

THE GUARDIAN



MAY 2025 | ISSUE 126

ISLA #3588



ARE YOU A *golden retriever* BELIEVER?

THE GUARDIAN

MAY 2025 | Issue 126

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. (*Golden Rescue™ is a registered trademark of the Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service Inc.*)

Please note that due to publishing timelines, there may be a waiting period before the acknowledgement of your contribution. We appreciate your patience and will do our utmost to be as prompt as possible. Articles/photos may be reproduced with the express permission of The Guardian team.

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 Goldens 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 Goldens who so desperately need our help.



Mailing address:
PO Box 31026, Barrie, ON L4N 0B3

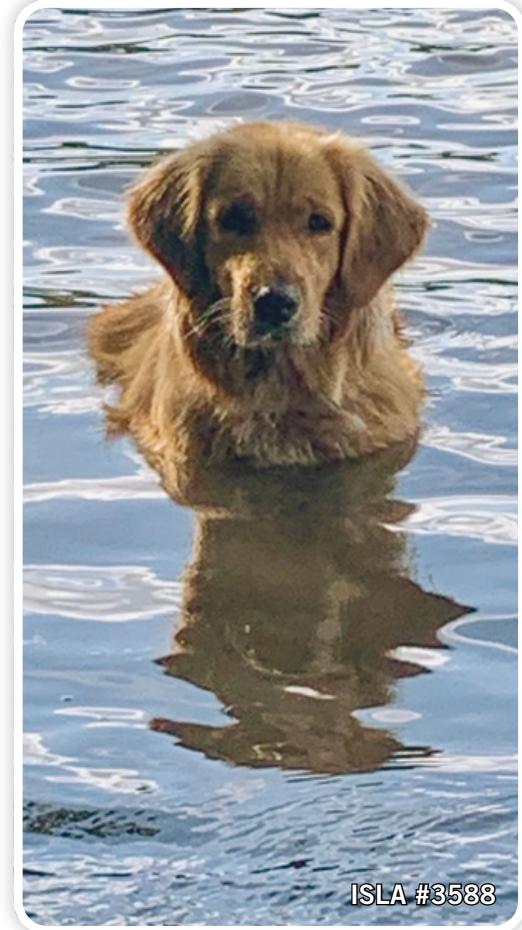
Courier address:
37 Mapleview Drive West, Box 31026
Barrie, ON L4N 9H5

On The Cover

Isla #3588

*Tropical the island breeze,
All of nature wild and free,
This is where I long to be,
La Isla Bonita*

And so she was...saved by the good people at Golden Rescue. Isla arrived from the streets of Cairo on June 26th 2021 to join my life in the mountains and the 500,000 lakes of Quebec. From day one, Isla has been a gentle, curious, and quirky Golden with amazing hazel eyes and the longest legs. Sharing my love of water and fun, she has become a great swimmer and an expert frisbee catcher. Meeting and loving many new furry friends, her life is full of adventures, including getting married to Kili #4171 at the 2024 Golden Rescue picnic. Isla is a gift in my life and this is where she longs to be. **Suzanne**



ISLA #3588

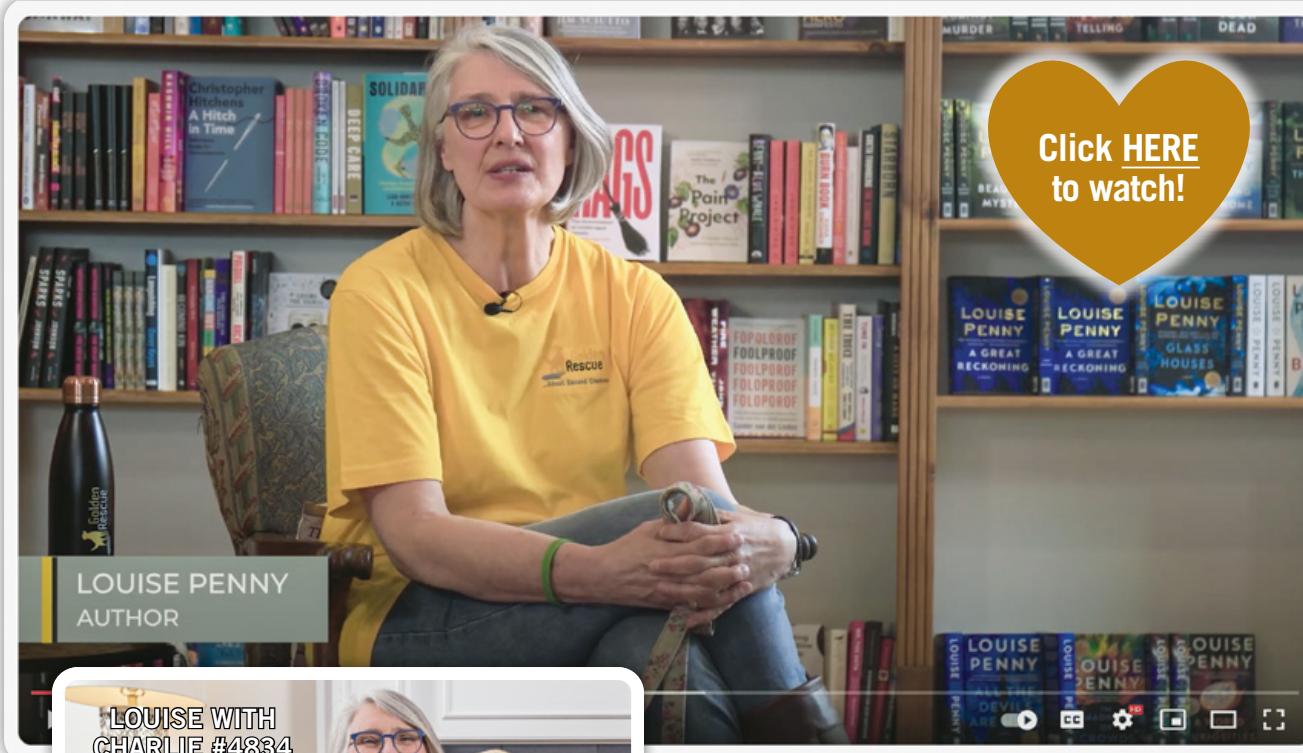
Past, Present & Future: HAPPY READING!

