

Reaching out to you with...



The Golden Paw



Volume XIV Number 1 February 2022

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Thank you for sharing

Your Senior Memories

Abbie Astro Bart Baxter Bella
Brandi Brando Brewster
Bubba Buffy Carlie Cassi
Cassie Charley Chase
Coda Daisy Dixie
Dixie Dodger Dolly
Doug Dude Duke
Foster Goldie G
Goldie W Gypsy
Honei Honey
Hugs Izzie Jake
Joy Kobe Kosmo
Lad Layla Levi
Lizzie Lucky
Magoo Rocket
Marley Madden
Malle Mitch Moab
Molly Romeo Maddie
Maddy Maggie Missy
Molly Murfee Murphy
Paolo Phoebe Pumba Rambo
Riggz Rex Riley Roxy Ryder Sage
Sam Sammy Sandy Shaggy Sierra Stella
SugarM SugarO Teddy Toby Trixie Tucker Watson Zoe



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Sadly, we have lost a champion of animal welfare and a fellow Golden lover. Betty White, who died on Dec. 31, 2021 was not only a “Golden Girl,” she was also a Golden lover. She once said,

Once someone has had the good fortune to share a true love affair with a Golden Retriever, one’s life and one’s outlook is never quite the same.

~ Betty White
 January 17, 1922 - December 31, 2021

We couldn’t agree more. RIP, Betty.

Masthead photo of **21-053 Sedona Long** by Connie McCabe

Cover Design by Connie McCabe: dog is **21-021 Romeo Compise**

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Editor's Assistants' Notes



13-023 Duffy Orwig

It's just me, **Duffy**, helping my mom with this issue. My family fostered me and my five littermates for six weeks after we came to **AGR** on St Patrick's Day in 2013. We were only 6 ½ weeks old then. I will be nine on February 6, 2022, so I am a senior. My face is now white – what my mom calls a “sugar face” – I am the dignified old man of the canines in our family. Even though I was adopted as a puppy, I am honored to represent senior Golden Retrievers in our family and in this issue.

I did not know the family's first adopted senior, **Ben**, who joined the family in October 2003 from **Rescue A Golden of Arizona**; he was 12 and lived til a week before his 16th birthday. I've been told he was a gem. Please read Mom's poem about **Ben** on page 41.

The other senior was **14-033 Dolly**, adopted from **Arizona Golden Rescue** in 2014 at age 8 and lived til almost 13. As with many rescued dogs that are of senior age, **Dolly** was terribly overweight at 113.6 pounds. Her skin was horrible and musty-smelling, with both bacterial and fungal infections; her paws were raw from her chewing on them; her ears had massive infections. She had to be clipped down in order to better treat her skin issues, and she was immediately put on the “green bean diet” along with a high-quality food. She took antibiotics and anti-fungal medications for months. She was also started on an allergy medication called Apoquel.

After 6 months of this regime, **Dolly** had lost 40 pounds (the green bean diet really works!), her skin and ears had cleared up and she had a new spring in her step.

We learned that she had been taught some tricks by her former owner. She knew what “go get the paper” meant. At first, she would waddle out onto the driveway and pick up the newspaper. After losing all that weight, she would gallop out to get it, toss it up in the air, catch it, and gallop back into the house – she would not give it up until she got it to the kitchen table. She loved everyone and was a wonderful ambassadog for Golden Rescue at the many Meet-and-Greet and other **AGR** events she attended. **Dolly** knew one really great trick (from my point of



14-033 Dolly Orwig

view): how to open lever-handle doors. My family didn't catch on to that fact until after I'd watched her open the dog food closet door and learned how myself. But the family bought some lever-handle locks at **The Home Depot** so we couldn't help ourselves to extra food any more. In the **Fashion PawTea** we attended in 2017, **Dolly** was a bride and I was her groom. We had much fun at that event! We all miss her and her really big feet.

Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President

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Several kudos and thank yous are in order. Fred Prose has been a great volunteer on our Home Evaluations Team for quite a few years. During the last two years, it has been a difficult job for all the Team members due to the pandemic, because until only recently we did all the evaluations remotely via Facetime. And then there is the chore of putting all the information into a database whose operation we weren't very familiar with, as the new database has a completely different format from our old one. Fred found the experience not as satisfying as he used to, so he has retired. Thank you, Fred, for your service.

We often find that when one door closes another opens. Sarah Brown has been training with Connie McCabe to do home evaluations. After several ride-alongs (we require at least two), both Sarah and Connie felt Sarah could do them on her own, and now she has done several and done them well. Thanks, Connie, for being such a good mentor, and thanks, Sarah, for helping out with home evaluations.

We could still use at least one or two other volunteers for this very important job. A thorough look through someone's home (to see if they have open trash cans, toys or laundry scattered around, toilet seats left up, etc.) and back yard (we require photos to be taken of the yard) are really important in helping our Placement Team choose the right home for an incoming dog. For example, if a prospective family has a low wall around the back yard, we would not place there a young, active dog who could jump the wall. Our evaluators are trained to recognize plants that might be harmful to dogs, such as Sago palm, oleanders, lantana, cacti and other spiny plants like aloe. We require that the homeowner fence or remove such plants. Doing the evaluation in person also allows the evaluator the opportunity to interact with the family and get a feel for how they would treat a rescued dog. Evaluators are encouraged to bring their own dog to observe how the family responds to it. As a perk of being on this team, an evaluator gets to see some really spectacular homes and yards! If interested in volunteering for the Home Evaluations Team, please contact Sheila Joyce, our Home Evaluations Coordinator, at horsecrazymom@msn.com.

I would also like to welcome Candy Greff and Keri Marchant as new members of our Placement Team. Patty Mancini, Team Manager, and Director of Operations Debbie Ball have done an exemplary job training these new team members. Both Candy and Keri have already done successful placements. Thank you for volunteering!

Debbie Ball, our Director of Operations, has spent many hours helping a lot of our volunteers learn how to use the database. She is an expert on the use and manipulation of spreadsheets, which are the basis for how the database is set up. We thank her for her patience and time, especially with those of us – like myself – who are technologically challenged.

Kathy Blue has been such a great help with our Facebook site and also to me for responding to the messages I receive daily (through info@arizonagoldenrescue.org) regarding one or another dog whose adoption has not yet been finalized. When she puts a dog up on our website, we usually get a slew of inquiries, even though the message about the dog says “Adoption Pending.” Apparently, a lot of people do not understand that this means “not available” and ask if they can adopt the dog anyway. I forward these messages to Kathy, who has some standard responses she uses, but she always customizes them to the sender. Over the last six months, Kathy has saved me hours of time, and I thank her.

I would also like to thank the many adopters – current and former – who responded to my request for “the rest of the story.” In writing the *Magic Moments* section of the newsletter, I like to incorporate family messages about adoptions that have recently been finalized. These statements are heartwarming and give some insight about the family that Placement chose for a dog. I think they also add character and interest to the dog’s adoption story.

For this particular issue we feature senior dogs. I sent an e-mail to all families who have adopted a dog that was at least 8 years old at intake. Many, many sent stories and most sent photos, too. Thanks, everyone, for taking the time to write to me. I loved reading all those messages and I hope all you readers will enjoy them, too.



Director of Operations

Debbie Ball

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Since this is the first official column I have written since taking the Director of Operations position in mid 2021, I thought I would provide a synopsis of what I actually do in this role. The Director of Operations is a rather new position, in a sense replacing the formerly titled “Director of Dog Care.” However, since dog care is closely followed by the Health Care Manager, I saw my

role as being more of an oversight one to ensure all processes are working cohesively among the various teams: Home Evaluations, Intake, Placement, Transport, Membership, and Health Care. So, I get copied on a lot of e-mails! I do my best to ensure that all team members are correctly trained and working together toward the common goal of successful rescue placements. On a daily basis, I review all the various notes made in the database (we call them “Journal Entries”) on both dogs and people to ensure thorough documentation. I also periodically review the Submitted Forms area of the database for progress on approving adoption applications, home evaluations, membership applications, etc. My position also provides support and direction to the various Team Managers, along with setting up new users for database access and training them on using the database.

Other tasks that I handle include providing regularly updated Excel files of approved adoption applicants for use by the Placement team in finding the best matches for incoming rescued dogs. We currently do not have a good database method for filtering these, so I routinely download the most important data into an Excel file, which can then be filtered for the various attributes that best suit the characteristics of each incoming Intake dog.

Also, each month I spend numerous hours updating a detailed Excel file used for tracking the various veterinary and other expenses for each dog, so that we can quickly identify just how much of our income is being spent on each rescued dog. This is accomplished by logging all the approved paid veterinary invoices provided by the Health Care Manager. I also reconcile the file entries to the monthly bank statement to ensure all charges are being accounted for and tracked.

Another file I keep updated is a Master Dog List of all the rescues *AGR* has done since our formation in 2009. This file is used to compile annual surveys required by local and national rescue organizations. As you have read, I am a strong user of Excel software!

Going forward... Among my goals for this position, I plan to work on updating our various documented Policies and Procedures to ensure they correctly include how tasks are handled in our new database. After these are updated, meetings will be held with all the various volunteer team members to ensure they are familiar with any updates and have ready access to the documented files.

As we have now finished 2021, here is the final summary of our rescued dog statistics for the year:

A total of 59 dogs were rescued by *AGR* in 2021.

Gender: 23 males

36 female

Age: 35 were under 2 years old

11 were 3-5 years old

6 were 6-8 years old

7 were seniors at 9 years or more

Breed: 30 purebred Golden Retrievers

29 Golden mixes (including Doodles,
Labradors, Great Pyrenees, etc.)
Intake: 56 were owner surrenders
2 were strays
1 shelter dog



Goldens on the Go!

By Carolyn Brown,
Director of Activities

AZGoldenlady@gmail.com

I was recently asked, *What types of activities does AGR do and why?* When an activity is planned, we look at several criteria:

1. Is this going to give us an opportunity to share the **AGR** story with the community of potential adopters and donors?
2. Will this event give our Members an opportunity to interact with each other on a fun level while giving back with their time and effort?
3. Will it give our Goldens a chance to come out and socialize in a safe and friendly environment?
4. Does **AGR** have a chance to fundraise with the donation vests worn by the dogs, selling the arts and crafts created and donated by several of our members, wrapping gifts, or with a donation by the sponsoring location such as a restaurant or golf course?
5. Will it be a safe and fun event?
6. If it is a sales-type fundraising event, are the products we are offering, such as the Golden-themed Christmas shirts, popcorn, etc., of good quality and easy to order and administer?

Many of the events we participate in are ones we have done for many years, like our Meet-and-Greets at various **Petco** and **PetSmart** locations. The **PACC911** Adopt-a-Thons take place throughout the year, and we are required to attend several to help make them a success. **PACC911 – Phoenix Animal Care Coalition** – is a great organization that helps Rescues raise money by hosting these events. As their own fundraising efforts allow, they also offer grants to participating partner Rescues, like **AGR**, to help with high medical expenses.

The last two years have been challenging due to coronavirus and the West Nile Virus, but we are planning activities for 2022 in the hopes we will not see cancellations for any reasons. I hope you will MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the next few events listed here. You can always check the Events Calendar on the **AGR** web page (arizonagoldenrescue.org). In addition, I e-mail reminders and updates using the AGRactivityinfo@gmail.com e-mail address. So, please include this e-mail in your address book so these reminders don't hit your spam folders. This e-mail is used just

for event information. Please plan on attending and volunteering, even an hour or two, if you can.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 5th, 9 AM to 5 PM

PARADA DEL SOL Parade and *Trail's End* Festival are back after a year's respite due to Covid. This is always an exciting day with the hustle and bustle of the Parade and the blocks and blocks of fun, fair, and food. If you have never marched in this Parade with **AGR**, dust off your comfortable walking shoes, brush your Golden and show up and saddle up... this is the Rodeo event in Old Town Scottsdale.

Saturday, February 19th, 8 AM to 3 PM

PACC911 Adopt-a-Thon – Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell in Avondale.

This is a new location for another great **PACC911** Adopt-a-Thon. Easily accessed: from I-10 exit at Avondale Ave if coming from the east or Dysart if coming from the west. McDowell is just north of I-10. Come help tell the **AGR** story while visiting with fellow **AGR** members. All our beautiful arts and crafts will be for sale. Help is needed from set-up to tear-down; the event actually starts at 10 AM. Even an hour or two of your time will make this great fundraising opportunity successful and a fun day for all. More information to follow on the AGRactivityinfo@gmail.com e-mail blast.

Sunday, March 13th – 11 AM to 3 PM

PAWS AT THE PARK – Eldorado Park, West Rotunda, 2311 N Miller Rd., Scottsdale

Our annual Members' BBQ picnic is scheduled and will be a fun-filled, family event. Great food, including hamburgers, hot dogs, homemade salads and even desserts will start off the day. Recognition awards, remembrance of those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge and our Parade of Rescue (all rescued dogs no matter where they came from) who have been rescued since our last picnic in 2019. This year we will add a few games for you and your dog. **AGR** merchandise will be available for purchase, along with tickets for raffle baskets and silent auction items. There will also be a special appearance by a terrific band called *Desert Nights*. The registration form is in this newsletter, so be sure to send it in by March 6, 2022. The list of volunteer opportunities will be sent out on the AGRactivityinfo@gmail.com e-blast. This is a labor-intensive event to produce, so even an hour of your time will make a huge difference in the success of this event.

Saturday, September 17th -- 1 PM to 8 PM

Fore! Paws Golf Tournament: at the spectacular **McCormick Ranch Golf Club** in Scottsdale; dinner will be available for non-golfers as well as for golfers. Please plan to attend!



The Information Highway

By Adam Cardinal,
Director of Information Management

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Leftover Cookies of Christmas Past

By the time this newsletter reaches you, hopefully all those Cocoa Crinkles, Peanut Butter Blossoms, Thumbprints, even the dreaded decorated Sugar Cookies are gone. Only the memories and residual pounds remain. But some cookies are still left over from Christmas: browser cookies.

Browser cookies are pieces of data and are normally stored in text files. Websites place cookies on visitors' computers to store a range of information, usually specific to that visitor, or rather on the device they are using to view the site, like the browser (Explorer, Safari, Firefox, Chrome, etc) or mobile phone. Almost all websites use cookies in some way or another, and every page you visit in those sites writes cookies to your computer and receives them back from it.

Cookies are not inherently bad. They were created to overcome a limitation in web technology. Web pages are 'stateless', which means that they have no memory and cannot easily pass information between each other. So, cookies provide a kind of memory for web pages. Browser cookies are built specifically for Internet web browsers to track, personalize, and save information about each user's session. A "session" just refers to the time you spend on a site.

Cookies allow you to log in on one page, then move around to other pages and stay logged in. They allow you to set preferences for the display of a page and for these to be remembered the next time you return to it. Using cookies makes using websites more convenient – for you and for developers who try to deliver a quality user experience.

Cookies are created to identify you when you visit a new website. The web server, which stores the website's data, sends a short stream of identifying information to your web browser. Browser cookies are identified and read by "name-value" pairs. These tell cookies where to be sent and what data to recall.

The server only sends the cookie when it wants the web browser to save it. If you're wondering "where are cookies stored," it's simple: your web browser will store it locally to remember the "name-value pair" that identifies you. Without cookies, you'd have to login again after you leave a site or rebuild your shopping cart if you accidentally close the page.

If a user returns to that site in the future, the web browser returns

that data to the web server in the form of a cookie. This is when your browser will send it back to the server to recall data from your previous sessions.

The Law of Unintended Circumstance

If each website relied upon the data stored in their cookie exclusively, we would not have an issue. But that's not how things work. What the browser bakes, the Internet crumbles.

Cookies can also be used to watch the pages you visit between sites, which allows advertisers to build up a picture of your interests. Then when you land on a site that shows one of their adverts, they can tailor it to those interests. This is known as 'behavioral advertising'.

Cookies are incredibly useful. They allow modern websites to work the way people have come to expect – with ever-increasing levels of personalization and rich interactive functionality. However, they can also be used to manipulate your web experience in ways you might not expect or like. It could be to your benefit, or to the benefit of someone else – even a business or organization that you have never had any direct contact with, or perhaps heard of.

It is impossible to tell just by looking at them whether particular cookies are benefiting you or another party. You have to rely on the website you are visiting to tell you how it uses cookies.

Consumers have complained to website operators, industry groups, and regulators about the lack of transparency about the types of tracking they perform, as well as under what conditions will they (or will they allow others) to access the data they gather and store in their cookies, or if they will limit their data gathering to just cookie data. It's becoming clear through some recent leaks of privacy strategy from major Internet sites that they are not limiting data gathering to browser cookies. They are pulling data from readable active memory and hard drive contents, depending on their ability to see and tag that data. As usual, the US government – given the choice of advocating for consumer privacy or big business interests – chose business. The European Union has a decidedly different approach - they chose to advocate for the consumer.

Cookie Privacy legislation started as an EU Directive that was adopted by all EU countries in May 2011. The Directive gave individuals the right to refuse the use of cookies that reduce their online privacy. Each country then updated its laws to comply. The intent was to encourage websites to embrace transparency – to disclose how they use the data they gather and to more easily allow the consumer to choose whether to accept cookies or not. The legislation did achieve the second aspect of the goal – the implementation of the cookie notice – which likely says something along the lines of: *By clicking "Allow All", you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to enhance site navigation,*

analyze site usage, and assist in our marketing efforts.

What companies did not do is articulate their browser data gathering and sharing policy. One of the reasons they didn't is a common business problem: knowing exactly what they gather and being able to update their privacy policy before their data gathering practices change, not after. For many companies, web pages and web content are distributed – operated by multiple business groups with their own rules and practices for data gathering and sharing. Given that entrepreneurial spirit, they aren't always going to update the control site owner when rules change, or be accountable to update the disclosure rules before they make changes to their data gathering.

Allowing or Removing Cookies

You can put your browser on a no cookie diet. You can limit what cookies end up on your computer or mobile device. If you allow cookies, it will streamline your surfing. For some users, no cookies' security risk is more important than a convenient Internet experience. Only you can make that decision. Just keep in mind that your Internet behavior will change if you change these settings. If you share your computer with other members of your household, the changes you make may change the browser experience for them as well. You can always change your settings back. You'll have lost all the cookies that were set before, but they will re-build as you go forward. I like to delete my cookies regularly – usually twice a year. It helps reduce cookie bloat, but it also reduces the amount of data consumer websites can pull from your cookies.

How to Allow Cookies

Find the cookie section — typically under Settings > Privacy. Click the boxes to allow cookies. Sometimes the option says, "Allow local data." If you don't want cookies, you can simply uncheck these boxes.

How to Remove Cookies

Removing normal cookies is easy, but it could make certain websites harder to navigate. Different browsers store cookies in different places, but usually, you can:

- Find the Settings, Privacy section – sometimes listed under Tools, Internet Options, or Advanced.
- Follow the prompts on the available options to manage or remove cookies.

Removing cookies can help you mitigate your risks of privacy leakage. It can also reset your browser tracking and personalization. Search online for removing cookies for the browser of your choice and you'll find step-by-step instructions for removing cookies from the most popular web browsers.

Going forward, you can anonymize your web use by using a virtual private network (VPN). These services tunnel your web

connection to a remote server that poses as you. Cookies will be labeled for that remote server in another country, instead of on your local computer. There are also a number of privacy solutions that are implemented through browser plug-ins – add-on software that will put more control over cookies into your hand – but be prepared that it can present you with a lot of new dialog boxes to respond to, especially in the early stages as you are learning it and it is learning you.

Regardless of how you handle cookies, it's best to remain on guard and clean up your cookies often. The older a cookie is, the less likely it is something you'd want to have in your cookie jar – or in your browser settings.

Golfers – September 17th is coming!



The Human Connection

By Connie McCabe,
Human Resources Director

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“It's all about the dogs.”

We say that a lot, because that is why we are all part of this wonderful group. You would not be reading this if it were not for your love for the dogs. But as much as that is true, it takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to keep this organization, and therefore the dogs, alive and thriving.

So, since this is the “Human Connection” column, in every issue I am going to continue to mention a few interesting facts and stories about some of the people you think you know. Hopefully you will learn something new about them and gain more insight into how they got here. I have generally been going in order of membership number, beginning at “one” and featuring several members every column. You may notice that there are some missing member numbers. I know there are a lot of people who really just wanted to adopt a dog and have no interest in participating in *AGR* activities. I will respect the privacy of those who prefer not to be active and just concentrate on those who are, or have been, most active in the organization.

Hopefully by now, you will have noticed how very many of our members have stayed to be part of the organization long after their first-year membership expired. And, many times, even after the *AGR* dog(s) they have adopted have gone to the Bridge. There are many members who have never even adopted a dog from us and some who don't even have a dog at all! We are grateful to those who have continued to renew their memberships year after year and who contribute their time, money, and hearts to the group, whether or not they are interested in adopting a Golden.

Let's start off with Debbie Marcotte, who adopted handsome **20-013 Maverick** and has been helping out at **AGR** events. In Debbie's words...

"I moved to Litchfield Park, Arizona when I was 12 years old. We came out here from Florida when my father was transferred to help build the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in the 1970s. I always grew up with dogs – mainly little ones – then as an adult became an owner of a Great Dane. After my Dane passed away, my friend, who volunteered at another Golden Retriever Rescue, talked me into fostering my first Golden Retriever, **Riley**, back in 2010. Getting **Riley** was a game changer – I have totally fallen in love with the breed and can't imagine my life without one now.



Unfortunately, **Riley** passed away from cancer during the pandemic in August of 2020. He was such a wonderful teacher to **Maverick**, the Golden that I adopted from **AGR** in March 2020, right before the pandemic shut us down. **Maverick** came to me as a high-strung, "nervous Nellie," who was afraid of his own shadow. He had been caged his entire life and only let out of his cage for a few hours at night. Quite frankly, I was a little nervous myself that it might not work out with him in the house, but good old **Riley** took him right under his gentle paws and showed him how to be a dog again. Plus, I think **Riley** put in a good word for me and told **Maverick** that he was in for a wonderful life full of vacations at the beach, going up to the woods in the summers, etc.



Well, this March it will be two years since **Maverick** came into my life, and I can't imagine life without him. He is still a little on the nervous side but has come a long way from his first days and is learning more every day. **Maverick** has a ton of energy too, but we found his "thing," which is frisbee, and we meet with a group of his friends every Saturday and Sunday to play frisbee. He is turning out to be quite an amazing frisbee player. Thank you, **Arizona Golden Rescue**, for bringing **Maverick** into my life."



Now let's meet Sarah Brown, the newest member of our **AGR** Home Evaluation Team.

"I've been a dog lover ever since I was a little kid. I begged for a dog as a child, but my parents never wanted the responsibility. Not surprisingly, they knew my 5-year-old self wouldn't be a reliable caregiver (even though I disagreed).

Fast-forward 27 years and I was finally ready to

fulfill my childhood dream. I got my little Goldendoodle, **Hazy**, in the middle of 2020. She may be seen as a "COVID dog" to outsiders, but she was something that I've longed for forever. I've always been drawn to the lovable temperament and intelligence of Golden Retrievers. But **Hazy** was a nice compromise as a Doodle, who wouldn't shed all over my house (some may call me a neat freak – I accept it). At almost a year and a half old, **Hazy** has spent the last year of that time training to be a therapy dog.

I am a genetics counselor specializing in cancer. I've worked with patients from age two to ninety-two. I see patients and their relatives to help determine if they have an inherited risk for cancer, and ultimately help them be proactive to prevent cancer in their family in the future. I am training **Hazy** to join me in this career and hopefully bring some light and joy to those undergoing the tough cancer treatment journey.

Outside of this job, **Hazy** and I are now an official home evaluation team for **Arizona Golden Rescue**. We love helping to find our rescued Golden the perfect home that they deserve. We also enjoy going to local parks and restaurant patios to take advantage of our nearly year-round amazing Arizona weather. **Hazy** LOVES making friends everywhere she goes, so if you see us, be sure to say hello!"



Cody, Carolyn, Joey, CaliAnne and Peter

We introduced Carolyn Brown, our Director of Activities, previously, but she has a few updates to share. As the Covid restrictions ease up, Carolyn and her husband, Peter, have been working diligently to bring **AGR** back into the public eye. She has a new addition to share with us, pretty **CaliAnne** from California.

