

# THE GUARDIAN

APRIL 2025 | ISSUE 125

FREDDY #4839 & BARRY #4840



ARE YOU A *golden retriever* BELIEVER?



# THE GUARDIAN

APRIL 2025 | Issue 125

The Guardian is the official publication for Golden Rescue, a not-for-profit rescue and adoption service for Golden Retrievers.

**Editor:** Viive Tamm **Creative Director:** Betty James

The Guardian is the result of many people who have generously donated their time, expertise, design, and resources to its production.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the Guardian, please email [guardian@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:guardian@goldenrescue.ca). (Golden Rescue™ is a registered trademark of the Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service Inc.)

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## Golden Rescue Mission Statement

### SECOND CHANCES FOR GOLDENS IN NEED

Our mission is simple and straightforward because that's who we are and that's what we do. Our volunteer-run organization, led by a volunteer, working board of directors, is dedicated to ensuring that each and every rescued Golden receives exceptional care, regardless of the extent of their needs. We provide veterinary care, rehabilitation, behaviour training, and numerous other services to help our Golden Retrievers prepare for their second chance with a loving forever family. We also help educate people about the virtues of rescue as rescue is our favourite breed.

At the root of everything we do are our core values ~ integrity, kindness, compassion ~ all delivered without judgment. These are our guiding principles that drive our purpose and sustain our ability to continually wrap our arms around Golden Retrievers who so desperately need our help.



#### Mailing address:

PO Box 31026, Barrie, ON L4N 0B3

#### Courier address:

37 Mapleview Drive West, Box 31026  
Barrie, ON L4N 9H5



## On The Cover

**Freddy #4839 & Barry #4840** ~ Freddy & Barry are progressing well with training including leash training. They are just like a synchronized swimming team sometimes ~ they turn their heads at the same time, wag their tails the same way, yawn one after the other, and they do a lot of parallel walking with the same Fonzie-like bounce. We love the boys so much. They are so sweet and they love to cuddle...and so do we! **Catherine & Eric**

## Past, Present & Future: **HAPPY READING!**

Read past issues and stories any time! All the Guardian issues since 2013 are on our website and we will continue to add each issue from now on. So, if you'd like to read past issues, please click [HERE](#).



# LOUISE PENNY to the RESCUE...



## to talk about RAISING AWARENESS

Raising awareness is more than a mission ~ it's a lifeline for Golden in need. Our goal is to spread the word about Golden Rescue, ensuring that anyone who needs us knows we're here to help. Louise will tell you more [HERE](#)...

**Let's make a lifesaving impact together.**



## PHOTOS NEEDED

There's no time like the present to start asking for photos of your rescued Golden. We need great photos of your photogenic Golden in different seasons or celebrating various holidays for our calendar, newsletter, and website.

Print has very specific requirements so to increase your chances to be a calendar contender, your photo must be an original (high resolution/large format and no screen captures, scans or 'photos of photos'). Please don't make the photos smaller by saving smaller/compressing them (especially in email). For calendar months, landscape formats are preferred.

Please save your photos with your Golden's rescue name and number and send them to: [photos@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:photos@goldenrescue.ca)



## MEET &amp; GREET



## Bodhi #2777

Bodhi is great considering that he is an older boy now...around 12. Naturally, he is starting to feel his years. From the moment we saw Bodhi at the Toronto airport, we fell in love with this calm, gentle giant and he continues, every moment, to be the love of our life and the centre of our universe. As of May 10th, we will have been together for six glorious, fun-filled years. He has come so far since he first arrived in our home. He was anemic and 15 pounds underweight, had doggie nightmares daily, didn't wag his tail, never barked (still doesn't), and seemed to be overly quiet and slightly traumatized (had a terrible wound on his head), wouldn't go in or near the water, and didn't know what to do if you threw a ball or frisbee. It wasn't long before he gave us all his trust, learned English, commands, and expectations, didn't try to eat the cats, loved to go down to the lake to look for minnows, jumped in and out of the boat, and fetched slippers. You could tell he was so happy with himself to finally become a proud retriever. It took him very little time to adjust and fit into our lives. With hip dysplasia in both hips (which he had when we adopted him) and arthritis in his back end, he slips and falls sometimes and his body has weakened and isn't responding as well as it once did. He has certainly slowed down considerably and sleeps a lot, but he still loves to go for his walk every day and he knows every dog in the neighbourhood and every neighbour too, especially if they have treats! Bodhi lives to eat and 'treat' is the magic word. To say that Bodhi loves to eat is an understatement. Bodhi has a Buddha-like personality. He's a big dog at 100 pounds and could seem threatening to some. Instead, he is the calmest, quietest, gentlest, most patient, affectionate boy we have ever known. All that and he has a sense of humour too. Everyone he meets just loves Bodhi. No one can help it. He is so handsome and majestically regal and he really loves people, especially children. All of our dogs have been exceptional but there is something especially unique and extraordinary about Bodhi that touches everyone's heart and brings out the best in people. He is just simply, the best dog in the world and we have been the luckiest people we know that the universe chose us to be his forever parents. We couldn't love him more if we tried.