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](#).



RESCUE HOTLINE: 416-657-2445 | 1-866-712-8444

LOUISE PENNY to the RESCUE...



to talk about SPONSORING A GOLDEN

Sponsoring a Golden is a rewarding way to make a significant, hands-on impact on a Golden's life. Louise will tell you all about how you can help in a meaningful way [HERE](#).

Change a life...sponsor a Golden!



SAY CHEESE! 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 Goldens 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

Top 10 Toxins

Every year, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) compiles its data to examine what types of toxins pets commonly encounter. In 2024, APCC staff responded to more than 451,000 calls related to toxic substance exposures in animals, representing a nearly 4% increase in calls compared to the previous year.

See the list below of the top 10 pet toxins of 2024 and be sure to keep the following items secure and out of paws' reach!

1 Over-the-counter (OTC) medications, including ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cold and flu medicines, vitamins and supplements, and joint rubs, remain at number one with 16.5% of all exposures. These items are often found in homes and in all sorts of hiding places like backpacks and purses. People may also accidentally drop their vitamins and supplements or leave bottles of pain medications where pets can access them.

2 Human food and drinks remain at number two, accounting for 16.1% of all exposures last year. Protein drinks and bars, xylitol gums, grapes, raisins, onions, and garlic make up the largest part of this group. Be vigilant about many human foods or drinks that may be lying around or in an open garbage bin.

3 Human prescription medications continue to rank third with heart medications, antidepressants, and ADHD medications as the most commonly involved.

Make sure your prescription medications and OTC medications are in closed cabinets that snooping noses cannot reach.

4 Chocolate keeps slowly creeping up the list, making up 13.6% of exposures encountered in 2024. Remember, dogs don't have an 'off button' when it comes to chocolate and can easily eat an entire pan of brownies.

5 Veterinary products remained at number five, accounting for 8.6% of exposures in 2024. Many of these are ingestions of flavored chewable tablets or soft chews, including calming chews. These forms make it easy to administer but greatly increase the risk of ingestion of the whole container. It's best to keep these locked away.

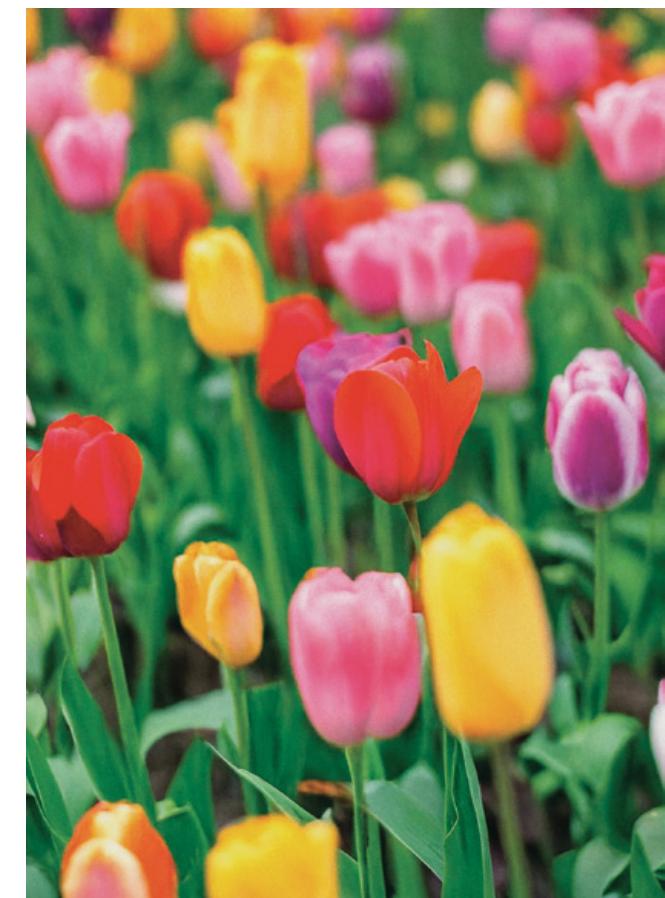
6 Plants and fungi accounted for 8.1% of exposures last year. Both indoor and outdoor plants can cause a threat to our four-legged friends, so make sure to check out the list of toxic and non-toxic plants before bringing a new plant into your home or garden.