"I am originally from Chicago. I have loved dogs my entire life and met and fell in love with my first Golden while living in Denver in 1974. My job then had taken me from Chicago to Minneapolis to San Jose to Denver. I knew there were a few more transfers in my future (Houston, Canada, Boston and Portland, OR) but promised myself I would get a Golden once I "settled down."

I met Peter, my husband of 44 years, while working in Canada. He joined me in Boston, and once he was promoted to Portland, Oregon, I took off my corporate hat and we made Oregon home for 16 years. We had a one-year return to Canada and then a return to Illinois to care for my mother until she passed away.



We had a quick move to Indianapolis for a few years, but a strong

desire to return to mountains, minus the cold weather, made settling in Arizona the perfect solution. Snowbirds since 2008, now forever residents since 2017, we call Surprise home.

Charlie Brown was the first of our ten Golden Retrievers. We soon realized Golden Retrievers are pack animals and do better in pairs, so **B.J.** joined the family. As the years have gone by, **Sam, Andy, Casey, Ellie,** and **Quinn** have stolen my heart. Currently **Cody**, a tri-pawd-and-a-half rescued from Benson, AZ, and **Joey** our China rescue, are the big brothers to our recently added foster failure, **CaliAnne**. She is also a tri-pawd-and-a-half, being born with the same birth defect as **Cody**.

I have been involved with three other Golden Rescues over the last 38 years, including **Golden Bond** in Oregon, **As Good as Gold** in Northern Illinois, and **GRRACE** in Indianapolis. Joining **Arizona Golden Rescue** has been very rewarding. I was honored to have been allowed to coordinate the rescue of 10 China Golden Retrievers in 2019, and it was there that I realized the depth and dedication of the **AGR** members who made it all possible."



Health and Safety

By Liz Tataseo, Health Care Manager

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Some Common Disorders of Senior Dogs

Hard to believe, but veterinarians consider dogs to be "senior" at 7 or 8 years of age, bigger dogs at an even younger age. Not that dogs act like a senior citizen, but changes do occur. This is probably not news to those of you who have had senior dogs, but for those with younger ones, please keep all of this in mind.

One area that can exacerbate age-related problems is excessive weight gain. Weight gain can increase the risk of arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, skin disorders and other conditions. These conditions may not show up immediately, but an overweight dog has a higher chance of getting these age-related issues later. You control what your dog eats, so make sure they are at an appropriate weight.

Some of the most common issues for senior dogs include dental disease, arthritis, eye disorders, kidney disease, bladder stones, endocrine issues like Cushing's disease and hypothyroidism, heart disease, diabetes, skin tumors, urinary incontinence, prostate problems (if a male is intact), cancer, liver disease, anemia and cognitive dysfunction. I know this sounds like a lot of problems. Like us humans, though, it's usually just one or two issues that arise at any one time.

Bringing your dog into regular vet visits for an exam and keep-

ing current on vaccines is an important annual procedure. At 7-8 years, it is always good to get a senior blood panel that will give the vet some baseline information to compare with what might arise in the future. Don't wait if you think your dog is sick or has had a change in behavior. Dogs are very stoic and, like all animals, don't show that they are feeling sick.

Dental disease and gingivitis are common in older dogs. Untreated dental issues can lead to tooth loss. Gum infections can spread to the rest of the body and cause further issues such as heart disease or kidney problems.

Arthritis is very common in older dogs, which is why weight management is so important. Signs include difficulty rising, falling on slippery floors, trouble climbing stairs and finding a comfortable sleeping position. There are many anti-inflammatory drugs that can really help, and new ones are easier on a dog's kidneys and liver.

As dogs age, vision issues crop up – cataracts and tear production leading to chronic dry eye. Golden Retriever Uveitis is an autoimmune disease that can lead to glaucoma and cataracts and eventually blindness. If your dog's eyes are gummy all the time, they rub their eyes or blink a lot, see your vet.

Kidney disease is one of the most common diseases of older dogs. Special diet and medication can keep a dog healthy for a much longer life. Blood tests can help diagnose this problem early on even before the dog shows signs of a problem.

Older dogs have an increased likelihood of developing bladder stones. Most are small and may not cause issues, but if one becomes stuck in their urethra, then there will be major problems. A urine test can give an early indication of crystals forming. A special diet can help keep these stones from growing.

An underactive thyroid is common in older dogs. An unexplained change in weight, dry coat and loss of hair are all signs of hypothyroidism. Again, this can be determined by blood work. Medication given daily will get your dog back to a healthy life. Cushing's disease is harder to diagnose and not as common, but it is treatable.

Heart disease can include chronic valve issues that lead to abnormal blood flow, which can lead to heart enlargement and heart failure. Congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy are often seen in senior dogs but can remain hidden for years.

Older dogs have a higher risk of diabetes either due to diet or pancreatic insulin issues. Diabetes is treatable with medication, just as in people.

Skin tumors are common in the older dog. Depending on the size, location and test results, vets can recommend removal or just monitor the lumps for changes.

Incontinence can happen as a dog ages, but there are medications that can help.

Cancer often crops up in the senior dog. Many types of cancer are treatable, especially if found early – another reason for regular vet visits! Again, the stoicism of many dogs may mask any obvious symptoms until it's too late for effective intervention.

Cognitive decline in dogs, just like in people, can occur as a dog ages. Some signs are being less patient and more irritable. Sometimes they forget regular behaviors such as peeing and pooping and where to do these. They might sleep more and not answer as usual when you call. There is medication that can help with this type of issue, or there could be a physical problem that can cause these issues. See your vet!

DON'T PANIC! These are just examples of what can happen with a senior dog. Usually they have mild issues of one or more of these, and always there is the right medication to help. Remember, feed your dog based on good nutrition and don't overfeed. Look for changes in your dog, but some issues you will not be able to get an early sign of or see any overt symptoms. So, make it a practice to take him or her to your vet regularly even if they have no overt symptoms.

Transactions Through PayPal, Facebook and Zelle

AGR gets charged a fee for any transaction made through PayPal no matter what the money is for. From a \$25 donation made using PayPal, we actually get \$24.01. You may not think 99¢ is very much to lose from \$25, but it adds up after a while. Your tax-deductible credit will be for the \$25, not for \$24.01. For adoption application fee and membership fee transactions, we automatically attach a 4% fee. For example, with the \$25 application fee for which applicants pay \$26 on PayPal, **AGR** gets \$24.99. We do not charge extra when someone gives a donation. This morning I saw a \$100 donation come in as a memorial donation – we actually got \$97.52. But we'd rather have people donate through PayPal than not donate at all because they don't have checks or stamps, or if they want to make a donation "right now while I'm thinking about it."

If someone makes a donation through **AGR's** Facebook page, Facebook covers the 4% transaction fee, so we get the entire amount someone wants to give.

Zelle transactions are free to both the donor and the recipient. If your bank or credit union will do Zelle transactions, all you need to know to set **AGR** up as a recipient of funds is that our **Chase** bank account name is **Arizona Golden Rescue** and our email address is info@arizonagoldenrescue.org. Using Zelle, you can send money to **AGR** for membership renewal or as a donation with no extra fee.

The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

Despite having no public events in 2021 until October, we did well with fundraising online – *Arizona Gives Day*, *Giving Tuesday*, and various members' birthday fundraisers on Facebook. We also received a significant number of memorial donations for a dog, cat or person who had passed away. Then, when we were able to participate in events, we did very well with merchandise sales, as well as with donations. We ended the year well into the black.

We sincerely appreciate the financial support of our members and of the general public. People obviously believe in the goodness of what we do: rescue Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes. Donations, general or for a specific reason, are essential to our continued successful operation.

We are well-funded by several companies and grant-giving organizations. Did you know that just by doing your regular grocery shopping at any **Fry's**, you could be making a donation to **Arizona Golden Rescue** and that donation does not add to your grocery total? Easy. If you do not already have a VIP Shopper's card, request one at the Customer Service Desk. When you register the card on **Fry's** website, link your card ID number to **Arizona Golden Rescue**. Our shopping supporters earn us an average of about \$433 per quarter!

Another shopping mecca for donations is [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). When you buy from Amazon (who hasn't in the last two years?), a small percentage of your purchase price will be donated if you have your account linked to **Arizona Golden Rescue**.

We are an approved beneficiary of donations and grants from all the organizations listed below with the total we received from them in 2021. If you are affiliated with any of them personally or through your place of work, please register to support **Arizona Golden Rescue**. Some businesses will allow you to make one-time or regular donations from your paycheck. During 2021, here's how we did with our relationship to various businesses:

Facebook – \$11,534.24 (human and dog birthdays, Gotcha days, puppy medical care, anniversaries, etc.)

AZGives – \$6,429.95

Fry's Community Rewards – \$1,732.25 (% of purchases)

Merchant Services, First Financial USA – \$1,510.93

Benevity Community Impact – \$1,235.57

Amazon Smile Foundation – \$1,132.69 (% of purchases)

American Express Company Cybergrant – \$452.00 (matches employee donations)

Great American Title Outreach – \$205.80

Bank of America Foundation – \$50 (matches employee donations)

Best Friends Animal Society - \$23.74 (primarily from ResQWalk)

We also get significant donations from **Max & Neo**. This local pet supply company donates an item to a Rescue group each time someone purchases that item online. Four times a year, they send us boxes of stuff – collars, leashes, toys, CBD oil, pet blankets, and other assorted items, with a bonus box during the holidays.

A gift we received last August was being chosen as the beneficiary of donations from the sale of the “Show Stopper Shake” at **Zuzu’s Restaurant** in **Hotel Valley Ho**. In August, the flavor was *Lemon Drop*. It included a lemon sorbet and vanilla ice cream milkshake topped with lemon meringue pie, a lemon Madeleine cookie, milk crumb, Lemonheads, Sour Skittles, lemon sugar sticks and whipped cream. \$1 from each shake sold was donated to **AGR** – they sent us \$132!

We will again receive \$1 from each shake sold in January 2022. The featured flavor is called *Crunch Bomb* – it has a milk chocolate shake topped with a giant Rice Krispies truffle, Rice Krispies milk crumb, Nestle Crunch Bar + Rice Krispies treats with chocolate ganache. You can see a photo of this concoction on our Facebook Features page. Oh, YUM!

How did we get chosen as a beneficiary? The General Manager of **Hotel Valley Ho** has a rescued Golden from **AGR**!

Arizona Gives Day: April 5-6, 2022

By Deb Orwig

Arizona Gives Day is set to take place on April 5-6, 2022, which may have you wondering why the “day” is now two days. After polling nonprofits in 2021, **AZGives** determined it would be best for everyone to start the 24-hour donation incentive prize timeframe at noon versus midnight as in the past.

The donation incentive prizes will still take place over a 24-hour period – **AZGives** is just starting and ending the day when most people are awake and functioning, making it a little more exciting for everyone involved.

Early giving will begin in mid-March – donations received on AZ-Gives.org between March 16 and April 6 (until noon) will count towards an organization’s grand fundraising total. Two years ago, **AGR** received a \$2,000 incentive prize for all our early donations!

Reporting period: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

Total Assets as of January 18, 2022: \$288,941.70

	Income	Expenses
Adoption Application Fee	\$ 6,050.00	\$
Adoption Income	23,291.00	1,575.00
Calendars		3,693.22
Sales	1,835.00	
Sponsorships	2,200.00	
Credit Card & PayPal Expense		848.83
Donations		
Debbe Begley Memorial Fund	3,595.00	
General Fund	63,194.26	
Honorary	11,339.88	
Memorial	10,211.00	
Summer Fundraiser	10,005.25	
Event Expense		50.00
Gift Wrapping	60.00	
Grants	3,990.00	
Insurance		627.85
Interest	18.55	
Internet Services		868.75
Legal & Professional Fees		10.00
Memberships	25,100.00	
Merchandise & shipping	10,775.10	
Office Expenses		1,123.28
Paws At The Park Donations	776.00	
Postage		1,850.89
Rent or Lease		3,311.76
Santa Claws Photos	175.00	
Stationery & Printing		4,738.65
Telephone		225.87
Tickets	781.00	
Dog-related Expenses		
Behavioral Training		5,134.70
Boarding		2,311.50
Collars, Tags & Leashes		1,426.00
Food (Rx and for Puppies)		899.64
Grooming		829.00
Heartgard® Expense		1,585.23
Microchip Expense		632.71
Veterinary Services		94,294.25
TOTAL	\$171,822.04	\$120,136.20
NET INCOME: \$47,992.62		
Checking Account as of 01-18-22:		\$135,667.19
The Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 01-18-22:		\$ 29,141.32
Savings Account as of 01-18-22:		\$124,133.19
Outstanding Credit Card Balance on 01-18-22:		\$ 6,034.68

This year, **AGR**’s fundraising goal is \$10,000. We are featuring our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program as our reason for needing to raise funds, as within the last year we have had four dogs in this program. For a dog receiving the *GPFA* designation, the adopter will pay only a \$1 adoption fee; **AGR** will then pay for all the dog’s medical needs until the dog passes away, not an inexpensive endeavor since the *GPFA* dogs are almost always very ill, or severely injured, and most are old, or all three.

So, we encourage you to donate towards our goal starting on March 16.

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Deb Orwig

Magic Moments... when a stray Golden Retriever or Golden mix is spotted in a shelter kennel and does a happy dance when taken out; when a neglected backyard dog is surrendered by its owner to a member of our Transport Team and is delivered to a foster family that shows the dog love, comfort, toys and good-quality food for, perhaps, the first time in the dog's life; and the most magical of all... when a rescued dog meets his or her forever family and we see the dog's excitement and the sparkle in the family's eyes. As rescuers, we are privileged to share in these Magic Moments. Below are stories of Arizona Golden Rescue's Magic Moments from September 30, 2021 through January 15, 2022. All adoptions finalized after January 15th will be in the next issue.



21-025 Lucy is a 5-year-old Goldendoodle that favors her Golden parent more than her Poodle parent. Her owner had to sell her home and move in with her son and could not take the dog. **Lucy** was already spayed and up to date on her vaccines. However, at the foster's home a short time after engaging in some play with the resident dog, **Lucy**

was limping. An orthopedic specialist determined that **Lucy** had a torn cruciate ligament, so **AGR** had surgery done to repair the leg. **Lucy** is a wonderful, sweet girl who just loves attention, whether it's from people or other dogs. She is very smart and playful, in addition to being very cute. She loves to swim, play tug and go for walks. Everyone loves **Lucy** including her new mom, Chris in Goodyear, who said: **Lucy, Lucy Goosey, Luze Goose, Lucifer.** *No matter which name I call her, I LOVE LUCY! Lucy is my first official foster failure. I am so happy that she is, since I did not see that in the very near future that I would have to say goodbye to my 14-year-old Goldendoodle, Jack, on December 22nd. I was asked to foster Lucy for just a couple of days in early June. I was hesitant since I had just said goodbye to 10 1/2-year-old Nash, my first AGR rescue. I was thinking what could a few days hurt, plus it would be good for Jack to have a friend around again. Well, Lucy had other ideas about only being a foster: Her letter from her former owner said Lucy never gets on the furniture, never begs, and hardly sheds. It was within the first 5 minutes of being at my house that she had made herself comfortable on my couch with no intentions of moving, shedding everywhere, and drooling for a piece of popcorn! Lucy also loves to steal just one shoe out of a pair from my closet, dish towels off the kitchen counter, T-shirts off my dresser, and any other fun thing she can find. She doesn't destroy these items, just carries them around proudly as her prized possessions. However, stuffed animals or stuffed toys of any strength are no match for Lucy – she will have them "blown up" in 2 minutes flat with stuffing scattered all through the house. If you are in my kitchen while Lucy is eating, you'd better have shoes on. I have never seen a dog eat like she does. Lucy will take a mouth full of food, walk away from her bowl and spit out the food as she goes, leaving*

a huge mess trail. But not to worry, she will go back and eat every bite of kibble eventually. Lucy cannot wait for the pool to warm up. She definitely is a princess and will not swim in cold water. When she is in the pool, she loves to be held like a baby and sung to, especially Garth Brooks songs. Lucy has already enjoyed AGR events and loves meeting all her new Golden friends. She brings me joy every day when I miss Nash and Jack sorely. This foster failure happened just at the perfect time for both Chris and Lucy!



21-027 Ginger, a 2½-year-old Golden mix, has had a difficult young life. At her owner's home, she was crated for 10 hours a day, never trained, never socialized with people or other dogs, and barked excessively, most likely out of fear. We tried her in two different homes, but, for one reason or another, she did not fit in with either family. After getting all her standard vetting done, we decided that we had to enroll her at **Partners Dog Training School** for behavior modification and obedience training. She did very well at **Partners**, but when she finished her 3 weeks of "boot camp", the designated fosters were unable to follow through with the training. They kept her for a few days until we found the perfect adopter for her, Jean in Surprise. In the recent past, Jean had lost both her husband and the first dog she adopted from **AGR**, so she was open to having another dog. She was also willing to make the hour-long drive from her house to **Partners** once a week for 8 weeks. With one-on-one lessons with the head trainer and then in group classes, Jean learned to work with **Ginger** herself. In fact, this routine is what **AGR** requires of foster families who want to adopt a dog we have had trained at **Partners**. To help control her anxiety, **Ginger** was started on Prozac. It took some time to stabilize her with the right dosage, but the medication has done the trick. Jean related: **Ginger has become the joy of my life. She**

is so enthusiastic and full of energy. If I would, she'd play ball 24/7. She loves her yard and is so active that when I bring her inside she takes a nap so she'll be ready to go again. I think she's pretty much over her anxieties, but sometimes they show up on our walks, which are twice a day. She won't use the doggie door unless I prop the flap open – I'm not sure why. She does a little pirouette when I give her her meds. She's probably the most affectionate dog I've ever had and loves sharing the couch and bed. She cocks her head when I'm talking to her and is so attentive. I'd take her everywhere if possible, and she loves going along. She likes to bark at the neighbor yappers and the birds but will stop when I correct her. **AGR** events have been great for both of us and we're looking forward to more.



21-029 Cooper was only 8 weeks old, a very small, sick puppy when he was surrendered to **AGR**. The owner, who had just purchased him for \$1,100 from a Craig's List ad, realized the next day that the puppy was ill and contacted the breeder but she would not take the puppy back. The puppy was diagnosed with Giardia and initially thought to

have megaesophagus (he doesn't). The owner could not afford the vet bills, so he surrendered the puppy to **AGR**. Liz, who has dealt with megaesophagus before, offered to foster **Cooper**. After just a couple weeks at her house, she reported: **Cooper** is a healthy little boy. He has been eating from his own bowl on the floor of his crate since July 20th and he eats 4 times a day. No regurgitation. He does spit up some liquid, but puppies normally can do that and it's not often. He has a bottle in his cage which he used immediately but also, when out of his crate, drinks from a small water dish in the kitchen that allows small amounts of water at a time. Almost finished with his meds for Giardia; poop is formed but soft, which is normal for a puppy. He will need the rest of his vaccination series and eventual neuter. Loves to play, very smart. I take him outside to pee/poop every two hours or when I let him out of his crate. Overnight he can go the entire night with one trip outside around 1-2 AM and early morning around 5 AM. He has only peed once in his crate although he does like to rip up the newspaper occasionally. Taught himself to use my two-flap dog door by watching the other dogs. When he was figuring it out he would get right underneath a big dog and just go on through when they did. Now he does it himself. Loves to play with **Guinness** and would with the other dogs but they ignore him unless they're sniffing him every now and then. Puppy naps around the house and does try to chew on wooden furniture, but he has lots of toys so he can be re-directed. Typical very young puppy! He weighs about 6.5 lbs right now, so small for his age. Connie transported him to his new home with Dillan and Fletcher in Phoenix – they have renamed the puppy **Marshall**. Connie said, As soon as we got there, **Cooper** and **Dudley**, his new big brother, got acquainted and played a bit. I think **Cooper** was

a little overwhelmed with his big new yard and would frequently come back to the safety of my lap. He slowly gained confidence and before I left was quite at home. I think he will be very happy there, as Fletcher works from home and will be able to spend a lot of time with him. I did emphasize that he needed to stay in the backyard and be carried into any vet appointments until his vaccinations were complete. This looks like a terrific placement, a super home, and I hope we see him later at events. Fletcher golfs and was really interested in the next golf tournament – that will be on September 17, folks! The family has completed **Marshall's** vaccine series and has an addendum for his neutering when he is about a year old. They followed up with this comment: **Marshall** is doing great. He's fit right in with his brother **Dudley**. He is a big fan of playing catch and frisbee and loves long walks. He's a very cuddly dog and enjoys a nap on the couch after a long day. He's the perfect addition to our family.



21-034 Zena, now called **Charlotte**, is a gorgeous purebred red Golden who was about 9 months old when she came to **AGR**. She turned out to be too much to handle for her senior-age owners. They loved her, said she is smart and lots of fun, but they realized that love just isn't enough and wanted to give her the active life she deserves. The owners had taken wonderful care of her. She was up to date

on all the regular vaccines (we gave her the one for leptospirosis) and was already spayed. She tested negative for valley fever and heartworm. Active is what we found for her in the person of Chase, an energetic, athletic young man who loves to hike and wanted a dog to go with him. He has a cabin in northern Arizona and likes to go there often to hike. When asked for some comments about **Charlotte**, Chase wrote: *Having Charlotte has been a fantastic addition to my life. When I work from home, go hiking in the mountains, or go to a restaurant patio, she makes me and everyone around me happier. Charlotte instantly makes people's day, so I feel obligated to share her around as much as possible. She is really well behaved, especially for a 1-year-old and a rescue, so I feel very fortunate to get a "good one."* She is a very silly dog – more silly than my prior Golden when I was a child. When she play-fights, she exposes her teeth like an aggressive wolf, but she doesn't know that it looks intimidating – she is a gentle fighter. When she is playing with a toy or ball, she opens her hips up lying down, and cocks her head up in the air as she throws the ball up in the air to herself. One of my first



big hikes with her was in Flagstaff after the first snow of the year. She loved rolling in the snow so much that I let her off of the leash for a minute so she could fully enjoy herself. At that time, a bear walked across the trail 50 feet ahead, and **Charlotte** is so friendly that she started walking over to the bear, giving me a heart attack. Fortunately the bear wanted nothing to do with us, and kept trotting along – crisis averted. We wish Chase and **Charlotte** a happy life together with no other close calls!



21-035 Daisy was an 8-week-old purebred Golden puppy who, along with her sister **Savannah** (read her story next), was given up because the owner said his daughter quickly developed allergies after the dogs were brought into their house. Having two young puppies and no training experience, the owner was overwhelmed. The puppies had been purchased from

a “breeder” who advertised them on Craig’s List for \$750 each. They were small for their reported age. We had to do all the standard vetting on both puppies, and both will need to be spayed (at our expense) when they are about a year old. **Daisy**, renamed **Yuuki** by her new family’s daughter who likes an anime character by that name, is growing up well and putting on weight. She has a nice large yard to run in and several other dogs to play with, ideal for an energetic puppy! Here is what her adopter, Eric in Gilbert, told us: *Yuuki is doing fantastic and fit in wonderfully with my teenage daughters and our other dogs. She is incredibly smart and loves to learn new commands. She was potty-trained in just a week or so. She loves to play fetch and chase with her canine brothers and sisters. Her favorite toy is a stuffed dinosaur.* Happy new life, **Yuuki**.



