

THE GUARDIAN

FEBRUARY 2026 | ISSUE 135

OAKLEE #4795



ARE YOU A *golden retriever* BELIEVER?



THE GUARDIAN

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

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If you have any comments or suggestions for the Guardian, please email guardian@goldenrescue.ca.

All the Guardian issues since 2013 are on our website. If you'd like to read past issues, please click [HERE](#).

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GOLDEN RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT

SECOND CHANCES FOR GOLDENS IN NEED

Our comprehensively volunteer-run organization is dedicated to ensuring 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.

Our core values are our guiding principles ~ integrity, kindness, compassion ~ delivered without judgment.

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

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



ON THE COVER

Oaklee #4795 ~ You may remember Penelope, from the 5-month search and rescue operation last winter. Well, she has a new name ~ Oaklee. Oaklee has traded looping a kilometre long circuit on indigenous lands in the brutal winter for the safety and security of a warm home. She was missing for 139 days and Golden Rescue never gave up on her search and rescue efforts. She had the most amazing team dedicated to her survival even when the odds were against her. Oaklee now has human parents, Golden Rescue siblings (Cello #2556, Muppet #2607, and Kaladar #4472), toys and treats, and the love she so desperately needed. Her siblings have taught her how to be a Golden and she is loving every moment of it. Every day we have seen progress, every week we have witnessed milestones, and every month we knew she was transforming before our very eyes.

Her recall is excellent from the fenced yard. She has mastered a few commands, has gone on a family vacation,

and can walk off property with appropriate security measures. Oaklee enjoyed the Golden Rescue picnic this year from her cabin and a visit to the lake but by next year, she will be participating in games and visiting friends. We thank Golden Rescue every day for believing in this little girl's future. **Lynn & Andrew**



SHADOW #1342



DON'T MISS OUT ON GOLDEN NEWS!

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

AND NOW, OUR FREE GUARDIAN!

To stay 'in-the-know' about Golden news

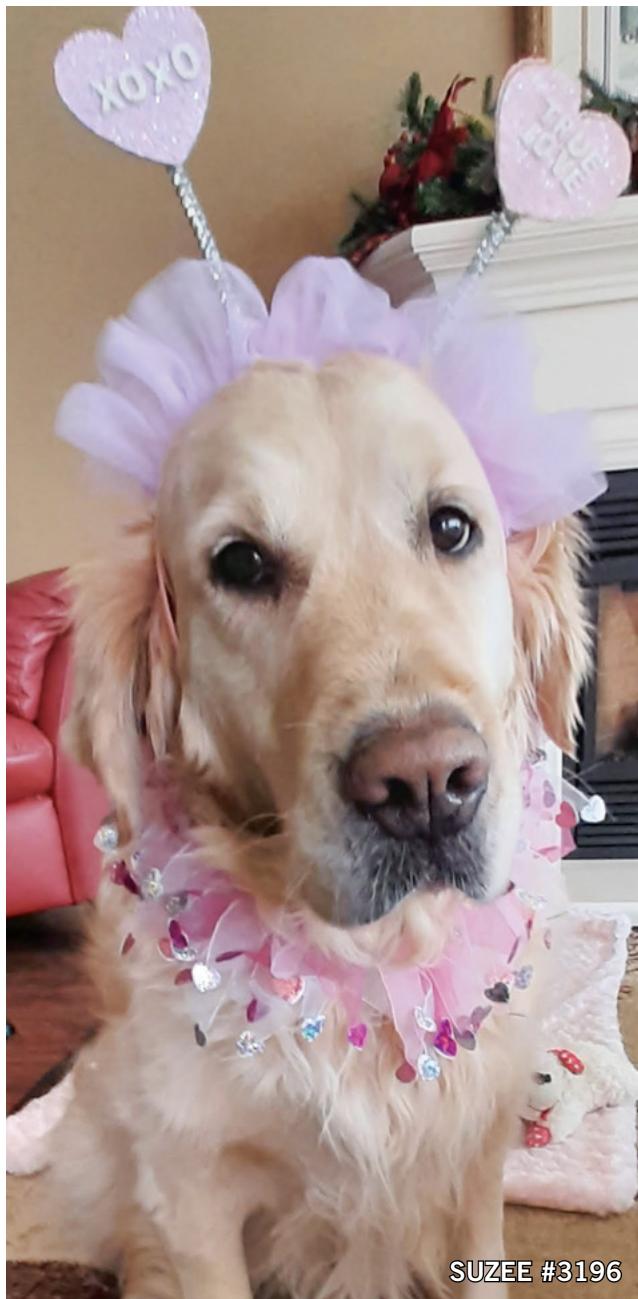
CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