7 Rodenticides have moved up one spot with 7% of exposures. Very common in the winter months, rodenticides can be just as appealing to dogs and cats as they are to rodents. Often, many pets are exposed when rodents move the blocks from their original locations. If your pet ingests rodenticide, it can cause bleeding, kidney failure, seizures or even death.

8 Household products dropped one spot but still made up 6.5% of exposures, with deoxidizers (the packets often found in jerky and soft treats packaging) and batteries as the most common ingestions.

9 Insecticides remain at number nine with 3.7% of all exposures. Reading labels about correct dilution and putting bags away after use can reduce the risk of accidental ingestion.

10 Recreational drugs remains in the top 10 list accounting for 2.1% of exposures last year. While THC exposures are dropping, hallucinogenic mushrooms (psilocybin and muscarine) exposures are rising.





THANK YOU...FROM THE CARE TEAM!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an update and photos to our Care Team. We got a tremendous response so please don't be disappointed if your story doesn't make it into the Guardian or social media. It is not a reflection of what you sent us...it's that we got an overwhelming number of incredible second chance stories. Some of your amazing photos might also be featured in the 2026 calendar...you never know. It is fabulous to see what an impact you've had on your Goldens and what a treasure your Goldens are or have become.

Please ensure that you are signed up to our mailing list [HERE](#) so you don't miss any of these amazing stories ~ one of them might be yours!

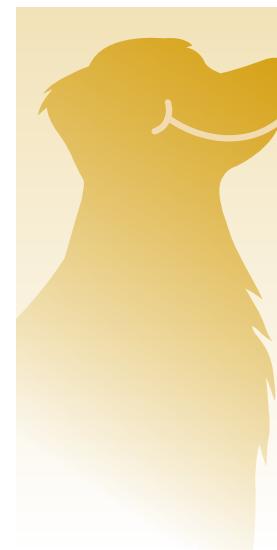
See you next year!

WOOF, WOOF...THE CARE TEAM

GOLDEN MOMENTS[©]



"She's known as TANK'S MOM, and I'm BELLA'S MOM. Trust me, it's just easier that way."



GOLDEN SMILE

A golden retriever applies for a job, passes the written test, and is scheduled for an interview. At the interview, the interviewer asks, "Can you speak any foreign languages?"

The golden retriever replies, "Meow."

MEET & GREET

Lilypad #4126

It's hard to believe it's almost been three years since we brought Lilypad home. She has truly made us a family and brings us joy and love every single day. When we first picked up Lily from the airport, she was silly, loving, and kind; however, nothing could have prepared us for how rewarding it would be to watch her become increasingly affectionate, cuddly, and open. We describe her as having a 'lust for life' and she's known in our neighbourhood as being the happiest and silliest girl around, making friends with everyone she meets (even cats). Like many Goldens, Lily absolutely loves going for long walks, watching squirrels, getting tummy rubs, playing with other dogs (especially puppies), and making people smile. She'll even pull out her party trick doing somersaults at the dog park to make people laugh. Coming into Canada, Lilypad has embraced every season to the fullest. In the summer, she loves going on hikes, relaxing in the park, and making trips to the cottage where she swims off the dock. In the fall, Lily loves going on road trips to see fall foliage and visiting pumpkin patches and apple orchards. She loves playing in the snow in the winter, but has to wear boots with suspenders to keep the snow and salt from irritating her paws. Even with her boots on, Lily gets zoomies, running through the snow at the dog park. Lastly, in the spring, she's overjoyed with the return of the squirrels and all the new smells. We are truly lucky with how well-behaved Lily is and how seamlessly she fit into our family. She really does make every day special. We can't wait to continue to experience life's joys and adventures by her side.