21-036 Savannah is now called **Blitzen** by her new owners, Rebecca and Bob in Tucson. She and **Daisy** are littermates that were surrendered together by the person who purchased them from a Craig’s List ad. **Savannah**, although small herself, was the larger of the two girls. Her new family has an adult Golden who has been showing **Savannah** the ropes. The family related: *Blitzen is doing great and fitting in really well with our family. Blitzen loves to play, and she is a big instigator of fun. She plays hard with her big brother, Comet, every day. She can be quite feisty and is able to keep up*

with him even though he’s always been at least 3X the size of her. She loves snuggles! I have never met a big dog that likes to cuddle more than **Blitzen** does. She will always weasel her way right next to you to get more love. She gets along with any dog, big or small, and she gets along really well with cats. In fact, it isn’t rare to find her snuggling up with our adult cat, **Meeko**. She



Big Comet snuggling with little Blitzen

*LOVES to eat. She gets ravenous during feeding time. When we have the food out, she places herself around the corner so that she can’t see the food and therefore doesn’t go too crazy. She is shockingly good at fetch. We have been unable to get **Comet** to return anything, and she did it right away. She loves her crate and has no problem getting in. Somehow, she manages to sneak her way out of it in the middle of the night though, and we wake up to her coming up to snuggle in between us in bed. We love the stories our adopters send us! Have a good life, **Blitzen!***

21-038 Moose is a 7-month-old Golden Mix that the owner had for one day. The minute they walked into their home with Moose, the resident Dachshund tried to bite, snap and growl at him. **Moose** did not respond, just backed up. They realized that until they can get the Dachshund socialized, they cannot have a second dog. **Moose** was in good health but needed all his vaccines, tests for valley fever and heartworm and had to be neutered. He was a wild child and we hoped the neutering would calm him down some, but he was still crazy energetic and untrained. We initially placed him with a foster who had a puppy and cats. It didn’t go well – **Moose** was too much for the puppy and wanted to chase the cats, which was unacceptable. We moved him to a single woman, Carrie in Gilbert, who had no other pets and was able to give him the attention he needed. We told her we would pay for her to take him through basic obedience classes at **Master’s Kennels University** near her home, so she enrolled him and spent 6 weeks learning to work with him. When asked for a follow-up story, she wrote: *From the moment I had my home visit to the time **Moose/Cooper** was brought to my house, was very quick. Since mine was technically the fourth home he was in, I found out that it would be necessary to have stringent training to break him of some bad habits he had developed. He didn’t respond to “Moose.” I decided he looked more like a “Cooper” than a “Moose” and spent a lot of time getting him to come to me using the name of Cooper. He loved running from the get-go which was something my flower garden did not tolerate very well. However, putting up hog panels deterred any further destruction. He was super resistant to get into his crate (I think maybe it was used as punishment)*





and it wasn't really a place of solace for him. So again...more training to get him to feel his "den" was a place of peace and rest. We quickly started professional training which curbed his naughtiness in many areas. He gets bored when he doesn't have anything to do, and it's in those moments that he looks for trouble. He still struggles with wanting to chase after bunnies or cats, so we'll be starting a beginners 2 class soon which will

hopefully curtail those impulses. He loves the tub. I say the tub because he loves baths, but he also jumps in it almost every day and "digs" at the drain when there is no water in it. I've found him many times on his back trying to get water from the spigot. **Cooper** looooooves to eat. This helps when trying to train him since treats seem to catch his attention. He doesn't really bark, which is wonderful; he's more curious than aggressively protective. But, he certainly does have his sassy moments. I've been working on "place" training with him – he has a designated mat and when I say "place" he should go to the mat and stay there until I release him. His sass means he sometimes howls and "talks" at me until I shush him. He absolutely adores people and getting all the love and attention he can get. It's really hard to be mad at him when he is bad because he is so darn cute. I have to keep reminding myself he's only 10 months old and has a lot of growth yet to come. Everyone who meets him loves him (as he's one big fuzzy furball of love and excitement) and I have no doubt he's going to continue being an amazing dog! I found that he even likes watching TV, specifically the Muppets. I put on a Christmas special and he was glued to the TV. He loves his walks – we try to go 2-3 times a day. He gets to do all the sniffing he wants for the first half of the walks. Then we get serious and work on our training (which he doesn't mind because he is rewarded a lot for doing well). He loves playing tug-o-war, and he's getting better at dropping toys so I can throw them for him. If I have to crate him during the day, he is getting better about going into the crate with a Kong filled with peanut butter. When I get home, he doesn't whimper or bark, but waits for me with a sweet look and a wagging tail. He is a wonderful addition to my home. He has certainly found his "fur-ever" home! Carrie has enrolled in the basic 2 class where she says, He's/I'm going to keep getting better with training. He still pulls a little with heeling but he's such a quick learner. We wish all our adopters would take their adopted dog through basic obedience! **Cooper** is much better behaved now that he knows who is boss – and that isn't him!

21-039 Buddy is a neutered 9-month-old Goldendoodle with very unusual coloring – his ears and the base of his tail are red-gold (like his Golden parent) and the rest of him is cream-colored (like his Poodle parent). He is high energy and needs lots of attention



and exercise. The owner has 2 children, one autistic; they also have a cat and a small 8-pound dog, and she was overwhelmed. **Buddy** is so big and playful he would knock the kids over. He also would take the 2-year old's pacifier from him very gently and chew on it. They could not give him the attention and exercise he needs. He needed more than he could get from the first family we chose for him, too. That family has three kids all of whom participate in sports, another dog and a highly-demanding job. We don't know why they thought they would be able to manage another dog! So, after Buddy had all his vetting, Cindy and Gary fostered this big floppy-eared boy for a few days, until we moved him to Michele and Mike in Phoenix. They renamed him **Jaxon** and told us: **Jaxon** is the perfect addition to our family! He loves going for walks and playing tug-of-war with our other fur baby/his big sister **Emmy** (a black Goldendoodle). They sleep next to each other all day and play together at night. Even though **Jaxon** is 50 lbs, he thinks he's a lap dog. He likes to curl up on any of the laps of our three kids, and they love it! We adore **Jaxon**! We feel so lucky to have him! We know **Jaxon** has found the right home this time!



21-040 Gordy is a 6-year-old neutered male. The owner loved **Gordy**, but he wanted to take a special job with the Army overseas and that is not possible with **Gordy**. He said he is 39 and his life has changed, and **Gordy** is just not fitting into this lifestyle, which makes him feel very guilty. He is living in an RV off base and **Gordy** is in the RV all day and must be on a leash when outside and that is not fair to him. **Gordy** was up to date on all his vaccines, so he just needed tests for heartworm and valley fever. Connie fostered **Gordy** for a few days and learned he was totally lovable but basically untrained, a counter surfer, was very strong and did not walk well on leash. After several calls to potential adopters, Placement Manager Patty finally found the right home with Kim and Nate in Tempe. They related: **Gordy** has been great! Adopting a 6-year-old dog has been an experience because he has developed so much personality over the years, which we keep discovering more of the longer he is in our home. One story that comes to mind... About a month after adoption, I was having him lie down to earn a Greenie for a treat. We noticed he was moving to one side of his belly, so I moved the Greenie in a circular motion and said, "Roll over?" and he of course rolled over on command. The trick wasn't in the notes from



his former owner, so it was a pleasant surprise! Another was his ability to wait patiently while his meals are being prepared. He is a hungry dog, so we expected his food to be gone as soon as his bowl was filled up but when asked to sit, stay, and leave it he will hold tight until the "Go!" command before chowing down. He loves going for car rides (wherever they may be), and sitting down with a stuffed bone or peanut butter-filled Kong to pass the day by. He does have some quirky habits like sucking on his favorite pillow or bed, pawing at you the moment after you stop petting him, grunting when he's relaxed or excited, and carrying around any toy he can get a hold of in his mouth to greet visitors. **Gordy** has added so much joy to our home and he is such a character. He enjoys walking to the park and watching the ducks and any new toy we bring home is his favorite (for the day). He had an awesome time joining the "Pit Crew" for Halloween and thought the stuffed bone he got was a treat, not a trick. He has also made us feel more a part of our community – we now see faces of people and dogs during our routine walks that we had never met before **Gordy**. I would like to add an additional thank you to **AGR** and all of the people who helped throughout the adoption process! Everybody was kind and considerate, and I am overjoyed with the quality of service. We thank you for the kudos!



21-043 Bobby was a very small 8-week-old puppy that was suspected of having hydrocephalus due to her somewhat domed head. The owner, who had had her only a week, decided she could not manage the potential vet bills and surrendered this sweet, affectionate little girl to **AGR**. After she was fostered by Judy in Phoenix for a couple days, we moved **Bobby** to Liz's house. Liz took her to have an exam by Dr. Cohen at **Stetson Hills Animal**

Hospital, one of our experienced veterinarians. He noted that while her head is apple shaped, the fontanel portion of her skull is closed. Usually this would be open in a hydrocephalic dog. She also did not exhibit any neurological signs as she walked around the exam room or when going for treats. **Bobby's** head was odd-shaped for a Golden for sure. She looked like she might have Cocker Spaniel or Chihuahua in her, just to give you an idea of what her little puppy head looked like. But, all good news from the vet! **Bobby** was placed with Amanda and Casey in Chandler. They renamed her **Gila** (pronounced Heela like the monster). Amanda said: *My husband's family are all dog lovers and they have a tradition of naming them after rivers. I think it stems from their last name, Ribar, which in Slovak means fisherman. A lot of his family is from the North West including Alaska, so it was a lot of fun for us to get to choose a name that is so specific to the hot Phoenix region. They have two cats who were both bigger than **Gila** when she arrived. One of the cats firmly put her in her place about who was boss; the other cat hid. Amanda and Casey have been terrific about sending us follow-up notes. They have related: *First few days she started to pick up things and chew so we're getting her more chew toys today;**

Jimmy the cat and she are going to be best friends in no time, **Murphy** more wait-and-see. **Gila** changes every day and really loves running around the yard. Later, more comments as she grows:



Gila now bigger than Jimmy and her head looks normal

*She is starting to chase toys we throw; we taught her to come; cats have transitioned to "OK she's staying." She likes to take her chew toy to the grass outside to chew on it. Asks to go outside at the door all the time, sometimes for potty, or just because. She and the cats nap together on the bed or couch. Young neighbor girls come over to give her treats. They are 2 and 5, and she is good with them. First part of December: We got more boosters and were cleared for puppy class but not for walking the neighborhood. Cats are even more relaxed with her. Went to puppy class – she wanted to meet all the puppies, youngest in a full class – trainer suggested a different class so she can get more attention. She's learning a lot – because of her age we do small sessions all day and training is going amazing, she's a smart girl. She's full of energy and Miss Congeniality at her puppy classes. She's always a big hit everywhere we take her and wonderful with our nephews and niece. The way she plays fetch is the cutest thing I've ever seen. She's kind of a lazy girl, but she'll lightly jog after a toy if I throw it. When she brings it back, she always used to curl around my legs to try and drop it on my feet. I thought it was adorable so I started sitting down, and now when she brings a toy over to me she plops down in my lap. If I get the toy from her, she'll chase it but always comes right back to curl in my lap and get scratches while chewing her toy. She's a little particular, but in a sweet way; seems to know exactly which toy she wants to play with at the moment, and even though she can really throw her toys around she's oddly careful not to tear apart any. Except for her chews! Those are marked for demolition the second she gets one. We're so happy to have her in our lives! Thank you so much **AGR**!*

The next four dogs that have been adopted, plus one other whose adoption is still pending, were found together on a dirt road in Queen Creek. Although they were all small, they were judged to be 5-7 months old. Trying to locate the owner, the finder advertised the puppies on local sites. The puppies were checked for a microchip and none was found. No one responded to the ads. Due to the pack mentality they were exhibiting with the four females following after the one male and he pushing the smallest female away from the food bowl, we decided it would be best to separate the puppies and place them in different homes. Since they were strays, we had to assume they had never had any vetting, so we had our standard work-up done on each puppy. All will be sterilized when they are around a year old. Connie and Nick transport-

ed them to **Academy West Animal Hospital** and named them all Fall names starting with "A". Connie exclaimed that the finders were wonderful people, and she is sure that had they not taken in the whole group, the dogs would have either been hit by cars or become coyote food. The transport was an adventure, as many are. Connie reported: *When I arrived, the husband had just finished bathing Aster and Aspen and had them tied in the front yard. They were not liking the collars and leashes and being tied up at all and were getting very upset about it. They were used to being unfettered in the backyard with the rest of the litter and this was scaring them quite a bit. He was going to do the other 3 because they were all smelly and muddy, but I assured him they would get done at Academy West. He was a great help in getting the few photos I did get. We were very pressed for time to get back to Academy West (they close at 5 PM on weekdays) so cut it as short as I could. Autumn was particularly upset about being collared and it really scared her. They were all initially afraid of us but warmed up after a few minutes after they were caught. Once they are in your arms they relax and love to be cuddled. We didn't try to walk them with the leashes we brought – they were light enough to just carry to the vehicles. They all rode quietly except Archer (the male) who growled, barked and talked to me a few times from his crate on the way. One of the girls, I think Amber, gave us a nice fecal sample in the crate, but the others did not. We did not get to AW until about 5:15, and to my surprise there were 5+ gals, waiting to each carry in a puppy! Plus, Kristin to do the paperwork. Liz met us there, too – it was so great to see how the pups warmed up to the ladies and vice versa. They were just loving all that holding and cuddling. What a gorgeous litter! AW did not have any puppy food, so I'll pick up some tomorrow and drop it off. We are always so appreciative of Connie and Nick, who probably do 95% of our transports, driving all over the state of Arizona – they've gone to Yuma, Lake Havasu City, Flagstaff, Payson, and Tucson as well as all over the Phoenix Metro area – Surprise to Queen Creek and everywhere in between – and often foster for a day or more if we cannot get a dog into a vet right away. Thank you so much!*



21-047 Autumn now called **Annie**. Patrick in Waddell was chosen as **Autumn's** adopter. From Connie's transport summary: *Autumn is the biggest girl of the five – at 26+ lbs just slightly smaller than Archer (the male). She is still very thin though. She was also the hardest one to gather up at the finders' house – she was the most skittish. To-*

*day she was so much better as vet tech Jacob helped me get a few photos at AW. She then serenaded me all of the way to the FWITA's in Waddell. And I do mean serenaded. Liz and Sharon could hear her as we were trying to talk on the phone! It was a difficult intro at first because of her skittishness. The resident dog, **Elsie**, is very friendly and very enthusiastic and very big. She absolutely terrified **Autumn** at first, who let out a blood-curdling scream when **Elsie** first approached. We sat out in the patio for about 90 minutes while she got used to the idea, just letting her know all was good. I went to the van to get her food and offered her some when I got back. She instantly turned happy and more confident. So Patrick gave her some and she was suddenly wagging her tail and interested in everything – it was as if a light went off in her head. She said hello to **Elsie**, even if a little cautiously, and decided to go into the house to explore. There she found **Elsie's** food (he free-feeds her) and I asked him to please stop that practice and start a green bean diet. She also found the toys (**Elsie** is not at all possessive about them) and was really interested in them, immediately carrying around **Elsie's** favorite. By the time I left she was a completely different puppy, full of confidence and curiosity. Looks like a great placement, and Patrick has already sent me a photo of **Autumn**, now **Annie**, with some toys.*

Patrick has been great about sending us updates. My initial assessment is **Annie** is terribly under fed, and she is dehydrated to the n^{th} degree. Her appetite seems to be insatiable. I have never seen a dog drink as much water as she has tonight. We had a lake in the kitchen as she knocked over the water bowls several times. Fixed that by giving them a bucket of water they can't knock over. Interestingly, as the night has gone on, **Annie** crept ever closer to me as she slept. Right at my feet now, as is **Elsie**, only on the other side... **Annie** is playful at times, but I almost detect some reticence on her part, as if there has been some male person with which she has had difficulty. She is more friendly with me tonight, but still bounces away at times... Potty training her is going to be a challenge. She has peed several times in the house, and pooped twice in the house. I have been taking her outside about every 30 minutes with no success. I am sure once she goes outside and I can praise her we will be on the right road. She is very intelligent. I know she knows her name... Starting to sit on command, and even a handshake. Her stools are nothing nearly as bad as **Elsie's** were. **Elsie** looked like a cow that would raise its tail and shoot a stream out. I am hopeful this will resolve quickly, knock on wood, keep your fingers crossed... We have no insurmountable



*problems. Just raising a puppy. As you said, she is not going to be a show dog, but she is going to be a great family dog. I love her to death. Only a week later... I'm so happy I've got this beautiful little girl. She and **Elsie** absolutely brawled, playfully, today. I just knew I would be taking one to the ER, ha ha. She is a stubborn little thing during leash training, but we'll get there. Vet says she is*

now 37.2 lbs, remarkable! Certainly, we have had our puppy challenges though – housebreaking, 2 pairs of reading glasses gone, one pair of sandals chewed up, a bath mat chewed, and almost one DVR remote. But, pretty much my fault for being complacent in observing her behavior, and not removing the forbidden temptations from her reach. We continue to work and just take baby steps. I am not interested in having a circus dog doing cute tricks. Just trying to get her more well-behaved on the leash. Given her age, she has developed a stubborn streak, and likes to challenge authority. She is intelligent as she pretty much taught herself how to use the dog door. I feel so fulfilled when she is curled up on the sofa sound asleep she seems to emit a signal that says how safe she feels, how nourished she feels, and how content she is in her new home, the only home she has known. She has become a very affectionate dog, she snuggles with me on the sofa, or is at my feet. She is often lying close to **Elsie** and routinely washes **Elsie's** face. We wish you all every happiness!



21-048 Aspen was placed with Robin and Charles in Mesa. Connie and another one of our transporters, Robin M who lives in Chandler, arranged to do a combined transport. Robin met Connie in Tempe and did the East Valley half. She reported: *On the way to the FWITA's house, Aspen cried and barked for the first 10 minutes, pooped and peed in her crate and*

then fell asleep. When I arrived at Robin and Charlie's home, they brought their two Pugs and son outside to meet Aspen. The Pugs were barking with excitement, which scared Aspen, so she wouldn't go near them. Aspen was a surprise for their son, so he was very excited! None of the dogs showed any aggression, so I picked up Aspen and we went to their backyard. Charlie helped me wash Aspen's paws off since she had poop on them. He also helped me clean the crate. When we went to their backyard and let them all off leash, the Pugs were very excited. One of them barks a lot and Aspen didn't care for it very much, but she warmed up to them a little, although she was not interested in playing at all. She sniffed around the yard and played with their son. She was jumping on him a lot so I corrected her. After we got the crate cleaned out, we went in the house, and I explained how to administer the meds, signed the contract, and reviewed the new dog manual. I also gave them a 2021 calendar and a newsletter. I gave them an AGR crate to borrow for a few weeks and highly recommended they crate train her. Robin said she had never crated a dog before, so I explained if left alone without being crated, she will destroy things and it could be dangerous to Aspen if she gets into food that's toxic or if she eats something she shouldn't. Hopefully, they will follow through. I also recommended they bring her to a puppy training class. Adopter Robin sent us a follow-up statement: Nova, as we now call her, has been a great fit into our family. She is incredibly gentle taking food from your hand or even waits pa-

tiently and sits pretty for you to fill her bowl. This is dramatically different from our two food-crazy Pugs. She plays with our Pugs but especially with the younger one (Grumble) who is ecstatic to have the playmate. They chase each other around the back yard like maniacs. Nova is an absolute doll. She loves to be with her people, wherever they are in the home, so much that we think we should've named her "Velcro". Nova has definitely brought some extra sunshine into our home. Now if we could train her to not "trim" our hops bushes in the backyard... I come out to a pile of sticks made by Nova. We are so happy to have her in our family.



21-049 Amber was another dual transport between Connie and Robin, since the adopters, Crystal and Jim live in Ahwatukee. Robin reported: *Amber rode well in the car to the FWITA's house with just a little bit of whining for the first 5 minutes and then dozed off. The family met us in the front yard and all were very excited to meet Amber who warmed up to them quickly.*

Their 10-year-old daughter Maddy was very excited. We went to the backyard where Amber investigated the pool by sniffing the water but didn't seem interested. We then washed Amber's paws off – she had a little bit of poop on them after pooping in her crate on the drive to Tempe from AW. She didn't like the water on her paws very much. The family loves her very much. They told us: When she first came to us, Amber, now Hazy, was severely underweight, timid and tense. Any unexpected noise would lead to her fleeing in panic, skinny limbs flailing, a tiny trail of pee in her wake. With a few weeks of patience and much-needed meals, the timidity has mostly receded to reveal a sweet, attentive pup who rarely allows her humans to leave a room without her. She responds to belly rubs with muted wookie-like groans, and



returns the favor with soft ear nibbles. There are a minimum of two walks per day at her gentle insistence, during which she demands to carry the human end of the leash in her mouth, and makes a comical game of darting between the legs of any member of the pack walking within reach of the leash. Her limbs still flail with puppy clumsiness on occasion, but it's with more joy than terror, and a whole lot less pee. An ex-

planation of her new name: Husband Jim likes Hazy IPA beer and the daughter spelled the name H-a-z-i-e. Unique and wonderful! Happy new life, Hazy!

21-050 Aster, now called **Oakley**, was the smallest of the litter. She was placed with Jill and Michael in Peoria. Since this couple volunteers on AGR's transport



team, Jill picked up the puppy and took her the two blocks to her house. She said: *Aster was very happy to be out of the kennels. She weighed in at a big 14 lbs. Poor thing is so thin. I got her meds (being treated for anemia and possible intestinal parasites) and signed her out. She rode very well to our house. Once home, Michael met us at my car where he carried her to the back yard. We brought our pack out one at a time to meet **Oakley**. Every dog didn't seem to mind her and just greeted me like a normal day. We went inside and just watched her and everyone else to see what they were doing – they just ignored her. We fed all of them at the same time; she ate as fast as she could and tried to get everyone else's food. The evening went well. We gave her a bath and she didn't seem to mind that too much. She slept well last night and has been very good all day. Nobody seems to mind her and she follows us around wherever we go. Just recently, Jill wrote: **Oakley** is doing great! She is such a sweetheart and wants to please us. She loves to play with all of our pack but mostly with **Zoey**. She didn't start out in the best of circumstances being on her own with her siblings. She is thriving with us and is growing and having the best time. She will wake me up in the morning with a big hug and kiss. She is definitely a momma's girl, which makes me happy since most of the dogs gravitate to Michael. She loves to*



*go with Momma to get coffee since she will get a pup cup. For such a small dog she has a very deep bark. If we are looking for her we only have to find **Zoey** – she will be right there with **Zoey**. She is a very loving and snuggling dog. We can't wait to see what she does with the pool, on the boat, and our summer camping trips. **Oakley** joined **AGR** for the *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade*. We gave her the smallest donation vest we had and it still swallowed her whole! But, she will grow into it and we will welcome her presence again whenever Jill and Michael can bring her.*

21-051 Charlie, now spelled **Charley**, who is about 10 years old, was adopted by Adam and Duane in Peoria. They love the old dogs, so this was an easy placement. **Charlie** was a return-to-Rescue having originally been adopted in 2015. The first adopter said that her special-needs son is now 15 and had started to be aggressive around the dog, so she felt it best for the dog if we rehomed him. **Charlie** needed grooming, which we had done, and his teeth are terrible, so we will have a dental done when cleared by the vet. The dog has arthritis in his hips, which we hope can be managed with medication and the green bean diet, as he is quite overweight. Adam related: *Charley is not a dog, he's a presence – a very distinct personality and very much himself. Fortunately "himself" is wonderful – loving, affectionate – and very strong-willed. He must have taken a master class*



*in passive resistance from Ghandi. When he doesn't want to do something (usually get off the sofa or from on my feet when it's dinner time) he can just go limp, making him dead weight that he challenges you to shift. And he's a hearty dog, not heavy, but 20 lbs heavier than any of my other pups, easily making him a force to be reckoned with. It took him no time at all to find his place here and make it his home. He camps out with me in my office in the afternoons. After I've had a frustrating conference call, his head pops at my right elbow with an upward nudge to remind me petting him will make me feel better – putting his paw on my wrist melts my heart. And when he leans his body against my chest it's even money which one of us gives a big contented sigh first, but it's a certainty that we both are going to give one. Thank you for connecting me with **Charley**. I was heartbroken losing my amazing **Malle**. **Charley** is a very different presence, but he fills my heart in a way that **Malle** always did. I hope **Charley** and I have many years of memory-making ahead of us. I'm thankful to him – and to **AGR** – every day.*



21-052 Sugar is a gorgeous 8-year-old English Cream Golden. Her owner was 82 and was experiencing failing health, and her 56-year-old daughter was totally disabled and unable to care for the dog. When the owner had to go into hospice care, she authorized a neighbor to surrender the dog to **AGR**, which was promptly done. This lovely spayed female is just like her name, sweet as sugar. She was

placed with Dean and Marlene in Chandler. Dean had recently lost his 8-year-old **Lola** to kidney failure and was distressed at not having a dog. **Sugar** came to Rescue just at the right time – Dean has been over-the-moon about her ever since. Although we have not had many events this past year, Dean has brought **Sugar** to every one: *Dine Out With The Dogs*, **PACC911's Adopt-a-thon** at *All Saint's Episcopal Church* in Phoenix, the craft sales at **Sam's Club** in Surprise, the *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade* and the **Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce/PACC911** combined *Winter Adoption Event* at **Floor and Décor** in Glendale. Dean's philosophy is "have dog, will travel to **AGR** events!" We are so glad he is willing to drive from Chandler to join us and show off his beautiful dog – **Sugar** is a wonderful crowd pleaser. Coming in at just over 100 pounds, she was quickly put on the green bean diet. Dean also walks her twice a day, and has worked up to a couple miles each time. Although she has about 15 pounds to go, she has lost 10 pounds, and looks much better. She loves rolling in the grass and was happy to do so when she came to the **PACC911 Adopt-a-thon** held on the big grassy field of the **Veterans Memorial Park** in Anthem on January 15.

