

# GRRIN NEWS

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS!



First Quarter 2016 | Happy Tails. Golden Hearts



## 25 YEARS STRONG

Twenty five years ago three women started an organization dedicated to helping Golden Retrievers who were abandoned, abused, or for whatever reason needed a home. For those of you who haven't already read it, the story of GRRIN's founding is in this newsletter. It's a wonderful story, and I encourage you to read it.

When I reflect on GRRIN's beginning, I wonder if those three founders, and the rest of the volunteers who were part of that first meeting, had any idea what they were setting in motion. How could they know that over the next 25 years their efforts would lead to 100's of volunteers giving their time and effort to rescue well over 1,000 Golden Retrievers? I wonder if they had an inkling that the

seed they were planting would grow and thrive to produce an organization that has almost 200 members, a strong volunteer base, and contributors that financially support the task of rescuing Golden Retrievers. While the nature and needs of Golden Retriever rescue have changed, GRRIN has adapted to this changing rescue environment. Our volunteers continue the difficult but rewarding work of providing for the needs of all of the dogs who come into our care.

I don't know what the next 25 years will bring. What I do know is that GRRIN is truly "25 Years Strong". We have the commitment of our volunteers and the strength as an organization to continue this important work for another 25 years.

On behalf of all of the GRRIN dogs, now and in the future, thank you for all you do.

**A quick look at how you contributed to GRRIN in 2015:**

**100 volunteers**  
**22 dogs rescued**  
**24 adoptions**  
**120 applications**

**\$25,453 in donations**  
**\$7,073 in fundraising**  
**\$3,725 in member dues**  
**\$4,950 in adoption fees**

Here's to a fantastic 2016!

*Joe Muller*  
Joe Muller  
GRRIN President

## NEW IN 2016...

1. Working in conjunction with other Midwest groups, GRRIN will take part in an international rescue involving Golden Retrievers from Turkey! We eagerly anticipate the arrival of five dogs in May. Please keep an eye on our website as we share more information about this amazing mission that has become a national endeavor for Golden Retriever rescue organizations.

2. Our newsletter has a new look! We hope you enjoy our anniversary refresh. And welcome to our new editor, Amanda Swartwout!

# IN THE BEGINNING: A LOOK BACK AT THE START OF GRRIN

As told by co-founder Barb Zelechowski



In the late 1980's, early 1990's, breed-specific rescue was coming into its own all across the country. There were a few well organized groups, but many attempts had failed due to poor organization, under funding, and unrealistic expectations. There were three of us in Omaha who were taking all the calls from people who needed help with a Golden or who were looking for a Golden to purchase: Deb (Platt) Goll through her obedience training classes, Jackie (Stephenson) Smith as a breeder, and myself as GRCA puppy referral person and breeder. We each used different veterinarians, but it seemed like every vet in town had our numbers, as well as the volunteers at the Nebraska Humane Society. It was frustrating to be able to do so little for people, but there was no way any of us could handle rescue operations by ourselves.

For several years, GR friends had been encouraging me to start a local Golden breed club in Omaha, but I was hesitant about whether a formal club devoted to development of the breed and competitive events would flourish. Very few people in Nebraska were interested in showing their dogs and there were only a handful of legitimate breeders. But there did seem to be interest in the society of Golden owners and caring for displaced Golden. So, with the three goals of providing a resource for people who needed to place their dogs, giving the public reliable information about Golden, and forming a social network for Golden owners, Deb, Jackie and I on the

daunting task of setting up a rescue club.

We met periodically for several months as we researched, brainstormed, and tried to define what we wanted to accomplish. We knew we had to be well organized to be successful. We contacted existing rescue organizations for examples of their documents and procedures and any advice they could give us. The folks in St. Louis were particularly helpful.

*"We contacted every friend, student, puppy buyer and casual acquaintance we could think of... we had no idea if anyone would show up..."*

Eventually, we came up with written goals and procedures that we felt would provide a solid basis for a club devoted to rescue. Then, we took a deep breath and called our first meeting mid-year in 1991. We contacted every friend, student, puppy buyer, and casual acquaintance we could think of who might be interested and invited them to meet with us at Sokol Hall. We had no idea if anyone would show up or if we would be left staring at each other all night. To our delight, some 30 to 40 people came to see what we had in mind.

