

Reaching out to you with...



The Golden Paw

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THE FOSTER EXPERIENCE

"Fostering, not just a job but an adventure. The word "foster" has two meanings, and both apply to being a foster for a rescued dog. To foster can mean to provide a temporary home and care...Foster can also mean to encourage growth or development"

"The cost associated with fostering is minimal – food, treats and toys. AGR covers all medical expenses while you are fostering."

"The best part of fostering is that we make new friends, both canine and human"

"I will forever be grateful for all my second-hand friends, and for the opportunity, support, and encouragement I found in a Rescue community."

"I can't lie – it is hard to let them go each time. I try to glean all I can about them to share with our Placement Team, so when we do send them off it is to their forever happy home."

"Fostering is always an adventure, challenging, sometimes a little exhausting, and so worth the reward when you know you've helped to make a life better. Knowing that we're helping to find the perfect forever home where they get to have their happy-ever-after is why we do it."

"I am a terrible foster! I've had the pleasure to foster only four dogs since AGR's inception. Three of them never left!...I'm sure at some point I'll foster again. If I fail or not, well, we'll have to see!"

"I am proud that all my fosters have thrived in their forever homes, and all my forever families send me e-mails or pictures occasionally, which makes my heart happy and sometimes brings tears to my eyes."

"You are the person that will make a difference in that one special Golden's life."

"By taking an animal temporarily into your home, you are able to free up a spot so Rescue can take in another dog. You are, simply, saving a life."

"At first, it's almost guaranteed that you will become foster failures, but as you continue to acquire more and more dogs you eventually realize that you cannot keep them all. But what you can keep are the memories and experiences of all those lives you helped impact."

"As the foster family, you have the right to choose who stays and who needs a different forever home – you have the privilege of helping to select that family"

"Having been told he was skittish of adult males (and seen for myself it was true), imagine my surprise when we arrived home and Riley jumped up on the sofa and snuggled up to my husband, Ron, like a long-lost friend!"

"I enjoyed the opportunity to basically "test drive" these dogs, see them in my own home and interacting with my family and dogs, without having to make the leap to ownership."

"A great benefit of fostering is, as dog owners, we are exposed to different dog behaviors or different medical conditions and treatments that our resident dogs might not have or need, and this has provided us with a wealth of knowledge and a broader understanding that we humans oftentimes need the training rather than the dogs."

"Fostering is very satisfying, especially seeing an ill or surgical dog blossom into full health. The very ill ones or those just out of surgery required close supervision, so that usually necessitated staying home more than usual."

"For me, fostering a hospice dog was a spiritual experience, as well as bittersweet. Her name was Sandy, and she will always be in my heart. I learned so much from her."



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Masthead photo of **14-033 Dolly Orwig**
 by Connie McCabe

Cover Design by Connie McCabe ;
 dog is 18-049 Eastwood

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Fore! Paws Golf Tournament coming up on September 22, 2018. If you have any new item you don’t want or credit card points you could use to purchase gift cards, please contact Deb Orwig at dorwigaz@cox.net or call 623-693-0589.

Thanks to the following for proofreading the draft: Debbie Ball, Teri Guilbault,
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Editor's Assistants' Notes



Vin, Duffy, Mufasa and Dolly Orwig

Everyone at our house loves the foster experience – that is except for **Dolly**. She usually gives visiting dogs “the eye” and they generally leave her alone. She just doesn’t want to be bothered. However, we boys have a great time when a new dog comes to stay for a while. It might be for just a few hours, or might be for a long time like months, but what it is for us is P-A-R-T-Y-T-I-M-E! We play and play and don’t mind sharing our toys, although Mom usually puts them away at first when a new dog comes.

We are all very polite to canine guests. We show them where the water and food bowls are. We show them how to tell Mom and Dad that they need to go out or are hungry. We show them where to do their business outside. We share our bedroom with them. Sometimes they have to sleep in a crate, but we all just park ourselves right outside the crate so they know we’re close by and don’t get scared. Mom will sometimes take one of us for a walk with the visiting dog, so we have to show the dog how to walk nicely on leash. We think we are pretty good role models!

Eventually, a foster dog has to leave. Sometimes Mom has to take the dog to get checked by a veterinarian, and the dog comes back to our house for a while. That’s the best! But sometimes the dog goes to a new forever home. We are always happy for the dog that he or she has found a permanent family, but even though there are four of us canines living at our house, the house seems empty when the foster dog goes away.

The best part of fostering is that we make new friends, both canine and human. Occasionally, we will see the dog again if the adoptive family brings the dog to an **AGR** event, something they are encouraged to do. If it has been quite a while since the dog was at our house, sometimes we remember the dog and sometimes we don’t. At the **PACC911** Adopt-a-thon that was held in Fountain Hills last March, we saw one of **Duffy’s** littermates for the first time in four years! The whole litter of six puppies was at our house for six weeks when they were very young. Did he remember her? Did she remember him? No, and no. But it was nice to see her again anyway, and we had a good time.



Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President

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The theme of this issue is “the foster experience.” Have you tried fostering for **AGR**? If you have not, why not? We frequently need a home to which to bring an incoming dog, even if briefly. We would rather put a dog in a home temporarily than to have to board the dog at a veterinary facility.

What is the difference between being a foster and being a Foster-With-Intent-To-Adopt (FWITA)?

The only significant difference is that fosters do not have to pay the dog’s adoption fee when the dog is delivered. Our insurance requires that all fosters (as well as all other volunteers) must be current **AGR** members. Even if you do not intend to adopt a foster dog, all fosters must submit an adoption application and have a home evaluation done. There are two reasons: first, we have to make sure your home environment is safe for a Golden or Golden mix, our primary reason for doing anyone’s home evaluation. Second, we want to get the administrative work done so that it is already “in the books” if you decide to adopt your foster dog.

You will not have to sign an adoption contract when a foster dog is delivered. However, you will have to sign our *Foster Home and Vet Care Agreement*. This Agreement stipulates what **AGR’s** responsibilities will be while you are fostering, as well as what yours will be. The foster’s job will include transporting the dog to the vet and providing food. **AGR** will not reimburse you for food (unless it is a prescription food), chews, vitamins, or supplements (unless prescribed by a vet), toys, grooming tools or beds. We will, however, lend you a crate.

AGR will not be liable for the expense of repairing any damage to your house, yard or furniture caused by the foster dog. Although we try to ensure that a foster dog has no transmissible diseases, **AGR** will not be responsible for treating any resident pets or humans if anyone contracts a disease from the foster dog. Further, **AGR** will not be responsible for extermination treatments to any living areas, including house or yard, should vectors of vector-borne diseases (i.e. fleas and/or ticks) be present on the dog.

Do you have time to foster?

If you have not tried fostering because you don’t feel you have the time, please reconsider. Fostering a puppy would not be suitable if you work full time. However, a mellow old dog could be left alone for eight hours, and even a young dog could if you have a dog door or a neighbor willing to come to your home to let the dog out midday.

Can you afford the cost of fostering?

There is little cost, actually. A foster is required to provide only gas for transports to a vet (keep track of your mileage – it is tax deductible if you itemize your deductions) and dog food. Of course, we recommend using a good-quality food, but that does not have to set you back a lot financially – the store brand available at **Costco** (Kirkland *Nature's Domain*) is an excellent-rated food and one of the least expensive available. (*Note: AGR does not get a commission on the sale of this food or any other kind of kick-back from Costco, but many of our members use this brand.*) If your foster dog must eat a prescription dog food due to certain health issues, then **AGR** pays for the food.

Other expenses you might have but which are not required are the purchase of food and/or water bowls, toys, and/or a bed – it is your choice to provide these items for the dog, and they are tax-deductible if you itemize. If purchase such items, please plan to send them to the forever home if you choose not to keep your foster dog. **AGR** has crates and x-pens/playpens which we lend out – if you want to borrow one, all you have to do is mention that to the Transporter who will be delivering the dog to you.

What about vet expenses?

For veterinary care, all you have to provide is transport to one of our participating vets; veterinary care includes after-surgery rehab. **AGR** covers all vet bills and medications as long as the dog is in foster care. If, as the foster, you choose to adopt the dog for whom you have been caring, the vet coverage extends at least through adoption finalization. I say at least, because **AGR** often will provide a Health Addendum for extended medical coverage with the adoption contract. This will be the case especially if the dog has a chronic condition that needs long-term treatment, such as valley fever, or if the dog is so young that he/she is not yet a candidate for sterilization – **AGR** will pay for the eventual neuter or spay surgery.

Can I participate in the selection of my foster dog's potential forever family?

Absolutely! Placement will contact you with the name and credentials of possible families. If there is more than one suitable candidate, you will be able to prioritize based on what you know about the dog and recommend the family you feel is the best match.

Maybe you think you would not be able to give up the dog when Placement calls to give you the name and information we have for a potential adopter. As the foster, you always have the first right of refusal when it comes to adoption. If you decide you cannot bear to give up the dog, you don't have to! If that is your decision, then you will be sent an adoption contract and expected to pay the adoption fee at that time.

Please read the numerous comments that were sent by members

who have been fosters. After reading this feature article on pages 26-32, perhaps you will want to have "the foster experience."



Just a short note about and a big THANKS! to Tiffany Berry. Tiffany has left the position of Placement Manager to move on to other activities. She has been **AGR's** PM for a couple of years and was a Placement Team member before she took over from **AGR's** former Placement Manager, Debbie Mikol, who moved out of state. While Placement Manager, Tiffany implemented our current system of assigning an incoming dog to a specific Team member, rather than Team members on a rotating "on duty" schedule for a week at a time. This new way of handling Placement tasks is working well, so we thank Tiffany for that contribution, as we are always looking for ways to improve how we do what we do. Our best to Tiffany in whatever endeavors she chooses to pursue.

Placement Team member Carrie Peck has graciously accepted the position of Placement Manager. Thanks, Carrie – we know you'll do a great job! If you would be interested in serving on this most important Team, please contact Carrie at carriapeck@outlook.com or call her at 480-800-9814.

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING SCHEDULE

All are at the Happy Valley Barnes & Noble (2501 W. Happy Valley Rd – I-17/Happy Valley Rd) at except for the one on Christmas Eve Day, December 24th, which will be at the Arrowhead store (7685 W. Bell Rd, Peoria)

Saturday, November 17	9 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, November 18	10 AM – 5 PM
Black Friday, November 23	8 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, November 25	10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, December 2	10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, December 9	10 AM – 5 PM
Friday, December 14	9 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, December 16	10 AM – 5 PM
Friday, December 21	9 AM – 5 PM
Saturday, December 22	9 AM – 5 PM
Sunday, December 23	10 AM – 5 PM
Monday, December 24	9 AM – 6 PM (close)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Monthly Meet-and-Greets at the Northern Ave Petco and 91st Ave PetSmart

Check website calendar for dates and times
www.arizonagoldenrescue.org

Fore! Paws Golf Tournament

Lone Tree Golf Course, Chandler

Saturday, September 22, 1:30 PM shotgun start
4-person scramble format

Early-bird registration deadline of September 12th

will be strictly enforced – fee for golfing or just for dinner
will increase significantly after that date!
See details at right

PACC911 Adopt-a-thons Coming Up

AGR will participate in all of the following,
so put them on your calendar now!

Saturday, November 3
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

PACC911 & All Saints' Episcopal Church
6300 N Central Ave Phoenix 85012

Saturday, February 2
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
PACC911 & Anthem

Saturday, March 2
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
PACC911 & Petco Pavilions
8910 East Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale 85250

Saturday, March 23
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Paws Around the Fountain
12925 N Saguaro Blvd, Fountain Hills 85268

There are two other **PACC911** scheduled Adoptathons, one on Saturday, November 17 at Scottsdale **PetSmart** (10030 N 90th St) and another on Saturday December 1 at a Pet Club (location TBD); if someone is willing to chair one or both, please contact Cindy Pavero at mscindyP1@yahoo.com

Four Other Upcoming Events:

Paws & Pasta Dinner
Little Bite of Italy, Sun City
Sunday, November 4, 11 AM - 4 PM

Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 8

PMCC Holiday Party & Pet Adoption
Sat., December 15, Floor & Decor Parking Lot, 59th Ave/Bell Rd

Parada del Sol and Trail's End
Saturday, February 9, 2019, Downtown Scottsdale



Lone Tree Golf Course

6262 South Mountain Blvd., Chandler

Saturday, September 22, 2018

1:30 PM Shotgun Start

4-person Scramble Format

\$99 per golfer before Sept. 13; after that \$130;
fee includes dinner

Single golfer? We will pair you with someone!
\$35 per guest for dinner only before Sept. 13; after that, \$50
Numerous sponsorships available

To register, go to www.arizonagoldenrescue.org/golf

Send check to
AGR, 5350 W Bell Rd, Ste C122-158, Glendale, AZ 85308
or call Deb Orwig at 623-693-0589 with your credit card

Fantastic Raffle! Fabulous Silent Auction!
Come join the fun!

Help Needed for Golf Tournament!

**#1 Job Ahead of Time is
Solicitation of Items
for the Raffle, Silent Auction and Golfers' Prizes**

**#2 Job is Securing Hole Sponsorships and
Other Levels of Sponsorship**

**Anyone can help with either or both jobs –
solicitation letter templates
are available now!**

**Contact Deb Orwig
at dorwigaz@cox.net or call
623-693-0589**



Paws Forward

By Sue Vallie, Director of Dog Care

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To Foster: to encourage or promote; to bring up, nurture. To foster for **AGR** is to be involved in both of these definitions. There are two different designations of fosters. Both require the same background for liability purposes: an approved home evaluation and membership in **AGR**.

Each of you who has gotten a dog from us has been a Foster-With-Intent-To-Adopt, a FWITA, the most common type of **AGR** foster. This is where our adoption process differs from getting a dog from a shelter or other place housing dogs needing homes – at such, once a person selects the dog, pays the requisite fee, and walks out the door, the dog is theirs. If it is discovered days later that the dog is sick, the responsibility for the vet bills is also the adopter's. If the dog turns out to be aggressive or really does not fit into the household in some way, that problem is also theirs. Depending on where the dog was obtained, there may even be a fee to return the dog.

When **AGR** places a dog with a FWITA family, the dog does not yet belong to the family even though the adoption fee has been paid. There is a period of at least three weeks during which the family may need to take the dog to one of our participating vets for a check-up, vaccination update if needed, or assessment and treatment of possible health issues. This is also a time when dog and family get to know one another. For a day or week, both dog and family are on their best behavior. After about two weeks, frequently a dog will begin to relax, show its true nature and maybe test limits of appropriate behavior. This is a time during which we often get calls about how to handle the issues. Problems may be addressed by a phone call or possibly a visit from our behaviorist, who like everyone else who works for **AGR**, volunteers her time and skills.

Only once the initial time has passed and only with the concurrence of the adoptive family is the adoption finalized and the dog is then yours. The family is no longer a FWITA but the owner, although we often tease about who owns whom at our house.

The second type of foster includes those generous souls who open their homes to dogs who must find a safe place to land while a permanent home can be located. We try to avoid kenneling whenever possible. Aside from cost, kenneling is not a good option for most Golden Retrievers. Getting them into a safe, secure home is far better, even if they may have to be moved again later. Reasons for needing to foster dogs include dogs someone calls us about only days before leaving the country. Tiny puppies who really are too young

to leave their mom and/or haven't received appropriate vaccines and have gotten sick also need a home environment if they are to survive and flourish. Dogs who have been injured or have faulty joints requiring surgery and follow-up therapy also may end up with a foster. Fosters are someone who may or may not have been actively looking for a dog (or another dog) but have the resources, skills or knowledge to help the dog needing a place to live. Sometimes, there is combination of all these factors. We have fosters who have responded to the call for help when a dog must come in immediately. We have fosters who have offered to take a dog that was to be delivered to a family that proved upon arrival that it would not be a good match. Such dogs have already been surrendered by the former owner and cannot be returned except when aggression manifests. Advance notice is frequently very minimal in these instances. Fostering can last anywhere from a few hours to a few months. Fosters are responsible for food, unless it is prescribed by one of our participating vets.

So why do both types have to go through the application and qualifying process? Two reasons. 1) We need to know the environment is safe and secure. We also need to know the background and family composition of the household so our Placement team can make an appropriate placement, even if it is for only fostering. 2) Once a Golden or Golden mix has lived in a home for a couple of weeks, we dog lovers tend to get sucked in by our furry roommates and don't want to let them go. As fosters have the first right of refusal for any dog they have cared for, the temporary home frequently becomes a permanent home. No need to move on. The newcomer has wormed their way into the heart and soul of the family. While we affectionately call this a "foster failure", it is far from a failure. It is a match of love. It may take a few weeks to recognize you don't want to give up this treasure, or it may take as little as an hour.

My husband and I were asked if an elderly dog coming from the fringes of AZ could land at our house for the weekend because transportation had already been arranged when the owner indicated the dog could not go to a kennel. Within an hour of her arrival, I called the Placement Manager to tell her there was no need to to work on finding another place, as she had schmoozed up successfully to our resident dog and completely won over my husband with her sweet, quiet manner.

This spring, we had several pairs come in close together. There is a limited number of people willing to take on two new dogs at a time. We had exhausted the list of people who indicated on their application they were willing to consider a pair. That made it foster time. Fosters are told they cannot change the dog's name; FWITAs can. The night one of these pairs was delivered, the alleged fosters were already considering new names for their charges and soon let us know they were intending on adopting them.

Fosters do have to pay the application fee for processing and must

be paid members. They do not have to pay the adoption fee when transported, as the thinking is they will not be adopting the dog. If they hit the foster failure category, they are sent an adoption contract and must pay the adoption fee. *NOTE:* After July 1, 2018, the application fee will no longer be subtracted from the adoption fee and will be considered a non-refundable processing fee.

Fosters also may need to be instrumental in helping a dog transition from a difficult environment to another unknown. They may also need to work toward correcting negative behavior or help with housebreaking. We have resources to assist with whatever needs become apparent with a foster or FWITA dog.