21-053 Sedona is an adorable 4-year-old Goldendoodle, who is a pretty amber/apricot color. Her owners recently had a baby and every time the baby would cry, **Sedona** would howl, which made

the baby cry more, which made **Sedona** howl more – a vicious and noisy circle. The owners tried to console **Sedona** by distracting her or putting her outside, but nothing worked, so they had no choice but to surrender her to Rescue. She was placed with Diane and Todd in Phoenix. They immediately fell in love with this pretty girl. They had been



hoping for a Doodle and were beyond happy with **Sedona**. During the follow-up call with Diane, Todd was in the background yelling that **Sedona** is a covers hog. She was reluctant to get up on the bed at first, but once coaxed up she sleeps there quietly all night. She had been free-fed at her owner's home, so she was somewhat overweight. She was started on the green bean diet promptly and is being fed only twice a day. Although the owner reported that **Sedona** did not play with toys, Diane and Todd have found that she loves her toys. She also loves her walks, which she gets three times a day. The adopters related: *Our lives are so much better since **Sedona** arrived! We can't wait to get home from work to be greeted by her wiggly body and high pitched howl of happiness and excitement! We've changed plans just to be home with her or done things specifically so we could take her with us... she's so happy and social and full of life and sweetness. The daily walks are for her but so good for everyone's health and mental stability. We've met neighbors and made new friends because she wants to stop and say hello or greet another dog. She is very snuggly and wants bodily contact – often sits across our laps in the recliner or stands with her head on a lap while we're at the computer. Everyone needs a puppy hug each day and OHHHHH the puppy kisses! We sleep better with her tucked in between us, usually with a head on one of us and her butt pushed up against the other... the security and warmth are unconditional. There's more laughter in the house with rounds of tug-of-war and watching her fling her many toys around the living room. Or watching her fall asleep in the most awkward, crazy positions. Friends and extended family are stopping by to meet or just love on her – she knows no stranger and loves everyone, so the house has been alive and full! She is definitely an Arizona dog and hates the wet grass on her feet! New Year's Eve she was unphased by the fireworks and neighborhood commotion – slept through it all! LOVES her toys and stuffed animals but will not chase a ball for any reason! She is a social eater – we put her dish in the dining room and "serve" her supper when we eat so we have a family meal! We canNOT thank AGR enough for the joy, love and happiness of our Goldendoodle Girl!*

21-054 Trouble, or **Double T** (for **Double Trouble**), is a 6-month-old female Golden. She was not spayed, and hadn't had her first heat yet, but she was up to date on her vaccines. After losing his 14-year-old Golden, the owner decided to get a Golden puppy. He said the puppy was hyper, and he was unable to handle her. Perhaps after 14 years, he had forgotten what puppies are like! She

was transported from San Tan Valley by our Robin-to-Connie combo to her new mom, Vicki in Sun City. Both Robin and Connie reported that she was shy and rode well in the vehicle. We had her vet work done at **Academy West Animal Hospital**, where she needed all our standard procedures. She will be spayed when she is about a year old. Vicki took to her



right away and renamed her **Dolly**. At the beginning of January, Vicki told us: ***Dolly** is settling in well. She loves to run and play with her toys, especially her balls – she loves to fetch them and bring back for you to throw again. She likes to sit with me in my recliner. **Dolly** does like to dig and tries to get food off your plate and take anything left on the counter. She goes to bed willingly in her crate and has never had an accident in the house! She continues to learn – we went to pet training at PetSmart and also to doggie daycare to socialize and she always has good reviews. She has gained about 8 lbs since 11/18/2021. She is a joy. Vicki's husband had recently passed away, so she felt that **Dolly's** arrival was perfect timing.*



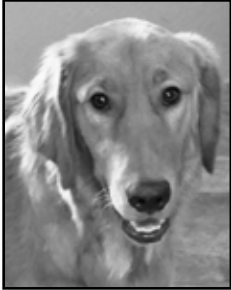
21-055 Gracie is a 1½ to 2 year-old purebred blond female, not spayed, still very much a puppy. The life circumstances of the family changed – the teens that helped take care of her have gone to live with the other parent. Now the children in the home are 1½ and 6 years old and another is on the way. They simply don't have the

time to meet her needs and feel badly about that. They said she is the sweetest girl who craves affection and needs basic training. Connie told us the pick-up from the owner was emotional and tense – it was a complicated family situation. **Gracie** rode well to the home of Barb and Bob in Surprise. They fell in love with her immediately. The family sent us a follow-up message: *The bond between our other rescued dog, **Chloe**, and **Gracie**, our new family member, took less than 24 hours to become real. **Gracie** has not only become **Chloe's** sister but a treasured member of this family. **Gracie** went into heat 3 days after she came to her new home... poor thing had to adapt to a new family and all the restrictions being in heat cause: no park, no walks outside of the back yard, etc. for an entire month. She is a true Golden – loves to chase the ball then drops it. She is learning to stay and come. Something*



Gracie and Chloe waiting to go for a ride

funny that **Gracie** does...she lies on her back and has her toy in her mouth, then grabs it with her paws and plays with it. Also, when playing fetch, she brings the ball back to the hot tub and sticks her nose all the way in to drop the ball. She loves riding in the car...she was scared at first. She loves going to the park and dog park – she plays very well with other dogs. **Gracie** and **Chloe** play together and sleep together – they are inseparable. They share toys, play games, and are very entertaining. We have had no issues at all with **Gracie**. It is like she has been here with us her whole life. We are so thankful and feel so lucky that she is ours!



21-056 Elsa is an 8-month-old unspayed female Golden. The owners got her when she was 8 or 10 weeks old. They were now overwhelmed with 3 children: one 2½, a 4-year-old that is autistic, and an 8-year-old. **Elsa** has so much energy and jumps, knocking the children over. The owners tried to make it work by putting her in the backyard first thing in the morning and putting her in the crate at night, but they

knew this wasn't fair to her. The husband was fed up with her stripping the bark off the trees and digging in the yard. When he threatened to take her to the pound, the wife called **AGR**. This was what we call a 911 rescue! Connie picked up **Elsa** within about an hour and took her to **Academy West Animal Hospital** – she had all her vetting done there, except that she will be spayed when she is about a year old. **Elsa** now has a new home with Cindy and Mark in Ahwatukee, a family that adores her, a new name, **Jolene**, and a new canine companion. Cindy related this message: **Jolene** joined us and her 9-year-old Golden brother, **Blake**, in December 2021. **Blake** lost his sister, **Autumn**, in March of 2020 and really missed having a partner in crime. However, he was not quite prepared for this 8-month-old fireball! He has really adjusted well, and they are fast becoming good friends. It is fun to watch them playing together, though you need to watch out when they decide to make the house a racetrack. **Jolene** did not have much training in her previous life, so she is definitely a work in progress. However, she is a very smart girl and is learning commands and manners quickly. We look forward to watching this cute little girl become a lovely young lady! We hope the family will continue to share **Jolene's** progress with us.

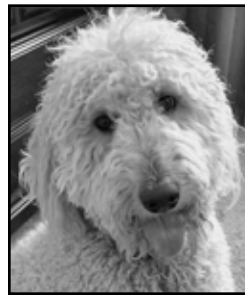


AGR Group getting ready to step off into the Parade; our line-up number was 11, so we were among the first organizations to be seen by the crowd after the dignitaries in convertibles. Patrick Doyle and April Crow with Logan carried our banner.

Diamonds in the Ruff

By Debbie Ball

“Diamonds in the Ruff” are dogs on which **AGR** has had to spend at least \$2,000. In the 4th quarter 2021, we had only one such dog; however, in all of 2021 we had 13 such dogs, with an average expense of \$5,849. Please consider donating to help with the expenses of a specific dog, or just designate *Diamonds in the Ruff*. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged.



21-033 Bennett is a 3-year-old Goldendoodle who was surrendered by his owner due to their inability to afford **Bennett's** medical expenses. **Bennett** had a rectal prolapse and unresolved diarrhea. In late September, he was brought up to date on all the usual vaccines and tests. In October, he underwent a colonoscopy and was diagnosed with severe polyploid inflammation of his rectal area.

The vet looked for possible underlying causes – maybe fungus or immune-mediated response or a secondary infection – but did not come up with anything specific. Ultimately, **Bennett** was put on various medications and a special hydrolyzed protein food. While being fostered in late November, **Bennett** broke into the pantry and ate assorted items along with part of a plastic bag. Apparently, the incident did not cause him any further problems. Various meds are still being utilized and **Bennett** is still being fostered by a caring family, but is looking forward to finding a forever home that can care for his special needs. In the 4th quarter of 2021, **Bennett's** expenses, including \$108.79 per month for prescription food, were **\$4,492**.

More Photos from the Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade See article on pages 45-46

At left, Peter and Carolyn Brown brought their two tripods, Cody and CaliAnne,



in doggie strollers; Joey, their red boy from China, walked between them.

At right, before the Parade, Cody was smoozing with the cheerleaders and mascot from the Arizona Cardinals.



OVER THE RAINBOW

We honor the memory of our human and animal companions who have passed on...



09-014 Orion Sager



13-024 Lucy Alt



15-008 Fenway Press



15-020 Sawyer Harman



15-026 Lucky Thomas



16-026 Molly Nelson



19-029 Lola Mortimore



21-014 Joy Amaral



21-015 Pastora Watts-Williams



21-021 Romeo Compise

The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors.

Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth.

So each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The ears are up! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group!

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace.

Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.



Jack Spiel



Sherbie France

and...

AGR Member Larry Jessup

AGR Member Ruth Pulliam

Anita Masiero

AGR Member Carla Sager's Mother

Wilfred McNabb

AGR Member Connie McCabe's Father

Sometimes you will never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory. ~ Iman

Memories of Senior Dogs, Past and Present

By Deb Orwig

Senior dogs are our special dogs. They don't have the cuteness or flashiness of puppies and they're usually not the athletic partner that they were in their "prime." Senior dogs are special because they've earned their right to become our true companions. We know them and they understand us intimately, which is why we owe it to them to provide them with the best quality of life and comfort in their golden years.

~ Dr. Jerry Klein, CVO, on the American Kennel Club Website, 1-7-22

Introduction

As newsletter editor, sometimes I find myself just going through the technical motions of putting together one of our newsletters, especially those that have not had a specific theme. Other times – like with this issue – I get very excited about working on a newsletter.

The theme for this issue is Senior Dogs. So, I asked Debbie Ball to generate for me a list from our database of all families who have adopted a dog that was at least 8 years old at intake (thank you, Debbie). I e-mailed all of the families and received many responses – in fact, a deluge! There is no doubt that people like to brag about what a wonderful dog he/she is/was! I say was, because many of the senior-at-adoption dogs have gone to the Bridge, but families still like to relate their memories of their old dog.

At events, like the recent *PACC911 Adopt-a-thon* at Anthem on Saturday, January 15 (write-up will be in the May issue), people will come to our booth area to pet the Golden retrievers that are with us as “display samples,” and they often say, “I had a Golden...” and then go on to relate memories of that dog.

For this issue, many (52!) of our adopters of senior dogs sent in memories of the dog or dogs they adopted from *AGR*. Most of the stories are heartwarming; some are sad; one was disturbing. But I have tried to include at least one comment from everyone who sent a paragraph or two. Many of the adopters shared fairly similar thoughts, so I have also summarized the threads that ran through the submitted messages – see *Reasons To Adopt A Senior* on page 24.

We rarely have difficulty finding a family that will adopt a senior dog. In fact, we probably have more families wanting senior dogs than those who want puppies! And after readers go through this issue, I guarantee that many more will be willing to accept an old dog into their home.

Even if you have not adopted a senior, your dog will eventually, hopefully, age to senior status. So, there is something in this issue for those of you who own a dog of any age, as well as entertainment, and maybe some tears, for all of you.

From Adam Cardinal: I'll admit it... when it comes to dogs I'm a big softie. As an *AGR* volunteer and Board member, I see most of the stories of dogs surrendered to us, and they can be heartbreaking. A couple of years ago a dog came to *AGR* that caught my eye. His owners had dropped him off at their local animal control office to be euthanized. When asked why, they said, “He's old”.

The animal control staff decided to try and place him – yes he was old, but he wasn't sick or infirm. They knew that placing older dogs is hard – most adopters (myself included back then) don't want older dogs. In my case, I know that I get attached – very attached. The thought of experiencing that grief and loss after only a few months or years downright scared me.

The other reason is old dogs don't do well in pound or kennel environments. After a lifetime as a pet, they suddenly find themselves in a place that's cold, hard, noisy and smells bad. Their entire world disappeared in an instant. They are shell shocked and broken – they will likely cower in the back of their kennel or crate, not seeking out human affection. They are also likely to shy away from other dogs. So the potential adopter sees a dog that doesn't appear friendly and doesn't show warmth to other dogs.

As someone who *AARP* classifies as a senior, I could see how I would feel – after a lifetime of service and dedication – to find myself in that situation. I'd be broken too. Then I thought about my reticence to adopt seniors. I discovered my reason was about me, not about the dog. Was I so limited that I'd leave a dog in a situation like that because I was afraid of the grief? So I decided to take a risk. I called Deb Orwig and said, “If no one speaks for that dog I'll take him.” Deb said, “I'm afraid to say that if you don't want to take him it's unlikely that anyone else is going to.”

So the decision was made. He came to live with me – for as long as he was going to live. We shared 11 months together. And yes, his passing broke my heart. But I made him a promise, amazing guy that he was. I promised that I'd keep that love alive, that I'd continue to give that gift to other seniors.

I'm now on my fourth senior rescue. Each one I take in – when we have that first moment alone, I touch them, look into their eyes and say to them, “I know you're going to break my heart.” And each one that has passed kept that promise. And I'm confident that

every one of them will. But I heal. And the love they give is hard to describe. They know what you did for them, and they have a way of reminding you how happy they are that you did.

From Emily Deer...

The sweetest and most tender friendship is one that is condensed into a shorter time, as if all he loves over a lifetime is saved for the very end, the very best.

I ran across this quote years ago and do not recall who composed it...but it sums it all up for me. **16-034 Astro** was our third senior Golden rescue, whom we adopted through **AGR**. The other two were through a Utah Golden Rescue group. We had **Astro** for about three years. He came to us with type 1 diabetes and diabetic retinopathy. We had one bad eye removed early on, and eventually the second one. He also developed epilepsy, so we started



him on a medication for that. We loved him dearly – he was the sweetest dog and so easy to love. I can't say enough good things about adopting a senior dog. They are usually mellow and wise, and so grateful for a place to call home. With a senior there will be medical expenses, but caring for these dogs is a labor of love.

Seniors, in my opinion, are the perfect "instant" family dog.

~ Vicki McDermott

I've had the joy of living with nine Golden Retrievers over the past 34 years. They ranged from a bit over 8 weeks old to 8 years old when they came to live with me. They all lived to be seniors: one lived to 16½, and two were over 15 when they went to the Bridge. Some arrived as seniors. There were two sets of senior bonded pairs, which is a very rewarding and sweet experience. They are usually well mannered, potty trained and they have a pretty good idea of the rules of the road. And there is a special bonus. When you get a pre-owned Golden, you can enjoy the fun of discovering their special personalities, quirks, and sometimes even a cute trick (holding a biscuit on the end of their nose till you say, "get it") that you had no idea they were saving to show you. Puppies are wonderful for a family or person with loads of time, energy and patience (and a gardener on speed-dial), but for me it will be older and senior dogs from here on out.



16-029 Cody came in with his brother, **16-028 Zach** when they were 6 years old. Cody is now a senior and an only dog. Although the brothers were tight and there were two other seniors in the household who passed before Zach, when Zach went to the Bridge, Cody decided it was fine to be getting all the attention.

Reasons To Adopt A Senior

1. **Adulthood.** In most cases, senior Golden Retrievers are well past the chewing and digging stages of life. They cause less destruction than puppies and younger dogs. They also have a longer attention span for training.
2. **Peace of Mind.** Over 90% of older dogs are housebroken before they go to a second home; those that aren't are easily trained. An adult dog has a larger bladder and can go for longer periods of time without relief.
3. **Experience.** Most senior Golden Retrievers have been socialized with other animals. They can provide an example and a calming influence to younger dogs.
4. **Tolerance.** Older Golden Retrievers are good first dogs for children because they are patient with tail-tugging and rough petting. They'll generally walk away from a rough-playing child rather than hurt him.
5. **Companionship.** Senior dogs don't demand constant watchfulness and attention. They're content just to be in the same room while family members are working or relaxing. A Golden Oldie will be more happy with a sedate walk than with intense exercise.
6. **Dignity.** Senior Golden Retrievers are generally calmer than young dogs; they won't scare small children or the elderly by jumping up to greet them.
7. **Adaptability.** An adult dog will adapt more easily to changes in your household, such as a new baby, relatives or guests visiting, or being left alone for long periods of time.
8. **WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get).** A senior dog is fully grown, and most of its health history is known (hereditary diseases, arthritis, hip dysplasia are some). There are no guesses about how big it will get, whether it will bark a lot, or what its energy level will be.
9. **Personality.** A senior dog arrives with its own set of likes (e.g., soft places, belly rubs, tennis balls) and dislikes (e.g., cauliflower, squirrels, vacuum cleaners), and each one is different. Discovering all the facets of a senior's personality makes life with them truly enjoyable.
10. **Memories.** Even if you have a senior Golden Retriever as part of your life for only a few years, or for just a few months, the days and adventures you share are precious. The love you receive will more than compensate for the sadness of eventually losing such a wonderful companion.



*It might seem as if coming to a new home would be difficult for an older dog, but **Bubba** and **Baxter** were so adaptable that they showed only love and affection.*

~ Jane Triplett

13-090 Bubba came to me in September of 2013 at the age of 9. He had heart issues that should have slowed him down, but his love of life and the joy of having fun was his personality, like most Golden Retrievers. He thought he was a Greyhound, running out with my three Greyhounds as if he was one, keeping up with them. What a fantastic sight to see how much he loved being in the pack as they chased some imaginary rabbit. He loved his tummy



rubbed and ears scratched, smiling the whole time. Taking a car ride was a great treat. We went up north to play in the snow and have a photo shoot with Connie McCabe. He really showed off, as the picture here shows. Such fun! **Bubba** gained his wings to the Rainbow Bridge November of 2014. It was wonderful to share that last year

with him, giving him fun experiences to fill his life. Knowing his life with me would be fairly short only made the time I had more special for both of us.

Later, I fostered 9-year-old **15-034 Baxter**. He was 9 when he crossed the Bridge. **Baxter** was an awesome boy that had serious sinus problems which affected his rest and sleeping. But it didn't slow him down when running out with my Greyhound pack. He loved those runs and was always eager to embrace the day. Although he was with me only a short time, I know he loved his life and was happy. He was a wonderful part of the family.



The amount of love in a senior dog is unbelievable. I am now hooked on seniors!

~ Judy Robinson

I adopted **18-029 Dodger** (left) and **18-028 Kobe** (right) at the ages of 11 and 9, respectively, a father and son duo. I was a bit reluctant, due to their ages. But believe me, it was the best decision! **Dodger**, unfortunately passed at the age of 14, but I still have his son, who is now 12. **Kobe** was very depressed after losing his Dad. I just adopted a senior Great Dane named **Ferguson**. They are best buds and **Kobe** is back to smiling every minute of every day. Thank you **AGR**!



Senior dogs wiggle their butts right into the hearts of the whole family within days. They are happy to join the pack and don't look back.

~ Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson



Since joining **AGR**, we've had the honor of adopting four wonderful senior dogs over the age of eight. **13-006 Sammy**, our very personable "Little Man," was a **MCACC** shelter Golden mix and came to us at 8+. He was immediately accepted by the pack and loved to play and roughhouse with the bigger dogs, despite having serious hip dysplasia. We tried to find him a home for a while, but between his age and hips, there really were no qualified families interested. It didn't take long for all of us to realize that **Sammy** belonged with us – he ruled the roost and led a very active life until we lost him at 12 or so.

Our next seniors were **15-068 Teddy** and **15-069 Shaggy**, very bonded brothers. They had been adopted to a family in Tucson years before and were returned to **AGR** at age 11 through no fault of their own. They both came in rough shape. **Teddy** had an injured hind leg that had not been treated for two years! He was in terrible pain and there was no way to help him except amputation. It was a good thing anyway, as pathology showed that the leg was also cancerous. The surgery was curative, and we had **Teddy** another 2½ years until we lost him to valley fever. **Shaggy** had thyroid cancer that was not able to be surgically removed. It had spread to his lungs, but he had another two wonderful years thanks to chemotherapy. That pair was incredible – their bond was touching – but at the same time, they meshed immediately with our existing pack; it was as if we had them their whole lives. I wished we had, their medical needs would have been addressed sooner and maybe their stories would have ended differently. I do know that the time they had with us was rich and full of love and fun.



Shaggy and Teddy loved to swim

Our most recently-adopted **AGR** senior was **19-019 Sierra**, a beautiful Golden/Pyrenees mix whose owner had to give her up for her own medical reasons. At 14 years of age, **Sierra** was the feistiest old girl ever! She stayed in Nick's man cave whenever he practiced his guitar or played video games, but at night she always came out to watch television with me and the others. **Sierra** liked to sit at the foot of my recliner while I rubbed her side with my feet



and used her as a footrest. Just as **Sammy** had, **Sierra** immediately stepped up and ruled the house. She was our guard dog and made sure to make a fuss and warn off any human or canine intruders. She really enjoyed chasing visitors around the yard and they generally didn't mind, since she usually couldn't catch them. Dogs seemed to understand that **Sierra** was the boss and they all respected her. Once she warmed up to them, they would seek her out and cuddle with her. We had **Sierra** only 18 months, but just like all the others, it was as if she'd spent her whole life with us, and we miss her as much as if we'd had her for her entire 15 years.

Rescuing a senior brings for both human and fur baby a special closeness and bond as both realize just how blessed and fortunate they are to have met.

~ Joni Peschman



Our **Murfee** (14-017) came to us through **AGR** after having life-saving surgery. Follow up appointments with an **AGR**-appointed vet revealed **Murfee** was older than the age given by the surrendering family and the vet said to keep him as com-

fortable as possible thinking maybe a year or so. About 6 months later **Murfee** was turning into a different dog with a beautiful full chocolate coat, walking and then running without dragging his back legs, hopping up on the sofa for naps and cuddles. All our **Murf** needed was some freedom from being caged up, a good diet and a fur friend named **TJ**. **The Murf** was well known in our neighborhood as the gentle bear. He loved our grandchildren and he had my heart from early on. Through the next 6 years – yes 6 years! – he was the best dog. As he aged, he slowly lost his hearing and much of his sight. He is missed more than words can describe, and even though it's almost been a year, the tears flow as I write this. My heart will always be with that boy. Unsure of his exact age, but we think close to 14.

Yes he had a host of health issues, yet we loved him all the same.

~ Dave Cohen



We didn't have **15-028 Lad** for long, but he quickly became one of the family. He was lovable and playful and loved tennis balls. He was easy to integrate into our home. He came to us at age 8 and stayed with us a little more than a year. Why host a Golden in his/her final years? We loved him! It was difficult in the final weeks managing his health, and we only had a short time with him.

I am a senior and a widower and the amount of joy they brought into my life you cannot describe in words.