Laura & Dante



GOLDEN ANGEL



Meet outstanding volunteers ~ golden angels with golden hearts!

Sue Montgomery

Sue has been an invaluable volunteer for eight years. She and her husband Don are full-on rescue advocates and currently have three rescues ~ Buddy, an 8-year-old Golden who is blind, Koffee, a springer/cockers mix who is 10, and Miss Frankie #4442, a sweet Golden girl from Istanbul who is between 8 and 10 years of age. They cannot imagine life without their rescues. Sue has always been a favoured airport greeter and she arranges transports and has fostered many Goldens. Sue will step up to help whenever and wherever there is a need and currently she is our back-up Transport Coordinator, a position she has held for seven years. Sue loves talking to people about Golden Rescue and, as such, participates at many events where she promotes us to the moon and back. The feeling is mutual as we are Sue's biggest fans. We are so pleased to have Sue at our side. Thank you for all you do ~ your dedication is off the charts!



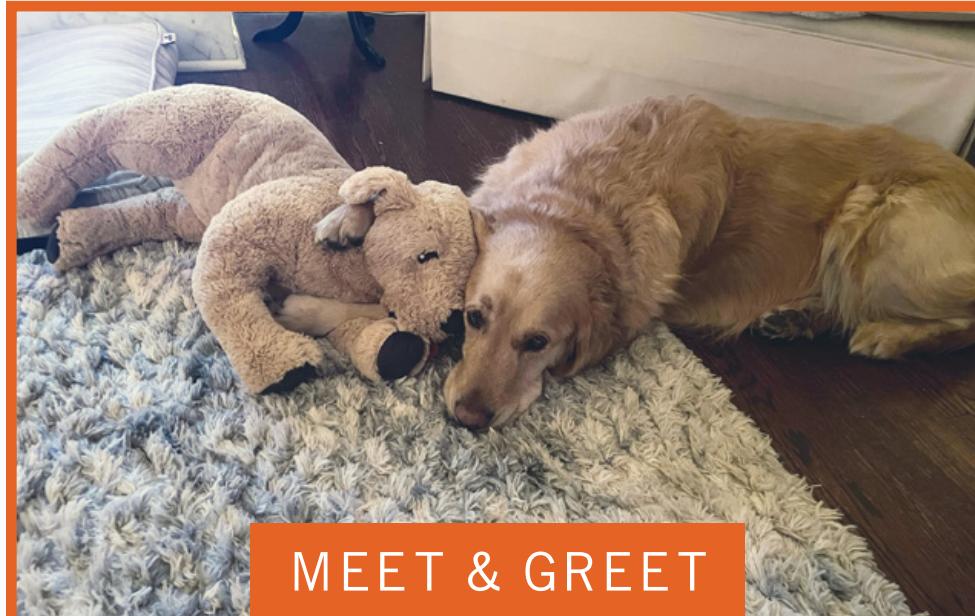
MEET & GREET



Sassy #3210

Her Royal Highness, Queen Sassy I, is growing older gracefully. True to her name, her sassy character is apparent every day. If she is not in the mood to do whatever we are asking her, she will give us her famous condescending look and let us know that we can talk to her tail. She spends her days on her favourite activities ~ sun bathing, napping/snoring, and scoring treats from family members or visitors. No one is immune to her puppy eyes manipulation. She brings so much joy to our lives and we could not imagine our life without her. During the long months of Covid lockdowns, she helped keep us sane. Thank you, Golden Rescue, for making this perfect match!

Elie & Gabriela



MEET & GREET

Rio #3447

Rio is AMAAAAZZZING! He is such a beloved part of our family. He comes with us everywhere and when he can't, he patiently waits for us at the door. He never barks unless someone rings the doorbell and then he lets anyone and everyone in but doesn't like when they leave. He is wonderful on leash; however, that took a bit of work as he practically tore our rotator cuffs off when he first arrived. Now, he walks right beside us. He will never be a dog's dog ~ he will still lunge at another dog if they come too close so we have different routes for our walks. We've tried working with him on socialization with other dogs but it's just not in the cards and that's fine by us. He is the best thing that ever came into our world. Thank you for giving us beautiful Rio. He has brought comfort through tears and grief, companionship in times of aloneness, and laughter every single day. But most of all, he is just pure love.

