



Visit Us On The Web...

www.grrcc.com

Become a member of
GRRCC today and help us
continue to rescue Goldens
that need our help.
Dues are \$20 per family,
per year. Our rescue
Goldens will appreciate you!

Remit to:
GRRCC
P.O. Box 471931
Charlotte, NC 28247

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Golden Moments

Published by the
Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte

*Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte
"Our Dogs Are Golden"*

March - May 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters of GRRCC,

This is my first official letter since my election as President of the board at a recent meeting. I wish to thank the board members for their support and confidence in placing me in this position and I appreciate it. I also thank them for the time and talent they contribute on an ongoing basis.

Let me also thank those wonderful members who worked at our 2nd annual silent auction led by Chairwoman Elisabeth Hudson and Co-Chair Brandi Gayle. We raised needed monies for the Club and had a great time doing it. A lot of hard work went into this function and all who participated, donated and/or purchased any items are appreciated.

We have much to be thankful for with the Club. We have a wonderful board and volunteers, but, as always, need more assistance to lessen the load. We continue to look for foster parents so that we can give some relief to many of the folks who always seem to have a foster Golden at their home. We have a particular need for homes that can keep a dog quiet and leash walked for a period of time as they recover from spay/neuter surgery or receive heartworm treatment. Much of our newsletter this month is devoted to our fostering needs and I encourage you to read the fostering stories we have included and see if you, or someone you know and trust, can come to the aid of these wonderful dogs.

We also need volunteers who could take on one or two fund-raising projects a year, again to lessen the load and to get some different input. We have received some outstanding suggestions from many of our volunteers and will continue to welcome them.

Have you paid your dues yet? Have you thought about making a donation to the Club? We, unfortunately, will always be seeking monies for our wonderful Goldens so we can continue to care for them until they find their forever homes. If you can afford to assist and do so, thanks from the bottom of my heart. Perhaps you can't help with your checkbook, but can help with volunteering. No one is turned down who wishes to help.

Spread the word to your friends, business associates and acquaintances that GRRCC is looking for additional members and supporters. All you need to do is ask!

Continue to check out the website, www.grrcc.com, for more information about the Club and our calendar of events.

Best to all,

Gene Fitzpatrick

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Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte
c/o Ellen Langford
17529 Youngblood Road
Charlotte, NC 28278

Adopted Dogs

2/1/07 to 5/1/07

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Adopted Date</u> | <u>Forever Home</u> |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Stevie Ray (now Cal) | 2 yr | 2/16/2007 | Thad Reece & Allison Miller |
| Diesel (now Lincoln) | 7 mo | 2/18/2007 | Dan & Cheryl Welbourne |
| Dugan | 5 1/2 yr | 2/24/2007 | Betty & Jim Frank Henderson |
| Breezy (now Maggie) | 9 mo | 2/25/2007 | Rocco & Kathleen Marcello |
| Lucy (now Annie) | 2 yr | 3/8/2007 | Mike and Judy Quickel |
| Stewart (now Cody) | 4 yr | 3/13/2007 | Jim & Barbie Northrup |
| Mandy | 9 yr | 3/16/2007 | Mike & Patty Ruff |
| Sugar (now Maisie) | 1 yr | 3/24/2007 | Larry & Emily Andress |
| Max | 2 yr | 3/28/2007 | Don & Brenda Hanes |
| Bart (now Barkley) | 10 mo | 3/31/2007 | John & Stacey Kennedy |
| Ben (now Sam) | 2 yr | 4/5/2007 | Deb Waldron & Kevin Hammond |
| Walker (now Harvey) | 5 yr | 4/7/2007 | Natalie Fixmer & Vanessa Bowman-Allen |
| Fritz (now Mac) | 3 yr | 4/7/2007 | Kerry & Spencer Stecher |
| Brandi | 9 yr | 4/14/2007 | Bill Krupicka |
| Lacey | 5 1/2 yr | 4/25/2007 | Katie & Mike Kern |

Upcoming Events

American Cancer Society Dogswalk Against Cancer - June 9th, 9 a.m., Metro Paws

GRRCC Grooming Day - June 16th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., City Dog USA



A "sea" of 94 Golden Retrievers marched in the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Parade

Volunteer and Membership Forms

Mail-In-Membership Form

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

I have adopted a GRRCC dog(s) yes no

GRRCC Dogs' name(s) _____

Other dogs' names _____

I am enclosing \$20.00 for my membership dues.

