

# GRRIN NEWS



Second Quarter 2018 | Happy Tails, Golden Hearts



## GRRIN VISITS BUFFETT MAGNET

*Dogs teach us a lot of things but none more important than to love unconditionally...*

GRRIN volunteers and their adopted dogs have had the opportunity to visit students on three occasions at the Alice Buffett Magnet Middle School in Omaha. It's exactly how you picture it in your mind: dogs and tweens, a lot of excitement, and the repeated question in the hallways, "can I pet your dog?"

The GRRIN Outreach team was originally approached late last year by Buffett teacher Shannon Sortino, coordinator of the Club for Animal Respect & Education (CARE), an afterschool program with over 150 participating 6th to 8th graders. Students involved in the club are visited by different rescue groups that usually have a pet with them. Volunteers educate the kids about the breed they represent and their adoption process. The goal of the club is to reinforce proper handling of different breeds, adoption over broker or pet store purchases and understanding the importance of foster care. Outreach chair Pam Nathan and volunteer Barb Garrett were able to schedule an initial visit and recruit adopted GRRIN dogs to attend.

On November 29, GRRIN dogs Rocky (14-24) and Sadie (13-16) visited Buffett accompanied by their owners Jim & Mary Jane Fitch and Brenda Orr. Rocky is certified as an Angel Dog at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Although born with a deformed front paw, he wears a prosthetic and nothing slows him down. Sadie is the only surviving pup born to rescued puppy mill mom Angel 13-09. Foster mom Brenda adopted both dogs and Sadie (who turned out to be a Goldendoodle!) was able to live many years together with Angel. As you can imagine, these stories were completely absorbed by the students who met them, and the dogs appreciated all the attention.

GRRIN was quickly invited back for the next semester and spent time at Buffett on March 21 and April 11. Sadie and Rocky repeated attendance but were joined by Clyde (11-38) with Laura Beavers, Mollie Misbehavin (16-11) with Kent and Micki Shuster, and Bella (17-05) with Theresa Houston. Students were told about Mollie's story of life in Turkey and her trip to the United States, Clyde's adventures on the run and his journey to find a family, and Bella's new life as a social media influence on Facebook.

On all occasions, the dogs had a fabulous time and the students were incredibly respectful, asking thoughtful questions and being gentle while handling the dogs. In April, students presented GRRIN volunteers with two big envelopes of hand-made thank you notes. While exiting the building the volunteers had a few moments to reflect how much it meant to them to be part of the CARE program. If you would like GRRIN to be part of your educational program, please send an email to [volunteer@grrin.org](mailto:volunteer@grrin.org).

See pictures on page 4...

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

-Welcome Celia Lazar, Laura Beavers, Drew Vermeer & Dan Moravec to the board!

-Did you know we now rescue Goldendoodles? As their popularity has increased over the years, so has the need to find them new homes.

-On that note, please make sure to spread the word that GRRIN is available to help Goldens (and Goldendoodles!) in need. Our recent campaign to recruit more foster families was successful and we're ready to provide care when we get the call.

-As always, keep an eye on our website for upcoming events and MANY stories about dogs!



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## THE LATEST NEWS + RECENT HAPPENINGS

Twitter: @GRRINebraska \* Facebook: facebook.com/grrin \* Website: www.grrin.org



## ANNUAL MEETING

Oh my dog, over 40 friends of GRRIN joined us with their favorite Golden Retrievers for an awesome lunch and informative meeting. Board members were voted in, our finances are healthy (translation: we can do great things for foster dogs!), and our rescue process is running smoothly.

One of the challenges we are facing this year is that GRRIN is not getting calls from people who need help re-homing their dogs. The board has worked tirelessly to get our group's mission out to the public, but sometimes word of mouth is the best way to share GRRIN's 26-year devotion to helping dogs in need.

Please let others know about our mission to find dogs permanent new homes, whether it's talking to your work buddies and neighbors or mentioning GRRIN on Facebook

or Twitter. If you know someone who needs help, they can send an email to [info@grrin.org](mailto:info@grrin.org) or call 402-330-6680.