We need fosters. We have fosters who have really helped us with correcting behaviors that had developed with either a former FWITA or their former owners. We have fosters that have helped us get to know dogs so they can be placed successfully in new homes. Obviously, medical fosters are absolutely necessary. Some of these people have other dogs and some choose only to foster when needed. If you can possibly consider this option, please indicate this on any membership renewal you submit.

How You Can Help Arizona Golden Rescue



Easy money for AGR!

Do you shop at *Fry's Grocery Stores* or *Fry's Marketplace*? If so, do you have a VIP card? If not, please apply for one at your local *Fry's* (you get some good discounts with this card). Then, please register the card with their Community Rewards program to benefit *Arizona Golden Rescue*. Every time you shop and use the VIP card, we will get a small percentage of your purchase as a donation. This donation will not affect points that you accumulate for gas or sports. If you currently have a VIP card, your designated beneficiary (*AGR*) should be automatically renewed in August. To be sure that has been done, check the bottom of your *Fry's* receipt: it should continue to say "At your request, *Fry's* will donate to *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)*". We currently receive a check from *Fry's* for around \$512 each quarter; we'd like to see that increase!



Do you shop at *Amazon.com*? If so, are you registered with *Smile.Amazon.com* with *Arizona Golden Rescue* as your beneficiary? Please sign up and *AGR* will get a donation from the *AmazonSmile Foundation* every time you make a qualifying purchase. Not all items purchased from *Amazon.com* will earn donation credit (for example, books purchased for Kindles do not qualify), but the site will tell you if your purchases qualify. Making purchases through *Smile.Amazon.com* does not cost you any extra – the donation comes through *Smile* from the vendor.

The holiday season will be here before we know it. Do you do some or all of your shopping online? Do you frequent major retailers' sites? Sign up with *iGive* and you will not only get discounts from many favorite stores, but *AGR* will get a donation. To register and specify *AGR* as your beneficiary, go to www.igive.com. Then go through the *iGive* site to reach your preferred stores. There are 1,800+ stores on the *iGive* list – surely your preferred stores are on it! A percentage of what you spend will be donated to *AGR* if we are your designated beneficiary (on average 3%). The stores pay for it all. You never pay more, and sometimes you pay less with coupons and deals.

iGive.com

What else can you do to help AGR?

- Come to our golf tournament as a golfer or just as a dinner guest.
- Donate an item or gift card we can use in a raffle or silent auction.
- Check the mailing label on the back cover of this issue for the expiration date of your membership and pay your dues promptly.
- Purchase gifts from the selection of merchandise we sell – we have lots of great stuff!
- Talk about *AGR*, our goals, efforts and activities to anyone and everyone.
- Find out if your employer has a matching gift program – you may be able to double or triple your financial support of *AGR*.
- Donate Forever postage stamps, a ream of copy paper or a box of 500 #9 or #10 self-seal with security tint envelopes.
- Patronize our supporting veterinarians and groomers with your non-Rescue pets.
- Buy one or more of our calendars.
- Include *AGR* in your estate plans and your will.
- Make a tax-deductible donation at any time for any reason.



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 in 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.

If you would like to view previously featured members and do not have access to the printed newsletters, you can download them from the Information tab on our website.



The Gorski family with Stella

Jeff and Kelly Gorski, sharing number 591, met about 17 years ago. Jeff, formerly from Buffalo, NY, moved to Arizona in 1978. After living in the Valley of the Sun and deciding that snow was no longer for him, he has remained in Arizona ever since. Jeff and Kelly met working together at a local swimming pool company. After they both relocated to Goodyear, and had settled down a bit while running

their own swimming pool business and raising two small boys, their oldest approached them with his request for a dog. He said, “I’m four years old now, so I want four dogs.” Mom and Dad didn’t quite jump on the bandwagon to go from zero to four dogs. A bit of compromising was done, along with some research to determine the best fit of dog for the family. Golden Retrievers had such a reputation for being great family dogs. Since their children were so young, they didn’t want to jump right in and get a puppy, but rather an older, well-mannered Golden is what they had in mind. This is what brought the Gorski family in search of a Res-

cue organization.

In Kelly’s words: **Arizona Golden Rescue** was able to help us find our first dog for our son, Jackson, who had recently turned four. After the home visit, we were connected with **Bart**, a 9-year-old Golden. The men and women who connect the dogs with families do an amazing job! **Bart** was our “shadow dog”. He always wanted to be close to us. My two younger boys absolutely adored him, and I’m sure that **Bart** felt the same way about them. He was an easy-going dog who enjoyed walks and the occasional trip to the dog park. His temperament was great for our family, and I was so happy that he had found his forever home.

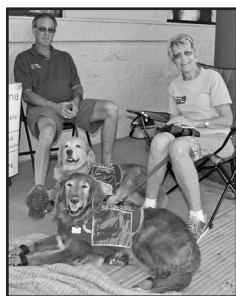
Bart lived with us until he was about 12 years old when he passed away from “The big C.” To this day our youngest son still gets upset about it. I never really imagined a dog to have such a huge impact on our lives. **Bart** was the dog who made us fall in love with the breed. As time had passed, our home was without a dog and because the heartbreak was quite unbearable, we considered trying again.

We reached out to **AGR** for another attempt in having a Golden in our home. We were a bit discouraged because of the long wait for a dog, but then we found out that if a dog were to come that fit our family best, we would be contacted. Then it happened... we got a phone call the week before the 4th of July. The Rescue had an urgent situation that required a home for a dog in a bind. **Luna**, now **Stella**, was purchased as a gift from a husband to his wife. Apparently the dog that they already had wasn’t a fan of **Stella**, so **AGR** would find itself with another dog to rehome. We received a call asking if we could foster and possibly adopt, considering they needed a home for her ASAP. We were thrilled and accepted the offer. **Stella** had been through a very stressful week. All in seven days time she was transported from Colorado to Arizona, spayed, and re-homed. **Stella** was 7 at the time and she was the most mild-mannered dog ever! No jumping, no licking, listened extremely well. However she wasn’t eating and that made us a bit concerned. After a bit more time of being settled, she came around a bit more. **AGR** was very helpful in this period of getting her adjusted. Sharon, the lady who was involved with the behavior of dogs, reached out to help with any questions that we may have had. It’s been 2 years and **Stella** is doing great. When we adopted her from **AGR**, her given name was **Oxana Sleepysong**. We all thought that was the strangest thing. Well, thanks to the power of **GOOGLE**, we looked her up and found her breeder in Serbia! We reached out to him and he did confirm that **Stella** was born at his kennel and he was able to provide a bit about her background. He was very surprised to hear that she had made her way to the United States. Since then we have kept in touch with him via Facebook.

Stella is so calm and gentle. We thought that possibly adding another fur member to our family would bring more life to **Stella**. This had become quite a search. We were looking for a breeder

who would allow breeding rights. Apparently this was more challenging than originally thought. We finally found a breeder in California that would allow our search to come to an end. Our youngest son, Joey, wanted to name our new puppy **Snoopy**, but the name decision needed to be unanimous. We all liked **Charlie**. We received pictures from the day he was born up until the time we were able to travel and pick him up. The best part about having **Charlie** is the spunk that he has put back in **Stella's** step. She's going to be 9 in June, and some days she is a lazy old lady, while other days she's as spunky as can be and teaches **Charlie** to be a good boy.

We are so grateful for coming in contact with **AGR** and opening our hearts and our home to Golden Retrievers. Our home is full of fur and love!



A familiar sight at **AGR** events are Fred and Jill Prose with Gracie II and Jasper

Now, here are Fred and Jill Prose, who share number 823. Fred is a member of the Home Evaluation Team, and both Fred and Jill are very active with helping at events.

Fred and Jill were born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They met on a blind date when Fred was a college senior and Jill was a junior attending a college nursing program. Three years after they were married, Fred was offered a job in the Education department of **Honeywell** in Phoenix. Jill was a hospital pediatric nurse at the time.

Immediately after moving to Phoenix, one of Fred's coworkers was chatting about her 2-week-old Golden Retriever puppies. The following day they picked out their first Golden Retriever and named her **Ginger**. **Ginger** went everywhere with them, including vacations in Michigan where she spent endless hours swimming. **Ginger** lived to be eight years old and died suddenly of unknown causes.

Fred and Jill had recently had a baby, so Jill thought they were going to wait a while before getting another dog. Fred had always been full of surprises and Christmas morning Fred went for a short walk and returned with a six-week-old Golden all dressed up in a red holiday sweater. Golden #2 was named **Heather**. **Heather** was a wonderful family dog and lived to be thirteen years old.

Jill and Fred were getting ready for retirement and Fred was working from home when he saw a Facebook post from a friend telling everyone she had just adopted a Golden through a Rescue group. They felt this was a good time to consider another Golden and filled out an application with **AGR**. A short time later they had their home visit with Liz T., and **Jasper** arrived the next day with Connie, who had been fostering him after he had been rescued from the shelter and taken to a vet for vetting and boarding. **Jasper** decided to make the place home by promptly peeing in the

kitchen as soon as he arrived, but Fred and Jill just laughed and were not concerned at all. He never did it again.

A year later they took in a medical foster, **Gracie**. She became a foster failure, and after a six-week adjustment period, **Jasper** and **Gracie** were the best of Golden buddies. Unfortunately, **Gracie** was diagnosed with lymphoma a year later. She had chemo treatments for six months and went into remission, which lasted another six months.

Just recently Fred and Jill traveled to California to pick up a breeder's Golden, also named **Gracie**. Rather than rename her, she is called **Gracie II**. **Gracie II** is enjoying lots of new experiences as she lived the majority of her life in a cage. She loves to walk, play ball and roughhouse with **Jasper**, and she is learning how to be a great ambassadog like **Jasper**.



Mike, Carter, Holly and Keira Gross with Zoey

Now let's meet Holly and Mike Gross, who share number 845. Holly is on the **AGR** Photography Team, and they have adopted **15-058 Zoey**.

Holly gives us a little background in her own words: *Let's go way back... I grew up with Golden Retrievers in Iowa. I don't remember a time without one until my childhood Golden, **Ginger**, passed away when I was a freshman in high school. My parents said no to another until I was out on my own. The minute I knew I was done with college, I called a breeder about a new puppy from a small litter of just 2. I picked up my furever girl shortly after – a sweet puppy I named **Dakota Gold**. **Dakota** was with me for just under 14 years. She saw me through all sorts of life – moving to California, then Arizona, then adding Mike to the family and then her favorite boy Carter.*

***Dakota** went to the Bridge in April of 2012. We searched high and low for a Golden to add to our family, but it just didn't seem to be in our cards. Living without a dog stinks; it's quiet and lonely, and there's no fur floating around. We lived for 8 months without a dog when we finally found **Tory**. **Tory** is a mutt, a cross of a German Shepherd and a Border Collie. **Tory** is neurotic. She's a rescue – we're not sure what her back story is, but she loves us and we love her. We came to find out, after dog sitting my mom's Golden, that **Tory** was much better adjusted to life when there was another dog around.*

*In December 2014, the hunt for a Golden began again! I'd put our search with **AGR** on hold after we'd found **Tory**, but I e-mailed and found that our information was still in the system. One sunny day in July, I got the phone call I'd been waiting for – a sweet 5-year-old female Golden was looking for a new home. And our home was that perfect home! She was gentle enough for a home with our wild toddler, Keira, and her 5-year-old brother, Carter.*

Sophie, renamed Zoey, settled in nicely, as if she'd been in our family her entire life. Zoey and Tory are friends for life – they sleep butt to butt at night and love to fight over the 50 stuffed toys in the house. Zoey loves the outdoors, still hates the pool, and loves the snuggles from her two human siblings. Her two favorite things are to play her version of fetch with Carter and Keira – you throw the ball, she goes to get it, and doesn't bring it back. Or she kicks her ball into the pool and fishes it out with her paws. She loves to lie under my feet as I work, and she is never seen without a "baby" in her mouth. As always, I get non-retrieving Golden Retrievers. But we will love them that way!



Health and Safety

By Liz Tataseo
Health Care Manager

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Have you looked inside your dog's mouth lately?

Unless you look periodically, do you really know what is going on inside your dog's mouth? It is important to look and see if there is anything that might mean your dog has a major health issue. Sometimes you can smell it, especially if your dog likes to breathe on you!

Here are some things to get checked further by your vet:

- Bad Breath, or halitosis, is one of the first telltale signs of dental disease in pets.
- Gingivitis is inflammation, irritation and bleeding of the gums that develops from the buildup of bacteria between the teeth and gums.
- Periodontitis occurs as a result of untreated gingivitis, happening when plaque builds up on a dog's teeth, which turns into tarter. Signs of this include spots of blood left on toys, a brownish tarter build up on teeth, inflamed and sore-looking gums, and dropping food from the mouth even though your dog has an appetite.
- Mouth tumors in dogs appear as small to large lumps in the gums near teeth or on the inner jawbone area or lips.
- Salivary mucocele appears looking like a large fluid filled sac or a large swollen mass under a dog's neck or inside the mouth cavity. It is a collection of leaked saliva from a damaged salivary gland or salivary duct which has accumulated in the surrounding tissues.

Just like with humans, the better the dental care, the less chance there is to develop disease throughout the body.

To maintain your dog's dental health:

- Routinely brush your dog's teeth at home
- Inspect inside your dog's mouth; look at gums and teeth

for signs of disease

- Give good quality dental chews to scrape away tartar
- Buy toxin-free toys to promote strong, clean teeth and gums
- Buy washable/cleanable toys, as to easily remove germs, dirt, odors
- Give crunchy watery, teeth-cleaning raw fruits and vegetables like apples, carrots, celery, cucumbers
- Feed hard dry food and biscuits which slow down the buildup of tarter and plaque.
- Always provide fresh water daily
- Clean food and water bowls frequently

Mouth tumors can be both benign and malignant but both can cause problems.

Types of the most common benign oral tumors:

- Epulides – The most common benign tumor of the canine oral cavity. There are several subtypes. Many exist as a flap of skin on the gums and may cover a tooth or grow between teeth. They can also arise from the jaw bone. These types can cause bone disintegration but surgical removal is normally curative.
- Gingival hyperplasia (abnormal increase in the number of normal cells in a normal arrangement; causes thickening and enlargement of the gums; common in dogs)
- Pyogenic granulomas (usually develop along gum margins; often inflamed and ulcerated)
- Dentigerous cysts (tooth-containing or follicular cysts; develop around the crown of an un-erupted or retained tooth)
- Odontomas (accumulations of normal cells arranged in an abnormal manner; compound odontomas are hard, tooth-like structures; complex odontomas are hard substances bearing no resemblance to teeth; not considered to be true tumors)
- Papillomas, or "warts"; seen mainly in young dogs under two years of age; caused by species-specific papillomaviruses but can grow in any age dog. Contagious and can grow rapidly and in multiple sites; such warts can result from long-term use of some medications such as Cyclosporine
- Osteomas (slow-growing tumors made of dense, well-differentiated compact bone)
- Plasmacytomas (plasma cell tumors; usually localized, solitary and sessile [attached by a broad base; not pedunculated]; fairly aggressive and can metastasize)

Types of malignant oral tumors:

- Melanoma (also called melanosarcoma; the most common malignant oral tumor of dogs; seen on gums, lips, tongue and palate; locally invasive and commonly me-

- tastasizes to lungs and regional lymph nodes)
- Squamous cell carcinoma (the second most common oral malignancy in dogs; often red, cauliflower-like and ulcerated on the gums and quick to infiltrate bone; masses on tongue or tonsils metastasize most readily)
 - Fibrosarcoma (the third most common canine oral tumor; often smooth and firm; rarely bleeds)
 - Osteosarcoma (bone cancer; affects jaw bones; can bleed)
 - Osteochondrosarcoma (multi-lobed tumors of bone and cartilage; locally invasive but slow to spread)
 - Mast cell tumor
 - Hemangiosarcoma
 - Peripheral nerve sheath tumor
 - Lymphosarcoma (epitheliotropic lymphoma)

One of the reasons oral tumors are so deadly is that if they are not found early, metastasizing occurs and by then it is too late to treat. Pick a time to check your dog's mouth, run your finger around inside (if he or she lets you) to feel for lumps and bumps. Pay attention if they suddenly don't want to pick up a toy or drop it as soon as it is in their mouth.

Even nonmalignant tumors can cause major issues. Epuli arising from the bone can cause jaw bone disintegration that is virtually undetectable by sight. X-rays are needed to determine that. We have had several rescued dogs come in with epuli and two with bone involvement. Papillomas grow on a stalk and look like cauliflower; they can proliferate especially in an immune-compromised dog. Deb Orwig had a big surprise last February when she looked into **Dolly's** mouth and found them growing all over the inside of her mouth. The danger arises when they grow down into the throat and can cause breathing and swallowing issues. Once **Dolly's** "warts" were frozen and she was taken off the Cyclosporine that had been prescribed for over two years for allergy treatment, over time they all disappeared.

So, check your dog's mouth and their entire body regularly. Whether benign or malignant, early detection and diagnosis of lumps and growths means a healthier, longer-lived dog.

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Dogs give their human companions unconditional love and are always there with an encouraging wag of the tail when they are needed. The dog is indeed a very special animal.

~ Dorothy Hinshaw Patent



Follow the Lead

By Sharon McKenzie
 AGR Behavior Consultant

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Teaching Bite Inhibition to Puppies

Client Question: *My puppy is almost 12 weeks old. I got him when he was 8 weeks. He's playful and fun, but I can't get him to stop biting me. That seems to be the only way he likes to play – rough! I've been telling him "No" or "No Bite" and even pushing him away or flicking him on his nose. Nothing seems to work. In fact, he thinks I'm playing a game with him and gets more excited the more I try to stop him. Sometimes he walks right up and attacks me! What can I do? Is he vicious?*

Answer: *No, he's not vicious, he's just being a normal, rambunctious, and sometimes obnoxious puppy. To get control of your pup's biting, it helps to understand why puppies bite in the first place.*

Biting and mouthing are normal behaviors for puppies. Dogs don't have hands, so they investigate objects and their environment with their mouths. To a curious puppy, everything is new and exciting and must be explored. They learn as they go along. One can almost hear their thought processes as they discover something they've never seen before: "Hmmm...what's this? [chomping on it] Something to eat? No? [tossing it around] Can I play with it? Maybe. Can I make it squeak?"