Please notify us if this is a new address.

If you would like to send a donation to GRRCC, please see the choices below. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

A donation to GRRCC for _____

Casey's Miracle Fund _____

Denver's Senior Fund _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To Thank _____

Volunteer Form

If you would like to volunteer your time to the rescue of these special Golden Retrievers, please let us know by choosing one or more of the following:

Foster Home Fundraising

Transportation

Other specify _____

All checks should be made **payable to GRRCC** and **mailed to:**

GRRCC
P.O. Box 471931
Charlotte, NC 28247-1931

GRRCC – Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte is a volunteer-staffed, non-profit organization that rescues and places for adoption, unwanted, abused, neglected or abandoned Golden Retrievers. The "orphans" we receive are given necessary veterinary care, and boarding or a foster home, until a good permanent home can be found.

Each prospective member agrees to abide by GRRCC's Constitution and By-Laws.

The **Golden Retriever Rescue Club of Charlotte** would like to thank the following very special businesses for the care and support they have given to our organization:

- A Barking Boutique*
- A Dog's Best Friend*
- Carolina Veterinary Specialists*
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Control*
- City Dog USA*
- Club K-9 of Charlotte*
- Fido & Fifi's Grooming Boutique*
- LakeCross Veterinary Hospital*
- Mint Hill Animal Clinic*
- Pineville Pet Quarters*
- Queen City K-9 – Ted Vande Woude*
- Animal Hospital of Statesville*
- Steele Creek Animal Hospital*
- Stoney Creek Animal Hospital – Dr. Rick Beldgreen*
- Top Honors Kennel*
- Union County Sheriff's Office – Animal Services Bureau*

Thanks to Our Volunteers!!!

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Bark in the Park | Grooming Day |
| Diane Drinan & Doug Vannah with Buttercup & Connor | Paula Barr |
| Denise Frisco with Abby | Bodee Corby |
| Mandy James with Lady | Wylyn Doherty |
| Shari Martin with Millie | Diane Drinan & Doug Vannah |
| Meg Roach | Ellen Langford |
| Norman, Valerie & Anthony | Emily & Chris Lucado |
| Sancibrian with Daisy & Riley | Joe Neal |
| Justine Scruggs | Lynnea Pulver |
| Michelle & Jason Thibeau | Gary Rhinesmith |
| | Meg Roach |
| | Brenda Sullivan |
| Bathing and Grooming | Have a Heart Dinner |
| Jack Krizman | Natalie Armstrong |
| | Lesa Babb |
| Foster Homes | Diane Drinan |
| Laura & Brian Confoy | Gene Fitzpatrick |
| Bodee Corby | Meg Roach |
| Wylyn & Mike Doherty | |
| Stacy & Bryan Draper | Home Visits |
| Diane Drinan & Doug Vannah | Bodee Corby |
| Gwyn & Rick Fincher | Wylyn Doherty |
| Gene Fitzpatrick | Diane Drinan |
| Joshua & Julie Hastings | Ellen Langford |
| Julie & Scott Jackson | Jackie Levin |
| Tom & Carol Kiernan | Amy Tincher |
| Julie & Ryan Maloney | |
| Brian & Carolyn Mullen | Phone Volunteers |
| Michelle Nugent | Wylyn Doherty |
| Jen Thomas | Michele Emmrich |
| Deb Waldron | Emily Lucado |
| Andrea Walser & Adrienne Riley | Linda Nexsen |
| Pineville Pet Quarters | Brenda Sullivan |
| Vande Woude Bed & Biscuit | Tammi Hellman |
| | Amy Tincher |
| General GRRCC Administration | Amy Virkler |
| Michelle Middleton | |
| Golden Gala Auction | Transportation |
| Gwyn Fincher | Bodee Corby |
| Brandi Gayle | Wylyn Doherty |
| Elisabeth Hudson | Diane Drinan & Doug Vannah |
| The Purnells | Brandi Gayle |
| | Ellen Langford |
| | Jackie Levin |
| Web Services | Emily Lucado |
| Nancy Truesdale | Jen Thomas |