or sign up by going to our [website](#) (click on 'Join our mailing list' on the top right-hand corner and follow the prompts).

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. Click on the icons here (or on our website) to stay connected!



WE CHEWS YOU

Thank you for being the best humans and for all the treats. You're our favourite people to follow from room to room! We love you very much!

Happy Valentine's Day



Golden Rescue's Scholarship for Canine Oncology Research

For some time, the Golden Rescue board has been considering how we could meaningfully show our deep appreciation to the veterinary community. Our supporting vets have literally made it possible for us to continue the expensive work of rescue for over 30 years by providing free services and discounts and generally being advocates for rescue. By way of paying-it-forward and to help promote animal welfare, we have created a scholarship for veterinary students at the Ontario Veterinary College (University of Guelph). The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded each year for five years to students working in research for canine oncology. Cancer is the number one killer of Golden Retrievers with over 60% of our beloved Goldens succumbing to this horrible disease. Our gift will help advance innovative treatments, improve patient care, and strengthen the foundation of veterinary oncology.

We would like to thank the Dean of the Ontario Veterinary College, Dr. Jeff Wichtel and our Golden Rescue Board Member, Dr. Patty Lechten, for guiding us through the process to make this scholarship possible.

Our supporting vets can be found [HERE](#) and we hope you will join us in thanking them for their invaluable support!

December 18, 2025

Golden Rescue
c/o Patricia Lechten
PO Box 31026
Barrie ON L4N 0B3

Dear Dr. Lechten,

A heartfelt thank you from all of us at the Ontario Veterinary College.

We are deeply grateful for Golden Rescue's generous gift to establish the Canadian Golden Rescue Scholarship in Oncology Research. Your support directly empowers students whose graduate research focuses on canine oncology, helping them advance knowledge in this important area of veterinary medicine.

This scholarship provides valuable financial assistance, supporting students as they pursue research in canine oncology. By contributing to this field, your gift helps advance innovative treatments, improve patient care, and strengthen the foundation of veterinary oncology. In addition to financial support, the scholarship recognizes and honors students' dedication, achievements, and contributions to advancing veterinary science, creating a lasting impact on their professional growth.

On behalf of everyone at OVC, thank you for your meaningful contribution. Your generosity strengthens the future of veterinary medicine and fosters the next generation of veterinary professionals who are committed to improving the health and well-being of dogs.

Warmest regards,



Jeffrey J. Wichtel BVSc, PhD, Dip. ACT
Professor and Dean

MEET & GREET

**Finnegan
#4788**

Finnegan has been with us for one wonderful year and it's been a year of many new adventures. He's very sweet-tempered and gentle and everyone who meets him falls in love. He has lots of doggy

friends and kids to hang out with. He walks in the woods everyday and sniffs absolutely everything. We live near a few lakes so he has discovered what his wonderful webbed feet can do and our walks aren't complete without a swim. It's been so much fun watching him grow and learn. As part of his socialization, I bring him to work with me a few days each month. He hangs out and gets spoiled with belly rubs and extra lovin' from my colleagues. We call it Finnegan Fun Day and everyone just loves him to pieces. In the new year, we're starting the St. John Ambulance therapy program. He's a natural love magnet and will love the attention. He experienced his first boat ride with another wonderful doggo friend...a boxer name Oakley. They are buddies who get the zoomies whenever they're together. I can't imagine life without him. He's my baby and best boy and I'm grateful he's in my life...and I tell him so. Thank you for saving this beautiful boy and for all the good work you do.