To those brave souls, we explained the three missions of our club, how we foresaw it operating, and what additional help we needed to make it run. We emphasized that the task of rescue was

manageable if we broke it down into small tasks and everyone did the part for which they were best suited. We also stressed that there would be no awards, no glory, no dog shows, just some hard—but rewarding—work and occasional fun times with our dogs. The group seemed to like the ideas we put forth and most of them indicated their willingness to join. We filled a couple of very important requirements that night. We needed legal help to file for state incorporation and IRS non-profit status. Greg Starnes, from South Dakota, turned out to be a non-profit lawyer, and he volunteered to handle this for us pro bono. We also needed a treasurer to handle our funds. Linda Nelson, from Lincoln, volunteered to do this, and held this post for many years.

Our organizing work continued: drafting forms for phone calls, rescue dogs, and potential owners; assigning volunteers to various tasks; getting a phone number and PO box; starting a newsletter; even designing a logo. I served as secretary, Jackie as president, Deb as vice-president, Linda as treasurer. Then the fateful day came when a call came about a dog in Council Bluffs that needed help. Jackie and I talked it over and decided that it was time to take on our first rescue, so we took another deep breath and agreed to take the dog. GRRIN was officially open for business.

We had no idea what the demand for rescue would be, maybe 6 to 10 dogs a year? After all, these were Golden Retrievers we were talking about. I think we took in around 18 dogs that



“...we took another deep breath and agreed to take the dog. GRRIN was officially open for business.”

first year. The second year we took in 45, and it continued to increase. This would not have been possible without the contributions made by the late Micki Andres. Micki became very active in handling the process of bringing dogs into rescue. In fact, we joked that she was out drumming up business for us! But her dedication and good sense contributed greatly to GRRIN's early success. Eventually, we realized that the business of processing the dogs into, through, and out of rescue needed a dedicated manager and we asked Micki to serve. She refined and developed the handling of the dogs into its various branches and established a system which has changed little over time.

We didn't realize how hard the work would be on the emotions. As with any volunteer group, we had some falling out among the members in the early days, disagreements about policies, hurt feelings, differing levels of commitment, etc. Members lost interest or burned out with the stress of the work. New people stepped up to fill the vacancies and the club survived. Our fundamental organization and procedures were sound and, 25 years later, GRRIN is still thriving, fulfilling its threefold mission and saving Goldens.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who have given so much to GRRIN. The lessons I learned in the creation and operation of our rescue group were invaluable as I went on to serve on the boards of directors of the Golden Retriever Club of America and the Golden Retriever Foundation. I am incredibly proud of the work that we did back then and that you continue to do today. You are, indeed, Golden.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE PARTY ANIMALS!

SATURDAY

16  
APRIL

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 16th, 6:30 pm

**WHERE:** Soaring Wings Winery, 17111 S 138th St, Springfield, NE

Please note GRRIN members received the first option to RSVP by March 16th. Additional dinner tickets will be offered pending available seating and may be purchased via the website. Please visit [www.grrin.org](http://www.grrin.org) for up to date information.

SUNDAY

24  
APRIL

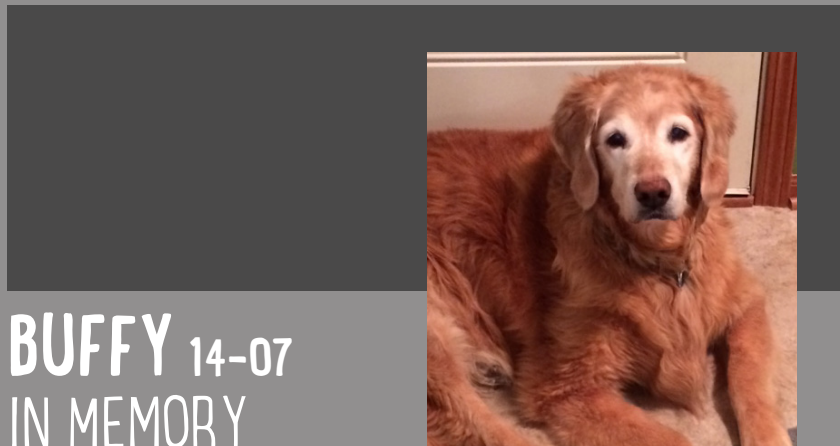
#### ANNUAL MEETING

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 24th, 12-3

**WHERE:** Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium, 8929 Fort Street.

**RSVP:** 402-330-6680 with number attending

Join us at GRRIN's annual meeting! We'll be celebrating 25 years of rescue! Lunch will be provided and new officers will be elected. Dogs are welcome and will receive a special scarf.