~ Ted Gehrke



19-020 Pumba and 19-019 Brandi

Arizona Golden Rescue has been such a blessing in my life for many years. I had the good fortune to have adopted a pair of Golden Retrievers, who were also in their Golden years. It was insisted that the pair not be separated. I was at first hesitant on having two dogs, but decided that I would commit and give them a wonderful home – **16-019**

Brandi and **16-020 Pumba**. The unconditional love they had for each other touched my heart each and every day. My life would not have been the same without them.

Adopting a senior is rewarding, a lesson in love and patience. It has made me a better person.

~ Teresa Dumarce



I adopted **17-025 Gypsy** when she was 12. I had her for 9 months – she passed of a cancerous mass in January 2018. I loved that girl like I'd had her for all her life. We drove to my home state of Minnesota and lived for 6 weeks in a cabin on a beautiful big lake. She and my other girl, **Toola**, had the best time. Swimming all day, hiking and sightseeing. I knew adopt-

ing an older dog would be heartbreak sooner than later, but I wanted to give her a happy stable life till the end. It came much too soon. But I knew as did she... she saved the BEST for last.

In many ways adopting a senior dog is the same as adopting a younger pup – they just want to love you and be loved.

~ Marilyn and Ken Edwards

We were considering getting a buddy for our 6-year-old **Cody** when we saw **Sam** (21-028) was looking for a home. We met with **AGR**, met **Sam**, and knew right away we wanted to make however long he has with us to be as happy as possible. **Sam** is approximately 11 years old, and we have had him for 3 months. He now feels right at home, always coming over for attention and love. He follows **Cody** everywhere, loves to eat, ride in the car and go for walks. **Sam** is a character, adding a little personality to the family. We love how he barks excitedly when he hears that we are ready to go. We highly recommend a senior dog adoption, **Sam** has added so much to our lives and we hope we have to his.



Thanks for all that all rescuers do to improve the lives of so many, both human and canine!
~ Mary Whitmer

21-041 Goldie and **21-042 Dude** are a bonded pair of Goldendoodles that I absolutely LOVE! They are 8 years old and the light of my life! They arrived in late October and have quickly won the hearts of our kids and grandchildren! I cannot imagine anyone surrendering them but am so happy that they did.



Dude on left, Goldie on right

Seniors come with many preprogrammed benefits, a little secret many don't consider. Some of these benefits include ability to communicate, follow commands, life experience, personality development and relaxed energy.
~ Michelle and Steven Ortega



17-037 Sugar was just about the best thing that has happened to our family home. She filled a need we didn't know we had. **Sugar** came to us at the wise age of 9. She was my first dog since childhood, and my husband's first dog EVER! We chose a senior on purpose! For many, this age is "too old", and they can't imagine adopting a dog that "may not live long." I'd often hear, "I couldn't do it, I'd be too sad." I'd argue. I'd be too sad NOT adopting a senior who needs a dependable, peaceful, safe home. For us, we couldn't imagine a dog "that age" being in-between or without their forever home.

Sugar already knew basic and some advanced verbal commands: "Wanna Eat? Let's go potty... walk... go for a ride... swim; Get mommy/daddy; No; Get your toys." This already-developed word bank made transitioning into our home easy! We were able to communicate efficiently and this made both **Sugar** and us feel confident.

Sugar had had many life experiences already and therefore knew exactly what she liked. She had preferences and let us know! One preference was her incredible affinity towards water! She loved to swim and every chance she got, she would look for water – be it a puddle or a neighbor's pool.

Her maturity also meant that she no longer had curious urges to chew on things, dig or explore destructively. She was mature and chill.

Sugar had a developed personality. She was stubborn, strong willed, intensely pensive, bossy, and so wise! We always had this feeling she was judging our souls. She was perfect and she knew it! Her strong personality made us laugh constantly. Her maturity did not equate to boring – rather it made her an easy companion

to relax with. **Sugar** did exactly what she was supposed to do. She gave us many memories, so much laughter, intense joy, and taught me to relax.

We had **Sugar** for 4 years. She crossed the Rainbow Bridge this last year at 13 years old. Well done **Sugar**! I'd like to think those 4 years were her most favorite years. Boy did we spoil her rotten! It will never be enough time for me. I'd like to buy a million more. Nevertheless if we had her for only one month, I would do it all over again – I 100% would! She changed our family for the better, and we are so grateful. Seniors are my favorite age, and there will be many more in our future.

***Trixie** helped us remember to make the most of each day; she certainly did.*
~Sue Vallie

We weren't looking for another dog despite having recently lost a rescued Golden – we still had our dear Goldendoodle, **13-061 Oliver**. My husband and I received a Friday night call asking if an almost 11-year-old dog being transported to Phoenix from the far western edge of the state the next day could land at our home in Goodyear for the weekend. Her owners were adamant she should not go to a kennel. We agreed to take her – for the weekend.

This plump and obviously stiff old girl met **Oliver** like the quintessential Golden lady she was. Introductions then proceeded to the back yard where friends were gathered. She sniffed the perimeter, continued to treat **Oliver** respectfully, and then focused her attention on my husband, taking up residence at his feet. Within minutes, I knew I was going to be in a major marital conflict if this dog was allowed to move elsewhere. A call to the Placement Manger let her know that **17-021 Trixie** had found her home.

At the vet checkup, I asked if one of the technicians could use a clipper on the bottom of **Trixie's** feet, as the hair was so long it was like she was walking in socks making it difficult for her to negotiate our tile floors. After what seemed an inordinately long time, I peeked into the back room to see what was happening. There lay **Trixie**, all four feet straight up, with three technicians petting and generally loving on her, while one manicured her paws. She was enjoying her spa day!

With meds, gentle exercise and controlled food intake, she became much more mobile, eventually loving full daily walks and gentle play in the back yard. She enjoyed several **AGR** events, including being in costume most of one day – these were just opportunities to get more petting.



Trixie modeling as a "Flower Child" in the 2017 Fashion Paw Tea

We were able to share our life with **Trixie** for about a year and a half. Watching her return to reasonable health and mobility was a joy.

We were the lucky ones – adopting a senior Golden was the best thing we ever did.

~ Marla and Brian Spriggs



We have loved and raised three Golden Retrievers from the puppy stage and we miss them every day. Our last Golden passed away about 4 years ago, and at the beginning of 2020 we simply had to have another Golden in our life. But as an elderly couple, we did not want to start with a puppy again. We contacted **Arizona Golden Rescue** and were

impressed from the start. Filled out an application, had a personal interview with a home inspection and waited. I tell my friends it was like adopting a child – they were very thorough, which we appreciated. We told them no puppies and perhaps no older than four years old. Very unexpected and a surprise, one afternoon we got a call and a Golden was available. Her name was **Zoe (20-019)**, she was 8½ at the time, a red Golden, and she was a puppy mill mom they were relinquishing. We saw her photo, and how could we say no? **Zoe** came to us very undernourished, had a lipoma on her leg, and needed a lot of hugs and TLC which we had plenty of. From the moment she arrived, she fit in. We immediately noticed **Zoe** was very well mannered, a get-along-go-along girl and nothing phases her. **Zoe** is almost 10 now, and life is good for her. We cannot imagine not having her with us. We are amazingly pleased with adopting a senior Golden. **Zoe** was a perfect immediate companion for us. She required no training, is very calm, travels well, smart, listens and does not need a lot of supervision. **Zoe** shows us every day how much she appreciates her new life with us. Thank you, **AGR**.

Editor' Note: **Zoe** and **Izzie** were brought in at the same time from the same owner. Both had been used as breeder dogs. They were not bonded with each other, so **AGR** adopted them out separately.

People ask us how we can adopt an older dog that will not be with you long. Our response is, you never know how long you will have any dog. So, you need to make sure every hour, day, year counts. Seniors will always be the only dogs we will adopt.

~ Chris and Tim Brzycki



20-018 Izzie is a great dog. She loves being around us. She always makes us laugh with some of her goofy habits. She loves to roll in the grass. When there is no grass around, she will roll in a grassy bush instead. After her roll, she runs to the door

and waits for us to comb out any leaves she may have picked up during the roll. She loves being on your lap or feet – she just cannot seem to get close enough. She especially loves napping in bed and watching TV with us. Initially when we adopted her we guessed she had not been on a leash much; she seemed nervous about meeting new people. Now she thinks it is her job to meet as many people as possible on her daily walks. **Izzie** loves a couple of walks a day. But she is happiest lying outside watching for lizards and enjoying the sunshine and fresh air.

Izzie is our sixth Golden Retriever rescue. All six dogs were 8+ years old at the time of adoption. **Izzie** is the youngest at 8 years and **Zephyr** was the oldest at 12 years. He lived to be almost 17 years old. We have adopted Golden Retrievers through Rescue organizations in CA, MO, TX, and AZ.



Izzie is the second Golden we adopted from **Arizona Golden Rescue**. Before her, we adopted **18-053 Mitch** in January 2019; he lived until December 2019. **Mitch** was a special dog – he had extreme separation anxiety. When he was with us, he was a happy camper. With our lifestyle, we were able to minimize the time one of us was not home with him.

We have a soft spot for senior dogs. The pros definitely outweigh the cons. We get the sense senior rescues really have a tight connection to their adopters – ours certainly have.

My husband and I could not ask for a better gift than the love of a senior dog.

~ Rhonda Cagle

Looking into **Madden's** eyes is to look deeply into the warmth of a kind old soul. His eyes reflect the unconditional acceptance and love my husband and I had known from our last Golden Retriever before he passed away. It was what we longed to experience again, which is why we reached out to **AGR** asking to adopt a Golden Retriever in need of a second chance and a forever home.

We adopted **20-004 Madden** when he was 10½ years old. From the beginning, he was a perfect gentleman, belying his 85 pounds of physical presence. He instantly became my shadow, working his way beneath my desk while I was working from home, or snuggling on his dog bed next to my side of the bed for the night.



Whether it's looking up from my computer and seeing **Madden** staring up at me, tail wagging as he asks for a head scratch, or listening to his gentle snoring when I wake in the night, I am so grateful for his constant companionship.



Hugs is the sweetest girl you could ever hope for. I credit her previous owners for taking such good care of her throughout her earlier years. We take each day with her as a gift.

~ Mary Jo Barsetti

January 2018, we lost our precious Goldendoodle, **Lily**, at the age of 12. She had grown up with us as a family

and truly was the glue that held us together. We got her as a puppy only after many years of trying to convince my husband that we needed a dog. In fact, it was only after he lost a bet to my daughter that she couldn't keep her room clean for 30 days, that we were able to add **Lily** to our family. When **Lily** passed on, he was adamant that we would have no more dogs.

As the months passed by, the hole in our hearts remained. In an effort to fill the void, we began searching the various websites looking at photos of dogs that needed a home. My daughter and I secretly visited the various Rescue agencies. One of our neighbors had just gotten a puppy through *Arizona Golden Rescue* and told us how it worked. My daughter and I agreed that a puppy probably would not be a good idea at this time in our lives, since we all were very busy. My daughter and I registered with *AGR* and scheduled a home visit. She convinced my husband to go to *Costco* on the day of the visit so he wouldn't find out what we were doing. At that time, we learned that it could take anywhere from a few months to a year to get a match. So we got on "the list" and hoped that by the time we got a match we could convince my husband to have another dog.

In the meantime we saw a dog on another site and arranged a home visit, since we weren't sure our hearts could take waiting for our match with *AGR*. This visit required the foster parents to bring the dog to our house. The mom/ daughter duo had to come up with a plan to again get the husband/father out of the house. So another *Costco* run it was. This time, however, the mother/ daughter duo got caught when husband/father returned before the home visit had ended. We convinced my husband that we were only going to do a 2-week "trial" with **Maya**. Once **Maya** settled in and warmed my husband's heart, the 2-week trial grew into an adoption.

But wait, the story does not end there. The same day we officially adopted **Maya** we got a call from *AGR* that they had the perfect dog for us. We felt bad telling them that we had gotten **Maya**, so we agreed to meet this perfect dog. My daughter and I took **Maya** and met the boy dog. He was around 6 years old and had a lot of energy. After meeting him, it was determined that he was a bit much for **Maya** who was an older girl. So it was decided that we would wait for another one, thinking that it probably wouldn't happen. Also it would buy us time trying to come up with a plan to convince my husband to have two dogs, since we had never

had two dogs before. Then as luck would have it, we got another call from *AGR*. This time the dog was a 12-year-old girl whose mom had to go into assisted living and couldn't take her with her. My daughter and I agreed to meet **Hugs** (18-048) and instantly fell in love with her. This time the mother/daughter duo could not secretly sneak another dog into the house since *AGR* required my husband to sign off on the adoption. After reading the letter from Hugs' mom to my husband he agreed to a "trial run." The rest is history! **Maya** and **Hugs** were best of buddies until **Maya** passed away three days before Christmas in 2020. **Hugs** just turned 15 in August 2021, and she is doing great, although I do think she misses her sister **Maya**. Another *Costco* run? Everyone needs a **Hugs**!



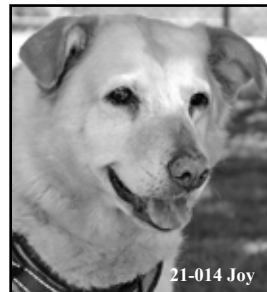
Everyone wants a puppy! Me too! Except I want a senior puppy!

~ Pat Amaral



20-002 Doug

Your senior, if you choose to accept him or her, will surround you with love, laughter, and everlasting joy (did I mention entertainment?). Your senior puppy will amaze you with all the exercise that you are getting – walking around the block, throwing balls, pulling you away from that dratted computer so you give him/her ALL your attention. Your senior might have some issues... but don't we all have issues? Your senior will give you unconditional love and you will return it gladly. When it's time to say goodbye, you will thank your senior puppy for the love that he/she gave you that will continue for years to come!



21-014 Joy

20-002 Doug was with me from January 2020 until December 2020, and **21-014 Joy** entertained me constantly from May 2021 to January 2022. God bless them both. It was so hard to write this, as I just lost **Joy** in more ways than one.

She was a great dog, a perfect dog for our family.

~ Karen Davis

We adopted **19-003 Harlie**, a 10-year-old with one eye. Her eye was removed due to an infection that was left untreated. We changed her name to **Carl**. But we had her only 3 months – she died from osteosarcoma. She had a cancerous growth in a front leg.



All she wanted was to be near her humans, and she had a wonderful ability to connect with us.
~ Kelly Gorski



When it was time for us to adopt a Golden, our boys were 4 and 2 years old. We knew that we wanted a Golden due to their temperament. But with two small children, we weren't quite ready to jump in and get a puppy. We were hoping to get a dog that was about 5 years old or older. After a little waiting, we were able to welcome **Bart** into our home. The wait was absolutely worth it. **12-045 Bart** came to us because his previous owners' child was allergic to his fur. Bart was such a gentleman. He was a great addition to our family because he had the warm heart of a Golden, and was such a gentle soul. As silly as this may seem, he was a great "starter" dog for our family. When we adopted him, he was 9 years old and lived to be almost 13.

A few years after **Bart** crossed the Rainbow Bridge, we decided that we were ready to welcome another Golden into our home. This go-around we didn't really have any particular age of dog that we were looking for – **Bart** was such a great experience we were ready to welcome any age Golden. While we were waiting for a dog to become available, we received a call right before 4th of July to foster a dog in an emergency situation. **16-041 Oxana Sleepysong**, whom we called **Stella**, was being transferred to **AGR** due to the current owner not being able to keep her. After being spayed, she was welcomed into our home. We thought that she would lighten up after she became comfortable knowing her new home, but she was always super mellow. As time passed, we added two Golden retriever puppies, as well. **Stella** was the most wonderful teacher to our current Golden. **Stella** crossed the Rainbow Bridge on 4.23.21.



Adoption of a senior Golden has brought so much love and happiness into my home.
~ Tom Compise

It is an honor to share their senior years as a loving companion. I have been blessed to be able to adopt my Golden through the years. **Marley** (a.k.a., **Fat Boy**) and I are still loving life together! Sadly, **21-021 Romeo** was only with me for a short time. He gave me so much joy and laughter with his outstanding personality. In return, my love gave him a safe, loving home and the chance to spoil him every day.



21-021 Romeo

Would I do it again knowing the short amount of time we would have? Absolutely!
~ Patty Forte

In 2015, my husband and I adopted 8-year-old siblings, **15-030 Dante** and **15-032 Bella**. After months in a wonderful foster home and receiving much-needed veterinary care, they were ready for a forever home. They were immediately comfortable with us and our home. **Bella** loved to swim in the pool, while **Dante** was the "lifeguard." Both loved rides to our favorite spot in a desert area to run and explore all of the trails. Unfortunately, **Bella** went to the Rainbow Bridge after only 5 months due to lymphoma, which presented with little warning. **Dante** joined **Bella** 3 months later after a melanoma diagnosis, also with little warning. My thoughts on having such a short amount of time with these beautiful dogs... I hope they enjoyed all of the love and fun we had! They were the most kind, mellow, beautiful dogs who will forever be in my heart!



15-030 Dante and 15-032 Bella

We do still have **18-066 Phoebe**! We love her so much! She seems to be very happy. We stay with her during storms so she feels secure. She is a great fit for us. She loves everyone and we feel very blessed.
~ Mike and Linda Stroud



Editor's Note: **Phoebe** was surrendered at age 8 because she had severe separation anxiety and thunderphobia.

Senior dogs may come with some bad habits depending on what their prior owners allowed, but we promise that you really can teach an old dog new tricks!
~ Janette Yeager



Adopting a senior Golden into our family has been such a blessing. After the loss of our 15-year-old Golden, **Reagan**, we developed such a special place in our hearts for senior Golden. When we learned that **AGR** had a senior Golden available, we were so excited! **20-022 Cassi** came into our family when she was 9 years old and has been with us for almost 2 years. She has such a kind, calm, and mature way about her...

the things we adore about senior dogs. Our home already has two young children in it, so adding a senior Golden brings a great balance, and it means she gets lots of love! While **Cassi's** time with our family won't be as long as that of a younger pup, there is something so special about adopting senior dogs and sharing their sweetest years together. They really do just want to be loved and petted in their "Golden years." Of course, in true Golden fashion, treats are always welcome and encouraged by **Cassi**. Sometimes

senior dogs require more health care than in their younger years. They can also require more assistance in getting in and out of vehicles, like our **Cassi** does. The extra attention we give to her health in making sure she is well cared for, safe, and comfortable in her senior years is worth the effort. She pays us back with love, and her goofiness always brings a smile to our faces. While puppies are so cute and full of fun, we will always welcome the gentle and calm nature of a senior dog into our family.

There is never any doubt they are glad to be with you.

~Beth Dulian



19-036 Chase is definitely still here. That makes him 16 years old! And at a healthy 100 pounds, he's big, but very, very old. He is an absolute joy to have around. As far as adopting a senior dog, there are some guaranteed heartaches that can come quickly, but I've had him almost 4 years now. He was 12½ when I got him. I didn't expect him to be around very long, but

he needed a home. Having a senior dog is well worth the effort! You don't have to teach all the puppy housebreaking. You don't have to deal with all the training sessions. When you get a full grown dog, you only have a few bad habits to deal with. A senior dog is also much more calm and mellow. You can still take walks for exercise and play ball, but the duration is shorter. They will take car rides and handle visitors without being crazy. They are also happy to see you with a wagging tail and no jumping. But senior dogs can be expensive. Golden Retrievers may need a lot of medications and surgeries – the older dogs tend to be where you put the medication. That's definitely something to consider.

To be able to lavish these special ones with unconditional love, safety and care during their final days brings an inexplicable sense of joy, and they respond with their heart.

~Joan Mast



We adopted **19-059 Levi** two years ago this December and he is our 4th adopted senior Golden Retriever. Occasionally it takes a little longer to win their trust because they've seen the rough side of life, and other times they become a part of the pack immediately. The tough part about adopting a senior is that you are poignantly aware their time with you is limited. Sometimes it is weeks, some-

times years. Their medical expenses can be higher because of their age or lack of proper care earlier in their lives, but what is spent in care, they make up to you in love and grateful appreciation. Will we continue to adopt Seniors? Yes, because they so deserve it.



A few years ago, I fostered a few older dogs from **AGR**. My last dog was **16-074 Tucker**, [a 10-year-old Golden that had been languishing unclaimed at the Gila County shelter. Despite his health problems and loneliness, he managed the most precious smile and tail wags when he was picked up.]

After having a few hospice dogs in such a short period and all of them with serious problems, I actually wound up going to Grief Counseling. Yes, it sounds strange, but I found out that they actually have a term for what I was experiencing – "compassion fatigue." I also learned that when you suffer from grief, you bring up all previous grief incidents and may be responding to those as well. Interesting, huh?

I've had dogs live as long as 16 years. I loved the dogs I fostered, and think I loved **Tucker** the most out of all the dogs in my life. He had anal cancer. He suffered but never messed the house (although I had blankets and throw rugs all over the carpet because of his exposed cancer). I would lie on the floor and just hug him – he was the best!

My opinion is that we put him through too much. I realize we wanted him to survive, but all the chemo, pain meds, etc... I truly thought it was terrible for him and me. The vet even had to tell me that if the last treatment didn't work, we should consider putting him down. I was willing to put him down weeks ago but thought the decision was **AGR's**, and I was encouraged to keep going. Finally, he fell and couldn't get up. I was supplied with a lifting tool to help – when I got this 70+ pound dog up, he could walk. But at the end he couldn't even pee. I researched emptying his bladder. I spoke with someone from **AGR** and told them I wanted to put him down. They held their hand up to cover the back end of **Tucker** and said, "If you don't see the cancer he looks happy." I told her if she thought there was hope for **Tucker**, then she should take him with her. I put **Tucker** down the next day.

I appreciate that **AGR** paid all the bills, gave me a ramp and helped all they could. But, I truly think we went too far trying to save **Tucker**, and I don't know how to change or address that. My Grief Counselor agreed with me and even offered to meet with you guys to discuss. It's been 4 years and I never took her up on her offer.

~ Penny Ferone

Editor's Note: We wish we could have met with the counselor, as we could have learned from Penny's experience. We needed a reality check on trusting a foster to know what needs to be done and when. I am aware of some rescue groups that have disbanded because too many of their active members have developed compassion fatigue and couldn't keep going – it is a real condition that afflicts those with the heart to do rescue. So, words to the wise... if you adopt a senior dog and must deal with serious health issues, please do not request to have another placed with you for a while – give yourself plenty of time to recover. And, if you tell us you feel it is time to send the dog to the Bridge, we will listen.

We are big believers in adopting older dogs! **Daisy** has been the most incredible dog we have ever had and has brought endless joy to our lives.

~ Paige Peters



We adopted **19-062 Daisy** in October 2019. She was 8 at the time, and she has been the heart of our family ever since. She was older but yet so grateful, and she shows that every single day. Adopting an older dog comes with so many advantages people do not realize. **Daisy** was instantly a perfect house guest, never had one accident in the house despite being an

outside dog her entire life. She has never been destructive – in fact if she ever does anything, I actually get excited to see her show any form of disobedience because she is perfect 99.9% of the time. **Daisy** had never been on a leash but has never pulled and walks right next to me – many times I walk her off leash. The connection we have with her is as if she has been with us her entire life. **Daisy** loves her short walks, cuddles, and companionship but doesn't require extensive exercise, and this works perfectly for our family – we have kids and a very busy lifestyle. The only disadvantage I see is because she was older, she has had a couple medical problems, but nothing medicine could not fix and she is worth every cent. **Daisy** has a heart of gold and has won over every family member and anyone that meets her. Her soul is so pure in every way, and she has blessed us in more ways than I can express. We love **Daisy** as if we have had her a lifetime, and the connection we have with her is the same. I am hopeful we get many more years with her, but regardless, she has been the most amazing blessing in our lives. Her gratitude is felt every day and the feeling is mutual. I will adopt an older dog always and forever.

Adopting a senior dog is so fulfilling. I am a senior citizen, so they fit into my lifestyle perfectly.

~ Sharon Flores

I have adopted three senior dogs from **AGR**. **13-044 Honey** was not quite a senior when I adopted her at age 7, but she lived to be 11. Then I adopted **19-081 Riley** and **19-082 Cassie** – **Cassie** was 11½ and **Riley** was 12. They are now 14 and 14½, healthy except for some arthritis. As I walk slowly, they walk slowly but sure enjoy going for a short walk. They keep me from sitting in a chair in front of the television. They have made me the center of their world, and I am never alone. They still have a playful side, and it brings a smile to my face watching them. Senior dogs are more predictable than a puppy and certainly a lot wiser. I did foster a 6-week-old puppy for **AGR**, and he taught me two



19-082 Cassie and 19-081 Riley

things – patience and that I am too old for a puppy. I can only think of one disadvantage to adopting a senior. That is the possibility they will go to the Bridge sooner than a puppy. The love a senior dog brings into your life is beyond description and well worth the time they are with you.

Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love. They depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog, it merely expands the heart.

~Anonymous

Senior dogs are amazing. They aren't crazy like a puppy and they are already trained. They just want to love and be loved.

~ Jennifer Bart



I've adopted two senior dogs from **AGR**, and they are so wonderful! **15-067 Austin** was 10 when I adopted him, and we were lucky to have him for three years before he crossed the Rainbow Bridge. He was so loving and gentle. I can't tell you how much comfort and love **Austin** provided us with. He was and still is an angel. Right

now we have

18-020 Foster, who we also adopted from **AGR** as a senior. We adore him and he is the best snuggler and lover. He is currently curled up at my feet on the bed, keeping me warm. If I could stay in bed with my dogs all day, every day, I would! Adopting a senior dog is the best. You don't have to train them or worry about them destroying your house. They are mellow and all about love. I will always adopt senior dogs.



We adopted **21-016 Rambo** on May 18, 2021. We believe he is 13 or 14. He has some health issues, but he seems to push through his tough days, and is the happiest boy. He's very old, on a lot of medication, but we think he understands that he has a new lease on life. The puppy and personality in him make it clear that he's very happy now. He knows he's in a loving environment now, and reciprocates that love. He's our big baby, and we love him so much. He loves us, too.



~ Thomas Glenn

Old Dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.

~ Bonnie Wilcox, from *Old Dogs, Old Friends*

Older dogs are wonderful companions and will do anything to please you.
~ Janine Mitchell



We got **16-079 Molly** in 2016 – she was almost 9 years old. She was my Christmas miracle, as we had recently lost our other Golden Retriever. She was big and beautiful, and we loved her so much. **Molly** was with us for almost 2 years before she died of cancer. I now live in Costa Rica and am not in a position to adopt another dog, but would definitely recommend an older dog to anyone.

They are generally potty trained and have some obedience training and are out of the puppy-chewing-on-everything stage. Older dogs need lots of cuddles and attention and will return your love 100 times over. The disadvantages of an older dog are mostly possible health issues – arthritis, hip dysplasia, heart issues for some, cancer, etc. The benefits outweigh the disadvantages. **Molly** had a gentle soul and liked to go on walks. I miss her greatly but treasure my short time with her. She came into our lives at the right time and was great comfort to us. I recommend adopting an older dog.

Adopting a senior dog is life-changing. It's a way to open your hearts to possibilities and lessons you never knew you needed.

~ Joe and Sharon Wozny

We adopted **18-002 Lucky Magoo** from **AGR** when he was about 9 years old – our vet estimated him to be closer to 11. It was instant love! He was deaf and needed surgery to remove a tumor. **Lucky** changed our lives in ways we never thought in the short 1½ years that we were able to love him. He was a true character,

a real “pissa” (as we New Yorkers say). He marched to his own beat, made friends with everyone, rolled down the grassy hill every day in the park, played with **Dixie** (our



other **AGR** dog), chased tennis balls, loved the grandkids, was terrified of monsoons and needed to be cuddled extra tight. He touched our hearts, and saying goodbye was as difficult as saying goodbye to a dog we have had for 13 years. We always said he must have been a character in his younger days, as we saw glimpses of his brazen behavior – jumping on the counter for the **Costco** chicken, or tearing toys apart for the squeaker. **Lucky** was sent to us to teach us to love more deeply, laugh more often and embrace life and just roll down those hills at every opportunity. Take the opportunity in 2022 and adopt a senior dog.



*When I am old and grey,
my step might be slower, I may not hear as well, I may not see as well, I may not feel as well.*

But...

My love will be the same, my devotion will be the same, my appreciation will be the same.

My heart and soul are grateful for all that you have done and do, when I am old and grey

~ Bridget from *Linked Souls*

She added joy and love to my home without any issues.

~Jocelyn Raught

I had lost my **Toby** boy of 10 years and still had my 6-year-old **Bubba Joe**. I had a hole that needed to be filled. I happened to

come across the **AGR** website and saw a beautiful 10-year-old girl named **Roxy (15-027)**. She was a reddish Golden with a sweet white face! I was so fortunate to get her! She came from a family who had had her since she was a pup but were moving. She came in with a huge personality and immediately stole my heart.



She told me in her rough "smoker's cough" bark exactly what she wanted and when she wanted it! She adapted so well and I did not have to work through any of the puppy things! Although she started out afraid of storms, my daughter and I worked on creative ways, such as pillow forts, to help her over this. She loved to cuddle and that suited me just fine! She gradually began to struggle with getting up, so I decorated my house with carpet runners to allow her the best mobility throughout the house. Although I did everything for her I could, after a year and a half, she told me it was time. It was hard, but I know I made the last days of her life the best they could be! And, she made mine richer.

If when you look at me you only see a white face and cloudy eyes, a burden or a hassle... you've missed out on the best part of me. I am loving and loyal, protective but kind. You are my one and only and my tail will wag for you up until my last breath. As a senior, I've been with you long enough to know what you want without even saying a word. I know when you're happy. I know when you're sad. I know when you need me to place a paw on you. I know when you snuggle up to me and your heartbeat speeds up, it's because you are fighting back tears as you see what the years have done to my body. But inside I am still just a puppy, content with your love and your shelter. Love me until the very end, for I am a gift. With each wag of my tail, I say thank you. ~ **Bacardi Reynolds**

Adopting an older dog has been so rewarding. Most times, we don't know what their backgrounds are, but if we pay attention, they let us know how we can help them fit into our family. I believe every dog comes into our lives for a reason, and in time, we'll understand that reason.
~ Candy and Neal Greff

13-089 Dixie was 8 when she became one of our family members. Age wasn't a factor when we adopted her. We wanted to help unwanted Golden Retrievers and couldn't imagine why anyone would ever give one up! We had just lost 2 of our Golden Retrievers and our English Setter within 60 days and were heartbroken. We still had **Teddy Bear** who was also 8 and needed a companion. **Dixie** was very afraid of other dogs due to a bad experience in her previous life, and as a result she'd attack any new dog who tried to get close to her. She did love humans and wanted to be loved by humans. It took a whole lot of love from us, prayers and patience to convince her that **Teddy** was not going to hurt her. He learned to keep his distance, and in time she would snuggle up with him. For the first 6 months she was with us, every time we had company, she automatically assumed she was going home with them and would jump into their car when the door was opened. We finally convinced her she was at home and wasn't going anywhere with anyone ever again. She really loved swimming and chasing a ball in the pool. She'd drop it outside the pool and expected – demanded – you to fetch the ball and throw it again. It took time to retrain us. **Dixie** was with us for 5 years. We were blessed to have her in our lives and truly appreciate the lessons she taught us.



17-036 Brewster was 8 or 9 when he joined our family after **Teddy Bear** passed away. He learned to stand up (literally) to **Dixie**, and she never snapped at him again. **Brewster** was one of the happiest dogs I've ever had. He was always smiling no matter what. All he wanted was to cuddle and be loved. He also thought he was a lap dog, and we didn't complain. During the first few months he was with us, we also obtained a puppy, **Harley**. He was the absolute best big brother to **Harley**. He never turned **Harley** down for play and always gave up his toys to **Harley**.



Sadly, **Brewster** had some medical issues when we got him. He had valley fever, which was controlled with meds, and mast cell cancer. He had 3 surgeries and lost an ear in his 1st month with us, and still loved us. He didn't care much for vets and would pull his leash as hard as he could to keep from going into a vet's office. We only had **Brewster** for 3 years, but we think we were able to give him the best life ever during that time. We know he sure gave us a lifetime of love in his time with us.

There is no greater joy than knowing you have given a senior dog the love, attention, comfort and good life they deserve in their golden years.
~ Pat Morgan

Although my current Golden Retriever, **18-076 Cassie**, was only 6 when I adopted her 3 years ago from **AGR**, in the past, I have adopted several dogs ranging in age from 10-13 years. Although some senior dogs can be less active and more laid back than younger dogs, most older dogs still enjoy going for walks and chasing balls, etc. Some seniors do have medical issues, but several of my adopted seniors have actually had fewer medical problems than younger dogs.

Buffy, **Dixie** and **Coda** were actually the only seniors I adopted – **Buffy** was 10, **Dixie** was 11 or 12, and **Coda** was 12; **17-057 Coda** was the only one who came from **AGR**.

When I first met **Buffy** at her foster home in Mesa, I was left alone with her in the back yard, and during the visit I sat on the grass and talked to her. Among other things, I told her I would be back the next day (after the 24-hour-wait period) and would be picking her up to go to her new home. When I went to pick her up, I barely had a chance to open the front door of my Trailblazer when she came running and immediately jumped in the front seat which was pretty high off the ground. **Buffy** was very protective. If you were a male and came to my house, she would nip at your heels when you walked around. **Buffy** and I were at **Circle K** getting gas, and when the male worker came out to wipe up the gas pumps, **Buffy** stuck her head out the back window and nipped at his arm when he walked by.

I only had **Dixie** for a year before she passed. I remember when my sister and I went to visit her in her foster home in Anthem – my sister and I and the foster person were sitting in the foster's living room. **Dixie** came in from outside and immediately came over to me and laid her head in my lap – for sure an easy decision to adopt her.



I also had **Coda** for only a year. When I adopted **Coda**, she was in pretty bad shape medically and walked around slowly with her head hung low. After a few months and with all the great medical attention, good food and supplements, she felt so much better she would strut around like a peacock. However, she evidently had Cushing's disease caused by too many steroids from her previous owners. Before we could get it under control, she somehow tore her ACL (as a result of the Cushing's), and no vet would operate on her ACL until her Cushing's was controlled. In addition to the medicine for the Cushing's, she was taking 3 pain meds. Before we could get the Cushing's under control, it got to the point that she was in so much pain that I had to put her down. It was a sad day.

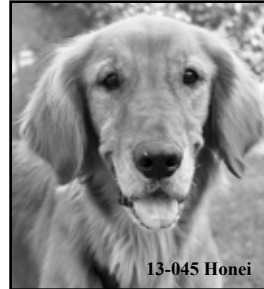


10-053 Maggie, 09-013 Jake, 09-029 Rex, and 11-035 Sage

This is a brief story about 4 of the 10 Golden Oldies the Engelhardt family has adopted over the past decade. They were all seniors around 10 years of age who needed a forever home in their golden years.

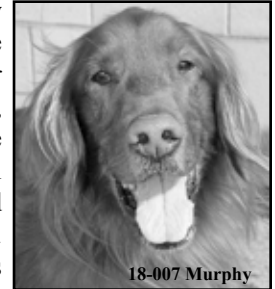
10-053 Maggie was a mix of Golden and Cocker Spaniel. I became acquainted with **Maggie** at an Adopt-a-thon attended by **AGR** at the *Franciscan Renewal Center* on Camelback years ago. That day, I promised **Maggie** I would find her a forever home. At the end of the day **Maggie** had not been spoken for, so I told her she was going home with me – she became a birthday present for me. **09-013 Jake** needed a forever home following hip injection surgery and someone to look after him 24/7 during his rehab that consisted of taking him out for his daily walks and relief to strengthen his hip. I had just retired, and Deb Orwig thought I would be the perfect caretaker for **Jake**. **Jake** had an unusual attribute – he could sing! **Jake** needed a companion, so we brought **09-029 Rex** into our home. Deb always thought **Rex** looked like a "Golden Hound Dog." Look closely – his snout is a hound dog snout! Sometime later, Liz Tataseo called me to come to Glendale to meet **11-035 Sage**. "Just One Look, That's All It Took." **Sage** went home with me that day. Connie McCabe captured this pose of the "Fab Four" several years ago for the **AGR** calendar. The Fab Four were an opportunity of one's life time – having four Golden Oldies in our family, all at one time. Several Christmases in a row the Fab Four visited the old people on my rounds of *Meals On Wheels* and spread their love to others not so fortunate. The people answered the knock on their doors either on foot or in wheel chairs, and the Four walked right into their homes and hearts. They have all crossed the Rainbow Bridge now and are all together standing on the other side waiting for their forever Tempe family. ~ Dave and Jackie Engelhardt

Walk in our front door and on the foyer table is a framed photo of **13-045 Honei** hugging her Halloween toy just beside her pumpkin. "Missing You" is the greeting on my iPad showing **18-007 Murphy** patiently waiting at the window for me to come home. **Honei** was with us for about five years. **Murphy** arrived shortly thereafter, and stayed for only two short years. They were only dogs, and sometimes I wish they had known each other. Our house has been "barkless" for nearly 18 months. I miss both **Honei** and **Murphy**



13-045 Honei

phy dearly every day. We enjoyed their time with us, and we are so grateful to have had these seniors. Senior dogs may be a bit



18-007 Murphy

slower and set in their ways, but we gave them extra love and comfort knowing they were old. Our house is so quiet and lonely without them, but we have so many memories of the fun times we had when they were here. Senior dogs require patience and respect to the slower lifestyle they lead. It may interfere with your daily routine, or place monetary demands on you – there will be important decisions regarding their health and welfare. If you can face all of these, then you certainly will enjoy all that a senior dog brings to your life – joy and love each day. As to love, he or she will fill your heart with it every day. ~ Connie Wozniak

Jeff and I adopted **13-046 Riggz** and **13-047 Ryder** (they came as a bonded pair) in May 2013; **Riggz** was 10 and **Ryder** was 6. They are both deceased now, but they were a JOY to have. They took to us (and our pool) very quickly and assimilated into our household in no time at all! They rushed into our lives and filled it with fun. We had just



13-046 Riggz and 13-047 Ryder

lost a Golden, so we were happy to have a full house again. **Riggz** came to us with his favorite stuffed animal (a Minnie Mouse) and he was passionate about her. Minnie was his "safety line" initially when he was feeling anxious or insecure. Our dogs go just about everywhere with us and are loved by our friends and neighbors. **Riggz** was the leader of the two, **Ryder** being very submissive and gentle. **Ryder** usually had his little tongue hanging out of his mouth, which we thought made him very special. We didn't have **Riggz** and **Ryder** as long as we'd like, but we were able to give them a great home and a wonderful rest of their lives. **Riggz** left us in 2015 and is buried in the yard of our lake house in Michigan; **Ryder** left us about a year later. Both boys loved being out of the Arizona summer heat and loved walking in the woods with us and lying in the grass at Secord Lake. **Ryder** was nick-named "The Neighborhood Dog" and everyone knew him at the lake – he was so good with people. We have had a lot of Golden Retrievers in our married life – these two were a hoot! We would recommend adopting a senior dog (or dogs) to anyone who has the time to spend making them a true part of their family. Thank you, **AGR**, for letting us love **Riggz** and **Ryder**.

~ Ellen and Jeff France

I was concerned about the bonding process assuming they would be missing their previous owners. The thing that surprised me the most was how quickly we did bond – the dogs seemed to handle the transition easily.

~ Linda Hester

I could not have dogs while I was working because of extensive travel. I retired in 2019, and adopting dogs was #1 on my post-retirement wish list. I've always had a soft spot for senior dogs, so when I saw **19-039 Toby** and **19-040 Duke**, a bonded pair of senior dogs, I knew it was meant to be. I knew there were some downsides to adopting seniors, such as longevity and expenses associated with potential health issues. The boys were house trained and well behaved. It didn't take long for me to feel like I had had them forever. I could leave them alone in the house while running errands and not worry about them being destructive. When I returned home I would be greeted at the door with two smiling faces and the waggiest tails I've ever seen. Unfortunately, **Duke** was diagnosed with bone cancer in March 2021 and passed away in June. Dealing with **Duke's** illness was very stressful, and losing him was heart breaking. He was my "Velcro Dog" and I still miss him every day. **Toby** and I mourned his loss together – **Toby** has become my Velcro dog. I believe they were loved by their previous owners, and it makes me sad to think someone had to surrender these wonderful dogs due to unfortunate circumstances. I am forever grateful that I had the opportunity to provide them with a loving home where they both could live out their golden years. Even with the pain of losing **Duke**, I would do it all over again.



Top: 19-039 Toby
Bottom: 19-040 Duke

She might not have another 10 years, but I can appreciate and love the dog she has become, and cherish the time that she has left living with me.

~ Denise Padavano



Adopting my senior dog, **20-007 Honey**, has been a heart-warming experience. Most senior dogs have lived most of their life with one family. Then, they are abruptly moved for some reason they don't understand. When **Honey** first came to me, she was in a panic and tried to get out of the house – she had come from a home that no longer wanted her, but she wanted to go back. She was not happy with her new situation. I realized that I needed to have a different kind of understanding and patience than for adopting a puppy or younger dog. Since **Honey** adjusted to our family, which took time, it feels like she has always been here.

Honey came from a home filled with kids. She came to me with long-established mannerisms that I'm sure used to get her atten-

tion or food. She looks at me with blinking eyelashes and begging in her eyes for any morsel of food I might surrender to her. She also stops abruptly when coming in from outside for petting. Then she plops herself on the floor and raises her paw for more petting. She is so sweet and funny, I want her to be around for a long time.

You'd think adopting a senior dog means they are house trained and are out of the chewing phase. Well, it took **Honey** around a month to go through the night without having an occasional accident. She was house trained, but I think the stress of a new home contributed to her accidents. A puppy likes to chew your furniture, your molding, the side of your house... A senior dog has already gone through the chewing stage. Instead, they eat your recipe books because you go out of town and didn't take them with you!

Adopting a senior dog has been humbling, and a little disconcerting. **Honey** has had her share of medical concerns within the year and a half I've had her. When a puppy has surgery, it's usually for spaying or neutering. However, when a senior dog has surgery, it's usually for a more serious condition. Then, there is the worry of actually putting them under and hoping they come back around.

When you have a younger dog, you see them grow old and when they start to have hearing and sight problems or arthritis, it's more or less expected. When you adopt a senior, you haven't had the years to see them age and you just have to accept their medical conditions as they are. You hope they live many more years so you can give them a wonderful life and enjoy the loving, sweet dog they have become.

You can spend a lot of time wishing you'd known the dog in his/her earlier days to have given him that much more fun. With every pet, you know deep inside you have a limited time with them... this time is even more limited with a senior dog, and it can make moments bittersweet if you don't focus on the present and what that buddy needs from you right now! ~ Aaron & Michelle Brezenski

Our philosophy of pet adoption: pets become part of the family. Once adopted, they are not to be abandoned willy-nilly, given away, or otherwise removed. They are as our kids.

We adopted **15-046 Rocket** in his 8th or 9th year (opinions and even veterinary records differed). He was older and set in his ways, but very amenable to our lifestyle. He had hip and knee problems so speed was not in the cards for him, but despite this

he loved his walks more than anything in the world (except perhaps getting his ears rubbed) and was quite insistent about this to the point that at one time we reduced his pain meds a little bit in order to give him the energy to take those walks. The Phoenix area was perhaps not the ideal home for him; when we took him on trips to snow-capped mountains in the winter or riverside campsites we saw him truly



happy in snow and creeks. Needless to say, when we designed our new swimming pool we kept **Rocket** in mind and provided a gradual, sloped entrance for him. Though he only lasted about 4 years with us before his digestive system finally gave out on him, his mischief right up to the end at stealing pizza or the occasional sausage has made him legendary in our household.

Adopting a senior, you are getting an Elder Statesman who knows what's what. The senior dog doesn't need houstraining other than showing him/her the way outside. They are excellent companions. You are giving this dog a few golden years of love, fun, and peace that are richly deserved after a life of loyalty to his partner species – which for us is immensely rewarding. They will come to love you as if you had been with them all their life.



We adopted seniors **18-080 Sandy**, a 10-year Golden Retriever and her best friend **18-079 Moab**, a 10-year-old Australian Cattle Dog, who had been together their whole

lives. We lost **Sandy** after just one year. She was the most special Golden, so sweet and loving. I still tear up thinking about her and how much she loved me, and that is significant because when I met my husband I had an 8-year-old Golden who was the love of my life. But I soon realized he was becoming much fonder of my then boyfriend – yes, he was a traitor dog. We lost him to cancer at 12 years old. A few years later my husband gave me a Golden puppy, but it didn't take long for me to see he was becoming my husband's best friend. I tried to be part of the pack but it was obvious I was the third wheel. We then adopted a 6-year-old Golden mix, who was sent to us in Anchorage from Montana. We lost her to cancer after 5 years. We then adopted an 11-year-old Golden who was in pretty bad shape – they had found her lost in the streets. We were fortunate that we could afford her care and help her become healthy and happy. We lost our last two Golden over 8 years ago. We were so heartbroken we couldn't face looking into adopting any more dogs, until we had been in Arizona a couple of years and decided we were ready. That's when we found **AGR** and **Moab** and **Sandy**. **Sandy** was my first dog that actually liked me best, and I was in heaven! She was truly the sweetest Golden ever! We were lucky to have had a year to spend with her and are lucky we still have **Moab**. At 13, he's definitely a slow walker, hard of hearing, and having trouble seeing, but still happy and healthy. After having only Golden, it's been a joy getting to spend time with **Moab** and learning his personality – he is quite a character and so very smart. It didn't take him long at all to train us!

~ Janis and Randy Moore



Older dogs are so gentle and loving, and help guide the young ones in the right direction.
~Eileen Barry



15-100 Marley with Tucker

My senior dog, **15-100 Marley**, was the sweetest, best behaved dog I've ever known. He was quite timid when he came to live with me, as he'd always been an outside dog. He soon became comfortable coming inside and was the best big brother to a puppy Golden/ Australian Shepherd mix, **Tucker**, who came to live with us a few weeks later. I miss them both as they are over Rainbow Bridge, but **Marley's** spirit lived on in another rescue who was lucky enough to have

Marley as a big brother for a year before **Marley** passed. A very sweet story I just have to relate... **Marley** never took toys out of the toy box – only played with toys when **Tucker** or I gave him one, a favorite being a bright orange stuffed fox. When I brought **Tucker** home from being neutered, he was very sore, and cried and cried. **Marley** just lay quietly near him, softly wagging his tail. **Marley** had to do something to help his little brother. Silently, and for the first time that I'd ever seen it, **Marley** went to the toy box, dug through the toys, pulled out the little orange fox, and dropped it in front of **Tucker**. The little guy looked up, put the toy next to his head, and curled up and tried to sleep. **Marley** stood by silently wagging his tail, watching **Tucker**. Eventually, **Marley** lay down across from **Tucker**, so he'd be right there, if needed.

Senior dogs are so easy to love and have around. They demand your attention all day, but that is OK – they deserve it and I love to give it to them.
~ Dean Mortimore

I am happy to have been able to give a forever home to many senior dogs over the years. From **AGR**, I first adopted **15-044 Missy** and **15-045 Molly**, both 10. **Molly** had cancer and left us only 4 months later, but **Missy** stayed for two years. Then, I adopted **17-073 Mary Kate** and **17-074 Ashley**, probably 9 and 11, who were thought to be daughter and mother. **Ashley** passed two years later. **19-029 Lola**, only 6, came to take her place. **Mary Kate** passed in 2020, then **Lola** left us in 2021. Thankfully, a short time later, 8-year-old **21-052 Sugar** (right) joined our household. What a beautiful addition she is – loves everyone, gets along with all dogs, and is a real draw at the **AGR** events we attend. Since she needed to lose about 35 pounds, she is on the green bean diet, and we walk twice a day for a couple miles. She goes to work with me and spends the day schmoozing the office staff. At 2:30, she gets really excited because she knows we are going to the park where she spends time rolling in the grass and “talking” to a Great White Heron, who parks itself on the other side of the river. We have so much fun!



Seniors are truly beyond special. We believe they carry with them the knowledge that their remaining time – whether months or years – will be their best, and the love they give us in return is truly a gift.