Gillian



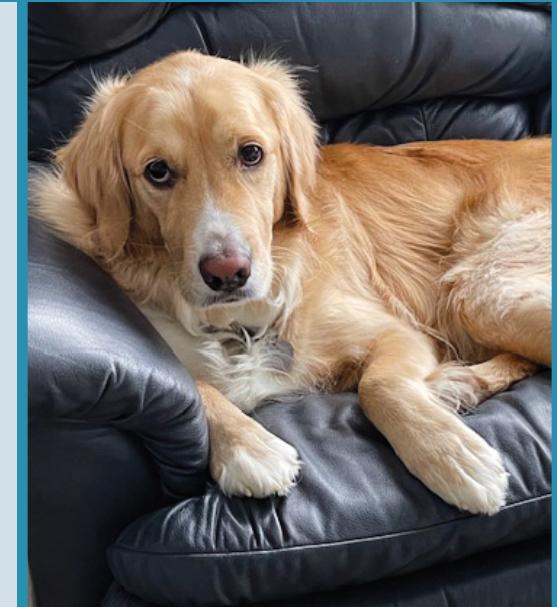
MEET & GREET

Rumi #3877

Rumi is a wonderful boy. When we first got him, there were many oddities for him, such as stairs (what are these things and how do I go up them). He was a little wobbly for a while but quickly mastered them. So many things were new to him and it was fun watching him figure out his new world. He was pretty skinny when he entered our lives and he didn't have

much fur but he has grown a beautiful coat. He is still a bit nervous when it comes to giving him medications and it can be a chase around the house to give him eye or ear drops although he is getting better. We've managed to get him to agree to having his eyes and teeth cleaned as he knows there is a treat at the end of the process. His separation anxiety is still a concern but hopefully this will get better as he realizes we will never leave him. He loves his walks and now is really good when other dogs are passing. He's wonderful on the leash and his walks are long and interesting with many places to stop and sniff along the 5 km trot. He is a typical Golden with a zest for life and goofy antics.

Pat & John



WE ARE LOOKING FOR PRIZES

Here are a few suggestions for things we'd be grateful to receive (new items only):

- Anything related to Goldens/dogs
- Theatre/sporting event tickets
- Golf certificates
- Gift cards (for restaurants/resorts/experiences/merchandise)
- Quilts, jewelry, anything gardening

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR AUCTION TEAM MEMBERS!

We need enthusiastic members for the auction team for the following roles:

- soliciting past & new donors for prizes
- picking up prizes
- arranging delivery of prizes to winning bidders
- writing thank you notes to everyone involved

If you would like to join our team OR donate prizes/auction items, please email:

sa@goldenrescue.ca

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!



COMING SOON

GR ONLINE AUCTION – APR 17-19

MEET & GREET



BUDDY #3573

Buddy fills our days with joy. He loves his routine of walking our son to and from school, and on rainy days, he's always there to help us carry an umbrella. Buddy is such a quirky boy...he's completely captivated by the hum of electric vehicles and the vacuum and he even gets excited by the buzzing of his hair clippers when it's time for a trim. He also loves to sing along when my son practices the piano and violin. He truly is a wonderful addition to our family and we couldn't imagine life without him.

Anita & Chris



Dear Goldie: Whenever my first owner went shopping, she'd attach me and Bobo the budgie, to a clothesline. We were used to this until one day I heard a loud bang. I took off in fear with Bobo's cage swinging and rattling over my shoulder. Well, didn't I leap over the back fence. Trouble is, I ran out of rope and landed on my back feet only. Lucky for me, the neighbour climbed the fence and released me. Shortly after this I was surrendered. My owner said she didn't really want me and contacted Golden Rescue. Goldie, did I do something wrong? What will happen to me? Terrence

Dear Terrence: You've done nothing wrong, Terrance, and Golden Rescue will give you the second chance you so desperately deserve. Surprisingly, some dog owners don't understand the do's and don'ts of responsible pet ownership. With Golden Rescue you'll be loved, microchipped, and given veterinary care. Then the team will find your forever family and help you cross that path from sadness and uncertainty to a safe and loved new beginning.