2007 GRRCC Board Members

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| President | |
| Gene Fitzpatrick | Gene@grrcc.com |
| Vice President | |
| Ellen Langford | Ellen@grrcc.com |
| Secretary | |
| Lynnea Pulver | Lynnea@grrcc.com |
| Treasurer | |
| Gwyn Fincher | Gwyn@grrcc.com |
| Adoption Coordinator | |
| Bodee Corby | Bodee@grrcc.com |
| Intake Coordinator | |
| Wylyn Doherty | Wylyn@grrcc.com |
| Fund-raising Coordinator | |
| Brandi Gayle | Brandi@grrcc.com |
| Volunteer Coordinator | |
| Meg Roach | Meg@grrcc.com |
| Board Members | |
| BJ Hendrix | BJ@grrcc.com |
| Lesia Babb | Lesia@grrcc.com |
| Diane Drinan | Diane@grrcc.com |
| Emily Lucado | Emily @grrcc.com |

A Tribute to Dallas Malm

Dallas, our Golden Retriever, died just a few days after Christmas. My family and I loved him very much. Dallas was always full of pep and lived his life with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Dallas had only one good eye, but that just made us love him all the more. Dallas gave us an extraordinary amount of love and affection. He was a wonderful dog that you wanted to hug all the time. The day that he died, I cried until I could cry no more. The pain of his loss is devastating. Our lives will never be the same without him.

*Sincerely,
Jerry and Antoinette Malm
and Jason*

Thank You to Our Donors

| | |
|---|---|
| Jean Anderson | In honor of Maddie & In memory of Baxter |
| Clint & Jolinda Babcock Paula Barr K.A. Behrman Debra Brand | In honor of Brandi's birthday |
| Pat & Linda Brong Thomas & Wendy Buco Dr. Susan Varady Carpenter Cheryl Clary Stephen & Elizabeth Cobb | Lady says Thanks |
| Laura Dahlgren Pamela Dunn Randy Furr Dr. Marguerite Gleason | Thank you for our Hunter dog In memory of Molly Doherty & Kirby Ruff |
| Robert Goodell Dru & Joe Hall | In loving memory of my beloved Tyler, 5/31/99 - 2/7/07 |
| Brenda & Jeff Hales David & Jennifer Holden Dominique Huneycutt Elizabeth Jenkins Brian & Linda Johnson Jonathon Jones Joni & John Juba Bill Krupica | In honor of Brandi's birthday In memory of Shannon Huneycutt For the gifts from God In memory of Moses and Mattie Allen |
| Chris & Emily Lucado Jim & Sue Makarewicz Lori Mayfield Cary & Letisha Nadelman Denise O'Reilly Christen Orth Whitney Pelton V.Carrington & William Price Thad & Allison Reece Gary Rhinesmith Meg Roach Vaughn and V.E. Rowley Valerie Sancibrian Mark & Justine Scruggs James & Deborah Secunda Tracy Stromberg Jason & Michelle Thibeau Fred & Carol Thorp Malcolm Wain Andrea Walser Jan Warren-Findlow Sarah Welch Animal Adoption League Custom Ink Noah's Ark Foundation | In honor of Brandi In memory of Bailey & Cody Starbuck In honor of Lisa Jacobs 4th birthday In memory of Ginger In memory of Murphy In memory of Spencer |

At the Rainbow Bridge

GRRCC is saddened to learn of the passing of "Baxter" Anderson, "Annie" Corby, "Tyler" Hall, "Shannon" Huneycutt, "Dallas" Malm, "Gus" Neal, "Darby" & "Tucker" O'Reilly, "Ginger" Sancibrian, "Murphy" Scruggs, "Bailey" & "Cody" Starbuck, and "Spencer" Thorp.