The other topic of business was planning for our annual celebration, Gold Rush. This year's event takes place on Sunday, October 7th, at the Offutt Base Lake Park. Please send an email to [volunteer@grrin.org](mailto:volunteer@grrin.org) if you'd like to offer ideas, volunteer or make a donation.

Keep an eye on our website calendar so you don't miss a single gathering in 2018. We don't always have foster dogs at meet and greets, but we welcome the opportunity to chat with you and meet your favorite canine.

Thank you again for supporting GRRIN year-round – we couldn't do it without you!



Dog (Noun):

The best friend you will ever have. A loyal, loving companion that cares for you more than himself. A special creature whose time in your heart will far outnumber its days on earth.



## MEET THE BOARD

The GRRIN Board of Directors plays a crucial role in the success of our organization. Together they ensure that resources are used responsibly, our policies continue to be sound and our actions fulfill our mission.

During our Annual Meeting every April, GRRIN members cast their votes for those positions up for re-election. Congrats and thank you to the following individuals who will serve as our 2018 Board of Directors. We know you will serve the cause well!

President: Kathy Glenn

Vice President: Nancy Bowen

Recording Secretary: Diane Metz

Treasurer: Michele Acri

Corresponding Sec.: Celia Lazar

Volunteer Chair: Laura Beavers

Rescue Chair: Judy Davis

Phone Line: Karen Throener

Outreach Chair: Pam Nathan

Communications: Drew Vermeer

Resource Chair: Dan Moravec



## GET INVOLVED

### WANTED:

### A FEW GOOD DOG LOVERS!

Manager for GRRIN store - Retail therapy for dog lovers! We are in need of someone to manage, store and present articles of clothing and other miscellaneous items at various GRRIN events. This also entails stocking the store with new items as needed and presenting an inventory to the GRRIN treasurer at least once yearly.

Foster homes - We ALWAYS need more foster families but the summer months can be challenging when our volunteers are on vacation and kids are home from school. Give it a try!

If you are interested in getting involved with GRRIN, don't hesitate to learn more.  
[volunteer@grrin.org](mailto:volunteer@grrin.org) | 402.330.6680

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE PARTY ANIMALS!

SAT- SUN PETS IN OMAHA, PICK-A-POOCH  
14-15 ADOPTION DAYS & PET EXPO  
JULY WHEN: 11 am - 4 pm  
WHERE: Ralston Arena, 7300 Q St.  
Ralston, NE 68127

The event will feature over 100 booths from area rescue groups, shelters, and pet-loving businesses. It's pooch and family-friendly and will include various activities just for kids. Admission is free!

SUNDAY NEBRASKA HUMANE SOCIETY,  
30 WALK FOR THE ANIMALS  
SEPT WHEN: 11-2 PM  
WHERE: Nebraska Humane Society, 8929 Fort St.  
Omaha, NE 68134

A fun-filled day for the whole family, with a range of activities, including: dog-friendly 5K, leisure 1-mile walk, BBQ/food trucks, kids' scavenger hunt, adoption parade, 25+ rescue groups and much more! Keep your eye on the Nebraska Humane Society website for more details as they develop!

SUNDAY GOLD RUSH!  
07 WHEN: 12 pm - 4 pm  
OCT WHERE: Offutt Base Lake, Bellevue, NE

Want to volunteer? We're in the planning stages for this annual event! Send an email to [goldrush@grrin.org](mailto:goldrush@grrin.org) and let us know how you can help.

## MEET + GREETs

### MEET OUR TEAM MEMBERS & GRRIN DOGS!

Note: We don't always have foster dogs available, but we believe it's important for our volunteers to provide outreach to the community.