Dear Goldie: I'm adjusting well to my new family; however, my mom is concerned how I'll respond to being left alone for the first time. They plan to do it this week. Mom doesn't have a camera so do you have any suggestions for her? Shyla

Dear Shyla: Here's an easy-peazy trick with immediate results. Mom, dad, and you go to the backyard. Dad says goodbye to you both, leaves the yard, sneaks back in the house through the front door and hides. You and mom go back into the house from the backyard. Mom says goodbye and leaves. Dad listens for response from you. He texts mom about your reaction who determines whether to return or delay arrival by 15-20 minutes.

Dear Goldie: For some reason, I seem to hit the paws button when it's meal time. I can't seem to get into it. I don't feel absolutely mutts about eating. I'm so hesitant even though there seems to be a round of ap-paws when I do finally clean out my bowl. I've been offered a variety of foods but nothing seems to excite me. What to do? Pawsha

Dear Pawsha: I would say that you're obviously not a Golden (teehee). But, you're not alone. There are fast eaters, slow eaters, and grazers. Here's a suggestion that works for reluctant eaters. Your owner sits across from you with your bowl of food on the floor between you both. Your owner then scoops up some of your food on a spoon and offers it to you with love and encouragement. After a couple of spoon feedings, you gain interest and continue eating on your own. Not really sure why this shared experience works but it does.

LOOK FETCHING IN GOLDEN RESCUE APPAREL



PAWSITIVELY THE BEST STUFF IN
STORE! COME AND VISIT US [HERE!](#)



Visit the GR Store! Get a
FREE 2026 calendar
with every apparel order.

MEET & GREET



ARCHIE #4976 is settled and enjoys the company of his sisters, Mindy #4848 and Misha #4849, with whom he is becoming more attached with each passing day ~ although he is terribly jealous of either of them receiving too much attention. Christmas was a delight having all three with us and Santa was good to the girls and Archie, although Archie was subject to a review period on account of a few incidents of bad behaviour over the course of the year. An example of that is that he is not allowed on the couch as you can see from the photo. Archie turned two on January 9th and enjoyed a big birthday party with his sisters and his canine friends, Lena and Remy. He got a special birthday cake, which all five of them enjoyed. All the festivities did catch up with Archie as he stayed up well past his bedtime and was exhausted the next day. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to adopt Archie as he has been a wonderful addition to our home.