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of these wonderful gifts to us.

Fostering

We have faced many challenges as we have evolved from a rescue group with a kennel facility into one that relies exclusively on foster homes. The most monumental of these continues to be finding enough foster families. All rescue groups that operate like GRRCC continually lament the chronic shortage of "The Two F's" (funds and fosters).

During the last 16 months we have had 108 dogs that went into Foster Homes. All of these dogs were fostered by only 30 different foster families. Unfortunately, 10 of those 30 families are no longer available to foster for us for a variety of very valid reasons. That only leaves 20 foster homes for all of the dogs that will come into our program. Although 20 may seem like an adequate amount of homes, unfortunately it is not and it is simply impossible to take in all the dogs that need us with this limited number. Some of our foster homes can only take female dogs, some have small children and are understandably uncomfortable taking shelter dogs whose background and behavior is unknown, some can't take dogs undergoing heartworm treatment, some do not want a dog that is not 'cat tested', some are a better match for young dogs and others for seniors. It is our commitment to our foster families and our GRRCC dogs that the fostering experience be a positive one for all concerned. We absolutely will not force a 'round peg into a square hole' by putting a dog into an environment where it and the foster family will not be happy.

What is involved with becoming a foster home? Take a look at the fostering section of our website at <http://www.grrcc.com/fostering.htm>. Please also read the fostering stories that are contained in this newsletter (and others that will be put up on our website shortly). These are from actual GRRCC foster families that have had one or more GRRCC foster dogs during the last year. I think you will see many common threads between them; not the least of which is what an incredibly rewarding experience they have found fostering to be and how they are thoroughly committed to 'coming back for more'.

What is a typical foster family? Our fosters are as diverse as the writing styles in their Fostering Stories. Some work full time outside the home, some have a stay at home adult, some are retired. Some have children or grandchildren. Some live in homes with fenced or unfenced yards and others in apartments or town homes. Some have cats, most although not all, have other dogs and an occasional rodent, reptile or feathered friend rounds out their family. That is where the differences cease however. They meet on the common ground of an abiding love for this wonderful breed and a willingness to help those displaced dogs that desperately need us.

Our need for fosters is particularly desperate during the summer months for several reasons. We take in almost 70% of our dogs between the months of May and September... a period of time when many of our foster families are on a well deserved vacation. Those same months are when we tend to get an influx of heartworm positive dogs which require a longer time in a foster home; thereby not 'freeing up' a foster home as quickly as would normally be possible. As Gene mentioned in his Letter from the President, we also need families that can take a dog during spay/neuter surgery recovery or during heartworm treatment. This requires that a dog be kept quiet and leash walked only so a fenced in yard is not required, although a reasonably calm family environment is important. Think of it this way... a vacation foster or a surgery recovery foster are short term and finite in duration and are great way to do a 'test run' to see if being a foster home is a good fit for your family.

We realize that not everyone can foster but if only half of you who adopted a dog from us could find a way to help, our worries would be very close to over. The plain, simple and very painful truth is that if we do not have foster homes, we cannot take in dogs in need. Without the GRRCC foster family that cared for your dog, you would not have your wonderful new family member. If, as you are reading this, you find yourself stroking the head of your dog lying contentedly beside you, or your thoughts drift to a much loved pet from years gone by, please take a minute to see if there is room in your heart and home to help a dog that without us faces an uncertain and, most probably, unfortunate future.