Erica, Mike, Skye & Vienna



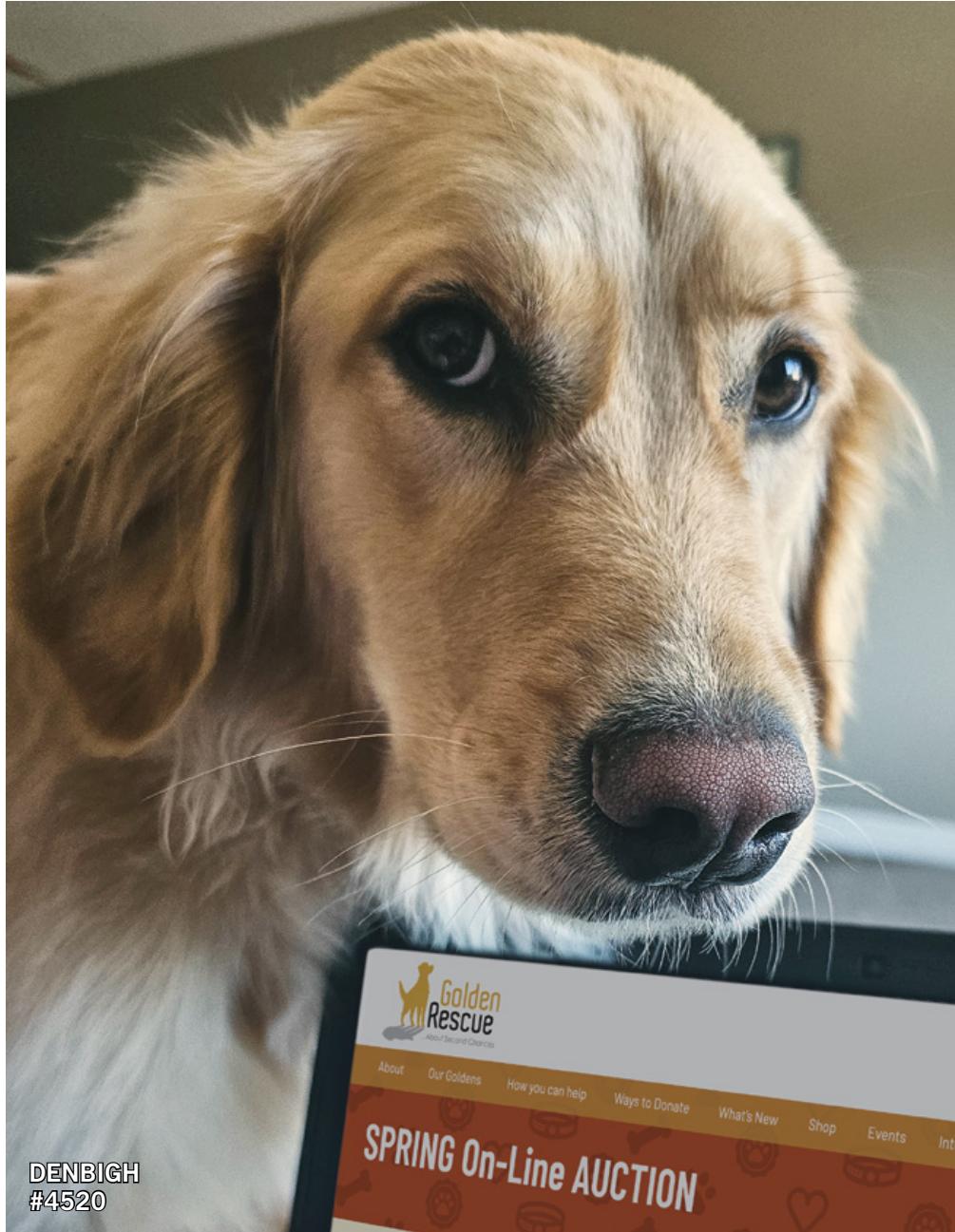
MEET & GREET

Finn #3683 & Abbie #4029

Abbie and Finn are great. We love them and they love each other. When Finn came to us from Istanbul, he was at least 40 lbs overweight, and we have gotten him to a healthy weight now. Once he was settled, we knew he needed a buddy. Golden Rescue once again came to our rescue and our little princess/total weirdo Abbie came into our lives. Finn is our gentle giant ~ he is sweet and docile, unless a squirrel has the nerve to run across our property or a plane or goose has the audacity to fly over our house. Abbie is a beautiful little clown ~ she loves lying on her back getting her hindquarters scratched and watching The Girl with the Dogs on YouTube. They love each other and they are our joy! We are so grateful to Golden Rescue and their volunteers for their hard work and dedication to giving Goldens in need a second chance and working to convince the CFIA to #amendtheban so that reputable rescue organizations can resume international adoptions.

Gillian & Francis





GOLDEN RESCUE'S

SPRING ON-LINE AUCTION

FRIDAY, MAY 2nd ~ 9am
to SUNDAY, MAY 4th ~ 9pm

It's a fantastic opportunity to have fun,
buy amazing prizes & gifts,
and make a positive impact
on the lives of Goldens in need!

Click HERE for the auction!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT & ENJOY!

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!