Linda & Alex

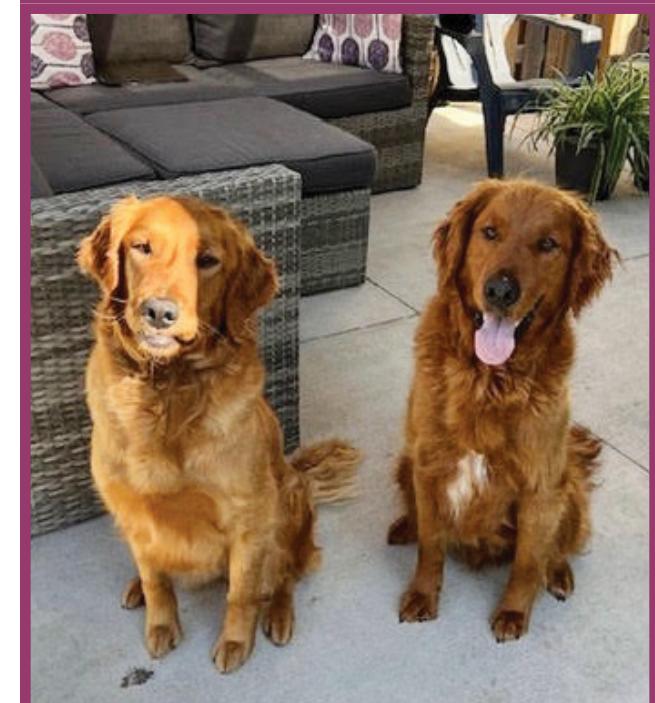
MEET & GREET



LOKI #3537 – I ended up doing a DNA test for Loki to get a better idea of his age and it came back pretty accurate to what I had been told by you. The fun part of the DNA test was finding out he is 90-95% Pyrenees and 5-10% Akita. It made a lot of sense for how stubborn he is on walks, his coat, and overall size. This learning experience has really helped me understand rescuing is all about learning the lovely soul you're caring for and catering to his needs; whatever they may be. And I love that although I was looking for a Golden, I ended up with a surprise...a surprise I love!!! Loki is such a gentle giant and a total sweetheart. When he arrives at the dog park, he pops around to every human...then lays down and watches all the dogs frolic. This was such a great experience rescuing a senior boy!

Hayley

MEET & GREET



MAX #4973 & MAPLE #4974 have fit into our family incredibly well and we couldn't imagine life without them. We are on nature walks with them every day and they couldn't be happier. They are off-leash most of the time and their recall is fantastic ~ they truly are Velcro furbabies. They go everywhere we go and could actually be our shadows. Within the first week, they knew that they were in their forever home.

Shannon & Terry

MEET & GREET



EMMY LOU #4323

Emmy Lou is great...she is the most wonderful girl and the joy of our life. She has really blossomed since we adopted her and now has the most beautiful fur coat you will ever see. She is a calm and gentle girl and loves all other dogs and people, although she was a bit overwhelmed at her first Golden Rescue picnic in 2023. That being said, she was Ms. Social Butterfly last year. We also adopted a male Golden from our local shelter who had been abandoned and now we have two equally goofy Goldens who are full of love.

Michelle & Dave

BEHIND-THE-SCENES AT GOLDEN RESCUE EVENTS

What could be better than a stroll through a farmer's market, enjoying the fresh delights of the land? How about one where you also get to pet an adorable Golden and chat with a friendly volunteer? The Golden Rescue events team is hard at work, year-round, bringing events to the community to raise awareness about Golden Rescue's mission and provide education to fellow Golden lovers.

The farmer's market is just one example of the approximately 30 events per year held across the country. There are movie theatres, festivals, Pawloozas, and many ad-hoc events that our dedicated volunteers organize and run. These events serve to educate the public about what Golden Rescue does and how they can help. People are often surprised to find out that there is an entire organization dedicated to one of the most popular dog breeds ~ it is enlightening for many to learn that rescue is needed for so many reasons.

Our 20+ events volunteers are very organized, dependable, and good communicators, some of whom are blessed with one of our Goldens and others who are supporters of our mission. Of course, having a Golden with us at an event is an instant draw ~ who can resist those wagging tails and goofy smiles? But it's not a requirement to bring your own Golden! All you need is a shared love of Goldens, a couple of hours, and a willingness to share information with fellow dog-lovers. Volunteers work in shifts and always have support from Golden Rescue throughout the day.

When an event is coming up, our Event Volunteer Coordinators get to work finding local volunteers who are available and willing to attend the event. They work out a schedule ensuring there is coverage for the duration and help answer any volunteer questions. The Event Coordinator manages all of the logistics and materials needed for a successful event and runs a Zoom prep call for all event volunteers to ensure they are comfortable and ready. After the event, they send any collected donations or sign-ups (for volunteering and our mailing list) to the treasury and volunteer teams.

Email volunteer@goldenrescue.ca with suggestions or if you would like to volunteer for an upcoming event. Our events are always posted on our website (check out the 'Upcoming/Current Events' page) and if you have an idea for an event in your area that may be a good opportunity for Golden Rescue, let us know!