Playing is a normal learning behavior for puppies, especially play-fighting. Play-fighting with siblings and other animals helps develop good reflexes, coordination and motor skills. It also helps them develop social skills and how to interact positively within their own canine world called a "pack." Many times puppies' play-fighting with humans appears to be quite fierce, but to them it's just a game. Much like children playing make-believe games and pretending to be grown-ups, puppies play their own games and pretend to be "grown-ups," too.

A dog's ability to control their force of biting is called "bite inhibition." This is a very important skill that every puppy needs to learn and the earlier the better. Puppies don't know their own strength or how sharp their teeth really are. Puppies learn to control the force of their biting from the reactions of their mothers and littermates during play, especially play-fighting.

We can teach puppies about bite inhibition, but some of the methods most often recommended aren't always effective. A puppy's canine mom's methods however, are very effective, more often than our own. I believe this is because they are communicating in their own language which they understand best... dog language. A puppy is much too busy learning how to be a dog to take time

to understand the way humans communicate. That takes time and maturity. Puppies and most dogs respond to dog language in a very powerful and instinctual way. We can take advantage of that by mirroring a mother dog's actions and using them ourselves.

The idea of using a mother dog's natural training techniques isn't uncommon. Many respected trainers and behaviorists have been using them for years. To better understand these methods, let's take a look at a typical mother dog who would discipline her litter of puppies. When a playful puppy bites his K9 mother hard enough to hurt, she squeals or yelps. The puppy, surprised at her reaction, usually hesitates a moment being unsure of himself, then tries to bite again. Mother yelps even louder this time and turns to the puppy with a much stronger action of discipline – she will show her teeth and sternly growl at him. Then she turns her back on him and hurries away, completely ignoring him and any further attempts to get her to play. A smart and respectful puppy understands her clear message quickly: "If you can't play nice, I won't play with you at all!" If the puppy persists or doesn't take the hint, his K9 mother doesn't fool around. With a serious growl and using her teeth, she grabs him by the scruff of his neck and gives him a shake. If he sasses back, she gives him another little shake, tougher this time. She doesn't let go of the pup till he has acknowledged her authority (in dog language) by relaxing his body, laying his ears back and keeping still for a moment. Sometimes a K9 mother will discipline especially obnoxious puppies by knocking them over with her paw and pinning them to the ground, growling assertively and pinching them with her teeth. The puppies might shriek but they're not really hurt. She does not let them up again until they are relaxed and lie still. Once being corrected by their mother, the puppy shakes himself off and goes in search of a playmate with a better sense of humor.

We don't have to growl at our puppies or shake them with our teeth, but we can modify a K9 mother dog's techniques for ourselves. The next time your puppy bites you, scream "OW!" in a high-pitched voice. Exaggerate a little if need be, then refuse to play with him or pay attention to him for a few minutes. If he does not get the message, give him a little scruff shake and scold him in a low-toned, serious and assertive voice. You can exaggerate a little on that, too! Sound meaner than you really are. For puppies that just won't quit or seem to get more obnoxious with every correction, flip them over on their backs by using your hand and firmly push them down and over. Reprimand them in that same low, assertive voice (growling) and gently but firmly, hold them in that position until they stop struggling.

Puppies seem to learn a great deal about bite inhibition and leadership between five and eight weeks of age through play with their mothers and littermates. Some puppies may require a little more intense use of the K9 mother methods, but puppies that get little or no training in bite inhibition, either from their mothers or their humans, may grow up to develop behavior problems. I have seen

K9 mothers pick out certain puppies within their litter that needed a little "extra" correcting. With no apparent reason, certain puppies would be rolled over, pinned down and given a low growl if they didn't settle down and lie quietly. It seemed to be the most dominant and outgoing puppies that got these reminders. I have found that using more of the natural techniques a mother dog uses to discipline work very well on puppies who have become too big for their britches!

Even with their mothers, puppies act a lot like children – they are always testing and pushing their boundaries. They have good days and not so good days. Patience is the key to all, and even K9 mothers have to have patience. We as humans must not only practice our own leadership in raising puppies, but also our own patience. With patience, persistence and a few tips from a K9 mother dog, you'll be able to have many more good days than bad.

Do You Really Want A Puppy?

By Deb Orwig

During one year, **AGR** usually takes in one or more puppies under 6 months of age. This year so far in just the second quarter, we took in one judged to be 5 months old and three that were just weeks old – one 8 weeks, one about 9 weeks and one only 5½ weeks.

The 8-week-old came in with parvo. It was dicey whether or not he would survive the disease, and once we were sure he would, we kept him under wraps at a foster home until after he had had his third set of regular vaccines at 16 weeks of age. Then we released his photo and story to the various sites where we advertise available dogs. During the following WEEK, we received over 117 inquiries about this puppy, and 45 applications with fee payment came in (which taxed our small home evaluations crew to the max)! After the second week he was advertised, the *Adopt-A-Pet* statistics site for July 3 to July 9, 2018 showed that there were 6,098 searches! Despite the fact that our website clearly states we do not adopt outside of Arizona, we had messages from people wanting to adopt this puppy from Massachusetts, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oregon, California, Nevada and New Mexico. Young, purebred Golden Retriever puppies are worth their weight in gold and apparently rarely available from Rescue groups!

The second puppy, the 9-week-old, was placed only two days after we got her, so we took her off the available list; two weeks later, we were still getting messages from people wanting to adopt her in case the placement fell through.

We are keeping a tight lid on the third and youngest of the puppies until after he has had his third set of vaccines in mid-August. He is a Goldendoodle with ¼ Poodle and ¾ Golden Retriever in

his genetic mix. We probably already have two dozen or more qualified and approved families that will be vying for this puppy! If you want to be considered, get your application in right away.

There are a number of things you should consider if you think you want to adopt a dog that is 6 months of age or younger, maybe as young as 8 weeks. Be prepared for... exhaustion as a normal state of being, late nights, get-up-in-the-middle-of-nights (sometimes twice), early mornings, cleaning up pee and/or poop in an indoor pen and/or crate several times a day, a need to buy stock in a paper towel company and Nature's Miracle®, learning to take naps when the puppy does, not getting a whole lot done besides puppy watching and teaching, hoping that you have several friends/neighbors who get a daily newspaper delivered and will save them for you (and you will still be close to running out at the end of each week), continuous barking as attention-getting behavior, digging in your yard, eating your plants or anything else a puppy can find to put in his mouth, run-and-chase and keep-away games; fun play times, soft puppy coat, sweet puppy breath and puppy cuddles and kisses. Do the more numerous disadvantages mentioned first outweigh the advantages? Only you will be able to answer that!

Feeding. Puppies under 6 months of age need to be fed 3 times a day, even more often if they are only weeks old and have just been weaned. If all adults in your household are gone more than 4 hours a day, you will need to make arrangements to come home in the middle of the day to feed and exercise the puppy or have a dog sitter come to your home to do it. An adjustable elevated feeding stand (better for digestion) and a quality dog food are recommended. Free feeding (leaving dog food out all the time) is not a good idea, especially with Golden Retrievers, as most Golden Retrievers will not self-regulate their food intake – they will eat until all the food is gone and will become overweight.

Housebreaking. A puppy's bladder is not mature until it is 4-6 months of age. Although it can be done with diligence, it is difficult to housebreak a dog younger than 4 months. Puppies can usually only "hold it" for 2-4 hours. Will someone be home to let the puppy out often enough? We recommend crate training for puppies, as they are less likely to soil where they sleep.

Chewing. Puppy teething occurs from 4 to 6 months of age. It is important to provide the puppy with "legal" things to chew on, otherwise the furniture or baseboards or carpet will be fair game. Nylabones®, Kongs®, sterilized bones like those produced by **Red Barn Bone**, and chew toys are good objects for teething. If you catch your puppy chewing on something inappropriate, correct him/her and provide a "legal" alternative. Do not punish the puppy if you do not "catch him in the act." If he/she has chewed on something, punishing him after the fact will do no good. Correction must be timely.

Exercise. An unexercised puppy will be a bored puppy, and a bored puppy can become a destructive puppy, or lack of exercise

can just be plain dangerous to the dog's physical development. The statement, "A tired puppy is a good puppy" is right on the money! Are you prepared to exercise your puppy a minimum of two times per day for 15 - 20 minutes? If you work, can you give yourself time to exercise the puppy, rest for a half hour, feed it, take it out to do its business and then get to work on time in the morning? Are you liable to be exhausted after a long day of taking care of children or working at an outside job? You cannot explain your lack of attention to a puppy. The consequence of such lack of attention will be an undisciplined dog that will quickly become out of control.

Digging. Digging is instinctive, but many dogs do not develop the habit. Leaving a dog unattended outside is never a good idea, because a bored dog most likely will dig. Don't let the habit get started. Accompany your puppy outside every time and correct him with a sharp NO! if he/she starts to dig. Correction must be immediate – your puppy must know what exactly you are asking him not to do. Distract him/her with a toy or move the puppy to an area where it cannot dig.

Socialization. For a puppy to become a welcome addition to your household, you must work with him/her on some socialization skills. Handle your puppy frequently and encourage family members and friends to do so as well. Get a good quality brush and comb and start using them right away so that the puppy becomes accustomed to the grooming experience. Purchase a guillotine-style toenail clipper and clip the toenails every couple of weeks. Practice taking the food bowl away when the puppy is eating. Play fetch-and-retrieve with him early but avoid tug-of-war games. Praise your puppy for good behavior; correct him/her for improper behavior and then help him/her to "do it right". Start training the puppy early – with persistency and consistency in training, an 8- to 12-week-old puppy will learn quickly.

Vaccinations. No puppy should be allowed out of your yard until he/she has had ALL his vaccinations, the entire set of 3 (or more, if recommended by your vet) DHPP and two leptospirosis vaccines. Otherwise he/she will still be susceptible to parvo and distemper, among other illnesses. The first set of vaccines will be given at 7 - 8 weeks, then again at 10 - 11 weeks and the final set is given at 13 - 14 weeks. The 1-year rabies is given at 5 - 6 months.

If you are willing to commit to all that is necessary to successfully raise a puppy, you will likely have a wonderful companion for many, many years! If you are not willing to put in this kind of time and effort, please consider adopting an older dog!

Save your old cell phones for AGR – we recycle them through GRC Wireless Recycling for \$2-\$10 for a regular phone and up to \$50 for a Smartphone, Blackberry or the like. Bring them to any AGR event.



Service Paws

By Aria Ottmueller
Guest Columnist

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*Editor's Note: In May, Aria Ottmueller graduated from Northern Arizona University with honors. She completed a double major in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Political Science with a minor in International Studies and Law and Society. She intends to attend law school in the fall. Aria was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; however, she grew up in Chandler, Arizona. She is visually impaired, and has a guide dog, **Tori**, a 5-year-old Labrador Retriever. **Tori** accompanies Aria on day-to-day activities, acting as her eyes. Aria wrote a 39-page final paper for a class she took at NAU. The following is excerpted from the paper which is entitled Fraud Dogs! The Dangers of Fraudulent Service Animals. I published her Introduction in the February issue, the section entitled The Law in May and will use more excerpts from the paper in this and future columns. Our thanks to Aria for allowing us to print parts of her paper which I feel might be of interest to our readers.*

Problems Within the Law

Many authors such as Buhai (2016) and Lee (2017) are in agreement as to some of the difficulties regarding service animal laws. Campbell (2016) believes that service animal fraud should be a crime. This author recognizes that determining whether or not a service dog is legitimate is difficult when criminalizing fraudulent service animals. It is difficult to determine whether or not someone is misrepresenting a service animal if the law is unclear to the general public (Buhai, 2016). A service dog is a dog that performs a specific task for a person; however people believe that an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) constitutes a service dog. ESAs are not allowed to accompany their owner everywhere. So, when someone claims the dog is a service animal because it provides emotional support that is considered fraud, even if the dog is an ESA. These differences are reasons why it becomes difficult to prosecute or criminalize the use of fraudulent service animals (Buhai, 2016). Many people often do not realize that they are committing fraud, and if they do it is difficult to prove. In order to prosecute someone for fraud, the laws defining service dogs need to be clearer, according to Buhai and Campbell.

Lee gives examples as to how states have begun to criminalize the use of fraudulent service animals, which many scholars have supported. By claiming that a service animal is used for emotional support is not an accurate representation of a service animal. New Jersey and Maine have civil statutes, while 16 other states have various criminal offenses addressing the issues, some by making it a misdemeanor offense. An Idaho statute states, "any person being a disabled person or being trained to assist disabled persons, who uses an assistance device or assistance dog in an attempt to gain treatment or benefits as a disabled person, is guilty of a misdemeanor" (Lee, p. 338, 2017). Individuals in various states can be charged on the grounds of fraudulent representation of a service animal. Other states still have legal statutes that state any person

who uses a service animal and is not blind is guilty of fraud. Some states may not interpret the same regulations as the revised ADA statute, therefore it is possible that a state rules that a service animal is fraudulent based on the state laws. Lee (2017) argues that this is problematic in that it does not treat service animals equally in all states. Some states look for registered dogs and do not account for those service animals not registered, which is problematic because the ADA does not require documentation of service animals (Lee, 2017). Lee argues that it is difficult to prosecute owners of fraudulent service animals because the courts have to prove that the owner knows or should have known he/she was violating the law. Defendants can argue that they did not know. They could argue that the law is unclear. Proving that a defendant had the necessary intent to commit a crime would be difficult (Lee, 2017).

In many cases it is not clear how to determine whether a person has a disability or can be arrested for fraudulent use of a service animal. Probable cause, which is the necessary standard for arrest, cannot be decided if a person's disability is not clear. The owner is not required to show paperwork, which also presents further issues when arresting a person with a dog. Lee argues that arresting people who are believed to have fraudulent service animals can increase the amount of disabled people in the criminal justice system who are wrongfully accused. The rate at which cases are dismissed will increase, because inadequate evidence will be high. However, these arrests could still be impactful on the disabled. A person who is arrested may not receive the necessary accommodations because the officer does not believe the subject is disabled. These people may need medical care, medications, mobility devices, or communication devices, and they are far more likely to be assaulted in jail (Lee, 2017). Lee does not believe that many of the laws governing the arrest of people with fraudulent service animals are adequate. The author claims that current statutes listed in the ADA can be sufficient when protecting businesses, because the owner of an establishment can ask another person and their animal to leave if they are presenting a danger, not properly groomed, not in control of the animal, and if the animal is destructive (Lee, 2017). Ultimately, the author has determined that current laws criminalizing fraudulent service animals are ineffective.

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- Lee, T. (2017). Criminalizing fake service dogs: Helping or hurting legitimate handlers. *Animal Law* 23(2), 325-354. Retrieved October 3, 2017.
- Campbell, K. (2016). Supporting Adoption of Legislation Criminalizing Fake Service and Emotional Support Animals. *Journal of Animal Environmental Law* 8(1), 73-93. Retrieved October 3, 2017.

Do you have extra credit card points? Donate gift cards for the golf tournament!

Financial Considerations

By Deb Orwig, President

In May, the AGR Board of Directors had a serious discussion about the state of our finances. In a snapshot, these look OK – see the account totals shown in the *Financial Picture* on page 16. Now look at the Net Income figure for the first half of 2018: it shows a negative income of almost \$24,332! We cannot continue operating by losing money like that. So, several things have happened.

First, in May the Board voted to increase each adoption fee category by \$50 as of July 1, 2018. Since the cost for a pair is the whole fee for the younger dog plus one-half of the fee for the other dog (same age or older), the total fee for a pair is \$75 more than it has been. Consequently, the fees are now \$400 for a dog 0-2 years of age, \$375 for age 2-5, \$350 for 5-9-year-olds and \$300 for dogs over 9. This is the first adoption fee increase since *AGR* was started 9 ½ years ago in March 2009.

Here are the stats that induced the Board vote. During the year between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, we took in 94 dogs; only 83 had vet invoices sent by June 30, 2018. The total we spent for these 83 dogs was \$128,789.18, which averages \$1,552 per dog. For the 83 with reported invoices, the average per-dog expense by age category has been: \$1,148 for 0-2 years of age; \$1,318 for ages 3-5; \$2,088 for 6 to 8-year-olds; \$2,138 for 9-11; and \$2,000 for the four we brought in age 12 or older. Rarely, very rarely, does a dog's adoption fee cover the cost of the vet work we have done. However, we realize we cannot expect a potential adopter to pay over a thousand dollars for a dog, let alone over \$2,000. The new fee schedule seems to us to be more than reasonable, especially considering what we provide for a dog medically.

On July 1, 2016 we instituted an adoption application fee of \$25. We mandated that this fee had to be paid before we would schedule a home evaluation. At the time, the primary reason for the fee was to help ensure that a family was truly interested in adopting and that they would not waste the time of our volunteers on the Home Evaluation Team by having a home visit done and then changing their minds about adopting from *AGR*. The fee was waived for previous adopters who wanted another dog and who had not moved since we did their home evaluation. The fee was quite effective in reducing the number of non-serious applicants.

Since mid-2016, the adoption application fees that have been paid have amounted to \$13,425 – much of that money we have, basically, lost in the last two years, because until now, the \$25 was subtracted from the dog's adoption fee once a dog was placed with a family that had paid the fee – it was tantamount to a “down payment” on the adoption fee. As of July 1, 2018, we will no longer subtract that fee from a dog's adoption fee. In addition, the fee,

which we are now calling a processing fee, will be mandatory for everyone who applies to adopt, both former adopters and potential new adopters.

In an attempt to generate some much-needed income during the summer when we have no activities except one monthly Meet-and-Greet, I have sent out my annual letter to all *AGR* adopters asking them to “pay it forward” by making a donation to help us help another dog. Included with this letter was a 3-page insert which gave information about every dog on whom we have spent at least \$2,000 since July 1, 2017; there were 28 of them out of the 94 we rescued! To all of you *AGR* members and supporters who are not adopters – and there are many – please consider making a donation at this time. Dogs we have spent at least \$1,000 on during the second quarter of 2018 are described in *Diamonds in the Ruff* on pages 16 - 18. A donation can be made to help a specific dog, or for one of the special needs dogs we have featured in previous issues, or just to help with medical expenses in general. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged. All donations that are sent in during August will be attributed to our *Summer Fundraiser for Special Needs Dogs*.