Barbara & Phil



**Dear Goldie:** Guess what happened on Valentine's Day? After the shockalights were enjoyed in the living room, everyone went to the dining room. All was good until I saw my Golden brother eating dark brown treats in a box on the coffee table. When I ran over, he browled at me and wouldn't share. My brother is eight and I'm the 2-year-old mischievous one. When the family returned, dad shouted at ME! "You've polished off the top layer! Bad boy!" Now everyone was looking doggers at me. Didn't get much sleep either when they kept waking me up to look at me. Next day with dad on poo patrol, my brother pooped out some real zingers ~ pink and blue foil-covered poo poos. What did I do wrong?  
**Not Me Bobbie**

**Dear Bobbie:** You did nothing wrong Bobbie, thanks in part to your brother for growling at you. There is a saying "If it could happen, one day it will happen". Chocolate should never be within reach as it is toxic to dogs. In cases like this,

one should seek vet advice and closely monitor for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, panting or hyperactivity.

**Dear Goldie:** Everyone knows the song "Na, na, na, na, don't touch that! Well, that pretty much describes me. I'm the best Golden ever ~ outstanding to look at, obedient, fantastic sleeper, great eater, friendly with other dogs, and no separation anxiety. However, I do have one issue I'm embarrassed to say. No one must ever, ever touch my paws. I don't know where this comes from. **Wary Gary**

**Dear Gary:** Instinctual protection of the paws is a common trait. Perhaps trust and acceptance of paw handling was never instilled at an early age. You may have had a painful experience years ago when nails were first trimmed and you remain overly defensive and suspicious, fearing pain. Your fear is likely well-founded and this trait should always be conveyed to groomers, dog sitters, walkers, children, and vet clinics. Focus on your many positive attributes. Rest assured that no Golden is perfect.

**Dear Goldie:** I'm an oldie Goldie at 13. As a pup, I was named after a PM (Pet Minister) called Diefenbarker but people have always just called me Dief. No doubt there are other lucky Goldens named Trudoug after our retired PM. When I was 11, I was surrendered by my owner who could no longer take care of me. Then lucky for me, Golden Rescue came into my life and I was introduced to my forever family.

**I was scared at first and hid behind a large chair until I felt brave. I don't hear well these days and struggle with the stairs. I can hop down the porch stairs but dad has to pick up my bum-bum to get back up them. I'm happy and eating well. I just hope Dad knows how much he means to me. **Deaf Dief****

**Dear Dief:** Your Dad loves you just as much as you love him. He has always been there for you. Trust me, you are and will always be, his everything!

**Dear Goldie:** Four years ago, I was a frightened rescue. But now with my forever family, I've become the ulti-mutt Golden. In fact, I think I'm quite pawsh. Mom and I both get our nails done regularly. Now, I wanna give a bark-out to you Goldie, for all your advice and guidance.  
**Diva Eva**

**Dear Eva:** Thank you, Eva! Your level of confidence is admirable. You have a strong sense of self which is so important. You have truly blossomed into a bright, engaged, and well-loved Golden, who now fully enjoys life to the fullest. Well done!



HEART  
HOME  
FAMILY



# A Tale of Two Tails

## Casey #2362 & Alli #2363

We chose June 1st, 2016 as their birthdays ~ the day we picked them up in Toronto. We will never forget how touching it was to pick them up at the airport, seeing them arrive in their crates. Our hearts were breaking ~ we were crying with joy. They were so good in the car on our two-day drive from Toronto to Halifax.

Sadly, we had to put Casey to sleep on August 15th. He had lost so much weight and would no longer eat. He was also finding it difficult to walk. Our vet said he was suffering and we couldn't let him be in pain. We cried so much as we hated to lose him. He was totally deaf and basically slept most of the day. He would have been 14 or 15, as we had him nine years. We gave him a very loving home and spoiled him rotten. He was our baby and we miss him dearly. We had him cremated with his blanket and stuffy and his ashes are sitting on the shelf. Once Alli passes, we will mix their ashes together so they can always be together.

Alli is slowly adjusting to being alone. They were never apart and this is very hard on her too. We still have Casey's bed in our bedroom and Alli will go smell it and have a short nap, then move to her own bed. I think it's comforting to her. His collar and leash are still hanging on the hook with Alli's ~ we don't have the heart to take them away.

Alli is now 12 or 13 and pretty healthy. She has a sebaceous cyst on her back. We had it tested and it is not cancerous. Our vet recommended we just leave it alone as it's not hurting her. She is always up on the couch with us and we cuddle and talk about Casey.



When we first got them, Alli became very sick, and after sending her case to the Atlantic Veterinary College in PEI, it was discovered she had ECOLI in her lungs and was not expected to live. After excellent care, she remarkably survived. The vet couldn't believe the commitment Golden Rescue had to these pups ~ she was totally amazed.

Alli still goes on her daily walks with Ray, not very far, but just enough to give her a little exercise and she loves it. We have a large fenced yard where they enjoyed the freedom to run and play. Surprisingly, they didn't take to water. We have a pool and often took them in to cool off but they swam directly over to the steps and out they went. We're guessing they were never exposed to water in Istanbul.

Alli and Casey were always together. We're so glad you didn't separate them. Looking back, they were like glue. Casey definitely was the alpha, always looking out for her. Being seniors, they had our full attention ~ they are our children.