MEET & GREET

Daisy #2910

Daisy is doing amazingly well and she just celebrated her 7th birthday. Daisy has blossomed into the sweetest girl. She has taken on the role of executive assistant of the house, ensuring her bowl is always full, adequate treats are available, walk times are never missed, and everyone is in bed at a reasonable time. Everybody falls in love with her when they meet her and I'm constantly asked when I'm going on vacation so they can look after her. She still has the self-confidence and street smarts from her days in Turkey. It took her a while to understand what 'her' yard was and not the whole neighbourhood. She loves meeting new people and I'm quite convinced she would jump into any car if invited. But she never lets us out of her sight, so she'd probably miss us. It was a meant-to-be to have Daisy in our lives.

Leah



Dear Goldie: Living my best life and couldn't be happier! My dad has started to do the jig. You know, where he delivers boxes and bags all over town and I get to sit in the front pawssenger seat, staring straight ahead, all strapped in of course. I'm feeling like royalty, really special. I'm a big boy and get lots of stares, smiles, and smells (meals I think). I know I'm in training and it's just a matter of time before I navigate to the door with bags too. I have balls that I retrieve all the time, so I know I can do bags. Dash

Dear Dash: The good news for you is that there are no specific laws that prohibit dogs in food delivery cars as long as the food driver ensures that their dog is secure and that the dog and food are never in close proximity. Now, although you won't be able to directly help out with food delivery, it may be a means of relieving separation anxiety issues.

Dear Goldie: We met with the Petrinarian this week for my check up. When finished, he said

to mom "Keith has some bad teeth". Mom looked at me and said "You don't have any problem devouring your food, do you sweetie?" I flashed my big smile and wagged both my bum and tail excitedly. "See he's fine" mom said. As we left, the vet said, "You'll notice that he likely chews on one side." Oh no, my best kept secret was about to be revealed. Sure enough, while I ate my dinner that night, mom stared at me in disbelief. My head was visibly tipped to the right. And that's cuz it hurts too much to shew on the left. Now mom has me booked for a return visit. Do I really have to go? Keith

Dear Keith: Yes, it is so important to have a regular dental check-up to avoid gingivitis, periodontal disease, and bad breath. In your case, your pain may be the result of tooth decay and/or tooth loss. Canine dental disease can also lead to other serious issues affecting other organs of the body. Go back for your repeat visit. You'll be fine...in fact, you'll be better.

Dear Goldie: Who doesn't wuv an Annie Lenlynx song. "Sweet dreams are made of these. Travel the world and the seven seas. Everybody's lookin for chewies!" And that's because now when mom and I shop at our local pet store, she hurries right by my treasured, best-loved dental chews. I stop, sit in statue mode, and stare at them but she says "No... they're not made here." I'm confused ~ every week she has always bought me my all-time favourite chewies. Why isn't she buying them any more? Puzzled Russell

Dear Russell: Rest assured that your mom is doing the right thing by changing her regular shopping habits. Very soon you will both discover that Canada makes the same or even better chewies than those made elsewhere. Not to worry...change is good...and delicious.

Dear Goldie: Every year when spring comes, I have to take regular medication to ward off tickity-boos. Dad always says, "Gary, we can't have you as a host". But dad, aren't you my host? I don't get it. Why can't he live with me as a friend. He's no trouble. I don't even see him and he doesn't eat my treats. Do I really need to take these meds? Wary Gary

Dear Gary: Yes Gary, you do because ticks can carry and transmit diseases, including the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Ticks become active at temperatures of four degrees Celsius or higher usually from March to November. If you are out and about in tall grass, under decks or in shady, leafy, wooded areas, this is where ticks are waiting to attach to you. Tick-borne illnesses can also be spread to humans. Listen to your dad and take your meds.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, May 3rd
Ottawa Street Farmers Market
Hamilton (ON)
8 am – 2 pm

Sat, May 24th
Carp Farmers Market
Carp (ON)
8 am – 1 pm

Sat, May 24th
Sugarbush Winery
Hillier (ON)
10:30 am – 5 pm

Sat, Jun 21st
Wag-tastic Day
(WinchesterGlen Retirement Community)
Oshawa (ON)
10 am – 3 pm

Sat, Jun 21st
ScotFestBC
Coquitlam (BC)
10 am – 5 pm

Sat, Sep 20th
Golden Rescue Picnic
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.

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



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

GOLDEN: You are my life.
I will do anything for you.

HUMAN: Drop the ball.

GOLDEN: Nope.