Last, we have what we hope will be our largest fundraiser of the year coming up: the *Fore! Paws Golf Tournament*. Golfing fees are \$99 including range balls and dinner. Not a golfer? You can join us for a terrific meal and participate in our fabulous raffle and silent auction during dinner. The tournament is scheduled to start at **1:30 PM** – please note the time, because we originally advertised the start time as 1 PM. The shotgun start has been pushed a half-hour later because another tournament is happening at *Lone Tree Golf Course* in the morning, and we wanted those golfers to be finished and gone by the time we start. As far as the meal goes, we will have a yummy buffet that includes the following: coleslaw, dinner rolls with butter, smoked baby back pork ribs, marinated rotisserie half chicken, baked beans, corn on the cob, baked potato bar (with a condiment selection of sour cream, chives, butter, bacon bits, and shredded cheese), German chocolate cake, and choice of water, soda and ice tea. All this for only \$35 per person including tax and gratuity! Please read the details on page 5 about available sponsorships for the tournament and registration information. You must register online at www.arizogoldenrescue.org/golf. You can pay either by sending a check to the address on the back cover of this issue or with a credit card by calling me at 623-693-0589. Be advised that the fees for both golfing and dinner go up significantly after September 12th, so get your reservation in soon! We hope to see you there!

The annual *Paws & Pasta Dinner*, will be held a week earlier than usual. This year it will be on the first Sunday, November 4th, 11 AM - 4 PM at *Little Bite of Italy* in Sun City. No reservations needed – just come! See the ad on page 37.

Please support our fundraisers!

The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

Reporting period: January 1, 2018- June 30, 2018

Total Assets as of July 16, 2018: \$205,072.42

	Income	Expenses
Adoption Application Fees	\$ 4,475.00	
Adoption Income	14,163.00	
Adoption Fee Refunds		\$ 250.00
Bank Charges (PayPal & Credit Card fees)		432.80
Calendars – Sales	480.00	
Calendar Sponsorships	1,700.00	
Donation Income, General	21,207.94	
Honorary	8,089.90	
Memorials	4,937.61	
Dues and Subscriptions	16.00	265.89
Event Expense		400.00
Grants	3,069.34	
Insurance		694.00
Interest	39.97	
Legal and Professional Fees		10.00
Membership Income	11,220.00	
Merchandise	4,965.95	1,546.83
<i>Paws At The Park 2018</i>	2,470.96	533.11
Office Expenses & Supplies		596.14
<i>Photos with Santa, Dec. 2017</i>	769.38	
Postage		623.31
Rent or Lease		1,404.93
Stationery and Printing		2,147.57
Telephone and Website		96.03
Dog-related Expenses		
Boarding		1,237.00
Leashes and Collars		43.01
Microchip expenses		585.76
Miscellaneous		760.63
Veterinary Services		90,269.98
TOTAL	\$77,355.05	\$101,646.99
NET INCOME (loss):	(\$24,291.94)	
Checking Account on 7-16-18:	\$ 94,451.26	
Savings Account on 7-16-18:	\$100,006.36	
Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 7-16-18:	\$10,614.80	
Outstanding Credit Card Balance on 7-16-18:	\$13,079.95	

Diamonds in the Ruff

By Debbie Ball and Deb Orwig

Diamonds in the Ruff are dogs on which **AGR** has had to spend at least \$1,000 during one quarter. Please consider making a donation to help with the expenses of a specific dog, or just earmark it for *Diamonds in the Ruff*. All donations are tax deductible, of course, and will be acknowledged.

To recap first-quarter 2018's *Diamonds in the Ruff*...

17-063 Rufus is done with chemo treatments and is doing well (see his paragraph for 2nd quarter below). **17-078 Max** suddenly developed bloat twice in two weeks and had to be helped to the Bridge. **17-089 Bailey** had TPLO surgery (tibial-plateau-leveling osteotomy) and is now doing great in her adoptive home. **18-002 Lucky Magoo's** medical issues have been treated and he is doing as well as can be expected of a 10-year-old. **18-010 Jake's** allergies are now under control and he continues to improve in his new home. **18-013 Teddy** finished his series of melanoma vaccines and is doing well (he has a paragraph below, too). **18-025 Emily** suddenly and rapidly declined and had to be helped to the Bridge.

During the second quarter of 2018...



17-063 Rufus is a 7-year-old shelter rescue from the Eastside **MCACCS** that came in as a medical mess. After we treated skin issues, he had some lumps removed. Unfortunately, a large one on his neck was a squamous cell carcinoma. So, we started **Rufus** on chemotherapy treatments. Due to the expense of those treatments, **Rufus** was placed in our *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program

whereby we will continue to cover his cancer treatments. Second quarter 2018 expenses for **Rufus** were **\$1,145**, and his total medical expense since intake has been **\$10,820**.



18-007 Murphy is an 8-year-old Golden-Irish Setter mix adopted in March. Unfortunately, in May he developed a swollen abdomen and was in need of an emergency exam and medications. A 3-lb mass was found attached to the stomach wall and subsequently removed. Since there is no way such a large mass could have developed after **Murphy** was adopted, **AGR** absorbed the cost of the

surgery. Unfortunately, the mass was determined to be one of two types of rare cancer called leiomyosarcoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST). Upon the vet's recommendation, another surgery may be done to get clean margins around the area where the tumor had been attached. Also, we may proceed with some kind of chemotherapy, but it has yet to be determined if there is a chemo drug that might be effective against either of these types of cancer.

After also suffering an opening in the surgical wound, **Murphy** is now doing fine. His 2nd quarter expenses were **\$2,526**, with total medical expenses so far of **\$3,839**.



18-013 Teddy is a 7-year-old Golden mix that was adopted by Karen in

Peoria. He was earlier diagnosed with melanoma and placed in *AGR's Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program. Second quarter 2018 expenses for **Teddy** for ongoing exams and melanoma vaccines were **\$2,133**, and his total medical expenses so far have cost **AGR \$8,187**.



18-024 Noah is a 2-year-old Golden mix that was surrendered by an owner who had gotten him from the shelter. A few days later when it was apparent he was sick, she surrendered him to *AGR*. He came to us with skin problems due to allergies, anaplasmosis and a very high titer for tick fever. He has been treated for all and is on the mend after being neutered. His medical expenses for diagnosis and treatment of these relatively minor issues amounted to **\$3,347**. He has now been adopted and renamed **Wrigley**.

18-029 Pumpkin is an 18-month-old Goldendoodle surrendered to *AGR* by *Arizona Poodle Rescue*, as they had been inundated with purebred poodles and knew we take the Doodles. **Pumpkin's** is a case where the needs of the dog at first appeared relatively routine but turned into something expensive. He needed to be neutered and had very loose stools, which did not resolve with the usual treatments. A specialized fecal analysis revealed he had a bacterial infection called *Clostridium perfringens* – no one knows where **Pumpkin** could have gotten that. It took over a month with several vet visits, a couple different antibiotics and a change of diet to correct the problem. **Pumpkin** has been adopted and his name changed to **Kalvin**. His vet expenses cost **AGR \$1,139**.



18-031 Bo Bear was a one-year-old Goldendoodle whose owner was homeless and had found him as a stray. The owner first contacted us in early March but did not surrender him for a month, by which time he was too far gone for us to do much except spend money to determine what was wrong with him. He had developed parvo as a result of never having had any vaccines, and megaesophagus complicated his condition – he had aspirational pneumonia from vomiting. So, after we received a diagnosis of **Bo's** problems, we did the merciful thing of sending him to the Bridge. His medical expenses totaled **\$2,190**.

18-033 Jessica, 14 months old, came to *AGR* underweight and with terrible skin allergies, loss of hair, skin infections, and with

eyes watery and itchy. She had blood work done including an allergy test and was started on an antibiotic, steroid, Apoquel and potato/rabbit formula food and also on antibiotic shampoo baths. She has now gained some weight and her skin has improved significantly. We are waiting until her current heat cycle is over to have her spayed. Her vet expenses not including the spay have amounted to **\$2,501**; the spay will add several hundred to that.



18-034 Rascal is a 6-year-old purebred Golden who came into Rescue in April bonded to **18-035 Allie** after their owner had died. **Rascal** was dealing with itchiness and hotspots from allergies, as well as ear infections, and he needed to be neutered. **Rascal** had several exams, a skin scraping, a fungal culture, all the usual tests and vaccines, and had the neuter surgery. We are still working to get his hot spots and ear infections under control, but he feels a lot better now. So far, **Rascal's** expenses have cost **AGR \$1,425**.

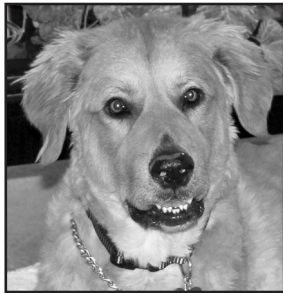
18-035 Allie is a 15-year-old mix who came into Rescue as a bonded pair with **18-034 Rascal**. **Allie** needed several teeth extracted from her upper jaw and five masses removed; she also had an acanthomatus epulis (a destructive neoplasm) removed and needed five more teeth extracted including one that had bone disintegrating around it. The extraction site would not stop bleeding, and after using a gel the vet also did a carotid ligation to stop blood flow to that area. **Allie** may need a bone resection to remove the remains of the epulis. Second quarter expenses for **Allie** have amounted to **\$3,827**.



18-036 Molly, now renamed **Malle**, is a 9-year-old female that was surrendered by her owner who was moving and recognized that **Molly** needed more attention than they could provide. **Molly** was given a thorough exam along with all the standard tests and vaccines, a teeth cleaning, ear cleaning, and a growth removed. She also needed a dermatology work-up and required some anti-fungal meds and antibiotics. **Molly** has since been adopted by Adam in Peoria. **Molly's** expenses have

cost \$1,382.

18-038 Leland was only 7½ weeks old when he was surrendered to **AGR**. His owners felt it financially impossible for them to cure this little purebred Golden boy of parvo. This is a disease that is treatable but very expensive, as **Leland** had to stay in intensive 24-hour care for a week at **VetMed**. We are still facing the “normal” expenses of puppy vaccines and an eventual neuter, but **Leland** is now healthy, happy and growing bigger daily, and he just found his forever family in mid-July! **Leland’s** expenses so far have cost **AGR** \$8,949.



18-040 Hunter is a handsome 5-year-old mix whose owner had to move and couldn’t take him along. **Hunter’s** expenses were rather ordinary – ear infections, itchiness from allergies – until he ate a whole loaf of raisin bread and had to spend 48 hours with an emergency vet to get him cleaned out and monitored for possible adverse reactions (raisins are toxic to dogs).

After **Hunter** was released, it took almost a week at the foster’s home before his digestive system returned to normal. The entire ER stint and his other vet expenses amounted to \$2,122.

18-047 Homer came into Rescue on Memorial Day as a 10-year-old dirty, matted medical release from the West-side **MCACCS** shelter. We took him to **AMSC** to have a large, nasty-looking tumor on his left flank evaluated and his terrible teeth cleaned and one extracted. The tumor turned out to be an apocrine gland cystadema with secondary inflammation and was benign, so the surgery to remove it was curative, fortunately. **Homer** did so well in his foster home that his fosters decided he had to stay forever and have adopted him. His expenses totaled \$5,577.



18-051 Millman, who is ¼ Poodle and ¾ Golden Retriever, was surrendered to **AGR** by **Daisy Mt. Veterinary Hospital**. A breeder had reported that the 5-week-old puppy was spewing food through his mouth and nose. The vet thought the puppy might have a congenital condition called persistent right aortic arch, which constricts the

esophagus. The puppy was referred to Dr. Jha at **AMSC**, who said that if the puppy had this condition it could be corrected surgically. At **AMSC**, **Millman** had just about every test imaginable, even a CT scan, but all came back negative – nothing abnormal was found. Once given solid dry food, **Millman** has thrived. He will be fostered until finished with his puppy vaccines. Cost to **AGR** for the “nothing wrong” diagnosis: \$2,186.



The Starfish

Paraphrased from *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley

Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn’t dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

*As he got closer he called out,
“Good morning! What are you doing?”*

*The young man paused, looked up and replied,
“Throwing starfish in the ocean.”*

“I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?”

“The sun is up, and the tide is going out. And if I don’t throw them in they’ll die.”

“But, young man, don’t you realize that there are miles and miles of beach, and starfish all along it. You can’t possibly make a difference!”

The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, “It made a difference for that one.”

There is something very special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we can become aware of that gift, we gain through the strength of our visions the power to shape the future.

We must each find our starfish. And if we throw our stars wisely and well, the world will be blessed.

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Mary Engstrom

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 April 13, 2018 through July 8, 2018. All adoptions finalized after July 8th will be in the next issue.



18-011 Pluto (left) and **18-012 Sunny** (right) are bonded siblings. **Pluto** is a 3-year-old cream purebred Golden and

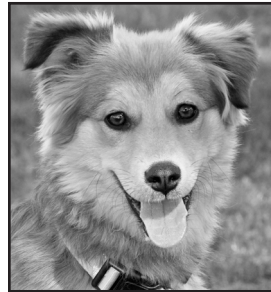


sister **Sunny** is a 4-year-old ginger-colored purebred Golden. This beautiful pair came into Rescue because their surrendering owner did not have the time to give them the attention they so rightly deserved. Both dogs received their vetting at **Kennel Care** in Chandler. They were made current regarding vaccinations and tested for valley fever. It was suggested that **Sunny** lose a little weight and **Pluto** should gain a little. **Sunny** had an ear infection and "hot spot" that were treated. **Sunny** also tested positive for valley fever and is being treated with fluconazole. **Pluto** was in good health, and both dogs received the leptospirosis vaccines. Now it was time to find the perfect home for this dynamic duo! Wendy and Roman of Peoria were happy to welcome this pair into their home. An addendum was granted for a valley fever retest for **Sunny**.

18-019 Toby is a very cute 5-year-old Golden mix. He was sprung from the **Apache Junction Shelter**. He came into the shelter due to illness of a family member. **Toby** had some behavioral issues when he went to **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale for vetting. He had some difficulty transitioning to a new environment. He received the panel of recommended vaccines including the leptospirosis vaccine. His heartworm and valley fever tests were negative, so he was ready to spend some time with one of **AGR's** gracious foster families. **AGR's** fantastic behaviorist, Sharon McKenzie, spent some time with him while he was in his foster home; she determined he did not like change. After a few meet-and-greets with prospective adopters, **Toby** decided he would



like his forever home to be in Surprise with Jean and Alan. **Toby** is adjusting well in his new home, and Jean and Alan are as happy as can be, also. Thank you, **AGR**, for **Toby's** happily ever after!



18-022 Mia, now **Mimi**, is a 1-year-old female Golden mix. Her surrendering owner was moving and sadly couldn't take this youngster with her. She received her vetting at **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale where she was made current with vaccinations. A microchip was implanted and testing for heartworm and valley fever were completed. She also required spay surgery. Jocelyn, Tia and resident Golden, **Bubba**, were ecstatic to have **Mia** become a part of their family. **Bubba** is enjoying his new playmate (most of the time, anyway), and **Mia** is loving her new family! They are currently attending the Level 1 obedience class at **Partners Dog Training School** in Cave Creek. They must be doing something right, because they told us **Mimi** was the worst-behaved dog in the first class, but one of the best in the second class! Good job, everyone!

18-023 Chelsea, now **Kona**, is a 5-month-old Golden mix puppy that was found on the side of the road. Many attempts were made to find this sweetheart's owner; however, they were unsuccessful. She received her vetting at **Raintree Pet Resort and Medical Center** in Scottsdale. She was a healthy girl that just required vaccinations and microchip implantation. She was then ready to continue her adventure and settle in to her forever home. Dipti and Scott of Phoenix were beyond ecstatic to welcome this little girl into their home. And they are all living happily ever after! Thank you, **AGR**!



18-024 Noah, now **Wrigley**, is a 2-year-old Golden mix. His owner had adopted him from **MCACCS** a few days prior to sur-



rendering the dog to **AGR**. **Noah** became very ill and the owner wasn't able to afford his medical care. He had tick fever, anaplasmosis and was very lethargic. This was a 911 emergency pickup, so members of our awesome Transport Team sprang into action! **Noah** was immediately whisked off to **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale to be assessed. He was

started on Apoquel and doxycycline for skin issues and the tick fevers. He was tested for anaplasmosis and *E. canis* with a very high titer for tick fever. After he was stabilized, he went to recuperate with one of **AGR's** loving foster families, who affectionately referred to him as **Pogo** because of his propensity to bounce up and down. **Noah** was quickly nursed back to health and ready to be placed in his forever home. He hit the jackpot with Mary Beth in Eloy and has been flourishing ever since. An addendum was given for a follow-up for tick fever and 3 months of allergy medication.

18-026 Buzz is a handsome 11-year-old senior Golden gentleman. **Buzz** was used as a stud dog for breeding show-quality Golden retrievers, but due to his advanced age, he was no longer able to be used for that purpose. After his trip to Glendale from Palm Valley, CA, he was off to **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale for a wellness visit. He was in need of all the required vaccinations including the leptospirosis vaccine. He had a low valley fever titer and began treatment with fluconazole. He also required neuter surgery. This senior guy was ready to spend his golden years just being loved. He is currently the center of attention with Don and Rob of Sun City. I'm sure he is also enjoying their pool! Congratulations, **Buzz**, on your retirement! An addendum was granted for a valley fever retest and medications.