Speaking of children, they were excellent with our grandchildren. We have seven and they live in three different provinces. The pups have always been showered with kisses and hugs from them. We never had to worry about their temperament ~ always gentle. Not once have they ever showed any aggression. We think they had such a bad start in life that they thrived on being loved and

cared for. They knew they were safe and would never experience the trauma they had living on the streets. We often think of how rough and scary it must have been for them. I'm sure they would not have survived if GR had not intervened.

They sure love their treats. No wonder they are a little on the heavy side. They get a treat every time they go out and have a pee. They have never been deprived of food at our place. We took them to puppy classes when we first got them and they learned basic commands and how to walk on a leash. They also picked up the English language very quickly. Casey is always so protective of Alli whenever another dog comes around. There is a lot of barking and posturing. He's guarding his lady.

We have travelled over the years and they went to a kennel where the dogs played all day together. It was just like a mini vacation for them too. We were always so anxious to get home and shower them with hugs and kisses. You might think we are crazy, but they are our life. Our life would have been so empty without them.

We can't thank Golden Rescue enough for allowing us to adopt Alli and Casey. They were a perfect match. We assure you Alli will be very much loved for her remaining years with us. She is a doll, as was Casey. They brought so much happiness into our lives. We highly recommend Golden Rescue to anyone thinking of adopting. These Golden Retrievers have been through hell and you can tell they are grateful to have been rescued. No dog should have to go through trauma like that. We are very lucky to have been blessed with these two beautiful pups who will forever have a very special place in our hearts as well as those of our families. Everyone who meets them quickly falls in love with them. You can't help it. Thank you again for providing us with this special gift of Alli and Casey. **Carol & Ray**

# GOLDEN ANGEL



Shadow #1342

Meet outstanding volunteers ~ golden angels with golden hearts!

## Laura-Lee Bowman

Laura-Lee loves Golden Retrievers and, as a result of having three goofballs from Golden Rescue, she wanted to give back by volunteering. In 2020, she joined the photography team; however, with the pandemic, there weren't many events so she decided to help in other areas as well. Since then, she has worn many hats by helping with home visits, transports, and volunteering at the picnic. More recently, she became the lead for our home visit team. The foster and placement teams keep her hopping, often with tight deadlines. When Laura-Lee heard about the CFIA ban, she welcomed a Cairo boy into her home just before the ban took place. She is impressed with how much Golden Rescue cares about all Golden Retrievers ~ domestic or international. Laura-Lee currently has four Golden Retrievers in her family ranging from eight months to eight years of age, which means there isn't much free or quiet time. She says she works hard to make sure

they have everything needed to be good citizens. Laura-Lee has her hands full but always finds time for anything she can do for Golden Retrievers. We are so fortunate to have Laura-Lee in the GR family. Thank you, Laura-Lee, for being such a strong advocate and ambassador for Golden Rescue ~ we are incredibly lucky and thankful to have you at our side.



LAURA-LEE WITH CURRIE, SAMMIE,  
MARLEY & #4818 JACKSON

## MEET & GREET

### Kayla #3314

Kayla came from a horrid backyard breeder and was mangy and close to shutting down when we first met her. This poor creature curled up in the back corner of our yard for the first few days and looked like she just wanted to die ~ it was so sad! Getting her into the house was a challenge and she initially found a spot behind the door where she would not move from. We patiently nursed Kayla back to health and confidence over the next several months. Kayla was afraid of Lloyd and we suspect she was ill-treated by a man in her previous life. It took about a year for Kayla's tail to come out from under her body. Today her tail sits high...wagging as she walks...and she is always happy to greet everyone she meets. Kayla is now a happy loving Golden who we cherish. What an amazing transformation and a true testament to love, patience, and kindness. We are so happy that Golden Rescue gave her a second chance and trusted us with her recovery.



### Marlene & Lloyd



# Is Your Dog A Jumper?

Is your dog greeting every guest to the house with two front paws to the chest? Imagine coming home from a long day at work and all you really want to do is relax. Unfortunately, your faithful yet unruly pet has other ideas and practically tackles you to the floor the moment you enter the door. Sound familiar? Well, if so, you are like many others whose precocious pooches have not yet learned to curb their jumping ways.

**WHY DO DOGS JUMP?** There are some dog breeds that are genetically built for jumping. They have a natural ability and inclination to jump. Dogs also jump because they learn it is rewarding. The owner carries the dog around in their arms or has them up on the couch, chairs, and bed, which in turn elevates the dog's status, making them think that is where they belong all of the time. The dog then assumes a more dominant role in the household, showing less respect towards its owner who is seen by them as subordinate and beneath them in status and importance in the household. So, when the dog is jumping up on people what they are really saying is, "Pay attention to me...hug me...love me...NOW!" in a rude and demanding manner ~ one they have come to expect that has been met with an immediate response. Dogs are quite used to routine and schedule and if you are routinely inviting them up on you for hugs or having them up on furniture, they get used to being elevated and in turn begin to demand it in the form of inappropriate behaviour like jumping or barking. They have learned from you that this is a sign of affection. And as soon as they see you, they will start jumping up to get your attention. Essentially, they are saying, "Look at me, look at me, pet me,

pet me!" because this is how they have learned to best get your attention.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Preventative options include avoiding creating the behaviour in the first place. You can do this by beginning your relationship with your new dog by NOT allowing them up on beds and couches or inviting them up constantly. Instead, get down on their level to play, just as we would with a toddler. We must let them BE a dog, as opposed to treating them like a teddy bear or princess who has the run of the house. Good manners are just as important for your dog as they are for you or your children. And instilling them in our dogs is our responsibility as pet owners.