Fostering is a very easy way to make a very big difference!

Please contact Wylyn Doherty (Wylyn@grrcc.com) or Bodee Corby (Bodee@grrcc.com)

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

GRRCC Foster Families Tell Why They Foster

Fostering? What does this mean? To our family it means to be able to unconditionally love and care for, teach, and let go. It sounds so simple because it really is. The joy you get from fostering cannot be put into words well but I will try as best I can.

The first foster dog that we had was Ben; he was great in every way. He was sweet, gentle, and loved to be around me. He was what you would call a “Velcro dog”. I just knew that once I got him home I could not let him go. I thought to myself after this one I will not ever do this again. But, when I was contacted by the Adoption Coordinator and told that someone would be calling to arrange to meet Ben I was so happy for him that all of the “me factor” was gone. I bathed him and told him that a family was coming to meet him and they may want to take him home and love him forever. I also told him I would always love him but this family was going to take care of him forever and he would never have to be scared or alone again. I know, I know, to some that may seem strange but believe me these dogs understand you! When his forever family came to meet him it was unbelievable, if I hadn’t seen it for my own eyes I wouldn’t believe it. The dog that had been attached to my leg for two weeks and wasn’t at all interested in our family’s guests was ignoring me completely and jumping all over his forever mom with total joy. When she came into my living room he bolted across the couch and basically jumped into her arms which is where he stayed until they left. The picture I have of them together is of him sitting on top of her on my couch. When she said it was time for her to go he immediately jumped off of the couch and was right by her side and that was that! Now, I won’t tell you that there were no tears shed because there were plenty, but only because I was so happy for him. And as for Ben, he never looked back because he knew he was going home. After this I was never worried that I would “get attached” because even though I knew I would, at the same time I also knew I would be able to let them go very easily; to a family that would forever and always love them.

At this point it was clear to me that fostering was going to be one of the easiest and most gratifying things that I had ever done. The dogs that I would get to foster would never again be sick, homeless, scared, in pain, tortured, neglected, starved or, abandoned EVER again. Quite to the contrary, they were going to homes where they would ALWAYS be loved, cared for and treated as a member of the family for the rest of their lives; no matter how long or short. How often in life can you do that for a living creature?

My children ages 12, 8, and 6 are a big part of our fostering experience. They help us love, teach, and care for the foster dogs which gives them a huge feeling of pride and accomplishment. Often we have fostered dogs that are 15 pounds over weight or under weight, have open sores or have lost hair all over due to neglect. In a few weeks they look like a different dog and it is an amazing feeling. Not only do they look differently, they act and feel differently as well. They are happy, not scared, and on their way to being completely healthy (physically and emotionally). Of course all cases are different - some not as severe, some more severe, but the goal and final product are the same, a confident, healthy, loving dog to be placed with a family that will always love him/her. My children are so proud of what they do and they love it as much as I do.

It is true that we are not saving the world. However, the sweet innocent lives that we do get the honor of saving are more appreciative than you could ever imagine. Without foster families this would not be possible and we could not save these wonderful dogs. The way I see it is, the 20 or so dogs that I have fostered would either still be suffering or would have died a terrible death had I not fostered them. What did it cost me? Absolutely nothing. As a matter of fact it gives me great pleasure and joy to have these babies in my home!



*Joe Neal, Wylyn Doherty
and Brenda Sullivan with Zack
Grooming Day - April 14, 2007*

I have loved every foster dog that I have had the pleasure of caring for. Some were young, some old, some very sick, some healthy just no longer wanted, but all of them have had the same thing in common- they needed help and a loving family! Did I ever want to adopt one of my fosters for my own? Absolutely, but then I would have five dogs and would not be able to continue to help other dogs. You learn to love them as your own and let them go once you find the right forever family. You will know that family the instant you meet them, your foster baby will let you know if they are right as well. There will be no question, it will just feel right. All of these things and so much more are the reasons our family fosters and will continue to.

