



Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Rehoming
Golden Retrievers in Central Texas

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January 2020

A Message From Our President



Dear Friends

Welcome 2020!

I'm feeling reflective; thinking about the 3,265 Goldens and almost-Goldens we've helped since our incorporation in November 1998. Some came from loving families due to death, divorce, finances, or time limitations. Most of the dogs were homeless; many suffering from starvation, painful injuries, or severe health issues. GRR was their safety net; their chance toward happiness and security.

Despite our 2019 dog numbers being the lowest in twenty years – a trend nationwide among Golden Retriever rescues; our medical expenses remain as high as always. Thankfully, our loyal donors provide funds for veterinary care: leg surgeries, hip surgeries, treatment for Cushing' Disease, Parvo, Distemper, Mange, dental extractions and heartworm treatment.

The day after Christmas, #19-112 Steffi required a \$1,000 splenectomy (surgical removal of the spleen), which saved her life. We can save Steffi and others like her, because of your generous donations. For example, our annual Tree of Hope campaign raised over \$15,000 (Wow!) Thank you all.

2019 Year End Statistics:

- 120 new dogs; 15 of them rescued from meat markets in China
- 6 additional dogs from prior years were returned and re-homed
- 60% required spays/neuters
- 76% purebreds, and 24% mixes
- Age range: 8 weeks to 15+ years
- 12% heartworm positive (very low)
- 30+ foster and permanent foster dogs in care at any given time
- 330 applications processed (note disparity between applications and available dogs)

I am humbled and thankful for all of you; jumping to action, fostering dog after dog, spending your precious free time at your computers or on the phone or in the car to

rescue a Golden. Look at all we've done. It is miraculous.

The Best to Everyone in 2020.

As Ever,
Margo

Do you have questions or comments for the Board? We value your input as members and volunteers. Please send a note to 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 **January 19, 2020**

New Mailing Address for GRR

Due to the amount of activity and lack of parking at our downtown P.O. Box location, it has been harder and harder to get into the facility to check our mail. Thus, we have moved! The new mailing address is:

1101 W 34th St #336, Austin TX 78705

Donations, adoption checks and mail addressed to the Board should be sent to this address. Completed adoption contracts should continue to be sent to Margo's address. This change of address is effective immediately.

Note: This is only a mailing address and **not** a shelter address. All of Gold Ribbon Rescue dogs are placed in foster homes.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, at no cost to you. Gold Ribbon Rescue, recently received a quarterly donation of \$491.08 thanks to our members and supporters shopping at smile.amazon.com.

To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of:

- \$5,945.00 to Gold Ribbon Rescue
- \$156,109,910 to all charities

Thank you for supporting Gold Ribbon Rescue by shopping at smile.amazon.com. We really appreciate it!

Happy New Year!



Our Hanukkah Babies

The new year is beginning with a boom!

Sneaking in right before the end of Hanukkah were three little girls from Gonzales, TX. GRR was contacted by the Gonzales Animal Shelter asking if we could help with them. The shelter reported that all of the girls were dumped right across the street from the shelter. Since Gonzales is a small rural shelter, their chance of survival was next to nothing without our intervention. The shelter director was so happy that we could take them that she delivered them to Converse Veterinary Hospital, on our behalf, the morning of December 28th.

Meet our three Hanukkah babies Dreidl (19-116), Menorah (19-117 and Latke (19-118) who became GRR pups on December 28th. They are all about six months old and have huge paws. Latke and Menorah may be littermates, but not Dreidl. Regardless, they are all GRR dogs now and will go on to to live a great life.

Welcome to GRR little ladies!



The Hanukkah Girls Freedom Ride



Dreidl 19-116

Dreidl 19-116



Dreidl 19-116 in her foster home



Menorah 19-117

Menorah 19-117



Latke 19-118

No-Look Reinforcement Training

From Whole Dog Journal

By Nancy Tucker, CPDT-KA-
Published: November 26, 2019
Updated: November 25, 2019



Remember when you were a kid and your mom would catch you doing something you weren't supposed to be doing, even though she wasn't even looking at you? How did she do that? It was magic!

When we were little, we thought our parents must have eyes on the back of their heads, and this may well have influenced our behavior. We could never be certain that an authority figure like a parent or teacher couldn't see what we were doing, so in order to avoid punishment we might try to be on our best behavior, just in case.

If you've done any training with your dog at all, you have probably managed to train your dog to pay attention to you when you are paying attention to him, as seen in the first photo. Its even more advantageous to teach him to be attentive to you when you have to take your eyes off him, in order to manage some other task. Read on! We'll show you how!

The same principle can be applied to positive reinforcement techniques. A child or in our case, a dog, can learn that he can be rewarded for good behavior even if the behavior takes place while a parent isn't looking directly at him. Let's consider how we can use this "magic" to obtain and hold our dog's attention, even in the midst of some pretty exciting distractions.