**HOW DO YOU ELIMINATE THE JUMPING ONCE IT HAS BECOME ESTABLISHED?** The most important thing you must do is often the hardest for many owners and that is to IGNORE the behaviour when it happens. When your dog is demonstrating this kind of rude behaviour, you must immediately stop petting and talking to your dog or interacting with them in any way until they stop jumping. You ONLY give them love and attention when they are ON THE GROUND. This is often extremely tough for us humans because many times we don't even know that it's going on. The dog comes to our side while we're distracted and bumps into us or jumps up on us, invading our personal space, and we let them. We find our hand automatically and instinctively reaching out to the dog and petting them without even realizing we are doing it. And what this does is reward the dog's rude behaviour thus ensuring they will repeat it again and more frequently



BOWIE  
#4615

in the future. Instead, the first thing you have to do is recognize what rude behaviour is and stop encouraging it. And then start positively reinforcing good behaviour such as when the dog is NOT jumping up or climbing on furniture you can have your dog lie down at your feet on a comfy mat or dog bed and give them lots of love and pets for being good. Your dog will learn to love this reaction from you so much more than what they get when they are constantly harassing and jumping on you. Another great technique is to use your body language to send a message to your dog using the universal 'go away' signal where you stand up tall when your dog is jumping on you, keeping your arms crossed in front of you

*Continued on page 9...*



and your head and nose turned up and away from your dog. This tells your dog that you clearly want them to stop their unruly behaviour and that their jumping is unwelcome.

A professional would also be helpful as they can put the dog and owner through some quick behavioural training exercises where a specific practice exercise is created to eliminate your dog's unruly jumping, and from this they ultimately learn to sit and wait patiently for your attention and not jump and accost you in your personal space.

**By Peter Brown, Owner  
and Professional  
Dog Trainer at  
Alpha Paws**  
[www.alphapaws.com](http://www.alphapaws.com)



PETER WITH BRUNO #3496

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sun, Apr 13th**

Ottawa Farmers' Market  
Ottawa (ON)  
10 am – 3 pm

**Sat, Apr 26th**

Muskoka Maple Festival  
Huntsville (ON)  
9 am – 5 pm

**Sat, May 24th**

Sugarbush Winery  
Hillier (ON)  
10:30 am – 5 pm

**Sat, Jun 21st**

Wag-tastic Day  
(Winchester  
Glen Retirement  
Community)  
Oshawa (ON)  
Time TBD

**Sat, Jun 21st**

ScotFestBC  
Coquitlam (BC)  
10 am – 5 pm

**Sat, Sep 20th**

Golden Rescue Picnic  
Viamede Resort ~  
Woodview (ON)  
(near Peterborough)  
10 am – 5 pm

## Help us spread the GOLDEN word!

We need YOU ~ volunteers and visitors! If you are interested in volunteering with your Golden for a few hours, send an email to our events team at [events@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:events@goldenrescue.ca).

Indicate which event you would like to help with and the hours you are available.



LEVI  
#3232

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS, MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!**



## MEET & GREET

### Riley #3596

Riley is doing extremely well. He continues to be pure goofy joy and his smile brings a smile to everyone he meets...he really is our social butterfly. He was also our 'best boy' at our wedding in August and he was the absolute star of the show. He made sure to say hello to everyone on his way down the aisle and even rose for the bride on cue. His grass chomping, while we were signing the marriage licence, was hilariously distracting. We feel grateful for him every single day and often turn to each other and say "How did we get this boy? He's perfect!". He truly is the joy of our lives and we feel so lucky.

**Jessica & Graydon**



## SAVE THE DATE:

**FRIDAY,  
May 2nd to  
SUNDAY,  
May 4th**

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

## LOOKING FOR PRIZES:

If you would like to donate prizes/auction items (new only), please email: [sa@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:sa@goldenrescue.ca)

Here are a few suggestions for some things we'd be grateful to receive:

- Anything related to Goldens/dogs
- Theatre/sporting event tickets
- Rounds of golf or ski passes
- Gift cards
- Restaurant certificates
- Tickets for attractions
- Experiences (flights, hotels, resorts, hot-air ballooning, escape rooms, etc.)
- Jewelry & accessories
- Fitness classes/gym memberships
- Artwork, home décor & garden/outdoor items





MARLEY LOOKING FORWARD TO FLYING!



PILOT ANSON



PILOT MACIEJ



MARLEY WITH PILOT PAUL &amp; WINGMAN



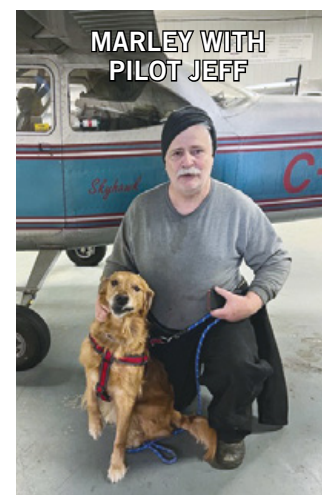
PILOT ROBERT

## These Angels DO have wings!

Canadian Wings of Rescue is a valued partner that has flown a number of Golden Retrievers great distances from regions where we didn't have volunteers. This fabulous organization is a 100% volunteer registered charity dedicated to transporting animals in need throughout Canada. They have flown Golden Retrievers from British Columbia, Manitoba, Northern Ontario, and New Brunswick so far. Without the help of these dedicated pilots, it would have been very difficult to rescue these Golden Retrievers and get them into our loving arms.