The connections we make with people at these events, knowing that we are spreading the word about rescuing Goldens, is a reward unto itself. It is energizing to educate people on a cause so close to our hearts and our Goldens always benefit ~ from the increased knowledge and involvement of our new supporters and from the head scratches they get at the event!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

Sun, Feb 8th

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

Tue, Feb 24th

Markham at the
Movies
Markham (ON)
6 pm – 7 pm

Tue, Mar 31st

Markham at the
Movies
Markham (ON)
6 pm – 7 pm

Sun, Apr 12th

The Oshawa
Markets
Oshawa, ON
10 am – 6 pm

Sun, Apr 12th

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

LEVI #3232

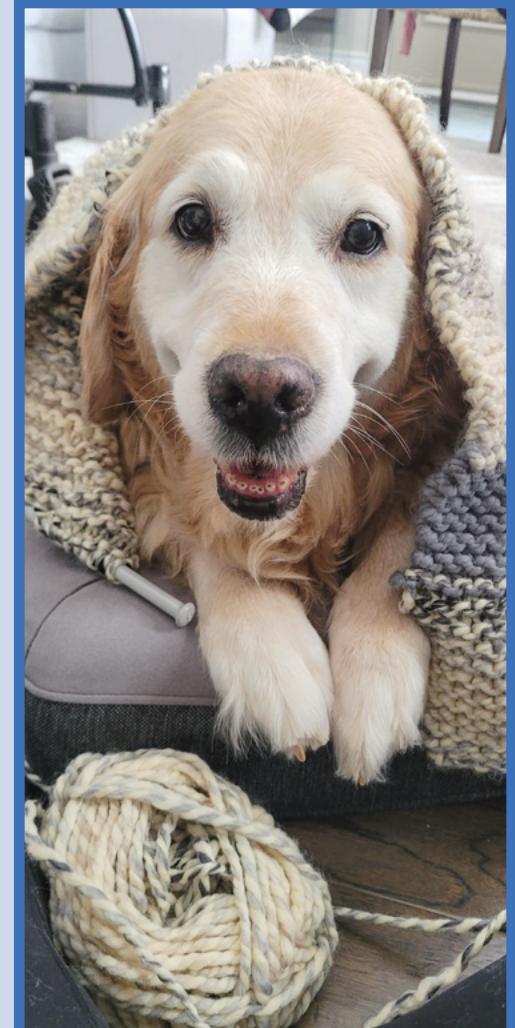


MEET & GREET

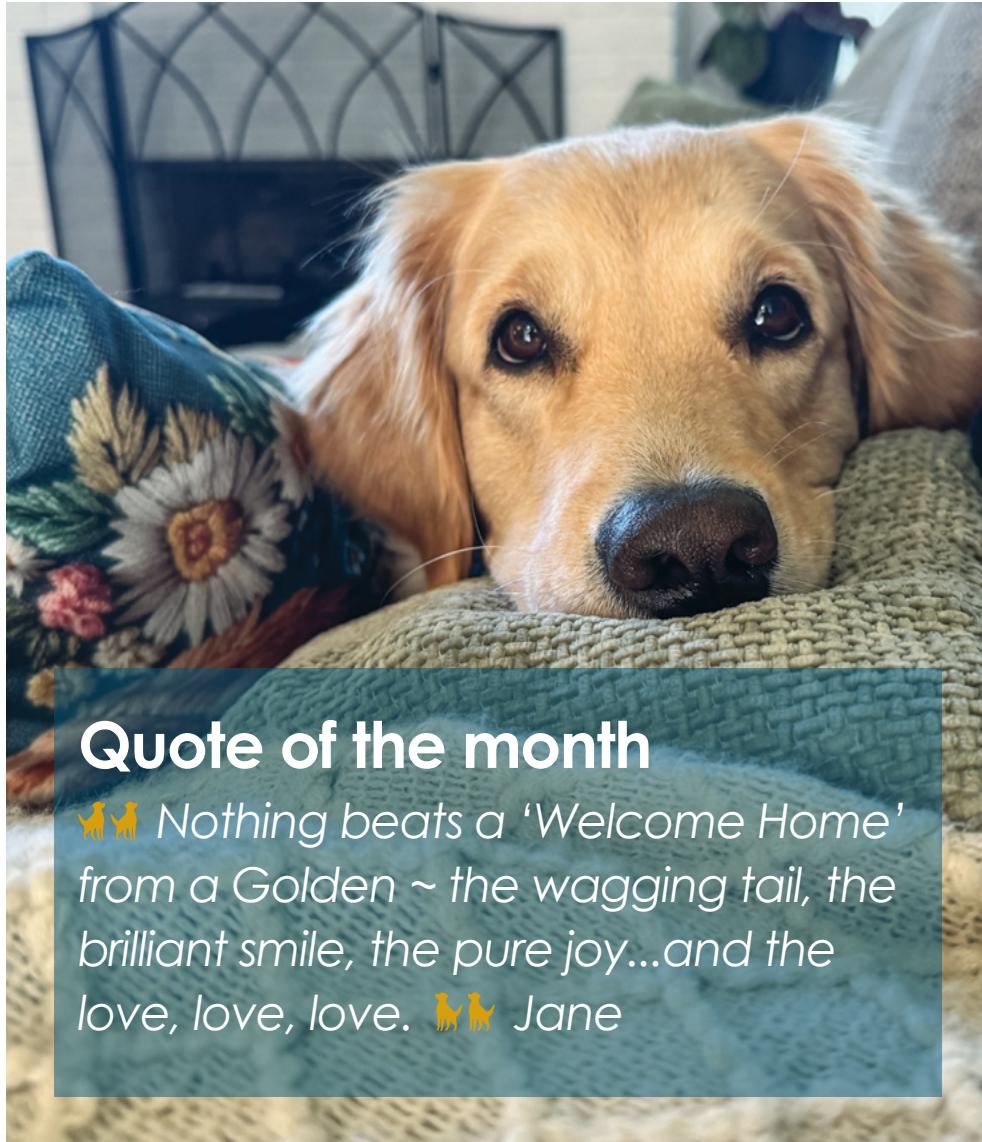
Lucy #3856

Lucy is wonderful. She has been an amazing addition to our family and has adjusted and grown in ways we never imagined. She was terrified to walk on hardwood floors and would shake around most men...it was sad to see. She is the happiest dog we have ever seen when it comes to being outside in the snow...to the point where it's almost embarrassing. And she loves to swim but mostly loves floating on her back in my arms when we're at the beach. She has grown into her new life and we're grateful for her and for whatever time we have with her. We've never adopted a senior before her; however, we would do it again in a heartbeat. She amazes us every day!

Amber & Devon



I am a Golden parent. My hobbies include: neglecting my appearance, dreaming of clean floors, constantly asking “what’s in your mouth”, and never peeing by myself. And I wouldn’t change a thing!



Quote of the month

Nothing beats a 'Welcome Home' from a Golden ~ the wagging tail, the brilliant smile, the pure joy...and the love, love, love.  Jane

GOLDEN MOMENTS[©]



"You had me at ADOPT!"

MEET & GREET



HARPER #3608

Harper is doing very well. Since welcoming her home in 2021, we have added two little boys to our family and she could not be better with them. She is an amazing puppy sister...so incredibly patient and loving. She is always near when we're hanging out or playing with the boys. Harper also has lots of dog friends in our neighbourhood (including Goldens who live next door). We live close to a park so she gets to run a lot, especially in the summer when we are at the park all the time. She also lives with our two cats...both of whom she loves to chase and they equally love it. She really is the perfect girl and we say all the time how lucky we are that she's part of our family. We couldn't ask for a better companion.