MEET & GREET



Ranger #4149

It's me Ranger. I'm 3.5 and I don't mind saying that I'm such an amazing family member (no modesty here, right?). I am everyone's favourite. My forever family is my fourth family so even though I was polite, I kept my distance for a while. Not anymore ~ now I love to snuggle. I get on the couch and hook my leg or paw over any of the humans and I squish right into them. After my evening walk, I am all about Netflix and couch snoozles. I LOVE food. I am a stealthy counter-surfer and have managed to get peanut butter toast, a burrito, chicken and rice, and a whole cucumber. I plot all day on ways to distract my humans so I can get some of their food. I hear "Ranger, OFF!" a lot but I am good at selective hearing. Don't worry though...my weight is very healthy. I love to go for walks and on the weekends, I go off-leash on these great trails. I am such a good listener with my dad but with the females in my family, I don't always come when they call. I don't mind the snow and I like to eat it sometimes. Now that I'm Canadian (I came from Egypt), I want to look like Drake, so I have a puffer coat to wear in the cold. I look so cool!

Last summer, my uncles took me out on a paddle board, so I wore my lifejacket and tried it out. I'm a bit of a nervous swimmer. I prefer to run in and out of the water and play in the shallow part. I have been on a few long car rides to watch my sister's flag football tournaments and I actually got to meet Swoop, the Philadelphia Eagles mascot but my family forgot to take my picture of me with him. You need to knock them down to a 9/10 overall rating for that one.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT GOLDEN RESCUE SUPPORTING VETERINARIANS



Next on our behind-the-scenes tour of Golden Rescue, we are taking a trip to the park. At least, that's what we'll tell the Goldens! Fortunately for them, Golden Rescue has a wonderful group of supporting veterinarians and once the Goldens meet one of our vets, there is no longer any need to pretend we are going anywhere but to the clinic for

some loving care. Across Canada, these dedicated professionals give their expertise to ensure the best new start for our Goldens. Golden Rescue always ensures that pups are given the best possible chance at a new life and a trip to the vet is the next natural stop in the process.

Medical care for rescued Goldens can be a complex situation, depending on the circumstances surrounding their rescue. Sometimes it's just routine vaccinations and/or spaying and neutering and the Golden is on their way. Other times there are serious health issues that could even be life-threatening. As one vet put it, "the issues are all over the map". Some who arrive are anxious, undernourished or obese or have skin issues from poor health or mobility issues. As with their human counterparts, anxiety in dogs has exploded in the post-COVID world. We are always consulting with our supporting vets throughout the rescue journey to ensure our Goldens are nursed back to health and all of their needs are addressed. Many of our vets are impressed with the level of care that Golden Rescue demands.

So, what advice for families of rescued Goldens would the vets give? Have fun with them! They are goofy and fun and we can learn from their joy in just living. From a health perspective, you want to ensure they are receiving good nutrition (and what that means may be different depending on health issues), that their weight is under control, and many middle-aged Goldens benefit from starting joint supplements around four to six years of age. Remember that Goldens are made to be active so keep them moving...every day!

As with all medical professionals across the country, veterinarians are incredibly busy, particularly as pet ownership has grown in recent years. These vets help Golden Rescue because they love what they do and want to use their talents to help the rescue community. The human-animal bond is strong and is a powerful motivator in giving back. We are so grateful to have these professionals working with us, and none are more grateful than our Golden friends (and don't worry, there's a little treat after that needle).



MEET & GREET

Dory #3225 & Dash #4022

Dory & Dash are doing well. At any given moment, they are having a full-on play session wrestling around together. Dory (aka the Egyptian Princess) is a gentle, quiet, and sweet soul. She loves people, going for walks, and in the summer, she likes sitting outside keeping a watchful eye over our harbour. Dash (aka the Attack) is the life of the party and wants to play and run all day. He's never far from Dory or us though. He's exceptionally happy and just wants to please everyone.

Amber & Chris



Commemorate a Date!

Buy a commemorative date in the 2026 Calendar for your loved ones and support Goldens 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 and send your etransfer to 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)

To ensure we produce a high-quality calendar, the feature month photos are not for sale; however, you are welcome to submit high-resolution photos to photos@goldenrescue.ca for consideration. Also, when you purchase a commemorative date, it does not include purchase of the actual calendars. The calendars will go on sale in September in the general store and at the picnic.