Stacy Draper and Family

See more fostering stories at www.grrcc.com



We had been together forever – Amber and I. I got her when she was 5 ½ weeks old and she left me last August with 13+ years under her collar; her whole life spent with me and much of my adult life spent with her. We were inseparable. Through new boyfriends, jobs, and cities, she was there. We had enough address and phone number changes together that we could have saved all of her doggy IDs to make me quite a jingly charm bracelet. She had flown enough times that she should have earned her own frequent flier miles, and she definitely earned a reputation with airport personnel for de-crating herself inside of the pressurized storage compartments of assorted jets no less than three times. To this day, I’m sure that Amber, the escape artist, is one of the main reasons US Airways will no longer fly pets. Needless to say, when Amber decided to crossover, the world as I knew it - full of fur floating in sunbeams, wet tennis balls, nose prints on windows, and happy tails - was gone instantly and forever. The house, and my world, were empty.

As much as I knew that I was not ready for another doggy marriage, I also knew I wasn’t ready for an empty house. Fortunately, GRRCC was ready for me. I called them and told them that I wanted to try fostering. I told them that I had no idea if I could handle it or not, but I wanted to find out. Everyone that I spoke with had already hit this point in their lives and understood how I felt and believed in me and agreed to give me a test drive. One of the people I interviewed with indicated that anyone that could keep a golden alive for 13+ years must know how to take care of them and should make an excellent foster parent. My first foster arrived a couple of weeks later.

Jenny was a 6-year old, dark red golden who needed to be spayed and then find her forever home. She was sweet and gentle, but she was quite aloof. She let me pet her and rub her but she never really returned my affection. She hadn’t had a great prior life and had no idea how to play. I actually got her to do something resembling playing for about 90 seconds until I made the mistake of taking the toy to throw it for her. She thought I was reprimanding her and never touched a toy again, even with encouragement. I was sure she was never going to be adopted because no one wants an unaffectionate Golden. To my complete and total surprise, I only had Jenny for exactly 15 days. The first people to meet her called twice and then showed up a half hour early for their introduction. The wife liked her and wanted her immediately, but the husband was leery of a “damaged” dog. Then Jenny did something amazing – she climbed up on the sofa and put her head in the husband’s lap, just like any normal golden would and something she had never even come close to doing with me. He looked at his wife, she looked at me, and that was that – a new forever family was born. Jenny trotted out to the car with her new forever dad and climbed right into the backseat like they had been doing it forever. She was off to her new life without even a glance back.

I’ve had six official foster dogs stay with me so far. These dogs had quite different personalities, and were with me for different lengths of time. Although each dog had some “golden” traits, none of the dogs was what I think of as a golden personality when they arrived on my doorstep, although some were more “golden” than others were. I was blessed with the opportunity to help find their hidden personalities, and for each dog it was a joy to watch them bloom out into a golden retriever. **I never feel so fulfilled as when I watch a “foster” become a “forever”.**

One of these days, one of my fosters will become my new forever dog. But until I meet my forever golden partner, I will continue to be a foster mom to whoever needs me.

Beth

They say that whatever you give you get back ten-fold. Be careful future foster families. We started fostering a year ago to have a friend for our golden. Fifteen dogs later we have two of our own, another coming this summer and we can't think of not continuing to foster. First and foremost it's our furry friends who say thank you a hundred times a day. Then it's the forever homes who are a breed apart - always finding a place in their hearts to overlook whatever we have taken in (maybe she's a bit of a mix she has a golden face and heart-that's all that matters, right?) and instead look past the minor shortcomings; loving them for who they really are - the most trusting, loving, compassionate and forgiving friends on earth.

Thank you GRCC for keeping the Golden's coming- we couldn't imagine our life without another foster on the way.

Brian, Laura, Jessie and Max Confoy



*Shari Martin and Millie
Bark in the Park - April 28, 2007*