Adrienne & Adam

MEET & GREET



BENTLEY #3815

Bentley is living a very happy life with us. He has been part of our family since January 2021 and he has brought us so much joy ever since. He is full of energy, affectionate, and entertaining. We are fortunate to have a golf course in our backyard, which allows us to take him on long walks during the fall and winter. I work during the week; however, my parents are always home so Bentley gets lots of attention. He has a crooked paw; however, it does not seem to affect him at all...he loves to run and explore without any issues. We hope it stays that way.

Pascale, Lucie & Luc

MEET & GREET



DAISY #3640

Daisy has truly become a beloved part of our lives. When Daisy arrived in Canada in 2021, she and my mom instantly bonded. Now, Daisy spends her time with mom at her retirement community where she has taken on an unofficial yet vital role as a therapy dog for the residents. As mom puts it...she has become an essential part of the community's social life. Her favourite spot to people-watch is in the bar and library, where she eagerly awaits pets, sweet talk, and the occasional treat. She absolutely loves the attention. Despite losing her right hind leg to cancer, Daisy has continued to thrive. She brings so much joy to everyone around her and we cherish every moment with her. Thank you so much to Golden Rescue for your incredible work.

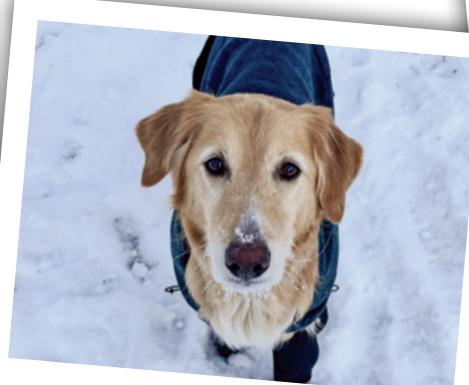
Nadine & Sandy



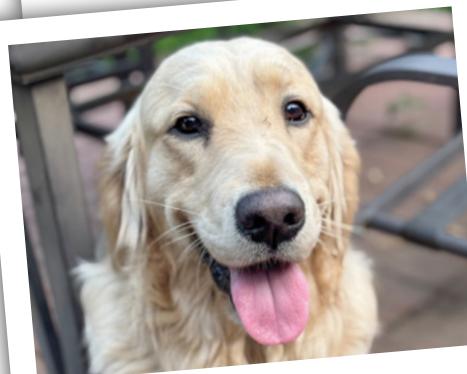
WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN FAMILY



Maggie #4953
Adopted by Sharon & Jeff



Norbert #5006
Adopted by Jan & Mark



Harvey #5040
Adopted by Paula



Millie #5042
Adopted by Leslie & Bill



Tala #5033
Adopted by Meaghan & Robert



Zoey #5035 & Coco #5036
Adopted by Brittany & Justin



Simba #5046
Adopted by Greg



Chloe #5048
Adopted by Patti & Gabe



WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN FAMILY



Remi #5052
Adopted by Travis



Brewster #5053
Adopted by Rosemary & Justin



Eddie #5064
Adopted by Hanna & Justin



Bailey #5066
Adopted by Martha



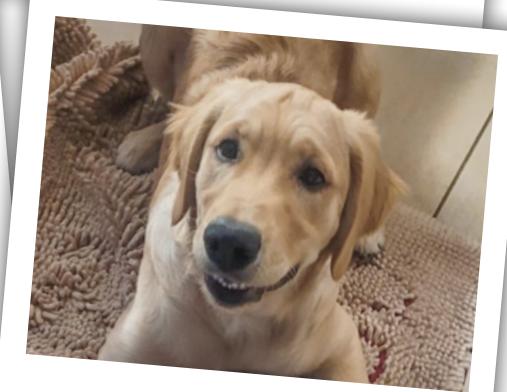
Brinkley #5055
Adopted by Mary



Rio #5058
Adopted by Victoria



Molly #5067
Adopted by Carolyn & Jamie



Chase #5068
Adopted by Shiraz

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!

BUDDY #3573