18-029 Pumpkin, now **Kalvin**, is an 18-month-old male Goldendoodle. This youngster was brought to **AGR** by **AZ Poodle Rescue**. Vetting at **Kenel Care** in Chandler included an exam, microchip, all vaccines including leptospirosis and tests for valley fever and heartworm. He will also need to be neutered. **Pumpkin** had extremely loose stools and was quite

underweight. He was fortunate to be spending time with Sharon, one of our loving fosters, until he was ready to move on to his forever home. **Pumpkin's** loose stools were due to an infection caused by the bacterium *Clostridium perfringens*. He was treated with antibiotics and other medication to bring the diarrhea under

control. Since his intestinal issues were resolving, it was time to find the perfect home. Leah, Doug and resident canine, **Kody**, were eagerly awaiting his arrival, and **Pumpkin**, who was renamed **Kalvin**, enjoyed having a playmate. An addendum was provided for follow-up on intestinal issues, if needed. Another **AGR** success story!



18-030 Sunny, now **Murphy**, is a 6-year-old beautiful Golden lad. Sadly, he had spent his entire life outside and had not been to a vet in five years. His owner felt he deserved a better life, and he most definitely did! He went to **Kenel Care** in Chandler for his vetting. He was infested with ticks and immediately received treatment. He was given all the recommended vaccinations and tested for

heartworm and valley fever. Unfortunately, his valley fever titer was positive, so he was immediately started on fluconazole. This boy was now anxious to begin his new life living indoors and being showered with love and affection. We found the perfect home for **Sunny** with Lori and Evan of Queen Creek, and they agree it is the perfect fit! Congratulations, **Murphy**, on your new life!

18-032 Bella is a darling 6-month-old Golden girl. She found herself entering Rescue because her owner could not handle an active youngster and did not have the time to train her. **Bella** received her vetting at **Raintree Pet Resort and Medical Center** in Scottsdale. She was a healthy youngster who just required a few vaccines. She does have a history of bowel issues that was related to her appetite for sticks and rocks. Being a puppy, she needs close supervision to ensure she doesn't eat things she shouldn't. **Bella** is now residing with RaziAnn, her two daughters and a cat in Scottsdale. She is being trained very quickly and enjoying all the attention. **Bella** is living her life to the fullest!



Jessica at intake

18-033 Jessica is another young purebred Golden. She is a 14-month-old girl who suffered from severe allergies that



Jessie two months later

her owners could not afford to treat, so they contacted **AGR**. In fact, her allergies were so severe she would scratch until she

started bleeding and was wearing a cone 24/7. She was vetted at **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale. Sadly, she had some skin infections as a result of the allergy condition. She was started on antibiotics and blood was drawn to test for allergens. She was changed to prescription hydrolyzed food after her lab results were reported. She also received medicated baths. Due to the quick actions of the Health Care Team, **Jessica** was ready for her forever home. She is now happily residing in Carefree with Pam and David, who call her **Jessie**. Thank you, **AGR**, for helping this girl feel “well”, again! An addendum was given for 3 months of allergy medications and spaying when the vet approves.



18-039 Bentley, now **Brinkley**, is a 1-year-old cream-colored Golden. A family member suffered from allergies, so they made the difficult decision to contact **AGR** to find the perfect home. He received his vetting at **Kennel Care** in Chandler where he was brought current on his vaccines and tested for heartworm and valley fever. He also was neutered. After spending time with one of

AGR's wonderful foster families, he was ready for the next chapter in his life. The family picked for him had been waiting for the right placement for months after meeting another **AGR** dog that was obviously not going to work out. It was love at first sight for Missy, Dan and their children of Phoenix! **Bentley** felt the same way when he met them, and is now a wonderful part of this family!

18-041 Scooby, now **Nelson**, is a 2-year-old male apricot Goldendoodle. Sadly, his owner passed away. The family tried keeping this striking boy, but job demands did not make it possible. They wanted him to get the attention he deserved. He received his vetting at **Raintree Pet Resort and Medical Center** in Scottsdale and was given a clean bill of health. He was brought current with his vaccines and was in need of a spa day. He did receive neuter surgery, as all **AGR** dogs are spayed or neutered. Happily, he is now residing in Scottsdale with Julie and Tim. Julie relayed: *Working with AGR has truly been a pleasure! Everyone was very helpful, friendly, professional and efficient. Our new dog, Nelson, is practically perfect in every way! We are very blessed to have him in our family. Thank you, AGR, for your assistance and for truly caring.* Another **AGR** success story!



18-043 Bella, now **Kiara** (or, affectionately, **Kiki**), and **18-044 Moose**, now **Mushu**, are a very bonded pair. **Bella** is a 2-year-old redheaded female Golden, and **Moose** is a handsome 1-year-old white male Golden. They found themselves in need of a new home due to a change in the family dynamics. These darling youngsters

received their vetting at **Academy West Animal Hospital** in Glendale. **Bella** was brought current on vaccinations and tested positive for valley fever. Her titer was low and did not require medication at this time. She also needed to be spayed. **Moose** required the leptospirosis vaccine and tested positive for valley fever. He didn't require medication for this disease, either. Sharon, Philip, Marcus and Ilan graciously agreed to foster this dynamic duo until the perfect forever home was found. Not surprisingly, this fantastic Phoenix foster family decided to adopt them in short order! When the dogs were delivered, the transporter advised them that they could not change the dogs' names until, if and when, they decided to adopt rather than just foster. That night at the dinner table, new names were already being discussed! Congratulations, everyone! Both dogs have an addendum for a valley fever recheck.



Bella/Kiara above;
Moose/Mushu below



18-045 Gracie was returned to **AGR** due to some behavior problems experienced by her first adopters, who adopted her last December. Even with guidance from a professional trainer, as well as from **AGR's** behaviorist, they were unable to tamp down the energy level of this energetic 18-month-old purebred Golden and get her to heed commands they knew she knew.

In addition, **Gracie** exhibited some serious anxiety and insecurity. So, we worked to find a new placement for this lovely girl. Andrea and Mark in Fountain Hills felt they were up to the challenge of helping **Gracie** come around. At one point, Andrea told us: *Gracie has enough energy for her, me and the entire Cardinals football team! She is very strong and continues to pull hard on the leash, but we are working with her; she is making positive baby steps every day. She is afraid of everything and makes it known by barking a lot.* We are confident that with their abundance of patience and commitment to **Gracie** Andrea and Mark can help her develop some self-confidence and show her how wonderful life can be. We wish them all the best.

18-046 Lily, a 6-year-old purebred Golden, was originally brought to



Baseline Animal Clinic in May asking the dog be put down as she had allergies and owner could not afford medial care. Vet said no, but if the owner surrendered **Lily** to him he would find a rescue to take her. He called **AGR**. Due to her poor, coarse coat, we had her thyroid tested, and, indeed, it was low, so she was put on thyroid supplement medication. She spent some time in one of our terrific foster homes. The foster related: **Lily has lost 4 lbs, which is simply through better diet and exercise alone. She is not a fan of green beans or any vegetable for that matter. Very picky eater thus far, unless it is human scraps or free-feeding Ol' Roy. She has gotten better on her walks, less timid and seems to look forward to them. She tolerates other dogs at this point and is much more comfy with Woody (long-haired Dachshund) than the others who are larger than she is. She is very cordial and at the same time not afraid to tell other dogs off, all done respectfully.**

Now that **Lily** is feeling better and more comfy within our home, she has discovered that chasing cats is fun. Our cats feel differently and have put her in her place when needed. We simply correct her once we see her body language and or as soon as we catch her in the act. She is very responsive to our commands and will stop. Her chase comes from the intent of the thrill more than wanting to hurt them. So, a home without cats would be ideal, but she can be managed easily, and I see her getting better at not chasing eventually. **Lily** does have a little bit of anxiety when going to vets, rides very well in a car, enjoying walks more and more, absolutely loves to swim and likes getting baths. She is playful, loves stuffed animals, socks, shirts, bras etc. to carry around in her mouth and be cute. She loves giving kisses and is so very affectionate. She is going to make some human(s) very happy. That happy family consists of Karyn and Rich in Mesa, where **Lily** very quickly became "daddy's girl," loving going on long walks and to **The Home Depot** with Rich. She is eating well, which means she feels good. We love happy endings like this! **AGR** issued an addendum to her adoption for thyroid retest and 3 months of medication.

18-048 Hugs is a beautiful 11-year-old Golden senior gal. Sadly, her owner could no longer care for her due to her own health issues and decided it was time to entrust her to **AGR**. She received her vetting at **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale. She is in great health including a negative valley fever titer. However, she had never been spayed. The Health Care Team in consultation with the Board felt that due to her exceptional health spaying would not be a problem. Now it was time to find a home that would treasure this sweet girl. Mary Jo, Dave, Daisy and resident canine, **Maya**, of Scottsdale were excited to add this sweet girl to their family. **Hugs** is very happy in her new home. Old Gold truly are the best! An addendum was granted for spaying.



**Rescue is not about finding perfect dogs to adopt.
Rescue is about helping loving dogs in need.**

~ Anonymous



A Touch of Gold 2018 Calendar

Our gorgeous FULL-COLOR-THROUGHOUT 2019 12-month Calendar featuring **AGR** rescued dogs will be available soon! Connie McCabe has done her usual superb job of calendar creation! The above picture of **17-041 Barrett** at picturesque Watson Lake will be one of the many fabulous photos in the calendar.

All of you who have an AMBER, TOPAZ, PEARL or GOLD membership will receive one for free. Once it is available, we will have copies at every event and Meet-and-Greet. Calendars can also be purchased at **Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital** (3131 E Thunderbird Rd, Phoenix), **Academy West Animal Hospital Boarding & Grooming** (6231 W Bell Rd, Glendale), and **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** (17477 N 82nd St, Scottsdale). The cost is **\$12 each**. Buy 5 and you will get an additional one for free! An Order Form is included with this newsletter. Please don't forget to include the cost for postage if you want your calendar(s) mailed.

Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever.

~ Anonymous

OVER THE RAINBOW

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



10-027 Major Pulis



10-060 Grizzly McCabe/
Dodson



12-009 Katie Kuechenmeister



12-085 Ruby Goldcamp



13-119 Reardon Kerr



15-001 Happy McDaniel



16-015 Layla Guilbault



16-025 Rubi Erickson



16-053 Finn Flynn



18-025 Emily Mancini



18-030 Bo Bear



Daisy Cotner



Maggie Davis

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.



Sadie Kimmel



Sol Hall



Apollo Miller



Fred Palumbo-Mullaney



Megan Wehry



Bailey Wenstrom-Lane

and

Robert Holmes, beloved Father of
AGR Member Marlene Breton

Cora Hummel, beloved Grandmother of
AGR Member Beth Chaffee

Editor's Note: I am starting the feature-article section of this newsletter with a wonderful piece that a friend of mine originally wrote in November 2001 for his own New York Golden Retriever Rescue organization, and I have saved it all this time. I received his permission to reprint it – thanks, Rue! Rue is a long-time supporter of Golden Retriever Rescue and the proud adopter of a rescued Golden who earned her AKC Utility Dog title.

This Gift Pays You Back!

By Rue Chagoll

Pssst! This being the holiday season and all I'm gonna let ya' in on a little gift-givin' secret. Here's a gift you can give – that will then pay you back – way, way more than you ever spent! Yup, no kidding. This gift won't cost you a dime. What's the catch? No catch. All you'll have to spend is some time and attention. If you want, but this is purely optional, you can throw in a little bit of affection. Attention invested in this scheme will be returned immediately at 100%. Any of that optional affection will be even more quickly returned, and at a whopping 500%. Guaranteed! Over time – granted this won't happen overnight – over time you'll see enormous returns in pride and in joy. With a better-than-even chance a few laughs will come your way, too. And who among us couldn't use some additional pride and some additional joy, or a few bonus laughs? I thought so!

OK, you want specifics? Here's the deal, short and sweet: Open your home to foster a rescued Golden Retriever. Doesn't have to be right now. Make it a New Year's resolution. In fact, you can cash in on this deal just about any old time! Getting approved as a foster home is Phase 1. Rescue will work with you to send a dog matched to your expertise and home situation.

It'll be as quickly as Phase 2, when you first lay eyes on that Golden-in-need, that paybacks will start to accrue – via wag of the tail, a sloppy nuzzle, or perhaps just a soulful gaze. I remember quite vividly, though it was seven years ago, the first foster Golden who came to our home. His name is **Fletcher**. "Sprung" on a snowy day, stinking and filthy, from a small town shelter's death row – a year or so later I looked on proudly as he and his adopter earned an **AKC** Obedience title.

Since then, there have literally been dozens: all shapes, sizes, colors, ages and backgrounds. Some were just big, loving teddy bears and perfect in every imaginable way – like **Brandy** and later **Luke**, who had us wondering how in the world anyone could ever have turned them out. Usually, though, they arrived with a bit of baggage from life-before-Rescue – sometimes physical, sometimes behavioral. Some needed dieting and exercise, or special medical treatment. Some needed socialization. A few were in need of improved manners. Several were seniors, seeking but the chance to prove themselves still-worthy companions. **Alex**, **Lily** and **Jackson** came to us bursting with love, and about

three times that in energy and playfulness. **Sadie** arrived some 25 pounds overweight, a serious candidate for the doggie-equivalent of Weight Watchers® and Richard Simmons. **Maggie** taught us about canine epilepsy. **Spirit** and **Sawyer** came with some serious anxieties. **Sydney** arrived as the most gruesome example ever of untreated canine hypothyroidism. Seniors **Sox**, **Sam** and **Bucky** showed us the flame burns brightly behind those gray masks.

Every dog we've fostered has in his or her own way rewarded us many times over for the invested time, attention, and sometimes special care. Beyond the Phase 2 short-term paybacks, comes the even greater Phase: long-term dividends. Wait a minute, you say? What happened to Phase 3? Well, seeing as I've gotten you to read this far, I guess I can risk now describing Phase 3: "Sending Them Home." I won't lie to you. It hurts a bit, sometimes a lot, to let go. But you take confidence in the work Rescue has done in first specifying then finding the "perfect" home for this dog you've somehow come to love as your own. So, you send them away with a hug, and wait, albeit impatiently, for Phase 4, which begins with the follow-up phone call shortly after placement. Sighs of relief, tinged with a bit of longing for that new friend, are your reactions to "We just love him!" or "She's absolutely the perfect dog for me!" or "How can we ever thank you enough?" But the real long-term dividends are those delivered time and again, months and years down the line. You'll be paid handsomely, each and every time you see that dog on the street or at some canine event, the adopters beaming and bubbling heartwarming tales. What could be more rewarding than knowing you helped give that once-needy friend a new lease on life?

We get e-mails, photos, letters, holiday cards and sometimes even visits from the cadre of precious Goldens who've graced our home. Each stirs memories of wonderful shared times, that together amount to the veritable heap of riches we now claim. There's still the occasional sigh or damp eyes, but of joy not sadness. You should give this fostering business a try! Make a promise to "give" your home to a Golden-in-need sometime soon and I promise by next holiday season you'll be awash in the dividends! Pardon? You're still fretting about that Phase 3? OK. Tell ya' what I'm gonna do just because you've trudged with me all this way. But shhhhhhh, don't let this get around or there's likely to be a stampede of foster home applicants. Here's what you do. When Rescue's [Placement Manager] phones to advise a terrific home has been found for your foster Golden, just say, "Not better than this one, it isn't! Bring me the adoption papers!" Poof! No more Phase 3. Neat, huh? I leave you with this sobering note. Insufficient number of foster homes is most always one of the biggest limiting factors in any Rescue program. The simple truth is dogs go wanting for lack of them. I salute everyone who has fostered a rescued Golden!



Editor's Note: The following article came to my attention almost 17 years ago, and I liked it so much I saved it. At the time, I did make an attempt to discover who wrote it, but no one seemed to know. That's a shame, because he/she deserves credit for a beautiful piece.

Thank You for Bringing This Foster Dog into My Life

Author Unknown

Had I not made the decision to participate in Rescue, I would never have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said, "I already have four dogs and I know that I couldn't take in another, even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster... but who gave me time in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given time? To fill my own needs?

Or was there another reason ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog, that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness, I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me. He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me... and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generally poor health had blown away, and the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul. He holds no ill will toward man. He forgives us all.

I thought to myself, as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, "What a very fine creature you have created." Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of Needful Things To Remember. Lord, he's a dog – but he's a better human being than I am.

He forgives quickly. Would I do the same? He passionately enjoys the simple things in life, and I have often overlooked them. He accepts change and gets on with his life! I fuss and worry about change. He lives today and loves today. And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future. He loves, no matter what. I am not that free.

This very lovely dog has gone to his new home today, and already I miss him. Thank you for bringing this dog into my life. And thank you for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.

Foster Fraps

By Deb Orwig

If you aren't familiar with the term FRAP, I will explain – then you will see just how apropos this acronym is to fostering Golden Retrievers! FRAP stands for *Frenetic Random Activity Periods* – it describes fostering to a "T"!

The Placement Manager calls you while you're in the shower, eating, out doing errands, in the midst of a riveting book or TV show, cleaning house for company coming in two hours, doing anything besides thinking about fostering another Golden. "Can you PLEASE take in a foster for me in an hour – I've tried everyone else I can think of, no one is available, and all the vets/boarder facilities are closed! He/she is such a beautiful boy/girl, just SO sweet and lovable! He/she was digging up the owner's back yard, so they want to get rid of the dog, and if we don't rescue him/her NOW, they'll take him/her to the pound. He/she is housebroken (NOT, sometimes) and was sent to obedience school by the owner (but has forgotten everything). He/she is just a WONDERFUL dog!" Dog arrives. FRAPs begin. The dog drives you crazy. You fall in love all over again! You cry when the dog goes to his/her new home and hope that the new owners keep in touch with you. Fostering Golden is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world!

AGR has only a small group of members who have a foster-only home. We would have spent much more on boarding had we not had all of you. You are all terrific! We need everyone's help to spread the word to friends, neighbors, coworkers, and business associates that we could use more foster homes. Many of our foster families have ended up adopting the dog(s) they fostered, thus eliminating their households from our foster homes list.

What is required for being a Golden foster caregiver? You must be an **AGR** member or join when you get a dog – our insurance requires all who are active in the organization (including fosters) to be members. The cost is small – \$25 for a Single, \$40 for a Household. You don't need a big yard, but the yard must be fenced (or you will have to walk the dog outside on leash). You don't need a big house. If you need a crate, we will provide one. A dog door into the back yard is helpful but not necessary. All you really need is a commitment to Golden Retrievers, a supply of good-quality dog food, and time to love and exercise the dog. As you foster the dog, you will evaluate its temperament and personality, so that **AGR** can make as good a match as possible between the dog and a potential new owner.