July 28 12 - 2 pm, at Nature Dog Omaha, NE

Aug 11 12-2 pm, at Nature Dog, Omaha, NE

Aug 25: 12 - 2 pm, at Woof and Whiskers, Omaha, NE

Sep 15: 12- 2 pm, at Nature Dog, Omaha, NE

Nov 13: 12 - 2 pm, at Woof and Whiskers, Omaha, NE



## GRRIN IN-THE-KNOW

### INSIGHT ON ALL THINGS GOLDEN

## TEACHING “LEAVE IT”

Teaching your dog to “leave it” is one of the easiest and most frequently used commands one will come across. How often does your dog survey the kitchen while you are cooking, hoping for a stray ingredient or scrap of food to hit the floor? What about on walks when there is a potentially hazardous item on the sidewalk or a passing dog you want to have ignored? This is where the command “leave it” comes into play. After a little bit of training you can have your dog ignoring even the most enticing items. See the steps for conquering this command below!

**Step 1:** Grab a handful of treats and place them in a fist on the ground. Initially your dog will get creative trying to pry the treats out of your hand, but eventually will give up and ignore you. When this happens use a marker word such as, “Yes” or a clicker and give the dog a treat separate from the ones in your hand.

**Step 2:** Repeat step one, adding the cue “leave it” upon the dog noticing the handful of treats. Each time he or she ignores the treats immediately use your marker word or clicker to reward your dog with a separate treat.

**Step 3:** When your dog has become proficient at the above step begin by placing a few treats on the ground with your hand hovering nearby to

block your dog from getting the treats. While placing the treat on the ground include the command “leave it”. If your dog displays proper self-control, then reward him or her with a “yes” or a clicker and give a treat separate from the ones you are having your dog ignore.

**Step 4:** After successfully completing the steps above you can move to simply dropping the treat on the ground and utilizing the command “leave it”. You will want to try and control the drop as much as possible in case your dog tries to get to the treat. It is important to make sure this does not happen. If your dog obeys the “leave it” command, then reward the dog with separate treats similarly to above.

**Step 5:** In this step you can begin getting creative and using practical examples. Take your dog out on a walk or to explore in your yard, keeping an eye out for items your dog typically likes to put in his or her mouth. Each time use “leave it” as the dog fixates on an object. Be close by so that you can provide defense if the command does not work. However, if your dog does obey the command then use your marker word or clicker and give the dog a treat.

## BUFFET VISITS





## OMAHA GIVES!

Thank you GRRIN supporters for your outstanding participation in Omaha Gives! We raised \$6695 with the help of many generous donors. Your donations will help us cover medical care needed for GRRIN foster dogs.

In 2017 the majority of our funds covered veterinary expenses – over \$500 for each of the 28 dogs we rescued. Extreme vet care included treating severe dental disease, allergies and ear infections, thyroid imbalance, lump and bump removal, and palliative care. Something as simple as a dental cleaning will cost approximately \$500, and even more if teeth need to be extracted. Eight of our foster dogs were eight years of age and older, classified as seniors. We are extremely grateful to have the resources to care for these Golden oldies with loving foster homes and the ability to pay for all of their medical expenses so they can live comfortably in their later years.

During the 24 hours of giving, Omaha Gives raised \$7.3 million for the community and over 960 participating non-profits. The Omaha Community Foundation has brought this outstanding opportunity to the metro for six years and we are so excited to be a part of it!

Thanks also to the humans and canines who enjoyed the gorgeous – but warm – evening and came out to Piz-za West to celebrate Omaha's biggest giving day!