WATCH ME WATCH YOU

You may have learned to reward your dog for looking at you or for tossing unprompted glances your way. This important behavior is often referred to as "checking in," and I

encourage everyone to reward it generously and frequently so that your dog learns to look to you for guidance in any number of situations.

Continue reading [here](#):

Happy New Year from Kimberly Thomas' Jilly

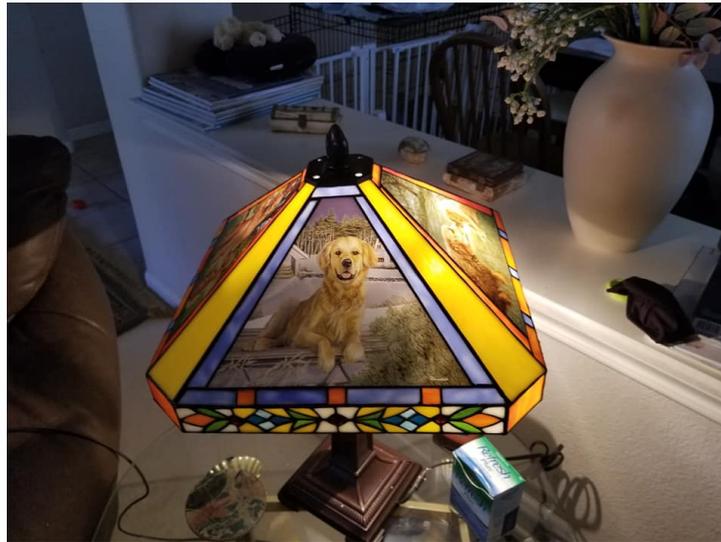


Wishing your treat jars to be full, your mornings start with breakfast, your naps plentiful, your squeakers squeaky and may your floor always have fur. Here's to 2020!
♥☐Jilly

The Gold Ribbon Rescue Holiday Party December 15, 2019 at The Hive in Bee Cave







**Helping Rescue Dogs
Transition to New
Homes**



Many dogs get dropped off at shelters more than once, often because the behaviors that were behind the first relinquishment continue in the new home. Common reasons for the initial abandonment most often revolve around the owner's inability or unwillingness to give the animal an appropriate level of care, and include:

- Lack of obedience training
- Lack of adequate veterinary care, including spaying or neutering
- The owner did not anticipate the time and attention a dog requires each day
- Housebreaking issues

Specific behavior problems described by owners who returned their adopted pets to shelters include:

- Fearfulness
- Once stray dogs that persist in straying activities
- Puppies with more and bigger behavioral problems than older dogs
- Excessive barking
- Aggression toward other dogs

Dr. Becker's Comments:

Most canine behavior problems can be resolved with effort, time and patience. When a dog is surrendered more than once to a shelter, it means at least two sets of owners weren't able to help the poor pup make the transition from rescue dog to family pet.

Each successive surrender decreases a dog's chance of finding a suitable forever home. That's why it's so important for adoptive pet parents to understand what their new dog may need in order to reach his full potential as a beloved family pet.

New Home Jitters

Each rescued or adopted dog will react a bit differently when introduced to a new home, but common behaviors can include:

- Fearful body language and facial expressions
- Finding places to hide
- Wariness and general inhibited behavior
- Lack of appetite

This conduct may or not linger as your dog adapts to his new family and living situation. You should keep in mind your new pet's personality and temperament may not emerge on his first day home, or even during the first week or two.

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Our New Year's Eve Puppy - Moose (19-120)

Meet Moose, our last GRR dog of the year. We don't know much about him yet, other than that he is about 4 months old and came into Austin Animal Care with a sibling who is in the process of being adopted. He is currently in the loving care of Lisa and David Savage who relates that he is a shoe stealer!

Welcome to your wonderful new life Moose. What a great way to end 2019!



In Memoriam - Colonel (18-052)

Deb Alme

Last night 12/11/19) I said farewell to The Colonel. I knew when I adopted him he would not be around long, given his age and health issues. In the short time I had him he went from being a scrawny, mostly bald dog to a full-on shedding machine. He had some good times with his spaniel friends and foster siblings. He started to go downhill recently and I knew it was time to let him go. Anne and I sent him on his journey with a belly full of hot dogs and sausage and lots of love and hugs. He was loved by so many. I know he is in a much better place now. No more pain and running free. Thanks to our GRR family for all the love and support.



The Colonel enjoying his Christmas gifts last Christmas. So happy!



The Colonel visiting Santa this Christmas. He's been a very good boy!



Thoughts, Prayers and Remembrance...

Quincy (16-023)
Colonel (18-052)
Brixie (14-011)
Jackson (11-008)



New sletter Editor: Dorian Olsen

Send comments or suggestions to: newsletter@grr-tx.com

The Gold Ribbon Rescue newsletter is published monthly. Articles reflect the opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect GRR policy. Gold Ribbon Rescue and its Editor(s) seek to publish accurate material, but neither assumes responsibility in the event of a claim of loss or damage resulting from publication.

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