Being a foster parent is a heart-warming and rewarding experience. As a foster parent for an unwanted Golden, you will have changed the life of that dog forever. The Golden did not ask to be abandoned or neglected. He only wants to love and be loved. You are the person that will make a difference in that one special Golden's life. Are you ready to join our foster list? We're ready for you!

The Foster Experience

Compiled by Deb Orwig

Editor's Note: In order to produce an informative and interesting feature article about the foster experience, I asked for comments from more than a dozen members who have fostered for AGR. The guidance questions I asked not only helped them compose their replies, but they should also give you an idea of what we expect you to assess if you decide to become a foster. I would sincerely like to thank all who responded.

Questions:

How long did you foster before the dog was placed elsewhere? What were you expected to do (or did) as a foster? How much did it cost you to be a foster (i.e. food, toys, treats, beds, etc.)? Did you enjoy your foster experience? If so, why? If not, why not? What are the advantages of being a foster? What are the disadvantages? Were you a "foster failure" – i.e., Did you adopt the dog you were fostering? If so, how many times? What was your foster dog's activity level (energetic, playful, likes to fetch or play tug, mild mannered, quiet, etc.)? Was he/she reliably housebroken? What obedience commands did the dog seem to know and follow? How is your foster dog with other dogs? How is he/she with cats? How is he/she with children? How is your foster dog on a leash? How does he/she ride in the car (getting in and out, while traveling)? How is he/she in a crate? What does your foster dog seem to enjoy/like most? What negative behaviors have you observed (e.g. separation anxiety, begging, jumping, counter surfing)? How does your foster dog react to thunderstorms, fireworks, loud noises? What else can you share about your foster dog that would be helpful in our search for his/her forever home?

The bottom line in all responses was that the foster experience was wonderful, although bittersweet. The following is a compilation of the various remarks I received. I am hoping these will inspire you to want to become a foster for AGR.

Deb O: Since before there was even a *bona fide* Golden Retriever Rescue in the Phoenix area, I became a foster. **Sadie** was with us for 4½ months until she chose her forever family. During that time, she told us her backstory: she had been abused by a male (wouldn't go near my husband, Larry, for 10 days and was wary of him for a long time); she arrived with a huge lump and open wound on the top of her head and had probably been hit by a baseball bat (ran away from any long-handled object like a broom or umbrella and totally freaked out when I moved a baseball bat that she was standing near in the garage); did not like people of color (ferociously barked at anyone who was brown or black); did not like being outside by herself; loved my other dogs' company – draw your own conclusions. After she had healed from surgery to close a large gash on the top of her head, we tried to find her a

new home. Family after family came to meet her, but she would run upstairs and hide as soon as they got in my front door – until the twelfth family arrived. Mom, Dad, and 4 kids from age 7 to 17 trooped down my hallway and sat down on the carpet in the family room. **Sadie** watched from the stair landing and in a few minutes came down to stand behind me. She looked over my shoulder as the family and I had a nice conversation. Then she went over to the youngest child, then to the next, then to the next, then to the next, then to the mom, and THEN to the dad. I said, "She just chose you as her forever family!" They were ecstatic as was I, and she did very well at their home.

Sadie was the first of countless fosters we've had over the last 20 years. Some stayed just for a few hours, one for as long as 10 months until the perfect forever family came along. Nine stayed permanently and were adopted by me and Larry (**Bruno, Rocky, Hayden, Ben, Kokomo, Ladybird, Mufasa, Dolly and Duffy**); two others were born into Rescue at our house and stayed (**Troy and Vin**). Almost every foster has brought joy and smiles, as well as heartache, when they have left; a couple I couldn't wait to be gone because they just did not fit in at our house. As the foster family, you have the right to choose who stays and who needs a different forever home – you have the privilege of helping to select that family. It has been a very rewarding experience all around.

Michele W: Fostering is a funny word: Babysitting a dog. How hard can that be right? Well, experience threw me a hard ball, and I learned that fostering couldn't be more like its definition: to encourage, promote the development of someone, typically someone regarded as good; enhance the quality or value of life; stimulate and enrich; nurture it, strengthen it, help it, aid it, assist it, but most of all support it like it's your own, finally re-homing the dog where it can grow and develop meeting all its needs. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience when you meet those that rescue to do this and more, as the worst part of Rescue is evaluating a dog you'd die to keep, but your environment doesn't match the dog's needs. That is the moment you must figure out if you love that dog enough to give it up. Rescue is forced with this reality daily with every single dog entering.

To loving enough... If someone loves you, isn't that enough? If I had a dollar for every amazing family I've met wanting a particular dog that didn't meet all the dog's needs, I'd be a rich woman. The dismay Placement feels sharing a non-match is smothering. As a foster, we need love them enough, and at the end of the day we hope with all our heart the group understands. I've been extremely lucky for the most part. I never felt alone through those hard calls, those times when I had to go 100% with the foster's need vs. mine or an amazing family dying to love it. The most important part of fostering is to know you are not alone in the enhancement and development of that which we love.

How did I learn to rescue? In January of 1992 I walked into a vet's

office completely without a definition of the word “Rescue” in my vocabulary. I was at the office to drop off my two six-month-old kittens for spaying. A woman, Susan, walked into the office with a Sheltie (**Conrad**) to be neutered. He was just pulled from a car fire in which his owner had passed away. The family could not keep the dog. In one nanosecond I learned how to fall in love with the rescued/second hand dog. His story broke my heart, as it was so obvious that he missed his dad so much. I later learned that there was no place his dad went that **Conrad** didn’t go. Yes, I fell in love with a dog that probably would’ve rather died with his owner than to live without him.

Sue was quite patient with me explaining Rescue, how it works, and what my responsibility would be. The neuter happened to be **Conrad’s** last step to the intake foster home. One week later I went to pick him up as a one-month foster, assessing him further for the Rescue to be sure both his and our own needs were matched. It was huge shoes we had to fill with **Conrad** and months of work teaching him we may not be his dad, but would do anything to be as good as him and, if nothing else, we’d never stop trying. He fit in amazingly, as he loved children, our cats, and love. He loved love and laughter, which in our house are the only mandatory rules. In February of 1992 he officially became a part of our family. So, “foster failure” number one.

In June of 1992 we moved to Arizona. In February 2001, I happened to see a segment on Channel 3 where Deb Orwig was begging for safe yards and loving families to foster, as the Rescue was having an influx of Golden Retrievers. Fit my bill 100 percent. I raised my hand and put that application in immediately. It took some time, but on June 13, 2001 I was brought a bouncing 7-month-old little red girl, **Baby**. She was the perfect puppy. She was a keeper, but we did not! I had her for one month, and she never gave me one minute of grief. In all the rest of a year, came **Shasta** (6 months, “**MyBoy**” and I adopted him – foster failure #2), **Rio Jake** (1 year), **Sandie** (1 year), **Jeffery** (1 year), **Sunny-MySunshine** (1 year, I adopted – foster failure #3), **Megan** (vet in Phoenix said 2, but was supposed to be a puppy so owner claimed – foster failure #4), **Conrad** (3 months and a world finalist in digging competitions) and **Cage** (5 years). There were probably more, but these come to mind, and you get the drift: We were fostering lots of dogs that year!

My biggest lessons in life came from a second-hand friend, my foster dog. My hardest lesson was that no matter how much I love, I have to love enough. Unfortunately, sometimes with the rescued, my love may just be lent for a little while to find a dog’s perfect life. They live such a short life. It would seem a given that we as fosters evaluate for as best a quality of life a foster can receive in that short time. Rescue dogs come from all walks of life. With all fosters I’ve had, not one was the same in their needs. I will forever be grateful for all my second-hand friends, and for the opportunity, support, and encouragement I found in a Rescue community.



Cindy T: Fostering, not just a job but an adventure. The word “foster” has two meanings, and both apply to being a foster for a rescued dog. To foster can mean to provide a temporary home and care. To bring a new visitor into the home always brings with it a change in pack dynamics. Some dogs come from unknown circumstances, some with very detailed histories. Foster can also mean to encourage growth or development. It is a great pleasure to help an uprooted dog find its way again. Whether it be learning the dog door, a new trick or maybe just to trust a little more, a little kindness can help so much.

Each dog’s story is unique. We have had fosters come just for a day and others to stay a few months. We have had epileptic animals and a surgery rehab. We have sheltered emergency transports and transports that have not worked out at their planned FWITA. Because **AGR** has no kennels, fosters are vital for the work that needs to be done between Intake and Placement. It is a joy and a challenge to be able to accommodate, sometimes without any notice, an incoming dog.

I am always so proud of our pack as they adjust to newbies. With few exceptions, they have accepted new friends with ease. There was an emergency situation where four dogs from different litters were dropped off at our home by the surrendering owner who was losing his house. For the safety of all, those dogs were kept separated from our pack with me in the family room overnight. The dogs were nervous and the two unaltered males were sniping at each other. That was a night to remember! Health Team and Placement really had to scramble, but they made quick decisions and worked it all out by the next day.

Fostering can also uncover issues that need to be addressed. We had a dog who, for no reason we could figure, grabbed our boy by the nose and wouldn’t let go. Because of our feedback **AGR** knew that he needed to be in a home with no other animals.

Foster failures, yes, we’ve had a few, but then again, too few to mention – only four. These Fab Four are our current pack, littermates who came from Kosovo who we have had for nearly 12 years, and two newer additions, one from 2 years ago and one from 2 months ago. Sometimes, fosters just stick, and that is the greatest blessing to come from fostering!

Sharon M: Fostering a dog is one of the best things in the world. The rewards are endless, and more times than not, I find that the dog has enriched my life more than I theirs. Fostering a dog helps show them that they are loved and that they can land in a place where it will always be safe. There is much joy in seeing them learn how to trust people and start to come out of their “shells”.

By taking an animal temporarily into your home, you are able to free up a spot so Rescue can take in another dog. You are, simply, saving a life. You learn more about the dog and its overall personality, which helps in preparing the dog for the best home possible. It is also fun for your resident dogs to have a new friend and play-

mate to visit every so often. This helps in socializing the dog to a home environment and possibly getting him used to being around other pets and different types of people.

Unsocialized dogs also benefit from fostering. Of course, each dog is unique. Although some struggle with the move into a home, others have issues with the exposure to new people and pets. Foster homes allow the individual dog time to adjust to new situations, or unfamiliar people, or simply become accustomed to being around one person for extended periods of time. In the process of helping a foster dog become more confident and happy, you will find that the dog brings you so much love and joy that you simply feel great. It is remarkable to see a dog transition from being scared and weary, to happy and confident. Being a dog behaviorist just gives me one more reason why I enjoy fostering. I can work with dogs that are in need of some behavioral work or obedience training. Again, this better helps the dog in finding a great home where he will be able to thrive. Many struggle with the thought of fostering and find it hard to let them go. In the end though, it is all worth it. I would much rather miss a new friend and shed a few bittersweet tears, than to know that a dog was left in a shelter or unable to find a new home.

The rewards are endless....

Robin M: I have fostered four times for *AGR*, ranging from two days to two months. What I love most about fostering is knowing that I am giving a dog a temporary home and lots of love until it finds its forever home. The cost associated with fostering is minimal – food, treats and toys. *AGR* covers all medical expenses while you are fostering. The only disadvantage of fostering is having to say goodbye after you've formed a bond!

Connie M: Fostering a dog may be difficult, but it's a very real way to make a difference to a dog in need. Yes, it is hard to give them up, even after just a day or two. There is no way to avoid getting emotionally involved. But even though there will be some pain, there is a whole lot more satisfaction knowing that you have contributed greatly to their lives. At first, it's almost guaranteed that you will become foster failures, but as you continue to acquire more and more dogs you eventually realize that you cannot keep them all. But what you can keep are the memories and experiences of all those lives you helped impact. We have fostered almost 70 dogs between *RAGofAZ* and *AGR*, and every single one of them has left a paw print on my heart even if we didn't adopt them. We had some only a day or two and some for as long as 11 months. It doesn't matter – the minute they entered the house they became "ours" until a wonderful new home was found. Some had medical issues and some had behavior issues (I'll say!), but all were loved. And when it was time to move them on, we very often kept in touch with the adoptive families and have made some wonderful human friends in the process. One of the joys of fostering for *AGR* is that you do actually have input on where the dog goes, so if you feel that it's not a good fit you only have to say so.

Over the years we have adopted only 11 of our fosters as space and time permitted. I often wish it could have been more, but I do feel we were there for the ones who really needed us most, and the others went on to happy lives without us.

Michelle P: One of the greatest rewards of fostering for me is watching a rescue dog bloom into a pet. Of course, it's not without its challenges! Foster dogs sometimes need to learn the basic rules of living in a house, including housetraining, appropriate greeting behavior with humans, appropriate play behavior with other dogs, testing to see if they are a good match with cats or vice versa. As you gain experience, or, as I say, get your feet wet as a foster parent, you may be asked to foster "Fur Babies" with more challenging behavioral or medical needs or even move into a hospice care situation, which is challenging and rewarding in a completely different way, which I have done and experienced. For me, fostering a hospice dog was a spiritual experience, as well as bittersweet. Her name was **Sandy**, and she will always be in my heart. I learned so much from her. She was much wiser than her years. You will learn much, too, when or if you decide to foster. I have become a "foster failure" many times. The term means that you end up adopting the much-loved dog instead of finding it a "forever" home elsewhere. It is sooo much a wonderful feeling, not so much what you give to the dog, but what the dog gives back to you. You will have so much to learn from those kids if you just listen and open your heart. They are unconditional lovers, companions and friends. If you can accept that, then you will make a great foster parent.

Judy P: I'm new to fostering – less than 1 year and have had four fosters in that time. Ages have varied from 6 months to nine years, as has the time they were with me. One stayed only three days and others up to two months. All have been wonderful and a joy to care for and come to know. I cared for them just as if they were my own. I fed them good food, good treats, filtered water, transported them to vet appointments, bought them toys and loved them. Cost? I can't say as I have never kept track. It's a rewarding experience to be part of their forever home journey. I can't lie – it is hard to let them go each time. I try to glean all I can about them to share with our Placement Team, so when we do send them off it is to their forever happy home. They have all been great companions and a joy to share my home with. Each was different, and it was fun to experience their uniqueness and personalities. They have helped to fill the void of losing my Golden and brought some life back to my home. One day one will stay.

Ellen L: The first dog I fostered for *AGR* was **Riley**. He was a cute male grayish-white Goldendoodle who came into *AGR* via an elderly owner who was becoming physically frail. We were told **Riley** was skittish of adult males and not much information about how he was with small children. He knew "sit", but that was about it as far as training went. I picked up **Riley** from a very nice foster in N. Phoenix and took him to his new home in

Tucson. They lived in a rural area with gravel roads and a nice big back yard. "Mr. FWITA" loved **Riley** immediately, and identified himself as the one who would be primarily taking **Riley** for walks. **Riley** initially seemed more accepting of the Mrs., and somewhat skittish of the male prospective owner. Sadly, when I called within 2 days to ask how **Riley** was doing, the Mrs. explained her husband had to go to the hospital with horrible abdominal pains, and she could not care for **Riley** at this time. I went to retrieve **Riley** as soon as possible, and offered to foster him so he would not have to languish in boarding. Having been told he was skittish of adult males (and seen for myself it was true), imagine my surprise when we arrived home and **Riley** jumped up on the sofa and snuggled up to my husband, Ron, like a long-lost friend! I could not stop giggling, especially since my husband was not fond of pets and only tolerated them to humor me.

AGR had also been told **Riley** was not reliably house broken (although almost 2 years old), and this proved to be true. I set about taking him out every two hours, and found out he was afraid of being outdoors by himself. He would watch me like a hawk. As soon as I made any move for the door, he would gallop up and attempt to force his way in as soon as the door opened even a crack. I wondered if he was left outside during a loud thunderstorm or fireworks at some point, but we'll never know. In any case, I took him out rain or shine, 2 AM or not, and he made good progress during the next couple of weeks.

I found he was a fussy eater who likes to pick at his food on and off all day. I had to take pains to ensure our rescue Lab, **Missy**, did not steal his food. I tried to get him accustomed to his food being available only twice a day. Next, I set about getting him accustomed to wearing a leash and taking walks. He really enjoyed walks! As to cost, I did not have to spend a lot on toys, as **Riley** seemed mainly uninterested in them.

I think it was 3 weeks or so when Placement identified a possible new home for **Riley**. They also noticed how fearful **Riley** was of being outside by himself, and our behaviorist Sharon M. was called to assist the new family.

Cindy B: What a pure joy it was to welcome into our home our two fosters **Rascal** and **Allie**. We've fostered for about 10 years and had the privilege of taking care of about 15 dogs, mostly Golden Retrievers. Although all of our fosters were special, these two were exceptional! What a bonded pair they were, and oh how we fell in love! Many trips to the vet and many medical issues between them, but for the two short months we were lucky enough to have them, Carrie, Liz and Deb were such an amazing support system!

It's always a pleasure to give these babies a safe and loving home, even if for a short time. Some were with us for weeks at a time and some lasted forever. They've come in pairs and by themselves. Some take a little more effort, patience, and understanding than others, but all of them are worth it. Some have emotional, physi-

cal or medical issues but all of them just need to know they are loved and to be shown some kindness. Helping these babies heal from whatever issues they have and to see them thrive is beyond rewarding. Fostering is always an adventure, challenging, sometimes a little exhausting, and so worth the reward when you know you've helped to make a life better. Knowing that we're helping to find the perfect forever home where they get to have their happy-ever-after is why we do it. Missing them immensely (and crying) is just a part of the process. They remain forever in your heart and you move on to the next baby that needs your help.