## Q2 DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS!

## OMAHA GIVES DONATIONS

Cathryn Adderton in honor of Hailey | Christine Anderson | Kathleen Ar-ends in memory of Sweet Miss Abby 14-26 | Kelli Baltzell | Laura Beavers in memory of Gus, our first Golden | Sarah Birdwell | Elisa Blazek | Blair Bonczynski in honor of Riley B | Kristine Brown in honor of Duke, Cooper, Brinkley | Josh Bucy | Brad Burwell in honor of Lucy, Ethel, Redford, Dakota, Cassidy | Jaymee Corcoran | Kimberly Corum | Connie Crawford | Roger Curry | Sydney Davidson in memory of my Golden Mandy Nicole | Judith J Davis in honor of Sadie | Donn Demaree in honor of Gracie 04-40 | Jessica Ellis | Ashley Elrod | James Fitch in honor of Rocky | Giger Foundation | Barbara Garrett in memory of Gracie | Cal German in honor of DMSi em- ployee Michelle Wright | Kathy Glenn | Deann Grovijohn | Shawn Hough in honor of Abby 11-34 | Theresa Houston in memory of Kandi | Jennifer Hrbek in honor of Tanner | Michelle Hruska in honor of Reggie 17-06 | Becki Kahn in honor of Cubby and Cozmo | Cat Kennedy in honor of Tatiana | Kim Lemmons | Lisa Lewis | Christiane Ley | Edward Lindsay | Tracy Madden McMahon | John Marousek in honor of Maddie | Elizabeth Marriott in hon- or of Buddy and Sophie | David McElhose in memory of Dexter and Buddy 12-14 | Tom & Cindy McGowan | Renee Mellican | Diane Metz | Donald Metzger | Lisa Miers | Beth Mincer | Kristi Miskimins in honor of Peaches | Pamela Nathan in memory of Greta Lilly | Patricia Newman in memory of Oscar | Brenda Orr in honor of Marley | Christopher Paintin in honor of Toby | Mary Jo Parys | Dan Patterson | Sheryl Pilege in honor of Nemo | Cheryl Prochaska | Terry Ralph | Michael Royce | Erika Ryser in memory of Thor, Clyde and all our wonderful Goldens | Kristine Schuler in memory of GRRIN alumnus Toby-Juan Kenoby | Brittany Seaman | Bonnie Seaquist in memory of Buddy, Bella and Max | Marlene Sellers | Jill Shefte | Cathilynn Smetana | Sue Sprinkel in honor of Bear | William Stott | Barbara Teter | Kaela Thompson in honor of Hoss | Christopher Tierney in honor of Molly | Matthew Tondl | Brenda Vair in honor of Jake and Maddie | Megan Van Alstine in memory of Tanner | Randall Vest | Holly Weeks in honor of Ginger and Buddy | Jill Wells | Jane Wiederspan in memory of Holly | Sharlene Wil- son | Heather Wilson | Heather Wrenn in honor of Duke | Colorado Animal Rescue Express | Anonymous donations in honor of Duke, Tanner, Maggie and Norman

## GENERAL DONATIONS

Kris Brown with matching donation from CSG International | Jodi Campbell | Clearview Pet Care Center in memory of Jeter | Jeffrey Edmonds in memory of Tanner Van Sanderstine | Golden Retriever Foundation grants for Brinkley, Ollie & Orville | Owen Henderson in memory of Matthew Henderson | Darri- ca Hollis | Betty Johnson | Catherine Kennedy | Thomas Nielsen in loving memory of Tanner | Jacque Rank in memory of Leo | Gary Roberts | Kayla Scott | Jill Shefte | Cathi Smetana with matching donation from Bank of the West | Phyllis Titus | Vern & Karen Wirka in memory of Arthur 10-83 | Your Cause LLC Trustee for Wells | Amazon Smiles \$59.74

Our apologies if we missed you! Please send corrections to newsletter@grrin.org

# HAPPYTAILS.happytails.HAPPYTAILS.happytails.

Our goal at GRRIN is to get every foster dog to their forever home. Each story is a reflection of the caring effort shared by volunteers and the families who open their homes to a rescue. We share these journeys with you here in our Happy Tails segment.

Interested in fostering? Call our Gold-line at 402.330.6680 and one of our volunteers will contact you!

## SAM 11-35

ADOPTED BY: Dan, Susan, Nick, Jake, Gabi, Grace, and Becca

Our family adopted Sam in August 2013. We thought it was time for an update! Sam continues to be a very special part of our lives. Our oldest boys are grown and out of the house.

He keeps our girls running and loves to play! We recently found some dog toys at Costco that are quite durable and last a few days rather than a couple hours with Sam!

You can count on Sam to take care of whoever happens to be sick in the house and he tends to make the rounds at night checking to be sure everyone's ok and in bed.