**Thank you, Canadian Wings of Rescue, for all your help and dedication.** We are proud to be considered one of your rescue partners and we are extraordinarily thankful for the important role you have played in rescuing needy Golden Retrievers.

Check out their [Facebook page](#) to see all their fabulous rescue stories.



MARLEY WITH PILOT JEFF



MARLEY WITH HOST LAUREN



## MEET & GREET



### Willow #3688

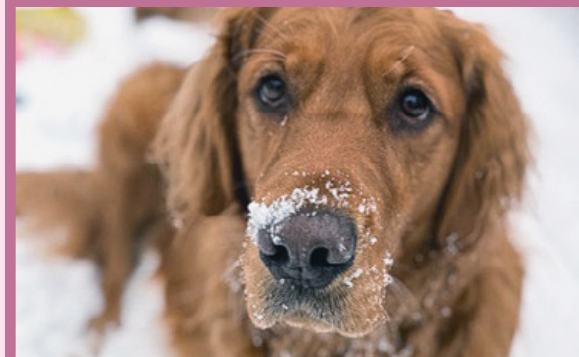
Willow is a happy, loving little girl. She is a real character, which she proves every time she grins at someone and she is a grinner! She was born with a congenital birth defect, which affects the way she swallows so she has to be fed very carefully. Despite this, she is very healthy and has grown to a good weight. She loves to hike and run and play with other dogs, which she could do all day long. Willow has been an amazing foster sister to the numerous fosters we have had. Somehow, she always seems to know exactly how to help them.

**Terri-Lynn**

### Emily #4737

Emily celebrated her 4th birthday on Valentine's Day and it marked two months since she arrived. She has effortlessly woven herself into the fabric of our family, bringing with her an abundance of joy, love, and a sprinkle of sass that keeps us on our toes. Emily is not just any ordinary dog ~ she has her own set of preferences that make her unique. For instance, there's the great toy basket debacle. While most dogs might be content to have their toys neatly stored away, Emily has a flair for the dramatic. When we attempt to tidy up her toys and return them to their rightful place, she stomps her paws in protest and snaps her mouth in what can only be described as a spirited conversation with us. With a frown on her forehead, she seems to say, "Excuse me, but I prefer my toys scattered about for optimal selection!" It's a sight so adorable that it's impossible not to laugh. One of the sweetest developments since Emily joined our family has been her bond with our other Golden, Bilbo. They have forged a sibling relationship that is heartwarming. Whether they're sharing meals, engaging in play or curling up for a well-deserved nap, they are inseparable. They truly embody the phrase "two peas in a pod" or perhaps more accurately "two Golden retrievers in a sunbeam". Emily has also taken on the role of our daughter's emotional support dog, providing comfort and companionship during both joyful and challenging times. The connection they share is beautiful. Emily's gentle nature and unwavering loyalty have made her a cherished friend to our daughter, which fills our hearts with gratitude. Now, let's

## MEET & GREET



talk about Emily's sleeping preferences. She has made it abundantly clear that she is a bed dog and not one for the floor. Even when we're away from home, she finds her way upstairs with Bilbo, dragging an impressive collection of toys along for good measure. At this rate, we're seriously considering converting our guest room into Emily's domain. After all, we're the ones getting kicked off the bed at night by our two furkids who seem to think they own the place! Their antics have infused our home with laughter and warmth, ensuring that no day is ever dull. Every moment spent with Emily is a reminder of the joy that comes from giving and receiving love. We are endlessly thankful that we were chosen to be her family and we cherish the opportunity to provide her with the warm and loving home she truly deserves. We are looking forward to many more adventures with our sweet, sassy Emily...our Golden ray of sunshine!

**Shari & Lugesan**



# Shop the Golden Rescue Store & LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

Come and visit our store here ~ great gifts for someone special or for yourself! We have so many items ~ and many can be personalized with your Golden.

## NEW THIS MONTH! KEYCHAIN



We would like to introduce you to our versatile Golden Rescue **keychain**. Not only can it serve as a key chain for everyday use, but it can also double as a chic fashion accessory ~ be it a purse pendant, handbag decoration or phone case embellishment. Its compact size, featuring a logo of 1.5" x 0.75" and a 1.2" ring, makes it easy to carry in any pocket. **\$16**

## NEW THIS MONTH! BOOKMARK



This **bookmark** is an excellent gift for that special book lover. Dual-sided with a tassel, they are lightweight. Measuring approximately 2 x 4", they are available in dark blue and dark pink. **\$15**

