

GRRIN NEWS

Third Quarter 2021 | Happy Tails, Golden Hearts



GOLD RUSH IS ALMOST HERE

Gold Rush is almost here! The annual festival will be held, rain or shine, on Sunday, October 10th from 12pm - 4pm at SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion. All well behaved and leashed dogs (and well behaved humans) are welcome. Here is an overview of the day's events:



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12pm | Welcome announcement from GRRIN's president |
| 1pm | Demonstration by Ashlee Osborn, Owner of Pawsitive Pups Academy |
| 1:30-2:30pm | Parade of GRRIN foster dogs |
| | Parade of GRRIN alumni dogs |
| | Dog (and owner) costume parade |
| 2:30pm | Annual GRRIN Gold Rush volunteer photo |
| 3:15pm | Winners of the biscuit count game and raffle announced |
| 3:30pm | Winners of the silent auctions and Southwest airline tickets announced |



Need to wander while you wait to win? Try out the games and activities. This year, the games include the Shell Game, Spin and Win, Plinko, the Bean Bag Toss, Bobbing for Tennis Balls, and the Treat Walk. Stop by the photo booth for a candid snapshot, or visit the Kirk's Works tent for a hand-drawn caricature of your dog. And make sure to paw through the items available at the GRRIN store for some human- and dog-friendly merch, including the 2022 GRRIN calendar! If you're in the mood to groom, nail trims will be available through Paw-di-Cures by Jordan and HYDRODOG will be available to "Glam it up for Gold Rush!" And if you're in the mood for a different kind of dog altogether, grab a hot dog from Willie Dogs.

Make sure to stop by this dog-friendly outdoor event for a doggone good time!

INTERVIEW WITH A CASE WORKER

Caseworkers are an integral part of GRRIN, but many people are probably not familiar with all of the work they do behind the scenes. We asked GRRIN caseworker Susan a few questions about what it is like to be a caseworker for golden retrievers in need.

Q. How long have you been a caseworker?

A. I started as a caseworker about a year and a half ago when we were looking to adopt a golden retriever from GRRIN. The Rescue Chair, Judy Davis, called me and asked if I would be interested and I couldn't say no. I'm always looking for an adventure.

Q. How many dogs have you case worked?

A. I just finished case working my eighth dog. The last two came as a pair. This was quite the challenge because they were very bonded, and not too many people want to adopt two goldens at the same time. I've had some dogs in foster care for as long as three months and some as short as two weeks. For sure, no two dogs are the same.

Q. Why did you decide to volunteer as a caseworker?

A. My life career has been working as a mental health therapist and a caseworker in the foster care system. When this volunteer position came open, I figured it couldn't be too much different than working with children. What is different is that, with GRRIN, the end of these stories are almost always happy ones.

Q. Why do you continue to casework?

A. As with any rescue, GRRIN needs people that will step up and give their time to help these goldens find suitable and loving homes that they so deserve. Whether the dogs have less-than-ideal living situations or the owners simply must surrender them, these dogs have been uprooted from what they know is home. If I can help in any way to place a dog in a loving home, I feel I have contributed something essential to a very worthy cause, and more importantly, brought some happiness into the dogs' lives and the lives of their new families.

Q. What is the best part about being a caseworker?

A. For me, there are several parts of being a caseworker that I enjoy. I love meeting each dog and hearing their story. Being able to follow them through the entire process of surrender, foster care, and adoption is extremely satisfying. Finding a nurturing and loving home where I know that the dog will flourish is the goal, and seeing that goal achieved is thrilling. Moreover, seeing the new adopters' joy when they finally adopt their golden retriever is so rewarding.

I love the diversity of this position. The position calls for flexibility, patience, and advocacy for the dog, foster parents, and the new adopters. Being there to help is what being a caseworker is all about.