~ Teri and Jeff Guilbault



09-002 Goldie

Over the years we have adopted a few senior dogs. Our first, **09-002 Goldie**, was **AGR's** second rescue! She was 10 when we got her. We figured if she gave us two or three years we'd be lucky. She gave us 7 amazing years and left us one week after her 17th birthday! We were lucky

to get our
s w e e t

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(16-015) in her senior years but had her for less than two years. **17-042 Lizzie**, our sweet, sweet senior



17-042 Lizzie

girl was 15 when she went to the

Bridge. We have been very blessed to have been given the opportunity to bring these sweet senior souls into our lives and we hope to be able to give our home to more in the coming years.



16-015 Layla

Adopting an older dog was a good choice for us as we were past the housebreaking, rambunctious puppy stage and an older dog usually is calmer and easier for us to walk with and take care of.

~ Sunny and Bill Conaghan



We ended the year of 2019 by fostering 8-year-old, **19-087 Kosmo**, who came to us a couple of days before Christmas. Even though he was going to need surgery due to a tumor on one of his front legs, he was the best Christmas present ever. He sported T-shirts made by me in his foster dad's favorite teams – Chicago Cubs, KC Royals and Chiefs, and Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks. He loved going for walks,

and everyone he came in contact with loved him. When my husband would go out to ranger on the golf course, **Kosmo** would ride along with him to help him "enforce" the rules. When it became apparent that **Kosmo** had cancer we adopted him, as he had already become part of the family. He was the sweetest boy and had a great disposition throughout his ordeal with cancer. Sadly, **Kosmo** lost his battle and crossed the Rainbow Bridge only 6 months after he first came into our lives. He left a big void in our hearts but also in all our neighbors'. Though we miss him dearly, he brought so much joy and laughter into our days. We are happy to have had

the special time with him to love and care for him and give him lots of hugs, kisses and snuggles. Even though they are older they still have plenty of life, love and snuggles to give. We would adopt another older dog in a heartbeat when we are ready after we move to be closer to our grandchildren. Miss you **Kosmo!**

We would definitely recommend adopting an older dog. In many ways it's easier because they are more adaptable and they seem to appreciate being given a second chance. You will be rewarded with love, loyalty and devotion.

~ Rita Koppinger and Tom Martinsen

We had the good fortune to adopt **17-090 Maddie** shortly after she turned 8, and she will be 12 in March. Maybe because she was older, there was no adjustment period when we brought her home and she settled right in. We immediately recognized that with **Maddie's** sweet, affectionate nature she might be a good therapy dog. She easily passed the **AKC Canine Good Citizen** test and completed the requirements to be a therapy dog at a hospital and at a children's program. So, don't believe that you can't teach an old dog new tricks! **Maddie** is very mellow, but she has never seemed like an old dog and she loves her daily walks. She does require monthly medication for heartworm prevention and daily for arthritis in her back legs. For us, it's a small price to pay for the love we get in return.



We also have experienced adopting (from another organization) a 9-year-old sick Golden whom we named **Milo**. He had multiple health problems, and we honestly didn't expect him to live very long. But after his allergies and ear infections were resolved, he surprised us and became a healthy, happy and very loving dog who lived to be 14.

She has aged into the embodiment of all that we have found to be good in senior Golden Retrievers – she's utterly content with her place in the world and is happy to share that with her humans.

~ Bob and Sheri Hunkler

Autumn of 2013 was a tough time. Our two Golden Retrievers, who had aged to senior status with us, had just died within weeks of one another. We weren't exactly receptive to calls asking us to adopt one particular senior male who had few other remaining options. At the same time, **AGR** was stretched to capacity by the influx of twelve dogs in need of permanent placement. We were persuaded to just meet the difficult-to-place dog – a 12-year-old male rescued from a bad situation with a sketchy breeder. The sweet lady fostering him was more accustomed to smaller breeds. In fact, we heard easily a half-dozen very vocal Chihuahuas who were the temporary housemates of this big, patriarchal-looking

English Cream Golden, **13-097 Watson**, that **AGR** encouraged us to meet. Our introduction was to take place in the foster family's dog-free living room. In order to meet him at a neutral level, I chose to sit on the floor, legs outstretched. As he was brought into the room, none of the usual dog greeting ritual took place. Rather, **Watson** made a beeline for me and unceremoniously flopped in my lap. He communicated the most crystal-clear message I've ever received from a dog – as distinctly as if it were spoken in the Queen's English, he said "Brother, you've got to get me out of here," as the chorus of Chihuahuas continued their serenade from the other room. I replied to **Watson**, "I've got you." That was it – the hook was set and the deal, except for formalities, was done in ten seconds. The next day, Connie and Nick were at our door to hand off **Watson** for keeps. He instantly fit with the family and always displayed the bearing of a cool aristocratic gentleman, but with plenty of mischief, fun and humor just beneath the surface. We soon learned that he had profound health issues that had previously gone undiagnosed. Over his remaining two years, he had more sick days than well ones, but his charisma and good nature never waned for an instant. Dealing with his illness was demanding for us, but nonetheless he was one of the best companions ever – just for too short a time.



13-097 Watson (top)
and 13-102 Rosie

After adopting **Watson**, we learned that **AGR** had other Golden Retrievers from the same breeder that also required placement. We soon adopted **13-102 Rosie**, **Watson's** bio daughter. She was not yet 3 years of age but had hip problems that required a pair of significant surgeries. **AGR** paid for these major procedures, as they had for much of **Watson's** veterinary care. Now at age 11, **Rosie** is a senior herself, and her initial health challenges are, thankfully, far in the rearview mirror.

*Many people want a puppy when they decide to get a dog. I have done that twice and have to say that senior dogs are just as loving if not more loving and are a true addition to the home. They may need a bit more care, but that just brings the dog and people together in a tighter bond. One never knows when their time on earth is over, but if one can give a senior dog a few good weeks, months or years, the bond and love becomes stronger and stronger. I am so glad that we took this avenue in bringing a dog once again into our home. We were saving a life; more enjoyable life was given to all and our hearts were rewarded manyfold. I sincerely urge you to consider a senior dog for adoption and strongly encourage you to work with **AGR**. **AGR** sincerely has a heart for dogs. No matter the circumstances in which the dog is found or has to be given up, **AGR** is at the rescue in a "nano-minute." No Golden dog is turned away. **AGR** does all that is in their power to truly rescue a dog.*

~ Leslie Morris

This is **12-011 Maddy Morris** barking at you from the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. I want to tell you the story of my life. I was adopted by my forever parents on February 22, 2012. I was about 6 at that time and passed in July of 2021.



So, my age at passing was approximately 15-16. Living with my adopted parents for 9 years were the best years of their lives, and I cannot lie, they were mine, too.

I was rescued by **Arizona Golden Rescue** and was I grateful. I had been running around with a bad crowd and when my veterinarian, Dr. Larry Hudman at **Kennel Care**, examined me, he found I had heartworm. They treated me for the infection and I can't say it was pleasant, but it did make me healthy again. Shortly after that I developed pyometra, which meant I needed surgery, for it is a serious and life-threatening condition that needs to be treated promptly and aggressively. Since I had never been spayed, that procedure was performed during the surgery. At that point, I expected to be fully healthy and ready for the world around me. I give all my love and gratitude to **AGR** – they took care of my medical expenses at that time, for they have big, big hearts for rescue dogs and want them to be healthy and happy.

When I first arrived at my forever home, one would think that I had almost starved to death. I was a countersurfer at the time and ate a lot of baked goods, bread and even frozen meat. My sisters did not sniff out the counters, but I sure found some treats. My mom had to re-learn her kitchen manners, and all of a sudden, I found that the counters did not offer me an array of goodies. I was disappointed but guessed that those foods were not the best for me.

I was a very strong and active dog in my younger years. I loved to chase the rabbits and birds – I have to admit I caught a few. I had a big back yard that seemed to be a habitat for desert animals, and they fit right into my exercise program. Most Golden Retrievers like to swim, but I let my sisters take that exercise, for I was not interested. My mom liked that for there were no big puddles of water in the house. My mom took me on evening walks which I loved, for then I saw more rabbits and birds and other dogs. I was not friendly to the other dogs we passed, so I guess that made me a two-person dog. I did have a cousin though, and we got along famously. **Lucy** taught me to bark at everything, and we were real pals when we got together. As you might have questioned, I was not a barker in my home. My parents were amazed that I rarely barked, but it made the house quiet and calm.

My mom and I spent the last two years of my life being closer than ever. I would lie at the door and wait for her to come home and was so happy when we could spend hours together. We took

good care of each other and made each other very happy. In those last couple of years, I did not hear very well, so my mom made sure from time-to-time that I knew where she was and that she was watching out for me. I took the same place beside the chair and she would pat and pat my head. I also slept right beside her bed so we could guard each other at night.

When I reached the Rainbow Bridge, I immediately began looking for my sisters, **Goldie** and **McKenzy**, and I also desperately wanted to find my adopted father. He passed away about 1½ years before me, which made me very lonely for his love and tenderness. We were great buds and had lots of good times together. He let me sit on his lap watching TV. When I couldn't jump on the chair, I would lie beside his chair and he would lean over and pat and pat my head. I loved those moments, and I bet he did, too.

I had a full and happy life. That may not have happened if a very nice lady had not bailed me out of jail (the shelter). When strays are found, they are usually not taken to a happy place. However, I was found, **AGR** was contacted and a nice lady picked me up and took me to a safe place. My adopted parents, Ted and Leslie Morris, said I was the best dog they had ever parented. We all have special personalities, but **AGR** looks for a home that will fit both the dog and the humans that live in the home. In other words, we were all carefully "vetted."

The best reasons to adopt a senior dog: They have already passed through the 4-5 (at least) years of Golden Puppyhood! Calm, Chill... possibly the best descriptions of a loving senior dog. A senior will happily take every bit of love and attention your schedule allows, yet happily lie at your feet as you work from home into the wee hours of the morning. Walks are more relaxed with a senior – there's time to smell the flowers, happily watch a bird or just slow your stride and heart rate, since a senior may be 80, or more, in K9 years! The downside of adopting a senior dog is there aren't enough days to love them. ~ Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

Mike and I adopted a senior Golden in 2013. He had been surrendered to the **Arizona Humane Society**; his owner could not afford his senior meds. The **AHS** contacted **AGR** and the rest is history! We had two Golden retrievers, one youngster and one of middle-age, at the time. But **Apollo**, as he was named, was such a stunning boy. Estimated as 11 years old, there was not a white hair on his sweet face. We "needed" to expand our pack to THREE! **13-041 Apollo** became **Paolo**, named for Paolo Soleri, when he joined our family. Our goal: give this beautiful boy a loving home through his "Golden Years."



From **Paolo**: Last days in the life of a happy senior...

It's supposed to be hotter than Hades today, Saturday, June 29, 2013, but no worries for me. I'm going for my favorite walk at 5 AM. Mom got me up and out early to ensure I could do my silly trot/walk to the end of the cul de sac... even saw a few bunnies along the way, it was a glorious morning! But the best was yet to come. Later, Dad left to play golf and Mom ran an errand. Aha! Sister **Hannah** and I made our getaway out our doggie door and right into the pool. Ahhhh, so cool and refreshing. I jumped around on the top step and **Hannah** did her best to entertain me. Back in the house we ran, lovin' life. Oops, mom wasn't laughing when she saw our wet bodies, big grins and processed food in the dining room (she called it poop) when she came home. Oh well, I'm a happy senior!

Mid-afternoon we got dinner early – how lucky are we! Hey why not, Mom and Dad were going out with friends and they wanted to make sure we were fed, fat and happy. Brother **Bailey** and sister **Hannah** woofed down their early dinner, I wasn't so impressed... ate about 1/3. Was really happy to see Mom and Dad when they came home a few hours later though.

On Sunday, June 30: breakfast was served, no walk this morning though, since we slept in a little later. I was picky this morning, only ate the cooked chicken – kibble is for dogs! Oh heck, I didn't eat my meds so here comes Mom with the 'open wide' command – she got me to swallow the meds that help me feel like a frisky pup.

A little later **Hannah** and Mom leave in the car – did I tell you I LOVE the car? They had a play date with 2 puppies. **Hannah** came back sleepy, but we decided to stand on the top step of the pool with Dad anyway. No playing, just soaking our feet. The rest of the day, I was quiet. Maybe too quiet, I heard Mom and Dad saying I 'wasn't quite right'. After they compared notes, they said I may have had two petit mal episodes – really minor, but they seemed observant about these things and concerned. After 4 PM or so, I was just content to lie in the kitchen. Dinner: not interested. Mom finally fed me two chunks of cooked salmon, but it just didn't suit me – 2½ hours later it came back up. I didn't feel so great, so she kept me company throughout the night.

I was one of three tail-wagging pups on Monday morning, July, 1. Mom and Dad were very happy. I drank a lot of water, peed, but turned my nose up at breakfast. Mom and Dad drove me to the clinic, early. Everyone loves me there – I get lots of pets and cuddles, along with a few pokes and prods. I have portraits that make me look like a skeleton (great for Halloween) and my doctor gave me so much fluid, it looked as though I'd swallowed a balloon! Then the topper was anti-nausea something or other. Yippee – she said, "**Paolo** can have anything he wants to eat!" Ha-Cha-Cha – cooked chicken, treats, cooked salmon, kibble – I ate like a king who's been on a diet for 10 days. I danced with joy – I ate and ate and it all stayed right in my belly.

Tuesday, July 2. Some of my tests are due back today, some on Wednesday, but we already know my white count is up, though not too bad, and Doc says my spleen is looking a 'little different'. I'm keeping a happy outlook, 'cause I am very happy to be in my new home and would like to spend as much time as I can with **Hannah, Bailey, Mom and Dad...** as long as I feel good. I know they love me. Stay tuned, more to come, when it's available. Remember, I am a happy senior and back to myself for now. Keep me and my family in your thoughts, with a smile please.

Love, **Paolo**

This letter written to Deb Orwig, **AGR** President, on July 4, 2013, by Cynthia tells the rest of the story:

Dear Deb,

It was a blessing to share the past weeks with **Paolo**; 7 years probably would have been too short as well. When all is said and done, we are grateful to **AGR** for rescuing him from the **Humane Soci-**



ety and for giving him health in the last two months of his life. While **Paolo** was with our family for only seven weeks, we did as we'd promised, providing him love, shelter, two great siblings, proper food, medication and a comfy bed. We like to think his last weeks of life were his sweetest. He left an impression on us and will always hold a place in our hearts. Was it worth it? Worth the unbelievably short life together? Worth the tears? Yes! We never had a doubt. It was worth it!

Reflections On Old Gold

By Kathy Blue

White faces kept in heart places,
a gift for us to share.
Every day that they gave us
such devoted love and care.

Special moments last through time
much more than words can say.
Beautiful heartdog who was mine,
I reflect on that today.

Angel eyes so wise and deep,
muzzle soft, kisses sweet,
happy murmurs while you sleep,
that "look", please, one more treat.

No matter how very hard my day,
cares and worries seemed to fade
with hugs and roos, rest and play
safe in the bond we had made.

You loved me and forgave me for
my selfish worldly ways.
I could not have asked for more
if I searched for all my days.

I think they'd tell us if they could,
do not weep for me.
What we had was rare and good
and now we're running free.

You gave us strength and purpose
to explore our world and grow.
Then you gently freed us
with tears and love we know.

We left our love within your heart.
So remember us this way.
Share that love while we're apart
'til we reunite one day.

Haiku for Old Gold – The Joy of Ben

By Deb Orwig



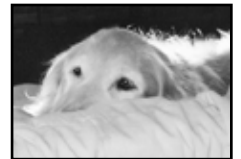
Fifteen years old.
In human years, over 105
and still spry.
I hope I'm as much so
at that age.

White face, badge of honor
Wise old man can still out-
smart the younger ones.



Galloping
down a
beach,
ears and tail streaming,
huge grin on face.

Comfy and content
on "his sofa,"
Soft eyes
looking at me
adoringly
over the back.



Sauntering along
the sidewalk,
Investigating every
"bush message"
Ears prick up at sounds
we can't hear.



In repose,
sighs of peace.
Your hands
must stroke
that beautiful
head.

Coat smooth and soft,
Silvery frosting is the
icing on this incredible cake.



I used to look at my old dog, Smoky, and think, "If you were a little smarter, you could tell me what you're thinking," and he'd look at me like he was saying, "If you were a little smarter, I wouldn't have to."
~ Fred Jungelaus

There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other: To those who have never lived through its turnings and walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible. Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given.
~ Suzanne Clothier

HERE and THERE

Events from November 7 through December 18, 2021

Your membership in our organization will be more fulfilling for you if you get involved and join us at our events, especially if you are one of our adopters. Our Meet-and-Greets are a great way to socialize, both for you and for your dog. Our fundraisers are FUN raisers! Please regularly check the events calendar on our website – www.arizonagoldenrescue.org – for dates and times of upcoming events. We would like to include your picture in this section in future issues.



Dine Out With The Dogs

By Carolyn Brown

Thanks to all who volunteered for our Dine Out event on Sunday November 7, 2021. This year we exceeded last year's total by \$212 for a total benefit to Arizona Golden Rescue of \$5,535. Of this, the amount of \$3,428 was added to the Debbe Begley Memorial



Our host and owner of Paulie's Little Bite of Italy in Sun City, Paul Giglieri



Bonnie Kreger, a superb craftswoman, made the magnetic refrigerator pens and the jewelry we sell

Fund from the meals, the raffle and the silent auction; \$2,107 in revenue from merchandise sales was deposited in our General Fund. We appreciated donations ahead of time from Mary and Bert Engstrom and Sharon Flores because they knew they would not be able to attend. Dean Mortimore and Pat Morgan both gave us nice checks but came anyway.



Conni Eckhardt, quilter of excellence, and AGR member Barbara Connoyer, owner of Sun Valley Quilts – Barbara gives us a discount on fabric so we can earn more money for AGR on our sewn items

This is our second largest fundraiser of the year and could not have been as successful without the help of the volunteers and members who came out to support the event.

Our volunteers for set-

up included: Carolyn Blean; Carolyn and Peter Brown, Adam Cardinal, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Connie McCabe, Trishia Murphy, Deb and Larry Orwig, Denise Padavano, Liz Tataseo and Kathi Youhas, who brought delicious donuts for everyone and stayed the entire event helping out as needed. Patrick Doyle was also there from start to finish. In addition to setting up and breaking down, he provided the security and oversight over donation jars, merchandise and raffle and silent auction items. Around 1 PM Peter Wong



Fran Strock sold lots of raffle tickets



Peter Wong has taught Max over 30 trick behaviors, among which are rolling a barrel and putting his toys away

brought his well-trained dog Max and provided 90 minutes of entertainment.



April Crow (left) kindly drove Joni Cipollone (right) to the first event Joni was able to attend, as she had had an undiagnosed illness for months (not Covid); Jackson is more interested in the food on the table!

Those who brought

dogs and stayed to eat included: Debbie Ball and Shelby; Stephanie Beard with Ruby; Peter Brown had Joey; Teri and Jeff Guilbault came with Raya; Sheila Joyce with Charlie; Jean Klink with Ginger; Debbie Marcotte came with Maverick; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson brought

Jackson; Marlene and Dean Mortimore with Sugar; Deb and Larry Orwig had Asher, Vin and Duffy; Jill and Fred Prose had Gracie and Jasper; Karey, Kelley and Sheri Rodeffer with Joie and Suzy; Chris Spiel with Jack and Lucy; Liz Tataseo brought Watson; Mike Wilson came with Takoda; and Terri and Bob Witte brought their two dogs. Even though the hot weather – yes, in November! – limited the time the dogs could wear their donation vests, they still collected \$667 in cash donations.



Beth Chaffee and Valerie Mylowe; Beth co-chairs our Fore! Paws Golf Tournament

Other volunteers covered the raffle ticket sales including April Crow, Debbie Marcotte, Trishia Murphy, Denise Padavano and Fran Strock. Raffle ticket sales were brisk and resulted in \$851,



Karen and Phil Davis – Karen sends out cards to all AGR members whose dog passes away

and our silent auction items brought in \$1,560.

Debbie Ball, Bonnie Kreger and Deb Orwig assisted with purchases of the beautiful handcrafted items we had available. Evening help including packing and loading up was aided by Donna and Jeff Kozel, Adam Cardinal and Jeff and Ellen France.



Near the end of the event, Ellen and Jeff France (from Fountain Hills) and Jeff and Donna Kozel (from central Phoenix) – both couples came specifically to help with pack-up




The spectacular 2022 *AGR* calendar created by Connie McCabe produced sales of \$312. A check from *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy* for \$350 covered the 20% of food purchases made by those who identified themselves as *AGR* supporters.

Thanks to all members who came out to dine without dogs including: Beth and Jon Chaffee; Joni Cipollone; Barbara Connoyer and friend Conni Eckhardt; April Crow; Karen and Phil Davis and friend; Beverly Host and friend; Darlene Kaminski and two friends; Pat Morgan; Valerie Mylowe; Beverly, Joshua and Perry Ruth; DeeDee Smith; Cindy Tigges; and Jane Triplett with friend. The food was delicious and the company was wonderful! It was a fun event, and we will do it again in 2022. Hope to see more of you then.



Cindy Tigges, one of the *AGR* seamstresses, says, "Food was great, event was terrific!"



*PACC911 at
All Saints Episcopal Church*

By Carolyn Brown

A "Four-Paw" thank you to everyone who came out to the *PACC911* Adopt-a-Thon on Saturday, November 13th at *All Saints Episcopal Church*. It was truly remarkable to have so many *AGR* members out to help on a really beautiful day.

With everyone's help we were able to raise \$1,031.96: \$139 in donations and \$840.96 in merchandise sales, which included four



Carolyn and Peter Brown with Asher and Vin – Carolyn chairs our activities; Peter helps with event set-up, then drives back home to Surprise to care for the Browns' dogs, then drives back to the event to help with pack-up – we are lucky to have them both!

AGR calendars and the beautiful handcrafted work of several of our members. Two single membership renewals (\$51) and two new adoption applications were submitted also.

For an Adopt-a-Thon, these are great numbers. I can't thank all of our crafters enough – Bonnie Kreger, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Sheri Rodeffer, Cindy Tigges and Connie Wozniak. The hours Connie McCabe dedicates to the creation of the *AGR* calendar are greatly appreciated, too.

Thanks to our volunteers for the day:

Carolyn Brown – all day, set-up, pack-up and goods transport; Peter Brown – set-up, pack-up and goods transport; April Crow – afternoon sales and pack-up; Patrick Doyle – all day, set-up, pack-up and goods



Mid-day group: Dean Mortimore with Sugar, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig with Asher and Vin, Carolyn Brown, Sarah Martin, Patrick Doyle, and Cindy Tigges with Natasha and Lucy



Liz Tataseo and Patrick Doyle with adorable McKayla

transport; Donna and Jeff Kozel came in the afternoon and were a great help with pack-up; Trishia Murphy – all day; set-up, pack-up and goods transport; Sarah Martin – all day managing the cash drawer; Connie McCabe and **Bowie** arrived in the afternoon between doing transports for a few of our new rescues; Dean Mortimore brought **Sugar**, who melted people's hearts and raked in donations from 10 AM to 2 PM; Deb Orwig with her dogs, **Vin** and **Asher** – all day; set-up, pack-up and goods transport; Liz Tataseo brought **McKayla** for the afternoon and pack-up; Cindy Tigges brought the redheaded girls **Lucy** and **Natasha** for everyone's enjoyment.



Jeff and Donna Kozel with Asher came to help with pack-up

AGR visitors included Jackie and Dave Engelhardt from Tempe; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer with their Golden **Sucy** and **Joie** from Chandler – Kelley won a nice raffle basket from *PACC911*; and Karen Helm from Phoenix. Peter Wong also stopped by with **Max** and **Sagie**.

Thanks to everyone who supported *AGR*!



Craft Sales at Sam's Club in Surprise

By Carolyn Brown



A big "four-paw" thank you (or in Cody's case, 3-and-a-half paw) for all the hard work everyone put into this weekend's event at Sam's Club in Surprise on December 4th and 5th.

The weather was glorious and got a little warm in the afternoons. Deb Orwig and I issued

a collective gulp when we found out on Friday the 3rd that we would not be able to set up in front of Sam's, as the only organization allowed to do that was the Salvation Army bell-ringers. The Sam's Club manager suggested we use the vacant lot across the driveway to the east, so that's where we set up.