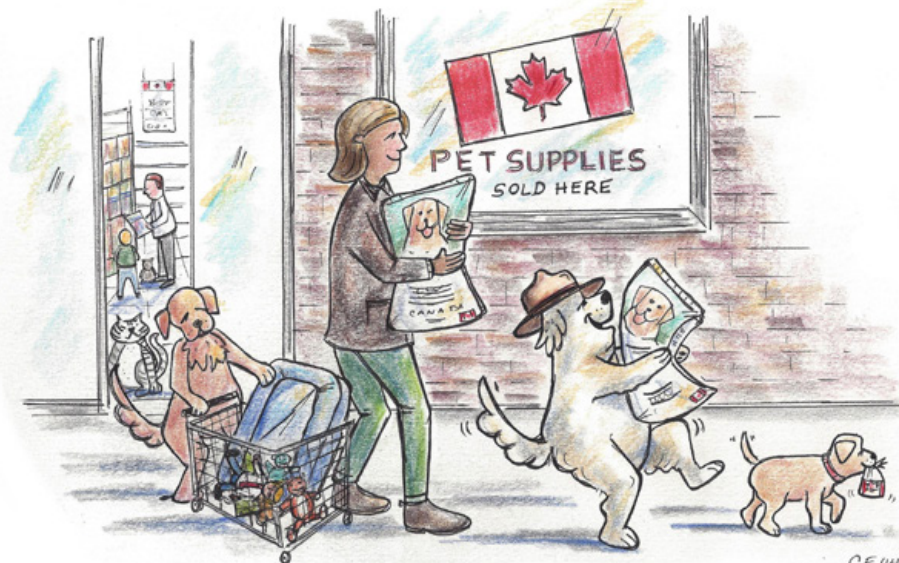
## SPECIAL PROMOTION...AGAIN THIS MONTH!



Spend \$50 & get a **FREE LED collar** (value: \$20) **—or—** spend \$100 & get a **FREE LED COLLAR & LEASH SET** (value: \$35).

*Batteries not included.*

## GOLDEN MOMENTS®



"Every kibble counts — so we're happy to help!"

Click **HERE** OR scan our QR code to shop the **GRRR8 Store!**



**HAPPY SHOPPING & THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# A Tail of Two Goldens

**“It was the best of times. It was the worst of times.”**

Dickens sure got it right when you think of this story of two Goldens ~ Blondie and Penelope. These beautiful girls were part of a huge rescue mission that started in Winnipeg (GR rescued 25 Goldens from a Manitoba backyard breeder). This was to be the ‘best of times’ for Blondie and Penelope as they were rescued from deplorable conditions. The ‘worst of times’ was when these girls escaped during a transport exchange in the Sudbury area. After such a long journey, rather than being safely housed with a foster family, these girls got out and found themselves in unfamiliar dangerous territory.

GR’s search and rescue team, led by Lynn Harding, sprang into action, to find the girls and get them to safety. Fortunately, Blondie stayed in the area and the live trap set up to catch them was ultimately successful in capturing Blondie but it took three nerve-racking, exhausting weeks.

Unfortunately, Penelope was another story. She fled the immediate area after being spooked by gun shots by hunters. It was confirmed that she had crossed the river and ended up in Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Lands. The volunteer team worked in conjunction with cottage owners and members of the nearby community to establish cameras and feeding stations but after two weeks they were convinced Penelope was no longer in the immediate area.

Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months and although the team had several sightings, they were unsuccessful getting Penelope into the live traps. The days became

bitterly cold and New Year’s fireworks didn’t help as they no doubt spooked Penelope and the team lost sight of her for days. Hope was starting to vanish but the team stayed vigilant. Drones, cameras, live traps, and a host of volunteers still weren’t enough to capture poor Penelope. Finally, after 149 days Penelope was secured on February 22nd to the hugest sigh of relief.

Without going into great detail, these amazing volunteers endured incredible hardships over the 149 days but this harrowing story had a happy ending thanks to the tireless efforts of so many.

**Special thanks to Mike Naponse and the entire Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Community. We are grateful for the generosity and timely actions of Terry and Jennifer Nootchtai.**

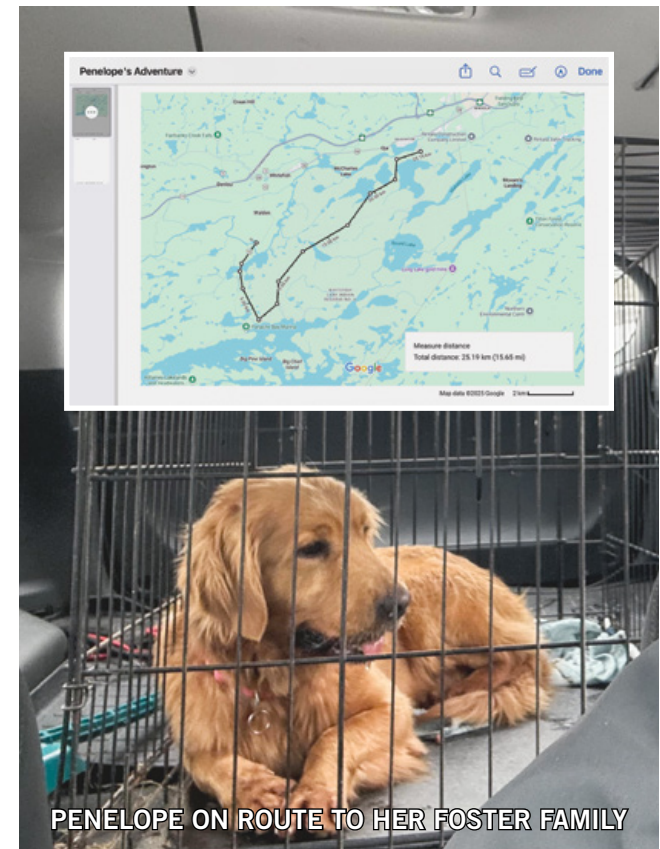
**The whole team of volunteers went over and above the call and we are so grateful to each and every one of them: Karen & Leeland Haslam, Fauve & Don Gravelle, Denis & Terri Pilon, Hannah Daggs-Chenier, Rob Hagerty (drone pilot), Judi Abrams (Spirit Heart Connection), and of course, Lynn Harding who spearheaded the entire rescue mission.**