Welcome to the Golden Family

Baloo #4860

Adopted by Kathryn & Peter

Brandi #4907

Adopted by Jacky & Ian

Cami #4864

Adopted by Lydie & Paul

George #4869

Adopted by Joanne & Vinko

Jax #4894

Adopted by Bryan & Chad

Josey #4884

Adopted by Meghan

Kaya #4913

Adopted by Patrizia & Alan

Lucky #4877

Adopted by Amber & Spencer

Lucky #4891

Adopted by Roberta & Lanny

Lucy #4901

Adopted by Jenn & Frank

Maggie #4871

Adopted by Catherine

Marley #4887

Adopted by Joanne & Stephen

Marty #4900

Adopted by Katherine & Ron

Mia #4890

Adopted by Cathy & Rick

Miley #4883

Adopted by Sarah & Devin

Mindy #4848 & Misha #4849

Adopted by Linda & Alex

Moqui #4886

Adopted by Sue

Paxton #4898

Adopted by Merry

Sam #4875

Adopted by Debbie & Bill

Samson #4882

Adopted by Karen & Kevin

Sasha #4893

Adopted by Angela & Martin

Teddy #4862

Adopted by Christine & Donald

Zara #4885

Adopted by Marjolaine



Welcome to the Golden Family



MILEY
#4883



ZARA
#4885



MOQUI
#4886



MARLEY
#4887



MAI
#4890



LUCKY
#4891



JAX
#4894



MARTY
#4900



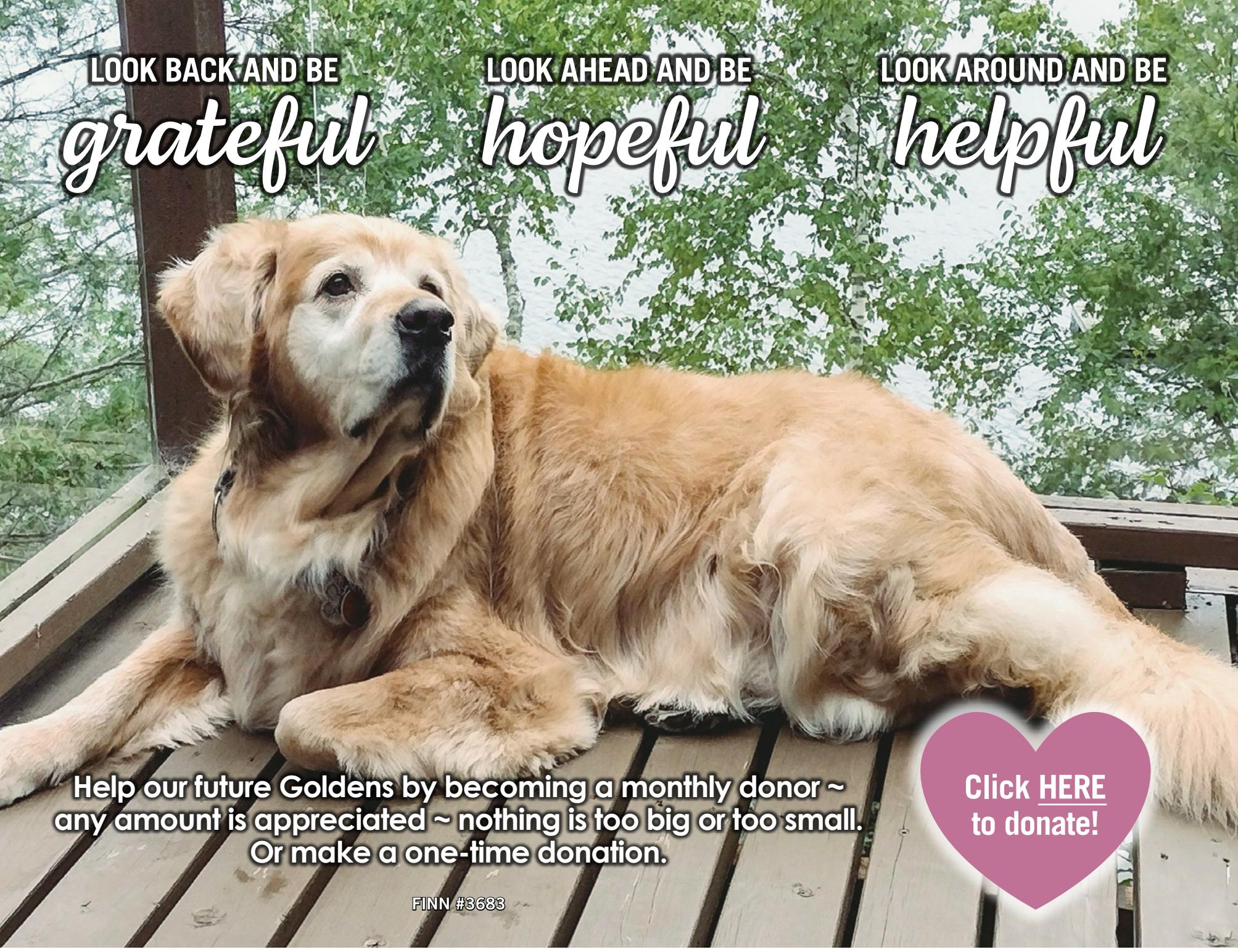
LUCY
#4901

♥ FINDING FOREVER FAMILIES ♥

Life isn't about WAITING
FOR THE STORM TO PASS.
It's about LEARNING TO
DANCE IN THE RAIN.



COACH
#3843



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.

FINN #3683



Click [HERE](#)
to donate!