he was greeted by Candy. A welcome reunion.

He was a special fur baby.

**Editor's Note:** Truman came to GRR in July, 2013 at the age of five. Truman was a Permanent Foster, fostered by Candy O'Connor until Candy's passing, when he was adopted by the Williams family in 2017. Learn more about the Golden Angel Sponsorship Program for our Permanent Fosters [here](#).

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## How Goldens Show You Love Rover.com



### 7 Surprising Ways that Dogs Show Affection

It's easy for humans to show affection for their dogs. A belly rub, treat, or snuggle session on the couch says "I love you" to our pets. But do you ever wonder how your dog shows you they care?

Thankfully, dogs do communicate clearly, as long as you know what to look for. From nose to tail, dogs use their bodies to convey how they feel. Read on to learn the ways that dogs show affection.

#### Nosing

Does your dog ever come up and nudge you with their nose? This can be a sign of affection, a way for your dog to say "Hey, I like you!" Of course, nose-nudging is also a way

for dogs to seek attention, or to let you know you're in their way. You'll know your dog is expressing affection if the nose-nudge is accompanied by a soulful stare, or leads to more full-body contact.

### **Eye Contact**

Eye contact is an intimate act. For many dogs, it's a display of trust and affection. If your dog maintains eye contact with you on the reg, they're showing a high degree of attachment. When your dog looks at you, their brain releases oxytocin, which is the same hormone that helps new mothers bond with their babies. Your brain does the same thing. Note: affectionate eye contact is different from threatening eye contact. We don't recommend having a stare-down with an unknown or nervous dog. Instead, look for opportunities to make and hold eye contact with your dog throughout the day. Think of it as building trust over time.

### **Sighing**

Does your dog ever stretch out next to you and let out a long, happy sigh? Soft vocalizations like sighs and low groans are signs of contentment in dogs.

If your dog snuggles up and sighs, it means they feel safe and comfortable by your side.

Continue reading [here](#).

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## **Once a GRR Dog - Always a GRR Dog!**



### **RUSTY 13-101**

We recently received a call from the adoptive home of Rusty, a Lab mix who came in with his brother Dale back in 2013. Rusty's adopted mom had become ill and wasn't able to care for him any longer. While she was hospitalized, her brother took Rusty to the local animal shelter.

We tracked him down at the shelter and he is now back in the care of Gold Ribbon Rescue. Rusty is fostering with a long-time GRR member and is in a wonderful, quiet home while he recovers from his ordeal. Both the shelter and his foster report that Rusty had not stopped shaking since arriving at the shelter.

We're confident that under his foster mom's loving care, Rusty will recover from his horrible experience and will thrive in a new adoptive home. Gold Ribbon Rescue makes a promise that once we rescue a dog, they are a GRR dog for life - no questions asked. In fact, if they leave their adoptive home, we insist on it.

Promise made, promise kept!

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## **In Memoriam McKinley 17-100**



**In memory of 17-100 McKinley, a Golden among Goldens**

I was fortunate to adopt Mac at the age of eleven; we had 3 1/2 wonderful years together. I have a soft spot for seniors, and love a big teddy bear personality, so I hit the adoption jackpot with McKinley. Car rides, walks, snacks and snuggles were what brought him joy. The house is so empty without his energy.

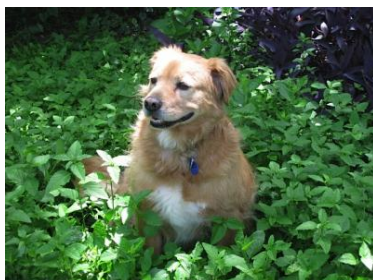
While the time may be short, never underestimate the incredible joy adopting a senior can bring and the love you can provide in their final years. Thank you GRR for the gift you gave me.

McKinley victorious.



**Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...**

**McKinley 17-100  
Truman 13-037  
Charlie 15-004**



**Truman 13-037**



**McKinley 17-100**



**Charlie 15-004**



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Send comments or suggestions to: [newsletter@grr-tx.com](mailto:newsletter@grr-tx.com)

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