Sue V: I have fostered three times. Twice, it was to simply be a holding place while Placement had a chance to find a new home. The first one was a young Goldendoodle that needed to be picked up immediately from a surrendering owner living relatively close to me. She was a wild child with little or no training, but she had no accidents in the house since she was kept in a play pen and let outside regularly. I had two resident dogs, a young one who would love the playmate and an older female that would not be happy with another female in the house. The two young dogs played happily and wildly; I had to keep the foster separate so there were no arguments with the other resident dog. The second day, I got a call that someone was interested in the pup. Arrangements were made for them to visit the next afternoon. Not being experienced in this, I neglected to ask if they had any other dog and the prospective family did not offer that information. After playing all morning wildly once again, the pup was quiet and mellow when the family came. They fell in love with this loving, mellow (!) pup. We went to the get food for her, leaving some with me so I could start transitioning her to the food they wanted to feed. We spoke again the next morning as I told them someone would be setting up a transport to their house. They happened to mention they had a mature (if not elderly) Yorkshire Terrier that allegedly was glad to be getting a big young sister. Once that registered as I was watching typical Kamikaze attacks between the two large young dogs in my backyard, I realized going to this home was not going to work. I felt terrible about having to say that I couldn't in good conscience let them take this pup, as I feared it would destroy their resident dog. Another home was found within a couple of days, and I accompanied the transporter to the new home to see her new life. She was joining two other Golden Retrievers, one of which is a service dog, a wonderful fit.

The second dog, theoretically fostered just to hold while Placement could work their magic, was an elderly, mannerly lady. She accepted our resident dog well, even trying to mildly play a bit with him. He apparently knew she needed to be treated gently, and they hit it off. This wise old girl also keyed in on the fact that the tough sell to adding another dog in this house was my husband. She zeroed in on him, and within an hour I called Placement to tell them they didn't need to keep looking for a permanent home for her – she had found it. We were very speedy foster failures with her.

The third was a young dog that was going to need very tricky surgery to correct an injured leg. We were fully prepared to see this girl through her surgery and rehab. The one cause for concern was that we live 45 miles from the surgical facility where the procedure was going to take place. After going to the surgical facility and having the doctor describe that there would be approximately 18 trips to their facility required, we had to reconsider. In back of our minds was also the fact that should there be an emergency, we were a long way from the specifically-qualified help. A prospective FWITA came to our house and met her. They were fully briefed on the requirements of her surgery and rehab. Again, I went to the home to see where she was going. It was a perfect home and very near the surgical facility.

While we were responsible for vetting all three dogs – basic on the doodle and the older girl, surgical planning for the third – I only knew that two were housebroken and the other I treated as if she were not. I did not get to know much about the young dogs except that they needed training and were typically high energy with a propensity to jump on people.

For all three of our fosters, the cost involved was minimal as the dogs were not with me very long and were fed what I feed mine. I enjoyed the opportunity to basically “test drive” these dogs, see them in my own home and interacting with my family and dogs, without having to make the leap to ownership. It does hurt when they leave, but knowing they have wonderful homes makes it ever so much easier.

Rebecca M: My husband and I started fostering after learning about senior dogs and dogs that had mild medical conditions that did not get adopted right away. Rather than see them boarded, we felt that we could offer them a soft place to land and help the Rescue learn more about what type of dogs they were so Rescue could place them in the best home possible. During that time we got to help assess the dog, how he/she was with other dogs, his/her good/bad behaviors, general temperament, etc. Then we had a key role in finding the permanent home for them based on what we knew of the dog.

Sometimes dogs come in abused; some come in with medical conditions that could have been treated and were neglected; sometimes their owners pass away; sometimes they come in as strays with not much history at all; and sometimes they come in just because their family or environment isn't a good fit. It is our job to feel them out and to help build trust, take them to their vet visits to clear up any medical issues, give love again and get them ready for their forever family. In doing this, we have found a fuller meaning of what unconditional love is, and sometimes the dogs help us more than we help them. It is an honor to see a once shy, sad, uncertain dog come out of his/her shell and become a happy well of joy right before your eyes! And, with the exception of food, unless the dog is on a special diet, fostering costs us nothing, as **AGR** takes care of all medical care or special needs.

The dogs we fostered varied from 6 months to 12 years old, however, most of them were 6 years and up. None of the dogs were formally trained but all had some basic understanding of human leadership. The majority of the dogs had some mild medical issues that involved medication and/or vet visits to treat entropion (inverted eye lids), skin allergies, and post spay or neutering appointments, on-going treatment of valley fever, kidney issues, heartworm, etc. We were very lucky in that all of our foster dogs rode well in vehicles, although some did need to be picked up to get out or lifted in due to age. We crated all fosters while away from home until trust was established – sometimes that was one day, sometimes that was a week or more. With the exception of the 6-month-old puppy, they all took to it well. Some of the bad behaviors we witnessed were digging in the yard, begging, jumping, counter surfing, being mouthy, not knowing basic commands, nipping, and barking. We worked on all of those with the dogs. Sometimes they took cues from our dogs – when they saw them exhibit the behavior we wanted, they copied. The duration the dog stayed with us varied. We had one foster as short as 3 weeks, and two of them we had for 3 months. We were not foster failures with any, because we knew if we adopted one we couldn't foster any more, and that was where our hearts were – to foster.

The hardest thing sometimes is what you think might be easiest. We had one foster that did not like men and did not take medicine well, which resulted in me having to find creative ways to get her to take medicine without any help from my husband. She was stubborn and strong, and until I found a solution that worked for her, it was a frustrating experience. I tried cheese, peanut butter, or canned wet food, putting in on my finger and surprising her when she came by and putting it at the back of her throat, even pill pockets – every time she would spit that pill out. Finally we were mixing Sojo's Salmon (dehydrated raw) with our dogs' food and she seemed very interested in it. We decided to mix her pill in some of that with her dry food after calling the Healthcare Manager (the dog was on a kidney-sensitive diet) to make sure she could eat it. It worked like a charm, so much so that she started dancing when it was time to eat! She also ended up loving my husband! When she first came to us, she would run away and hide. By the time she left, she was giving him kisses and sitting by him for pets.

A great benefit of fostering is, as dog owners, we are exposed to different dog behaviors or different medical conditions and treatments that our resident dogs might not have or need, and this has provided us with a wealth of knowledge and a broader understanding that we humans oftentimes need the training rather than the dogs. The socialization our dogs have experienced has been tremendous in helping them interact with and learn cues from other dogs, like when to keep boundaries, when to engage in playtime, and the hierarchy of being in a small pack – this, too, is all good for the foster dog.

If I had to pick any disadvantages, I would say that perhaps not knowing enough about how to help the foster dog when they are

dealing with an emotional set-back for whatever reason they were surrendered. But, thankfully, **AGR** has a great selection of canine-savvy humans that are just a phone call away. Additionally, it is hard to say goodbye sometimes, but we know that **AGR** has a thorough vetting process and being part of the deciding Yes or No vote on if we believe the family is a good fit helps. We have not assisted in placing a dog with any family that we didn't absolutely love 100%, and **AGR** backed us every time we weren't certain.

To anyone that is considering fostering... if you have extra room in both your home and your heart, it is a great opportunity to learn more about dogs, dog health, dog behavior, as well as networking in your local community and gaining a support group of like-minded dog lovers.

Liz T: Most of the dogs I have fostered have been for medical rehab. They stayed two weeks (**Jax**) up to 10 weeks (**Missy**). Longest were the ones who stayed (**Cooper, Sweetie, Trip, Reba, Emma and McKayla**); shortest was **Tessa**, who was with me for 48 hours, **Rex** for three days, and several others for about a month.

Fostering is very satisfying, especially seeing an ill or surgical dog blossom into full health. The very ill ones or those just out of surgery required close supervision, so that usually necessitated staying home more than usual. And sometimes my alpha boy decided he needed to let the foster know this was his home and do that loudly.

What are the advantages? I have five dogs that I knew ahead of time would get along (alpha boy!). Some might think that many dogs is a disadvantage, but I have always had multiple dogs! The ones who needed to heal and/or rehab from surgery needed a pen (**AGR** has these for loan), bed, food, snacks, toys and dishes. All of them ate what my dogs ate, except for the ones on a special diet right after surgery/illness and those that turned up their noses at food offerings. Usually I went and bought a variety of canned food to find out what they liked. They also needed to be separate from my crew, because there was no running, jumping, or playing allowed during their rehab. So for my house, that involved keeping my resident dogs in one of the bedrooms when the foster was taken outside for potty breaks or rehab walks. The pen was big enough to do PT/range of motion exercises inside the pen.

The dogs also got to know each other since they saw each other all the time. I could find out if they liked other dogs, knew commands and could be handled easily. When they could be more active, I had a couple of dogs that were good for temperament testing the foster. Most of them were fine with other dogs, but a couple I found out would not have been good with an alpha male. More information for Placement!

Usually the fosters shared my dogs' toys, but they also received a couple of new ones to go with them to their permanent home, plus dishes, a harness, leash and food/treats.

Teri G: I am a terrible foster! I've had the pleasure to foster only four dogs since **AGR's** inception. Three of them never left! I think that the only reason number 4 didn't stay was because at the time we had more than a full house and he only stayed with us for four or five days! Our home is pretty much a black hole when it comes to fostering, so the general perception is that if we bring a dog in to foster he or she is as good as adopted! I'm in awe of some of the fabulous fosters that **AGR** is lucky to have. They bring them in, get them to where they need to be either physically or behaviorally or both, and then let them go on to their forever homes. Being a foster provides the opportunity to get an added insight to the dog and its needs, fears and behaviors around other animals. Do they get along in a pack setting? How about cats? How do they like to play, or how much activity do they need on a daily basis? It is, indeed, a bittersweet but wonderful experience to be able to do this, as we get to see some exceptional dogs come in. I'm sure at some point I'll foster again. If I fail or not, well, we'll have to see!

Sharon F: I have been fostering for two years and have had five individual dogs and four bonded pairs in my home to foster so a total of thirteen dogs. The ages range from 8 weeks old to 8 years old. The time they have been in my home as a foster has ranged from 4 days to 7 months. If **AGR** needed a quiet home, a home without other animals and minimal visitors, my home fit the bill, especially if the dogs were ill and needed quiet and attention to recuperate. As a foster, I was expected to give the dogs a safe loving home, take them to vet appointments, care for their wounds (and a couple needed lots of wound care), exercise them, and help them prepare for a forever home. I really did not keep track of any expense, as it is a labor of love. **AGR** covered all medical bills; the beds and toys I had plenty of from my own Golden that went to the Bridge. I purchased new toys for each, as well, so they would have something of their own. The cost of food varied, but I always ordered from Chewy.com. I never thought about keeping track of expenses – if my dog were still with me I would have been purchasing those items, so it never dug into my budget. If I had to guess maybe \$40/\$50 a month – it would be different for each dog/dogs if I had a pair and how long they stayed.

Each dog, even if part of a pair, had their own activity level and needs. I always work with them on commands such as sit, stay, down, wait, walking on a leash, etc. – although I must admit, I am not a trainer. Some of the dogs were good with other dogs/cats and some were not, each a challenge with their problems, but they always gave me love. I live in a retirement community, so fosters were not exposed to children, and all my grandchildren are adults and live on the East coast, so no exposure to kids. Except for the 8-week-old puppy that whined and barked for the first 15 minutes of any car trip, all of my fosters have ridden well in the car. I did have a scary experience once with a foster that jumped from the back seat to the front seat (how he got the seat belt undone is a mystery) while we were on the Interstate. I immediately purchased a pet barrier for my car so I could drive without worries.

I love being a foster! I have never been a “foster failure” – yet. At this time in my life I have family living in other states and some family medical issues for which I might need to travel. If it is an emergency, **AGR** will step in and take over the foster responsibility for me, which is a real plus. Fostering benefits me in that I can love a dog, have companionship, help them along and take great pride in the progress they make while they are with me, but if I need to be gone I can do that. The disadvantage is the empty home when they leave. While a dog is with me, I make notes at least once a week so I won't forget to tell the forever family all about the dog. I am proud that all my fosters have thrived in their forever homes, and all my forever families send me e-mails or pictures occasionally, which makes my heart happy and sometimes brings tears to my eyes.

Sharon F Update – 24 Hours: I took my beautiful energetic foster to his forever home 24 hours ago. I truly loved my foster, but what was best for him was to be in an active home. The feeling is bitter-sweet. My house seems empty. I am sad he is not here but happy he has a forever home that I approved of. Breaking down the playpen, kennel, and not having toys all over the floor bring memories that make me smile. I have to remember I have not lost my foster. I have added some people into my life that will let me see his growth through their eyes. I have been blessed that the families of all the dogs I have fostered send me e-mails and pictures occasionally. The forever family of my latest foster has already written describing how Day One went and sent photos. They are so grateful to **AGR** for saving his life and entrusting him to their care. The feeling my role as a foster gives me is accomplishment. I have a feeling of pride that the dogs I have fostered go to their new home with a good base for the rest of their life feeling they were loved. Fostering is a labor of love not only for the dogs, but also for the organization that I am fortunate to be a small part of.

If I had my dog to raise all over again...

I'd stroke him with my fingers more, and point the finger less.
 I would do less correcting and do more connecting.
 I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
 I would care to know less and know to care more.
 I'd take more hikes and throw more balls.
 I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
 I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
 I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
 I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
 I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
 I'd teach less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

Adaptation by Deb Orwig from
If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again by Diane Loomans

A POEM TO MY FOSTER DOG

By Diane Morgan

*I am the bridge,
 Between what was and what can be.
 I am the pathway to a new life.*

*I am made of mush,
 Because my heart melted
 when I saw you,
 Matted and sore, limping, depressed
 Lonely, unwanted, afraid to love.*

*For one little time you are mine.
 I will feed you with my own hand.
 I will love you with my whole heart.
 I will make you whole.*

*I am made of steel.
 Because when the time comes,
 When you are well, and sleek,
 when your eyes shine,
 And your tail wags with joy
 Then comes the hard part.*

*I will let you go – not without a tear,
 But without a regret.
 For you are safe forever –
 A new dog needs me now.*

The Original Frosty Paws

12 oz. vanilla yogurt
 1 mashed banana OR 1 large jar of baby fruit
 2 Tbsp peanut butter
 1 Tbsp honey

Blend together. Freeze in 3-oz paper cups or in ice cube trays.
 Microwave a few seconds to thaw slightly before serving.

P B & J Pops

First Layer: ¼ cup peanut butter and ¾ cup plain yogurt. Put in blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Second Layer: 2 cups strawberries, chopped, and ¼ cup plain yogurt. Put in blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Third Layer: ½ cup blueberries and ¾ cup plain yogurt. Mix together.

Bully sticks
 Disposable cups like cupcake holders or small Dixie® cups

Pour an inch or so of first layer into bottom of each cup. Freeze for 30 minutes, then insert bully stick. Pour in second layer; freeze for 30 minutes. Pour in third layer, and freeze for 8 hours. Dip cups briefly in warm water then pop out popsicle.

HERE and THERE

Events from April 1 through June 30, 2018

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.



The Phoenix Pet Expo

By Deb Orwig



Deb Orwig with Mufasa

I was apprehensive about how **AGR** would do when the *Phoenix Pet Expo* was moved from the beginning of April to Memorial Day weekend. That weekend also had the *Phoenix Comic Fest* going on, as well as many other activities around the Valley, plus much of the Metro area population



Jane Triplett and Patrick Doyle with Mufasa; Jane helped on both Friday and Saturday, Patrick all three days



April Crow, here with Reba, helped set up on Friday, then spent much of Saturday monitoring the *Wheel of Goldens*

leaves town over this weekend. I should not have been concerned, because the *Pet Expo* was well attended, we had a great reception by the public, and it was the best *Pet Expo* we've participated in for revenue!

During the two-day show, we took in a total of **\$2,735.79** with another \$10 more being sent in for a Saturday purchase! We could not have done this without all of you who came to help with or without a dog, plus several young ladies who came on Sunday. Help in the booth and with the Orwig dogs were greatly appreciated both on Saturday and Sunday. Everyone who helped with the booth break-down on Sunday (only took 45 minutes) deserves a round of applause, as



Connie Wozniak with Reba Tataseo; Connie is always a great help with setting up our merchandise display and with sales; she was with us on Friday and Saturday

well, since a few of us who were there all day Saturday and Sunday were exhausted by then!



In addition to **Mufasa** and **Duffy** dressed as Bride and Groom (photo above left) winning the costume contest on Saturday, **Sucy** and **Joie Rodeffer** dressed as a cheerleader and as a "Wide Retriever" in a Cardinals jersey (photo above right), respectively, won the costume contest on Sunday! Hooray for our spirited **AGR** members and their dogs! The prizes for all the various contests were donated



Teddi Axne, who lives in Rio Verde, came to help on Saturday for most of the day; on Sunday, she came in the morning and then came back to help with the booth breakdown in the afternoon



Cindy Tigges with Natasha

by vendors at the *Expo*. The Orwigs' prize contained a bottle of wine, a candle and some dog treats and toys. The Rodeffers' prize included a 1-year membership in **Paion Veterinary!**

We also received seven applications from people interested in pursuing an adoption!



Sandra Hansen (above left) and Cynthia Wenström (above right) came without dogs, as did Jay and Jodi Koblick (right); these volunteers either helped with some of the dogs or with merchandise sales

of \$1,985.79. Last year, the *Pet Expo* was held on the Friday and Saturday of Easter Weekend (not good). We made \$549.37





Jane Pulis helped with McKayla and Reba Tataseo while Liz took photos; Casey Pulis took charge of Vin Orwig. After the Expo, Jane and Casey decided they really needed to apply for a dog, as they had recently lost their last AGR Golden.



on Friday and \$985.04 on Saturday for a total of \$1,534.41. So, this year was spectacular in comparison! We really needed that extra income this year with already having to pay out over \$70,000 in vet bills by the end of May! Any extra donation to help with vet bills will always be appreciated at any time.

One other note... we have given away almost all of the donated items we have used as prizes for the *Wheel of Goldens* wins: the cat and dog stuffed animals from *PetSmart*, the Pillow Pets, and the *Philosophy* cosmetics kits. If any of you know



Jolene Schlichter with our popular *Wheel of Goldens*

where we can get some donated stuff to use in the future, please let me know. The *Wheel* earned us almost \$500 this year and similar amounts in previous years, so it is worth having it, but only if what we give away for wins is free to us.