## BUFFY 14-07 IN MEMORY

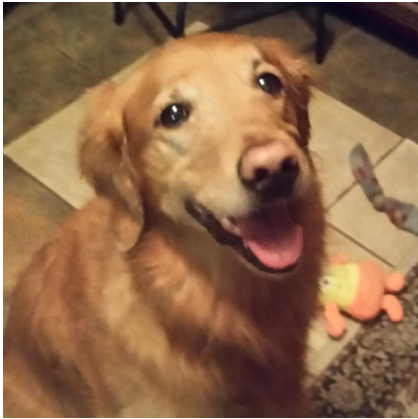
On January 25, we lost one of our precious GRRIN rescue dogs. Buffy came to GRRIN from the Iowa Golden Retriever Rescue (IGRR). She was 11 years old and wouldn't live with any other dog. Because of her age, she needed to be in hospice care, a permanent foster home. Buffy was matched with a wonderful woman named Judy, who had her own medical problems.

Judy had lost her Golden Gracie about a year before bringing Buffy into her home. The two were happy with one another for almost two years until Buffy started to have trouble getting up. Buffy spent her last days at home with friends Judy and Kate by her side. No matter how long a rescue dog lives in their final forever home, it's wonderful to make him or her happy and loved.

Our Quarter 1 2016 publication is dedicated to Buffy.

# HAPPY TAILS. happy tails. HAPPY TAILS. happy tails.

Our goal at GRRIN is to get every foster dog to their forever home. Each "Happy Tail" is a reflection of the caring effort shared by volunteers and the families who open their homes to a rescue. Here are some of their stories...



## RUBY 08-41

ADOPTED BY: Olin & Kelly

Ruby here... just letting everyone know how I'm doing in my new home. My new Mom and Dad took me to PetSmart to get some stuffed squeaky toys! I was so pleased and have been very careful with them. Well... except for that one incident with the pink elephant. I may or may not have accidentally left it out in the last blizzard. Thankfully we found it after the snow melted!

I have been showing my family my amazing tricks... sit, lay down, rollover, say hi, and my most impressive... catching snow balls in the air! They say I am a very good girl and that they are very happy I have come to live with them. I have to say that I am very pleased as well!



## HANK 15-17

ADOPTED BY: Harry Q

My name is Hank and I am a beautiful 4-year-old Golden who started looking for a new home last fall. I got hooked up with GRRIN and enjoyed a temporary home with Dave, his wife and 2 resident Goldens. I had never been a house dog, so you can imagine I had a lot to learn.

I received the best holiday gift this past December. I finally found the perfect match in my new owner Harry. He and I are just what the other one needed and we have enjoyed our time together so far sharing love and affection.

It didn't take long to feel at home with Harry and his son, Steve. We have a huge back yard to play in where I enjoy retrieving things for Harry. I even get to go for a daily walk with Steve! I can't tell you how happy I am now and am SO thankful to have found the perfect family for me.



## SWAYZE 15-19

ADOPTED BY: Keith & Mary Lynn

I'm Swayze and I know I may look full grown, but I still have a whole lot of puppy in me! I met my new family just before Thanksgiving, when I was just 9 ½ months old. I am settling in very well and immediately felt well loved.

I have two new fur siblings, Bailey, a 9-year-old golden and Mufasa the cat. Bailey is a great play pal, sharing his toys and joining me for my 3-4 mile a day walks with Keith. I find Mufasa very intriguing and like to chase him around the house.

So far Keith and Mary Lynn have taught me patience in my kennel, "come", "sit", "leave it" and "heel". I'm still working on "down" and "stay" and am excited to keep learning in my obedience class.

When I'm not learning I very much enjoy picking up anything and everything (blankets, pillows, socks, jackets, towels, etc.) and carrying it around. I find comfort in being with people and follow my family around wherever they go.

I know Keith and Mary Lynn enjoy my energy, loving nature and having me as part of the family.