**There are so many other individuals to thank also ~ too numerous to mention for all their guidance, support, equipment, materials, and sightings over a long haul of nearly five months. Penelope and Blondie are now safe with their foster families thanks to this dedicated community of caring individuals.**

**Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!**



**BLONDIE SECURED IN THE LIVE TRAP**



**PENELOPE ON ROUTE TO HER FOSTER FAMILY**



## MEET & GREET

### Kyla #4414

We did not see this coming. We have volunteered with Golden Rescue for over four years and one of the rewarding things we do is transport needy Golden Retrievers. Our own rescue story started this way. We received a request to transport a little girl to her foster. It was a Saturday morning and we immediately headed out to pick her up. We were told that this little treasure was just over a year old and had been dropped off at a pet store in terrible condition. She came from a puppy mill, lived in a barn, and since she did not breed, she was discarded. She was scared, shaking, extremely skittish, and bleeding around the neck. The wound was from a half-healed, infected dog bite and she was in need of immediate medical attention. Arrangements were made for us to take her to an emergency hospital so off we went. We waited almost four hours and I sat on the floor with her and she climbed up on my lap and stayed there the entire time. I could see how comfortable and safe she felt and I knew she could feel my love. It was late in the evening by the time we met the foster. We jokingly told him not to bond with her as we would be back to pick her up. Well, we had to move heaven and earth that evening. We filled out the Golden Rescue adoption application and did not sleep at all that night. We were so excited to hear back if we were able to adopt this little angel, waiting patiently for the morning call. We were given the thumbs up and we could not get there fast enough. Peter and I had another rescued

Golden, Lexy who was about to get a sister. We were so happy that this little angel was coming home with us and was going to meet her big sister. We arrived home with a hungry pup and our love story was about to begin. We named her Kyla and she seemed to like her name right away. Lexy and her took a few weeks to get fully acquainted with a few bumps along the way but once Lexy figured out that Kyla was not going anywhere, they soon became best friends and allies. That evening she got her first bowl of kibble with prime rib all to herself and she dove into it like she never had her own bowl of food before. She had some medical issues and she had major digestive issues and we were outside with her as many as 13 times a night. There were many trips to the vet and one by one all her issues were resolved. We now have an incredibly happy, beautiful, and healthy furbaby. Kyla gives us so much love. She comes in for a hug and cuddles and falls asleep in our arms. She also has such a funny side to her. She'll tease Lexy to play then runs away and hides only to be peeking back around the corner. She sleeps upside down all night without moving an inch. She wakes us up with a roar that you would think there was a lion in the house. Lexy looks at her as if to say, "Really?" We want to thank the GR team from the bottom of our hearts for our little Kyla. She is finally 'home'.

**Lois & Peter**





## Commemorate a Date!

Buy a commemorative date in the 2026 Calendar for your loved ones and support Golden Retrievers in need at the same time!

- Happy Birthday Shadow #1342
- In memory of Bailey #1212
- Happy Gotcha Day Kili #4171

Please email the date, message, and photo to [board@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:board@goldenrescue.ca) and send your etransfer to [treasurer@goldenrescue.ca](mailto:treasurer@goldenrescue.ca).

**Cost:** \$20 per date or \$50 if you'd like a small photo in the same month (limited spaces available so first-come...)

**DEADLINE: JULY 15TH**

(commemorative dates and photo submissions)

SHADOW #1342



## DON'T MISS OUT ON GOLDEN NEWS!

[CLICK HERE](#) TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

We send out regular Adoption Alerts and eblasts for News & Events...

### AND NOW, OUR FREE GUARDIAN!

Sign up by going to the website. In the top right-hand corner of each page, click on 'Join our mailing list' and follow the prompts. You will then always be 'in-the-know' about Golden news!

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



'Like' us on Facebook and 'Follow' us on Threads, Instagram, and Pinterest to stay up-to-date on what's happening with Golden Rescue. Visit our website and click on the icons to stay connected!



## BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT GOLDEN RESCUE FOSTERS

As we move into early spring, a time of year to plant the seeds that will blossom into beautiful flowers in the coming months, it is fitting that we are featuring Golden Rescue Fosters, who take Golden Retrievers in need and nurture them so they can blossom into their best doggy selves and for their future new families.

Once the intake team has completed the initial assessment of a new Golden, the next step is finding a foster family to take them in until their forever home is found. Sometimes this needs to happen quickly, which is why it is so important to have a lot of fosters in the network across Canada...and we are always working to grow the foster roster. As you read about in last month's newsletter, the intake team sends an eblast to the foster team, or in some cases, calls a local foster directly in an urgent situation.