After we got the tents up, Peter Brown went to purchase some red, green and white helium balloons, which we tied to the corners of the tents to draw attention to our



Peter Brown wrangling Asher, Duffy, Vin and Cody



Dean Mortimore and Sugar sat right by the driveway curb and a lot of people came over for petting

booth. Many people driving in on the east-entrance driveway slowed way down to see what was going on and a lot of them parked and came over to pet the dogs and buy something or give us a donation. So, the fact that we had to change our plans where we were going to set up was really a blessing in disguise, and we don't feel it

hurt our sales and donations at all, plus we had plenty of room to spread out. Our two-day total including merchandise sales and donations was \$3,276.48. Our weekend total exceeded what we did there last year by over \$1,000.

This was a total team effort by those behind the scenes who create the products we sell, like Connie Wozniak and her beautiful purses, pot-holders and more; Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano and Cindy Tigges work to produce our microwave cozies, facemasks and more. Bon-



Marla and Brian Spriggs

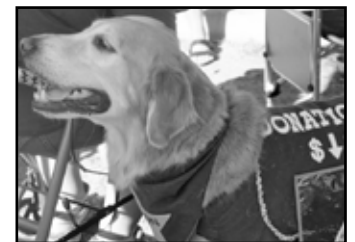


nie Kreger went into overdrive to create the beautiful polymer clay magnetic pens and one of a kind works of art

in pendants (photos above), bracelets and more. Marla Springs gifted us with a collection of beautifully-painted Christmas ornaments and Friendship Rocks (photo on page 47) that everyone loved (and bought). Connie McCabe's photographic talents were highlighted on the AGR calendars.



Debbie Ball with Dillon and Teri Guilbault with Raya



Dillon Ball

Our onsite members who made this event possible included:

Debbie Ball was out both days bringing Dillon on Saturday and Shelby on Sunday. She handed out brochures to passing cars not letting anyone who expressed any interest leave without knowing about AGR.



Debbie Ball with Shelby

Carolyn and Peter Brown were there from start to finish both days, bringing Cody and Joey on Saturday and Cody back again on Sunday.

Patrick Doyle, who is the backbone of transporting, set-up, pack-up and our own Security Patrol in watching the donation jars and merchandise, was there for the entire event both days.



Ginger Klink

Teri Guilbault with Raya and Dean Mortimore with Sugar came for most of Saturday collecting donations and telling the AGR story.

Bonnie Kreger presented her beautiful pens and jewelry (photos at top of page) and walked numerous AGR dogs helping to fill up the donation vests all day on Saturday.



Debbie Marcotte with Maverick shier.

Jean Klink was there both days and brought **Ginger** out to socialize.

On Sunday, Debbie Marcotte brought **Maverick** for the entire day. He had fun socializing with the other **AGR** dogs.

Sarah Martin was there from set-up to pack-up and “took the heat” of the sun most of the day as our cashier.

Trisha Murphy helped with set-up, sales and pack-up on both Saturday and Sunday.

Deb Orwig anchored this event both days, from start to finish, with the help of her dogs, **Asher**, **Duffy** and **Vin**, who were great ambassadors and money collectors.



Trisha Murphy, Patrick Doyle and Sarah Martin

Denise Padavano and Carolyn Blean showed up bright and early both Saturday and Sunday for the set-up of 8 tables, 2 pop-up tents and three vans-worth of merchandise.



Liz Tataseo with camera

Denise also brought some homemade goodies for our set-up crew.



McKayla's cute T-shirt

Chris Spiel spent most of Saturday at the event with her dogs, **Lucy** and **Jack**.

Marla and Brian Spriggs were there all day Saturday. They braved the Highway 101 weekend closure to come all the way from Fountain Hills.

Liz Tataseo brought **McKayla** and took photos on Saturday.

Kathi Youhas (at right) always brightens everyone’s day; she stayed all day on Saturday.



Other members who stopped by to say hello included Mary and Bert Engstrom, David Jewett and Connie Wozniak.

Once again, a sincere thank you. Please know you are all appreciated more than I can express. These fund (and fun) raising events could not take place without your help.

Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade
By Carolyn Brown



No one was late getting to the staging area this year, so everyone who walked is in the group photo except Deb Orwig, who took the picture. Left to right in back: Patrick Doyle with banner, Camber Newbern, Chris Spiel, Ella Williams, Larry Orwig with Asher, Cindy Tigges with Lucy and Natasha, Jean Klink (Ginger is hiding behind Lauren), Michael Feight, Trishia Murphy (with Vin), Jill Imler holding Oakley, Sheri, Kelley and Karey Rodeffer, Peter Brown with CaliAnne in stroller and Joey looking in, Miriam Zavala, and Carolyn Brown with Cody in stroller; in front: April Crow with Logan, Lucy Spiel, Andrea Williams with Loki, Lauren Rudin with Bryxx, Dean Mortimore with Sugar, and Sucey and Joie Rodeffer.



April Crow with Logan

After a one-year hiatus (no parade was scheduled in 2020), **Arizona Golden Rescue** made a great showing at the *Glendale Hometown Parade* on Saturday, December 11th. Thanks to the 21 participants and 19 goldens who brought out the best show of the day – in our opinion at least! Special thanks to April Crow who did the initial planning and served as contact person with the City of Glendale.

The parade watchers thought we were great, too. Almost all our walkers wore some kind of festive holiday headgear, the best of which was new member Miriam Zavala’s Christmas tree hat (at right). Our dogs, dressed in red or green donation vests, collected \$982.53 from the onlookers. This was a record and is important since we missed a few **AGR** fundraisers due to Covid this past year. Not sure if the parade watchers or the dogs had more fun, but everyone did have fun!



Larry Orwig

Other than our **AGR** banner carriers, Patrick Doyle and April Crow and her golden,




Cody Brown poking his head out of his stroller and getting mobbed!



Photos Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Michael Feight and Jill Imler with Ginger, Oakley and Zoey; Cindy Tigges with Natasha and Lucy; Dean Mortimore with Sugar; Sheri, Kelley and Karey Rodeffer with Sucky and Joie; Camber Newbern and Chris Spiel with Lucy; Lauren Rudin with Bryxx; Ella and Andrea Williams with Loki; Jean Klink with Ginger



Logan, and our supply wagon puller, Larry Orwig, we were not the most organized group when it came to staying in formation, because everyone along the sidelines wanted to love on the dogs. Three generations of Rodeffer women – Karey, Kelley and Sheri – were a hit with red sequined ruffles bedecking the beautiful Joie and Sucky. Everyone loved the sparkly ruffles and the donation vests filled up fast. Deb and Larry Orwig brought Asher, Duffy and Vin. Trishia Murphy and our newest member, Miriam Zavala, handled two of the Orwig dogs. Michael Feight and Jill Imler brought Ginger, Oakley (their newest baby) and Zoey. Jean Klink introduced Ginger to the fun of being out with other Golden Retrievers; it was Ginger's first time wearing a donation vest and she tolerated it quite well. Chris Spiel brought Lucy and a lovely young neighbor, Camber Newbern, who loves Golden Retrievers and parades. Cindy Tigges and her two beautiful red Goldendoodles, Lucy and Natasha, were a hit with the bystanders. Lauren Rudin with Bryxx, Dean Mortimore with Sugar, and Andrea and Ella Williams with Loki gave and received a lot of happiness along the route, too. Peter and Carolyn Brown strolled the parade route with their two tripods, Cody and CaliAnne, in doggie-strollers, with Joey walking beside them – see photos on page 21. Thanks for participating, everyone!



*Phoenix Metro
Chamber of Commerce
and PACC911 Winter Adopt-a-Thon*

By Carolyn Brown

When *Arizona Golden Rescue* members come out in large numbers, we all have fun and good things happen. Saturday, December 18th, was the best turnout *AGR* has had at an Adopt-a-thon event in two years! So many members stepped up and volunteered to help set up, be Golden Ambassadors, work the sales area and tear down! In the end, everyone had a fun-filled afternoon. Many serious people had the opportunity to talk with members and find out about adopting from *AGR*, and our pups got time to socialize with other dogs and people of all ages.

In spring of 2021, we were one of only three rescues that were at a similar event hosted by the *Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce* at *Floor & Décor* in Glendale. At Saturday's event we were one of eighteen Rescues and still did almost as well on sales and donations. We raised a total of \$1,306.62 for our efforts. Of that \$146.00 was from donations in our Golden's donation vests, \$72.00 from 2022 calendar sales and the remaining \$1,186.62 from craft and toy sales.



Fred Prose, Peter Brown and Kathi Youhas starting to set up

Starting at near dawn, in 42 degree temperatures the set-up crew did the job of unloading four vehicles in record time. Setting up two tents and a 10' X 20' display area and arranging hundreds of items was accomplished by: Carolyn Blean, Duane Borho, Carolyn and Peter Brown, Adam Cardi-

nal, Patrick Doyle, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Fred and Jill Prose (even a bruised knee wasn't going to deter Jill from pitching in), Liz Tatasao, and Kathi Youhas, with assistance from *PACC911* volunteers and the *Pinnacle HS* Spirit Line ladies.



Pinnacle High School Spirit Line

Morning volunteers (after set-up) began to warm up as the sun rose and shone brightly and large crowds of people came to meet our Golden Ambassadors and their handlers. Keeping things from



Josephine Sala, Brian and Marla Spriggs with their girl Zoe

blowing away in the wind became a full time job for some. This group included: Patrick Doyle; Sarah Martin, who managed the cash drawer most of the event despite the cold and wind; Dean Mortimore with **Sugar**; Trishia Murphy – who was there despite a bruised rib from earlier in the week; Deb Orwig with **Asher, Duffy and Vin**; Josephine Sala; Marla and Brian Spriggs with **Zoe**; and Kathi Youhas. Peter Wong stopped by briefly with **Max and Sagie**. Carolyn, Patrick, Trishia, Deb and Kathi stayed all day.



Marla Spriggs has added painted rocks and journal covers to our merchandise inventory -- they are gorgeous!



Afternoon volunteers were enjoying the beautiful weather as the sun and the crowds warmed the area and the winds mostly dissipated. Getting to talk with potential adopt-

ers and to see how much the **AGR** goldens enjoyed seeing each other again was very rewarding for all. The group that joined us after noon included: Debbie Ball with **Shelby**; Teri Guilbault with



Volunteers in afternoon: Back – Sarah Martin, Liz Tataseo with Watson, Patrick Doyle; Middle – Kathi Youhas, Duffy, Deb Orwig with Asher, Carolyn Brown, Jackson, Debbie Ball with Shelby, Dean Mortimore with Sugar, Chris Spiel with Lucy and Jack, Sheila Joyce with Kiki; Front – Teri Guilbault, Cindy Tigges with Natasha and Lucy

Raya; Sheila Joyce with **Kiki**; Connie McCabe, our fabulous photographer, with **Jackson**; Dean Mortimore with **Sugar**; Howard Myers, our newest member, with **Mellie**



Sarah Martin totaling up purchases made by Bari Mears, President of **PACC911**, co-sponsor of the event

Belle; Deb Orwig with **Asher, Duffy and Vin**; Chris Spiel with **Jack and Lucy**; Liz Tataseo with **Watson**; Cindy Tigges with **Lucy and Natasha**; and Cynthia Wenström with **Hannah**.



Shelby Ball tolerated wearing this silly Christmas tree hat most of the afternoon

At 3 PM, when the



Cynthia Wenström with Hannah and new member Howard Myers with Mellie Belle; Cynthia and husband Mike Lane bought a Single Membership for Howard to help him get involved and meet some new friends



Adam Cardinal, Sarah Martin, Larry Orwig, Fred Prose, and Liz Tataseo.



Kiki Joyce had the right idea at the event's end

event was over, our pack-up volunteers made quick work of repacking all the merchandise, breaking down the tents and reloading all the vehicles. Truly, many hands made for quick and easy work for all. In addition to the all-day volunteers, this group included: Peter Brown,

Sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to volunteer their time to make this event a success or to stop by and say hello. As we move into 2022, I hope that you all had a Golden Holiday season and will have a healthy and prosperous year.

Photos with Santa at Petco
By Connie McCabe



Nick Dodson, Santa Jeff Guilbault, Connie McCabe with Jackson

After a year's absence due to COVID-19, our very own Santa Jeff Guilbault, with his glorious natural white beard, returned for a limited engagement at the Glendale **Petco** store on Northern Ave. The photos were \$9.99, the same as in the last few years. Once again, it was hard to compete with **PetSmart's** free photos, but we did offer extra photos from our SmugMug album, so that people could have extra photos to download. Liz Tataseo took the **Petco** photos using an iPad – the built-in software

replaced the plain green-screen backdrop with a digital Christmas background. She was then able to immediately e-mail the enhanced photo to the customers. We had a nice set-up with the usual gift boxes, poinsettia plant, and a beautiful tree that Kathy Blue donated. I also took free extra photos with my digital camera and uploaded them to a SmugMug site, where customers could then download them; unfor-



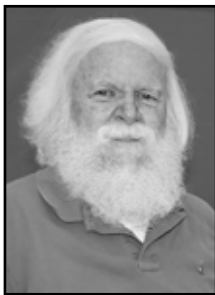
Inside volunteers Carolyn Blean, Liz Tataseo, Santa Jeff Guilbault, Denise Padavano



Connie McCabe, Carolyn Blean, Teri Guilbault with Rosey, Nick Dodson with Jackson, Liz Tataseo, Dean Mortimore with Sugar, Chris Spiel with Lucy and Jack

tunately, those photos only had the green background. The Santa photo sessions officially lasted only 90 minutes, but we continued the outside Meet-and-Greets for a full three hours. This year **AGR** did not receive any of that photo money from **Petco**, so a nice group of volunteers and donation dogs sat outside to collect donations and talk to the public about

AGR (essentially a regular Meet-and-Greet) while we were taking Santa photos inside.



December 5, 2021

Many thanks to Liz Tataseo as photographer, Carolyn Blean and Denise Padavano as inside helpers. And of course, Santa Jeff Guilbault, the star of the show. His natural beard was a real hit! Also, many thanks to the outside crew: Nick Dodson with **Jackson**, Teri Guilbault with **Rosey**, Pat Morgan with **Cassie**, Dean Mortimore with



Sugar, and Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Lucy**! And thank you to everyone for helping to pack up! We did not have a lot of photo customers, but we did have a good time and met a lot of people outside during the Meet-and-Greet part. It was good to be out and about again, socializing the



Pat Morgan and Cassie with Santa Jeff

dogs and talking with the public. We did sell 17 calendars, in addition to collecting \$37 in donations, and we discussed adoption with many potential adopters. There were a lot of people who said they would come for photos the following week, as they did not even know the event was going on since **Petco** did very little advertising.



December 12, 2021

Thank you to everyone who showed up for the **Petco** Santa Photos on the 12th. It was a special day, too, as it was Nick's birthday. I was disappointed to not be able to stay there, but I had bronchitis and had to forgo all the fun – this is my favorite event.



Fred Prose and Liz Tataseo handled the photos very well, with inside help once again from Carolyn Blean and Denise Padavano, and of course, Santa Jeff Guilbault. They got lots of help outside from Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Teri Guilbault with **Khalee**, Jill Imler with **Oakley**, Jean Klink with **Ginger**, Debbie



Santa Jeff with adorable Oakley

Marcotte with **Maverick**, Jill Prose with **Gracie** and **Jasper**, Christine Spiel with **Jack** and **Lucy**. Sorry, no group photo of the outside volunteers was taken. Thanks to all of you for staying to help pack up all the props! I really missed being there.



Sheila Joyce brought her whole family – daughters Jen and Ali, her three Golden and two grandsons



The little French Bulldog wanted out of there!

There were more customers than the week prior, but still not like the old days. We did make some good donations for just a 3-hour stint: \$138. There was a very good turnout of people to meet and pet the dogs and to get information about adopting, which really is the most important part of the Meet-and-Greets.

The Spectacular
AGR 2022
A Touch of Gold Calendar

We still have some. Calendars are available for purchase for \$12 from several of our regular veterinarians and at every **AGR** event. If you want one mailed, please be sure to add \$2.50 for postage.





Golden Hearts



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support! All donations to **AGR**, a 501 (c) (3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The donations shown below were made between October 10, 2021 and January 15, 2022; donations that were made after January 15, 2022 will be acknowledged in future issues. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. PLEASE NOTE: All donors who made donations during 2021 should have received an acknowledgment letter in January 2022, unless a receipt for taxes was requested sooner. Please let us know if you donated and did not receive a letter.

Explanation: Most of the General Fund donations were sent in December 2021 as end-of-year gifts. Individual donations ranged from \$5 to \$5,460. Some were made via PayPal and included the 4% transaction fee that PayPal charges; some did not include the fee, so that amount was subtracted by PayPal from the donated amount. The exceptions were the gifts that came in through Facebook, as Facebook covers the PayPal transaction charge. Most gifts were sent as checks. A couple came in as Zelle transactions. Some were given in addition to membership renewal or merchandise purchase. We thank everyone listed here for your support, no matter how or how much you donated – all helped us end the year in a comfortable financial position.

General Donations from the Heart

Anita Bakke	Rochelle and Terry Kelman
Kristen and Tom Behan	Shauna and Mark Kisicki
Missy and Dan Bessey	Marsha and Stephen Kleinz
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Marlene Breton	Rita Koppinger and
Carolyn and Peter Brown	Thomas Martinsen
Melissa Carter	Donna and Jeff Kozel
Tammy Moerer and	Sherry and Gary Landwehr
Brad Chapman	Debra Lanier
Rosemary Cheke	Celia and Kent McClelland
Joni Cipollone and	Anne and John McGill
Woody Scoutten	Robert McKinnon
Barbara Connoyer	Jeannette and David Morrocco
Star Cox	Marlene and Dean Mortimore
Charles (Skip) Derra	Vicki Nelson
Kristin and Terry Durr	Deb and Larry Orwig
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Sarah and Joel Hartway	Cindy and Gary Tigges
Gail Heiberger	John D. Wilson
Douglas Irish	Maryruth Brooks Wittkamp
Kathy Jones	Anna Landeta-Wong and
Sally and Wendell Jones	Peter Wong

In Loving Memory of 19-029 Lola Mortimore

Sharon Flores
Marlene and Dean Mortimore

*Memorial Donations**In Loving Memory of Richard L. "Rick" Ball*

24 donors in memory of Rick were listed in the November 2021 issue; the following sent a memorial gift after that newsletter had gone to press:

Karen E. Andrews
Beth and Bart Beckman
Brenda and Joe Leeper
Margaret and Tom Spigelmire

In Loving Memory of All 4th Quarter Bridge Dogs, Cats and People we have lost including:

09-014 Orion Sager
13-024 Lucy Alt
15-008 FenwayPress
15-020 Sawyer Harman
15-026 Lucky Thomas
15-026 Molly Nelson
19-029 Lola Mortimore
21-014 Joy Amaral
21-015 Pastora Watts-Williams
21-020 Romeo Compise

Jack Spiel**Cat Sherbie France**

Larry Jessup, **AGR Member**
Ruth Pulliam, **AGR Member**

Anita Masiero, AGR Member Carla Sager's Mother

Debbie Ball	Deb and Larry Orwig
Teri and Jeff Guilbault	Liz Tataseo
Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson	

In Loving Memory of Wilfred McNabb, Connie McCabe's Father

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson	Denise Padavano
Deb and Larry Orwig	Lorraine Stein

*Memorial Donations continued**In Loving Memory of 12-118 Nash Spiel and Jack Spiel*

Debbie Ball
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Chris Spiel

In Loving Memory of 15-008 Finley Press

Shari Press

In Loving Memory of 15-020 Sawyer Harman

Elizabeth and Michael Harman

In Loving Memory of 15-026 Lucky Thomas

Rebecca and Chris Thomas

In Loving Memory of Gracie, Bob, Moses, Rheta, Luke, Peter and Willie

Joan and Keith Mast

*Corporate Donors and Sponsors***Amazon Smile Foundation** 4th Quarter 2021 Program Activity**American Express Foundation****American Express Company Employee Giving Program****Bank of America Charitable Foundation****The Benevity Community Impact Fund****Best Friends Animal Society ResQWalk participation****Facebook****Fry's Grocery (Kroger) Community Partners Program Activity during 4th Quarter 2021****Great American Title Agency Community Outreach Program****Max & Neo****Merchant Services, A First Financial Ltd Company**
4th Quarter 2021 Giveback**PayPal Giving Fund***Giving Tuesday - November 30, 2021***Allset Precision** (Dean Mortimore)

Anonymous through AZGives

Kathryn Blue

Christine and Timothy Brzyski

Karen and Philip Davis

Patrick Doyle

Carol Gora

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Martha McDowell

Sue Moser

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Tami O'Brien

Deb Orwig

John Prather

Christine Spiel

Marla Spriggs

Cindy Tigges

Mike Wilson

Kathi Youhas

In Loving Memory of Tugger and Fluffer Moser

Joyce and Ron Moser

In Loving Memory of our girl Sugar

Michelle and Steven Ortega

In Loving Memory of Sandy Tetaric

Cindy and Gary Tigges

In Loving Memory of two dog-loving friends, Evangeline (Van) Paglia and Ron Gardner, each a neighbor who cherished their own 4-legged family members, and also had a sweet spot for our Hannah

Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

Debbe Begley Memorial Fund

Debbie Ball

Stephanie Beard and

Greg Konishi

Carolyn Blean

Carolyn and Peter Brown

Kari Carlisle

Beth and Jon Chaffee

Joni Cipollone

Barbara Connoyer

April Crow

Karen and Phil Davis

Patrick Doyle

Violet Eason

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Jennifer Hance

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Sheila Joyce

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Denise Padavano

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Lynne Shanks

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Chris Spiel

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Cindy and Gary Tigges

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Mike Wilson

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Peter Wong

Kathi Youhas

Fourth Quarter Facebook Donations

Total: \$4,615 includes Giving Tuesday Donations via Facebook

In Honor of Christina Casper's birthday

Christina Casper

General

Katie Donahue

Marsha Kleinz

Ann Korpalski

Joan Mast

Eileen McCarty

Cathey Moses

Mark Pachtner

Linda Rosato

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Mike Watts

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Grants

The ACES – Francis Austin and Melissa Austin Button

The Mellen Foundation – Diane Mellen, Exec. Director

Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911)

To help with the medical expenses of *21-031 Stanley*

Honorary Donations

In Honor of Deb Orwig for her leadership, friendship and dedication to Arizona Golden Rescue

Debbie Ball

In Honor of the AGR Board of Directors, Board Assistants and Team Managers

Deb Orwig

In Honor of Asher's first parade

Deb and Larry Orwig

In Honor of Emma Gutekunst, "daughter" of Anne and Richard Gutekunst

Susan P. Skinner

In Honor of Anne and Richard Gutekunst – Merry Christmas!

Jennifer and Rick Wainwright

In Honor of Cindy, Gary and Neal Tigges for a great holiday get-together!

Lisa and Eric Natwick

*Memberships**New or Continuing Advanced-Level Supporters***COPPER (\$50)**

Lisa Collins and Aaron Fritzer

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Candy and Neal Greff

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Nicholas Yale and Bruce Bouldin

PEARL(\$500)

Carolyn and Peter Brown

Sharla and David Jewett

Andrea and Derick Williams

Gift Single Membership Renewal for Sarah Martin

Carolyn and Peter Brown

Gift Single Membership for Howard Myers

Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

Thank You Donations

To Carolyn and Peter Brown for help with household chores, errands and groceries and also during vacation and remodeling

Debbie Ball

To April Crow for the help she gave Woody Scoutten while I was in the hospital

Joni Cipollone

To Sharon Flores for vacation dog care for Lola

Marlene and Dean Mortimore

To Connie McCabe for her kindness and making my birthday special while I was in the hospital

Joni Cipollone

To Connie McCabe for our Christmas Family Photo

Joy and Todd Slagowski

To Connie McCabe for the Goldman-Schure-Wieser extended family photo shoot

Agnes and Fred Goldman

Sharon and Philip Wieser

To Deb Orwig for gift wrapping

Adam Cardinal

To Sewing Diva Connie Wozniak for the major sewing machine upgrade

Cindy Tigges

Special Thanks

To those supporters who have set up a regular monthly donation either through their bank or through PayPal

Stephanie Beard

Judy Petitto

Coralyn Collins

Jamie Ono

Patrick Doyle

Carrie Stoneburner

Ellen and Jeff France

Mike Watts



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