# HAPPY TAILS. happy tails. HAPPY TAILS. happy tails.



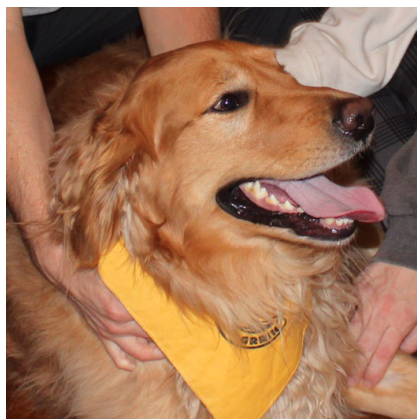
## CHEWIE 15-21

ADOPTED BY: Charles & Michele

Howdy, I'm Chewie. I joined my new family on December 21st, after they suffered the sad loss of their previous dog, Maggie Mae. I was more than happy to fill that void and fill their home with energy. I am now completely settled in and have learned the rhythm of the household.

They learned very quickly that my favorite toy is a ball- doesn't really matter what kind. Grandson Tyson loves to come over and play fetch and "give" with me. I've also learned to walk on a gentle leader leash. When I hear the word "walk" I run straight to the basket where my leash is kept. And the family can tell when I'm ready for a walk when I start dragging my bed around the house!

I am looking forward to spring where we can get out more and more. Right now I enjoy laying on our covered patio and taking in the weather when nice. I also look forward to learning new skills and "constructive" things to do. I am a smarty pants who needs to stay occupied! Looking forward to many, many years with this wonderful family!



## TOBY 15-22

ADOPTED BY: Kile, Jonnette & Emily

Hi there! The name's Toby and I am so happy these days in my fur-ever home! I get to run around the yard and the house and am starting to lose a little weight. One of my favorite things is to be the first one down the stairs. Nobody better get in my way! Going on walks is fun too. I like to stop and visit when other people are out as I am quite the social guy.

My favorite toy has to be my ball. And I have to have the hard balls because I like to tear up soft toys. I love to push my ball under the furniture and then make mom and dad get it out for me. And I will whine until they do! They have tried to teach me how to fetch the ball, But I just go after it and don't give it back... it is MINE you know!

I got groomed the other day and am such a handsome boy now. I want to thank all the great people of GRRIN for finding me such a great home! I love it here!



## BELLA 16-01

ADOPTED BY: Ricky, Leanne & Elena

Hi, I'm Bella! My fur-ever home actually started as my foster home. I fell in love with this family right away and I think they felt the same of me.

I love to give hugs and am always wagging my tail. And sometimes I'll even flash my big brown eyes to get a few extra treats.

I also enjoying spending time with Olive, my sassy Golden partner in crime. We like to play together in the backyard and curl up together at the end of the day.

All the gals in the family think I make our house happier and more love-filled. Well... I think the cat will come around ;) Thank you GRRIN!

## DAN 15-05

STORY COMING SOON!



## EXTRA! EXTRA! THE LATEST GRRIN NEWS



## BREAKING NEWS!

GRRIN rescue Bogie makes the news again! Bogie, a 3-year-old male, suffered a spinal embolism that left him disabled. He was rescued last year and is getting quite the media coverage. Local TV stations KETV 7 and KPTM Fox 42 ran stories on Bogie the week of March 4th. We hope the wonderful coverage will help us find Bogie his forever home.

Bogie is now ready for adoption. If you know someone who might make a great companion for him, please contact us at **402.330.6680** or **info@grrin.org**.

You can find links to Bogie's TV coverage and get GRRIN news as it happens on our Facebook page: **[www.facebook.com/GRRIN](http://www.facebook.com/GRRIN)**

## TRAINING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone for attending GRRIN's annual Training Day meeting held at the Nebraska Humane Society on Sunday, January 31st! GRRIN foster dogs Bella, Dan, Gracie, and Bogie were able to take part with their foster families and kick off GRRIN's 25th year of rescuing Golden Retrievers.

Nearly fifty volunteers and friends of GRRIN spent the afternoon learning about various aspects of rescue, including intake, transport, home visits, adoptions, and working on the Goldline. Kelley McAtee and Gina Rotella from Dharma Dog Training shared tips about how to work with dogs that have just arrived in a new foster or adoptive home. Dr. Michelle Eckermann, a canine therapist at Five Elements Veterinary Alternatives, demonstrated physical therapy techniques she has used with her GRRIN foster dog Bogie.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to learn more about volunteering for GRRIN, please send an email to **[volunteer@grrin.org](mailto:volunteer@grrin.org)**.