Just like finding the right forever family, it's important for new Golden Retrievers to have the right foster family. Some are best without other pets in the house and some need people with time to help manage complex care...each case is unique. And sometimes we have little or no information, so the team makes the best decision with the information they have. As a foster, you have to understand what is best for you and the Golden. There is a foster and a future family for every Golden and the Golden Rescue team works hard to ensure finding the right fit.

The most important trait of a good foster is understanding that every Golden is different.

They each have different needs, challenges, and idiosyncrasies that aren't always apparent at intake. It takes patience, love, and flexibility to understand each new Golden. When welcoming a new foster Golden into a home, it is essential to be realistic and understand that what worked for another may not work for this one. Watching how they react, adjusting your approach, and remembering that you are giving them a safe, loving space can lead to remarkable changes in even a short period of time. For Golden Retrievers with health or behavioural issues, the Golden Rescue team has resources and experts to assist.

If you ask fosters what the best part of fostering is, most of them will say it's seeing a Golden learn 'how to be a dog'. Not all rescues come from bad situations. Some just need a second chance. Unfortunately, many have bad pasts and they have not learned the fundamentals or been given love and a safe haven. Things like walking on grass, using stairs, playing with toys or other dogs...these are some of the 'firsts' that our fosters experience with Golden Retrievers. It's a big reward; however, it's often a challenging task.

There are many reasons that people choose to foster with Golden Rescue. It's a great way to help Golden Retrievers in need, even if only for a short period of time. Sometimes that is the hardest part ~ looking at that beautiful, sweet Golden face and knowing they aren't staying forever! The term 'foster fail' is a funny one.

*Continued on page 18...*



It's the most successful failure...to fall in love with a Golden and give it a loving home. But in the end, it's all about the Golden and what is the best home for them. The happiness of both the Golden and their new family makes it all worth it. There is also a lot of support from the Golden Rescue team, including fostering mentors who guide fosters every step of the way (more about mentors in a future issue).

Whether it's a few days or a few weeks, the time that a Golden spends with their foster is a turning point for not just the Golden, but the volunteer who cares for them and watches them blossom into the Golden they were always meant to be. Seeing them learn that there is love (and in some cases, even more love) in the world before passing the baton to their forever family is truly a Golden dream.



ELLA  
#4796



WILLOW  
#3688



DARCY  
#4529

## A GOLDEN FUNNY

**HELLO...MY NAME IS CATHERINE** and I am interested in adopting a Golden from you. Any Golden will do because I love the breed and any age will be fine, although if you had one between 7-1/2 months and 9 months, that would be great. Any colour would also do although I do prefer the blondes, which I believe is the British strain. Also, any temperament will do although I do not like dogs that bark and because I have a cat, they will need to like cats. Other than that, I am easy.

**HELLO CATHERINE.** Thank you for your email. We use a matching process so we have done our best to find the perfect Golden for you. Scotty is an 8-month-old blonde (British strain), who rarely barks and likes cats. The only issue is that he is only comfortable in the home of British people and only responds to a British accent, particularly from either the Yorkshire or Manchester area. So, if you could send us documents proving you are British along with a recording of your voice so we can determine the accent, we can proceed with the adoption. Thank you for thinking to rescue!

## MEET & GREET



### Simba #2206

Simba is an 11-year-old wonder and he is happy, happy, happy while living his best life. He is still a very active boy despite his recent knee surgery. When we first got him, he was very skittish with people but now he is the unofficial greeter at our local park and he particularly likes older people and those with walkers or wheelchairs. Although we are in our early 80's, Simba gets us out of the house. While he was with GR, Simba was being treated for some issues but those issues were resolved but we would have adopted him no matter what. Simba also adores our neighbours and he sits patiently for them to finish breakfast so they can pet him. We are so lucky to have Simba in our lives and so grateful to GR for all they did to rescue Simba. We are enjoying growing older together.

**Liz & Barry**



# Welcome to the Golden Family

**Andarna #4878**

Adopted by Sophie &amp; Matthew

**Barney #4686**

Adopted by Andrew

**Benjamin #4879**

Adopted by Tania &amp; Todd

**Benson #4865**

Adopted by Eleanor

**Bentley #4872**

Adopted by Shelly &amp; Kevin

**Charlie #4881**

Adopted by Erin &amp; Jon

**Emmylou #4843**

Adopted by Diane &amp; Rod

**Freya #4873**

Adopted by Vivian &amp; Matthew

**Goldie #4780**

Adopted by Lindsay

**Jasper #4817**

Adopted by Joyce &amp; David

**Jasper #4791**

Adopted by Julie &amp; Steve

**Lainey #4866**

Adopted by Elizabeth &amp; George

**Molly #4870**

Adopted by Sonya &amp; Jack

**Ollie #4868**

Adopted by Jane &amp; Shawn

**Pete #4880**

Adopted by Catherine &amp; Joseph

**Taffy #4867**

Adopted by Diana

**Willow #4844**

Adopted by Catherine







LOOK BACK AND BE  
*grateful*

LOOK AHEAD AND BE  
*hopeful*

LOOK AROUND AND BE  
*helpful*

Help our future Goldens by becoming  
a monthly donor ~ any amount is  
appreciated ~ nothing is too big or too small.  
Or make a one-time donation.

Click [HERE](#)  
to donate!

KYLA #4414