Cindy Pavero brought Honey for part of Saturday and Sunday; Lauren Rudin came with Bryxx on Saturday; Dean Mortimore had his girls, Ashley and Mary Kate, there all day Saturday and Sunday

Although we do not have a confirmed weekend yet, I have already paid the reservation fee of \$350 for next year. The *Pet Expo* people told me we would know the dates sometime within the next month, but here it is mid-July and we have not yet been sent the dates. Memorial Day Weekend 2019 has been reserved by them just because they had to reserve a weekend, but they are try-



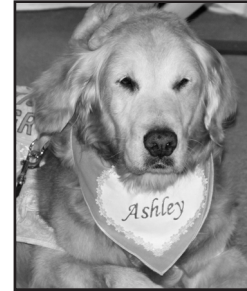
Sue Vallie and friend Janet Hobbs with Molly and Oliver



Sheila Joyce brought Charlie and Willow on Sunday



Emma Tataseo



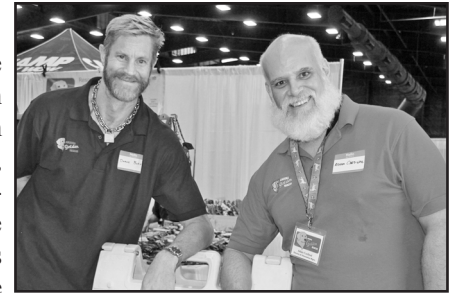
Ashley Mortimore



Mary Kate Mortimore

ing to negotiate for an April weekend instead. Seeing our total for this year, I'm certainly game to do it again over Memorial Day weekend!

Volunteers included the following for set-up on Friday, May 25th: Adam Cardinal, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Deb Orwig, Larry Orwig, Jane Triplett and Marcus Wieser helped load the trailer at the Orwigs' house (45 minutes). Later at WestWorld



Adam Cardinal (right) helped load the trailer on Friday, brought Rhys for a while on Saturday, then came back on Sunday with his friend Duane Borho to help break down the booth



Dean Mortimore sat in front of our booth with his two beautiful Goldens, Ashley and Mary Kate and always drew a crowd

(1½ hours), April Crow, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Deb Orwig, Larry Orwig, Jolene Schlichter, Jane Triplett, and Connie Wozniak set up the booth. Saturday May 26th volunteers included Teddi Axne; Adam Cardinal with **Rhys**; April Crow; Patrick Doyle; Jodi and Jay Koblick; Dean Mortimore with **Mary Kate**

and **Ashley**; Deb and Larry Orwig with **Duffy, Mufasa** and **Vin**; Cindy Pavero with **Honey**; Jane and Casey Pulis; Kar-ey, Kelley and Sheri Rodeffer with **Joie** and **Sucy**; Lauren Rudin with **Bryxx**; Liz Tataseo with **McKayla** and **Reba**; Cindy Tigges with **Natasha**; Sue Vallie and Janet Hobbs with **Molly** and **Oliver**; Cynthia Wenström; and Connie Wozniak. On Sunday, May 27th, our volunteers included: Teddi



Tammy Dillard and Isabella, Anne and Abby McGill walked Duffy and Vin Orwig all over the entire Expo collecting donations



Nick Dodson with Winnie; Nick drives our trailer and is always helpful with booth set-up and break-down

Axne; Adam Cardinal and friend Duane Borho; Patrick Doyle; Sandra Hansen; Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and **Willow**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Winnie**; Anne, Abby and Isabella McGill and friend Tammy Dillard; Dean Mortimore with **Ashley** and **Mary Kate**; Deb and Larry Orwig with **Duffy**, **Mufasa** and **Vin**; Cindy Pavero with **Honey**; Karey and Kelley Rodeffer and friend Kelsey Coulter with **Joie** and **Sucy**; Lauren Rudin with **Bryxx**; Jolene Schlichter; Liz Tataseo with **Emma**; Cindy Tigges with **Natasha**; and Jane Triplett.

Thanks so much to Liz Tataseo and Connie McCabe for the photography, Liz on Saturday and Liz and Connie on Sunday.



Meet-and-Greets at Petco
By Liz Tataseo

GLENDALE, 9980 W Northern Ave. – Liz Tataseo, Hostess



Liz Tataseo, Chris Spiel, Teri Guilbault, Fred Prose, Patrick Doyle, and Cindy Tigges; dogs left to right are Pogo, Nash, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Gracie, Natasha, and Reba in front

side, so we did well with \$81 in donations. We had a large crowd with the following members joining **Reba** and me: Patrick Doyle, Mary Engstrom with **Autumn**, Teri Guilbault with **Jackson**, Dustin and Rebecca



Deb Orwig, Jocelyn and Tia Raught with **Bubba** and **Mimi**, Dustin and Rebecca Mackerman with **Indy**, and Dean Mortimore with **Mary Kate** and **Ashley** with **Duffy** and **Vin** Orwig in front

Mackerman with their new boy **Indy**, Dean Mortimore with **Mary Kate** and **Ashley**, Deb Orwig with **Vin** and **Duffy**, Fred Prose with **Gracie** and **Jasper**; Jocelyn and Tia Raught with **Bubba** and **Mimi**, Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**, and Cindy Tigges



Mary Engstrom with gorgeous Autumn

with **Nika**. Connie McCabe stopped by with **Pogo**, and that was interesting. **Mimi** was the life of the party, and **Indy** did very well for a young pup.



Vin and Mimi – so cute!

Petco happened a little earlier than usual this month – Saturday, May 19th – since



Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and **Willow**

our normal day, the last Saturday of the month, conflicted with the *Phoenix Pet Expo*, which was held on Memorial Day weekend. Joining **Emma**, **Reba** and me were Patrick Doyle, Sheila Joyce with **Charlie** and **Willow**, Dean Mortimore with **Mary Kate** and **Ashley**, Deb Orwig with **Vin**, and Chris Spiel with **Jack** and **Nash**. We were able to collect \$75 in donations.

The end of June brought nice hot weather, but we were still able to be outside since the store entrance is in the shade by the time we arrived. Donations were \$72.50 which was OK considering traffic was hit and miss (hot). Joining **McKayla** and me were



Jane Triplett with **Ace** and Rebecca Kemak with **McKayla**



Vin wearing his booties

Bob Cain and Rebecca Kemak with **Murphy** (always so happy), Deb Orwig with **Vin**, Jocelyn and Tia Raught with **Bubba** and **Mimi** who had just come from **Mimi's** first training lesson at **Partners Dog Training School**, and Jane Triplett who was there even before I was and brought **Ace**, who was a big show stopper as a Golden disguised as a Greyhound. **McKayla** and **Mimi** got along well, as they are about the same size.

Hot Foot Time of Year!

Is the ground too hot for your dog to walk on without booties? We suggest that you go into your back yard in the middle of the day, take off your shoes and walk on the area that the dogs use, whether that be rock, artificial turf, patio pavers, or even pool “cool” decking. If it's too hot or rocks are too sharp for you to walk on comfortably, it's too hot and/or sharp for a dog. Please buy some good quality booties for your pooch!



Meet-and-Greets at PetSmart

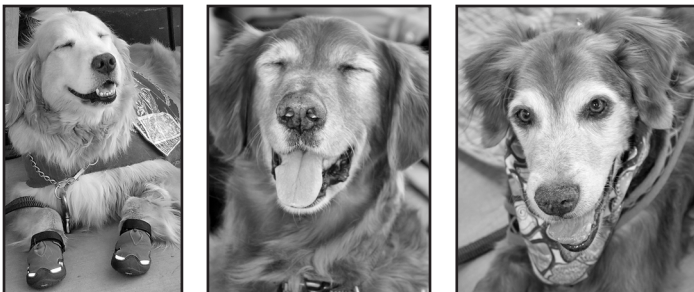
By **Connie McCabe**



Winnie in front, Fred Prose with Gracie, Karen Davis with Star behind Fred, Patrick Doyle, Jill Prose with Jasper, Bob Cain and Rebecca Kemak with the Murphy and Phil Davis with Caesar

We had a really nice Mother’s Day at the 91st Ave **PetSmart** on May 13th. The temperature barely reached 90 degrees, and we were in shade the whole time. As expected, the number of visitors was very low, but they turned out to be generous – we received \$84 and change as donations.

Winnie and I were joined by Nick Dodson (not shown), Patrick Doyle (even though he just had knee surgery a few days ago!), Bob Cain and Rebecca Kemak with **Murphy**, Karen and Phil Davis with **Caesar** and **Star**, and Fred and Jill Prose with **Gracie** and **Jasper**. Both **Gracie** and **Jasper** were wearing booties. Thank you again, everyone.



The public is always impressed by the happy dogs we have with us. Here are Caesar and Star Davis and Murphy Kemak-Cain, top; Gracie Prose, Jasper Prose and Winnie McCabe/Dodson, bottom

Summer months are too hot to be outside at that location – we will be starting up again on the second Sunday of the month from 1 – 4 PM when the temperature is 90 degrees or less, maybe September, but most likely October. Please check our online **AGR** calendar to see when we will be there again. All events are also noted on our Facebook page ahead of time.

I Rescued A Human Today

Author Unknown

Her eyes met mine as she walked down the corridor peering apprehensively into the kennels. I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her. I wagged my tail, not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.

As she stopped at my kennel I blocked her view from a little accident I had in the back of my cage. I didn't want her to know that I hadn't been walked today. Sometimes the shelter keepers get too busy and I didn't want her to think poorly of them.

As she read my kennel card I hoped that she wouldn't feel sad about my past. I only have the future to look forward to and want to make a difference in someone's life.

She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me. I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her. Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship. A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.

Soon my kennel door opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms. I would promise to keep her safe. I would promise to always be by her side. I would promise to do everything I could to see that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes. I was so fortunate that she came down my corridor. So many more are out there who haven't walked the corridors. So many more to be saved. At least I could save one.

I rescued a human today.

When I Got My New Dog

I asked for strength that I might rear her perfectly;
I was given weakness that I might feed her more treats.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;
I was given stubbornness that I might feel humble;

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;
I was given a clown that I might laugh

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;
I was given a best friend that I would feel loved

I got nothing I asked for,
But everything that I needed.

Author Unknown

Kai - An Extraordinary Golden Retriever

By Sue Vallie

Dogs have been considered man's best friend for eons. A six-year-old Golden named **Kai** proved his inestimable value to his human family, Bill and Katie, when he saved Bill's life in February 2018.

Bill and Katie were preparing to go to their cabin in northern Arizona the next day. Katie had just returned from the grocery store and was packing food to go with them. Bill agreed to give the outside potted plants a last watering and took **Kai** with him outside.

Enough time passed that Katie thought Bill must have gotten caught up in a conversation with a neighbor but continued with her preparations. Suddenly, **Kai** came to the door crying. His usual cue to be let in is a single bark, so Katie wondered what was wrong with him. The minute she opened the door, instead of coming in, **Kai** ran out to their pool that had been drained because it was being redesigned. **Kai** pawed at the side. Alarmed, Katie ran to catch him to prevent him from jumping into the 11-foot deep concrete-lined hole. Looking down, she saw her unconscious husband crumpled at the bottom. Blood streaked the sides and bottom where he lay. The hose he had been using to water plants was running into the pool. The drain was blocked; bloody water was rising around Bill.

Thanks to the prompt skilled response of Phoenix paramedics, Bill was quickly transported to the nearest trauma hospital. He had suffered a skull fracture and concussion, several fractured vertebrae, and several broken ribs, some of which were compromising his lungs. Additionally, there were numerous contusions and abrasions. Bill spent weeks in the ICU followed by several more weeks in critical care before being transferred to a rehab facility. When he finally came home, he still required 24-hour nursing care, generally attended by **Kai**. Bill's recovery is an amazing story of its own, especially considering he is a man well past retirement age. That he survived the initial fall, is not paralyzed and is returning slowly to regular activity is a testament to the first responders and the myriad of medical staff along the way. Before any of them, it was **Kai's** timely notice that made the rest a possibility.

Since Bill's return from outside care facilities, **Kai** has continued taking care of his special person, providing assistance that apparently comes naturally to the gentle retriever. **Kai** remains at Bill's side, undaunted by walker or cane, cautiously accompanying him as Bill regains his strength. As to parallels to the classic **Lassie** story of Timmy falling in a well, even doctors at the hospital occasionally referred to Bill as Timmy! **Kai** proved, without a doubt, the caring heart of a Golden. We honor you, our Golden friend.



Katie, Kai and Bill




PAWS & PASTA

A Spaghetti Dinner for Arizona Golden Rescue

Dinner includes: Spaghetti buffet with salad, bread, dessert & beverage (coffee, tea, soda, water)

Hosted by Bryan Foley & Nancy Wheeler of

Little Bite of Italy

15456 N 99th Ave • Sun City, AZ
(corner of 99th Ave & Greenway)

Only \$12.00 per person

All proceeds go to Arizona Golden Rescue to help the dogs

Serving from 11:00am-4:00pm
Sunday, November 4, 2018

No host bar will be open

Item raffle and 50/50 raffle



AGR Merchandise available for sale

Performances by various trained guest dogs

Walk-ins welcomed

No advance tickets, pay at the door

Volunteers please contact Cindy Pavero at mscindyp1@yahoo.com

Come Eat With Us!

Help us boost the revenue in our *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund* by attending the *Paws & Pasta Dinner* on Sunday, November 4, 2018 from 11 AM to 4 PM at **Little Bite of Italy** in Sun City. Easy to find on the NW corner of Greenway Rd and 99th Ave. We established the *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund* in 2011 to help dogs that come into Rescue with cancer or dogs whose medical expenses for other extraordinary conditions exceed \$5000. With monies from this *Fund*, we have recently treated **17-063 Rufus** for squamous cell carcinoma and **18-013 Teddy** for malignant melanoma. Also, the amount of **18-038 Leland's** bills over \$5,000 came out of this *Fund*. All proceeds from the dinner, a 50/50 raffle, a regular raffle and a silent auction will be deposited in the *DBMF*. So, come have a great meal and enjoy pleasant weather on the patio. No advance reservations are needed. You can even bring your dog.



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support. You all truly have hearts of gold! All donations to **AGR** are tax deductible. The donations shown below were made between April 16, 2018 and July 15, 2018. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. PLEASE NOTE: All donors who make donations during 2018 will receive an acknowledgment letter in January 2019, unless an acknowledgment for tax purposes is requested sooner.

General Donations from the Heart

Lyndal and Peter Burns
Valerie Cantrell
Adam Cardinal
Mary Dunnill

Jackie and Dave Engelhardt
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Carol Gora
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Anne and John McGill
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Diamond Donors for 18-046 Lily
Isabel Fastiggi and Cathy Gorham

Diamond Donors for 18-051 Millman
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AGR thanks those members who have set up an automatic monthly donation through PayPal or their bank

Stephanie Beard
Judy Petitto
Mary and Ken Richardson
Liz Tataseo in memory of **Gonzo and Cooper**

AGR thanks Dr. Valerie Ferguson, Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital for her quarterly donation

Gift Memberships

Household Membership for Mary Murray and John Donahue
from Katie Donahue

Copper Membership for Summer and Christopher Engstrom
from Mary and Bert Engstrom

Grants

Golden Retriever Foundation to help with medical expenses of
18-027 Dodger, 18-033 Jessica and 18-038 Leland

PACC911 Golden Angel Fund to help with medical expenses of
18-013 Gavin/Teddy, 18-035 Emily and 18-047 Homer

Honorary Donations

In Honor of Maren Sater and "For the Love Pet Photography"
Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

In Honor of 14-089 Jesse, who has been a wonderful rescue
Jeffrey Nowak

Thanks

To Deb Orwig for teaching dog obedience lessons

Adam Cardinal Cindy Tigges
Larry Jessup Sue Vallie

*To Deb Orwig for caring for **Sky Blue***

Betty Thompson

*To Debbie and Rick Ball for vacation care for **Murphy***

Rebecca Kemak and Bob Cain

*To Deb Orwig for vacation care for **Shelby***

Debbie and Rick Ball

*To Deb Orwig for vacation care for **Natasha***

Cindy and Gary Tigges

*To AGR for completing my family with **18-024 Wrigley (fka Noah)***

Mary Beth Smith

Memorial Donations

In Memory of All 2nd Quarter Bridge Dogs including:

10-027 Major Pulis
10-060 Grizzly McCabe / Dodson
12-009 Katie Kuechenmeister
12-085 Ruby Goldcamp
13-119 Reardon Kerr
15-001 Happy McDaniel
16-015 Layla Guilbault
16-025 Rubi Erickson
16-053 Finn Flynn
18-025 Emily Mancini
18-030 Bo Bear
Daisy Cotner
Maggie Davis
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Bailey Wenström-Lane

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

In Memory of **16-015 Layla Guilbault**
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In Memory of **18-030 Bo Bear**
 Mary and Bert Engstrom

In Memory of **15-068 Teddy McCabe / Dodson**
 Debbie and Rick Ball
 Kathy Blue
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 Teri and Jeff Guilbault
 Cara Holland and Jack Craven – **Teddy's sweet smile**
made our hearts soar
 Rebecca Kemak and Bob Cain
Pippi, Char, Lola and Murphy Korycki / Foust
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Lorraine Stein
 Liz Tataseo
 Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

In Memory of **Daisy Cotner**
 Debbie and Rick Ball
 Kathleen Donahue, D.O.

In Memory of **Goldie**, beloved Golden Retriever of Linda and John Kirby
 Lani and Mark Kirby

In Memory of **Halo Giannini**, a beautiful Golden and wonderful friend; we will miss her so much!
 Marta and Richard Balash

In Memory of **Lou Burke**, a great Golden friend and family member
 Annie VanHook

In Memory of **'Ted' Feller**, beloved Golden of Yani and Eric Feller; her sweet smile will be missed
 Elizabeth Cammarota and Joe Griffith

In Memory of **10-060 Grizzly McCabe / Dodson**
 Debbie and Rick Ball
 Karen and Phil Davis
 Kathleen Donahue, D.O.
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Pippi, Char, Lola and Murphy Korycki / Foust
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