Pictured above: 3-year-old rescue Bogie



Pictured above: Training Day in progress





**Karen Stevens**, in memory of Junior, Sadie, & Riley; in honor of Madisen & Sirius | **Pam Nathan**, in memory of Cloud (15-06); in honor of Greta Lily (10-48) | **Patricia Newman**, in memory of Gracie (Dennis & Barb Garrett); in honor of Oscar | **Michele Acri**, in memory of Gracie (Dennis & Barb Garrett) | **William & Eric Andres**, in memory of Micki Andres | **George & Loretta Batten**, in memory of Opie & Ethan | **William & Nancy Besack**, in memory of Jasmine | **Leisa Blazek & Perry Wiseman**, in memory of Bella | **George and Jean Boehmer**, in memory of Mack | **Ted & Judy Brass**, in memory of Missy & Casey | **Gregg Christensen**, in memory of Sheyanne | **Jim & Mary Jane Fitch**, in memory of Riley | **Anonymous** in memory of Gracie (Dennis & Barb Garrett) | **Chris Fletcher**, in memory of Charlie | **Sarah Foote**, in memory of Ann Lavenberg | **Diane Fortenbury**, in memory of Morgan | **Chuck Furst**, in memory of Nugget | **Jayne Gentzler**, in memory of Shelby | **Kathy Glenn & Curt Bright**, in memory of Sophie | **Owen Henderson, D.V.M. & Julia Tracy**, in memory of Matthew Henderson & Le Ree Henderson | **Myron & Celia Lazar**, in memory of Abbey, Chase & Lady | **David & Lisa McElhose**, in memory of Dexter | **Marilyn Maude**, in memory of Chandler & Buddy | **Anthony & Diane Metz**, in memory of Honey, Sugar, Spice & Glory | **Helen Moore & Nancy Bowen**, in memory of Rustic (10-23) | **Joe Muller & Nancy Morris**, in memory of Scooter, Toby, Chester & Razzy | **Marilyn Niemeyer**, in memory of son Mark, and his beloved Golden Triumph | **Marsha Peel & Mike Awsuikiewicz**, in memory of Shonie | **Gary Platt & Kathy Rasinowich-Platt**, in memory of OTCH First String's Liv'n on the Edge aka Shale | **Mike & Terry Ralph**, in memory of Amber Dawn, Rue, Puck & Chloe | **Judy Rippe**, in memory of Sasha, Grace & Duchess | **Steve & Cindy Roberts**, in memory of BJ (10-27) & Storm (11-08) | **Gilbert Robertson**, in memory of Bear, Sandy, Brandy & Boots | **Roccaforte Electric Co.**, in memory of Hadley & Micki | **Seth & Erika Ryser**, in memory of Thor, Buddy (10-61) & Bella (13-44) | **Anonymous** in memory of Gracie (Dennis & Barb Garrett) | **Don & Donna Sattlem**, in memory of Heidi | **Paul & Bonnie Seaquist**, in memory of Buddy (10-61) & Bella (13-44) | **Lori Simmons**, in memory of Blaze | **Cathi Smetana**, in memory of Gracie (Dennis & Barb Garrett) | **Kate Spielman**, in memory of Jack | **Thad & Janie Tinder**, in memory of Brandy & Julie | **Phyllis Titus**, in memory of "my precious Bear, the best GRRIN Golden ever" | **Steve Triplett & Sandy Steele-Triplett**, in memory of Sophie | **Rita & Ken Vetter**, in memory of Riley | **Doug & Debra Wallace**, in memory of Pearl | **Julie White**, in memory of Rosie | **Matt & Sarah Wickencamp**, in memory of Sammie (07-52) | **Laurie Wilson**, in memory of Mitzi, Socks, Brandy, Wizard, Maggie & Jack | **Rich & Kathy Woodward**, in memory of Sherman's Lady Katelyn | **Heather Wrenn**, in memory of Duke | **Michelle Wright**, in memory of Rex and "all my GRRIN kids at the bridge" | **Dale Yates**, in memory of Rustic (10-23) | **Bob and Nancy Yechout**, in memory of Raider & Kodi | **Matt & Blair Bonczynski**, in honor of Riley | **Jennifer Brown**, in honor of Remy (12-37) | **John & Shawn Hough**, in honor of Abby | **Kevin & Dora Klein**, in honor of Nelly | **Kevin & Amy Koehler**, in honor of Heenoooh (14-33) | **Susie & Doug Mahoney**, in honor of Sophie Mae | **Jim & Elizabeth Marriott**, in honor of Buddy & Sophie | **Lee & Sherralyn Peacock**, in honor of Snoopy & Bella | **Sandy Scott**, in honor of Newman | **Babs & Mike Weinberg**, in honor of Tara | **Ely Yount & Windy Benigno**, in honor of Frosty | **Joseph & Rhonda Zugmierz**, in honor of Sadie | **Randall & Mendy Clark** in care of Highlands Animal Hospital