Sam is now 7 years old and we can't imagine our lives without him. Thanks to GRRIN for our sweet Sam!



## FROSTY 13-20

ADOPTED BY: Marie

Frosty was officially adopted on May 23rd by his foster mom, Marie! He was originally fostered in 2013 when he was rescued by GRRIN at eight weeks of age with severe frostbite. Frosty was born at a puppy mill in March during an exceptionally long and cold winter, and suffered permanent scarring to his nose and eyebrows, along with the loss of several digits on each of his front paws causing a permanent limp. He had a loving home for four years, but had to come back to GRRIN and was promptly placed with his foster mom Marie and her Wheaton Brie.

This turned out to be a great match. Marie worked very hard to improve Frosty's ability to run and play like a normal Golden, taking him to numerous vet appointments and trying orthopedic boots (Frosty was a real trooper – imagine putting boots on your dog!). Frosty says "thank you" to all the GRRIN donors who made it possible for him to get extra care. You will never see a frown on Frosty's face – he's a typical happy-go-lucky Golden who doesn't understand limitations. Marie has recently moved to South Carolina and Frosty is living the beach life, no more cold Nebraska winters for him!



## BAILEY 18-05

ADOPTED BY:

Mike & Cheryl

Bailey here! I am still a puppy, but a very happy one! I love my new home. My new Mom and Dad, Cheryl and Mike, take great care of me.

They are helping me to learn to behave and get rid of my extra energy in good ways. We go on long walks every morning and evening. They take me to a place that they call a dam site to go walking that has lots of good things to smell and see! They even got me a thing called a kiddie pool that they put me into one day so I could cool off. I was a bit scared the first time that I was in it, but I sure love it now!

I am going to puppy school. I still love to rip apart all the stuffed toys that I can find. Now I have rope toys and I get to play with them. My favorite game is tug-of-war. I want everyone to play with me. I like my crate now too. I sleep in it every night with my blankets. I will even get one out during the day to snuggle with. Thanks to all of my wonderful GRRIN friends who helped me find such a great home! Your special friend, Bailey!!

# InMEMORY.InMemory.InMEMORY.InMemory



BAILEY 12-05



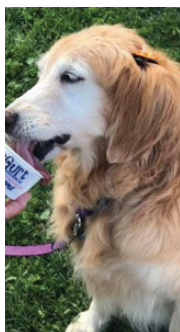
HOLLY 14-30



ANGUS 10-46



ALVIN 12-31



GRETA LILLY GARBO 10-48

It is so very hard to lose your best friend.

Greta Lilly went from a terrified puppy mill mamma to a beautiful, trusting, shy baby girl in the 8 short years that I had her and I was proud to call her mine. She was my buddy, my shadow, my Pet CPR Demo Dog, my best friend... my Sweet Pea. Greta loved other dogs...and yes, even her feline sister, Goldie. Greta became a recognizable figure within GRRIN, always wearing her bows. She was so tolerant of me and my bedazzling of her ears and never tried to take them off. Greta learned to swim, but never played like other dogs. She did have a few soft toys she fancied, but mostly she enjoyed cat toys...Goldie was gracious enough to share, even when Greta ate them. Greta sure knew how to get comfortable and loved to be outside. I could dress her up and she was beautiful! Greta loved baths and being brushed, and sneaking treats after her bath. Greta loved her DogGurt and was always ready to eat! She was always such a trooper when she went to the doctor...she never once whimpered or cried out. Greta battled Lymphoma, and despite all of my efforts and hers, she lost the battle. Cancer Stinks. The heavens have another bright star and the Rainbow Bridge just got a little more crowded. Until we meet again my Greta Lilly— I Love You and Miss You, Pam





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

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. Please send an email to [newsletter@grrin.org](mailto:newsletter@grrin.org) if you prefer to be removed from the list.

Quarter 2 Quick Stats: 11 Goldens Adopted | 4 Goldens in Foster Care

**DON'T COOK  
YOUR DOG!**



**DOGS DIE EVERY SUMMER**  
even with the windows down,  
in minutes cars turn into coffins

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