**Nathan Anderson & Chelsea Bloom-Anderson** | **Scot Anderson & Sheri Gregory** | **Gaylen & Gay Lynn Baker** | **Lisa Bally** | **Merry & Michael Burns** | **Rod & Connie Buchanan** | **Patricia Carrell & John Binderup** | **Joel Christensen** | **David & Julie Churilla** | **Kelly & Ray Courtney** | **Kathy Creighton** | **Chris & Janez Egan** | **Ken & Debbie Elson** | **Steve Espelund** | **Mike & JoAnn Farrell** | **Keith & Mary Lynn Frey** | **The Gallagher Foundation** | **Dennis & Barb Garrett** | **Martha Gilchrist** | **Leah & Travis Hays** | **David Heineman** | **Ken & Merry Hinton** | **Jeff Hoenshell** | **Theresa Houston** | **Rebecca Jensen** | **Mindy Koch** | **David & Adena Kreutz** | **Candie Kujath** | **JoAnn MacDonald** | **Barb McMullen** | **Bruce & Bobbie Moore** | **Diane Mumford** | **Doug Nickell** | **Kenneth Packard** | **Danielle Pedersen** | **Evan & Sharyn Poston** | **Joe Pruch** | **Jim & Jeri Regan** | **Holly & Ken Schaefer** | **Darlene Scholting** | **Victoria Sklenar** | **Jon & Sue Sprinkel** | **Gary & Connie Stevenson** | **Adair Sturgis - Cause for Paws** | **Fred Susgin** | **James Thele** | **Joan Till & Tom Kumke** | **Jeff & Carmen Weier** | **Andrew & Laura Wester** | **Marty & Joni Winters** | **Jack Wright** | **Debra & Charles Yost** | **Scott Younglove** | **Holly Streeter** | **Melody Kailiff** | **Special thanks to the JK Barker Foundation**



**Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska**

P.O. Box 126

Boys Town, NE 68010

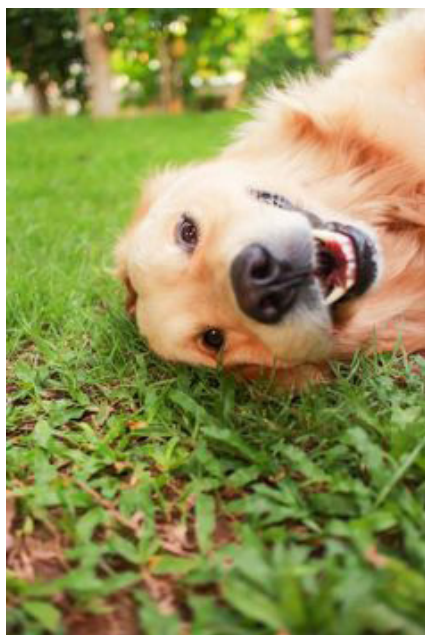
## ABOUT US

Founded in 1991, GRRIN is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization. We shelter, rehabilitate and find new homes for Golden Retrievers in distress, provide public education about responsible dog ownership and provide a forum for Golden Retriever fanciers to meet.

## MAILING LISTS

This newsletter is mailed to members, persons and businesses who have adopted a dog or donated money, time, services or auction items to GRRIN. We do not share our mailing list with other organizations. If you're moving, please let us know your new address so our postage is used productively.

**Quarter 1 Quick Stats: 7 Golden's Adopted | 5 Golden's in Foster Care**



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