Q. What is the worst/hardest part about being a caseworker?

A. The hardest part about being a caseworker for me is to hear the stories about the dogs that have been in negative situations. But after hearing these stories it makes me work twice as hard to find these dogs the best and most loving home possible.

Q. Is there a story you'd like to share from your experience as a caseworker?

A. When I look back on the stories of each dog that I've case worked, each golden has their own unique story. The first dog I case worked had been a breeder dog for over seven years. She was like a wild animal that had never been socialized. She was very skittish and frightened of everything, including eating when anyone was around. She had no idea what it meant to be loved. In the beginning this dog didn't even understand how to climb steps. What a challenge!!

The greatest difficulty was finding a family that would take on such a challenging dog. After searching through many applications, we found a family that we hoped would be a match and it was. Although the dog may always have some quirks and obstacles to overcome, she has come a long way because of the patience and love that her new family has shown her. The process that GRRIN uses to foster, evaluate, and place dogs worked well in this situation and works well in similar situations.

Q. What advice do you have for someone who is thinking about becoming a caseworker?

A. For me, caseworking is one of the most rewarding positions a volunteer can have. A caseworker meets the dog when they first arrive in foster care and follows that dog until they are adopted by their forever family. Most of the time things go routinely, but there are those times when a caseworker must be flexible, patient, and willing to go the extra mile. Things don't always work out and it's important to remember that, as a caseworker, I am just one part of a process that involves many people working together to bring our dogs into loving, caring homes.

I learned early on that GRRIN is made up of many caring and resourceful people who are more than willing to listen and share their ideas and/or expertise with me. Keeping this in mind always keeps me on track.



Q3 DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS!

Christopher Maroney | **Sid French** | **Rebecca Runge** | **Jennifer Dunlap** in memory of John Kalina...for sweet Gertie, his Golden Doodle | **Name Your Year Group** in memory of Buddy, a Golden owned by Katie Tessin | **Jon & Sue Sprinkel** in memory of Bear | **Nancy Bowen** | **Karen Sedoris** in loving memory of my GRRIN dogs Chester, Razzy & Toby | **Michael Royce** | **Mike & Karen Liebentritt** in memory of beloved Golden Coal, owned by Thad & Janie Tinder | **Jeremy Kaliff** on behalf of GRRIN supporters Danielle Pedersen and Dr. Melody Kaliff | **Dora Klein** in honor of Nelly, a GRRIN dog (10-14) | **Anonymous** donation for medical care for Briley | **Ann Walters** in honor of Laura Beavers' retirement from OPS | **Cathy Hill** in honor of Laura Beavers' retirement from OPS, she is a wonderful person and very special educator | **Megan Van Alstine** in memory of Orville Garrett | **Laura Beavers** in memory of Orville Garrett | **Celia Lazar** in memory of Orville Garrett



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE, PARTY ANIMALS!

SUNDAY GOLD RUSH!

10
OCT

WHEN: 12 pm - 4 pm

WHERE: SumTur Amphitheater, Papillion, NE

Don't miss the most barktacular event of the season! Come for the games and the prizes, and stay for the demonstrations and the parades. All leashed and well behaved dogs are welcome.

FRIDAY DOGGURT ANNIVERSARY

15
OCT

WHEN: 5 pm - 8 pm

WHERE: DogGurt parking lot
7805 L St, Omaha, NE 68127

Join GRRIN in celebrating DogGurt's one-year anniversary in the DogGurt parking lot. There will be food trucks, local vendors, adoptable dogs, and a raffle!

SUNDAY PHOTOS WITH SANTA

5
DEC

WHEN: 1 pm - 4 pm

WHERE: Nature Dog
13366 West Maple Road, Omaha, NE 68164

If you want your holiday photos to be extra special this year, why not stop by Nature Dog on Sunday, December 5th to get a photo of Fido with Santa? The event will be happening from 1 pm - 4 pm with a real, live Santa! Please check the upcoming events page at grrin.org or facebook for up-to-date information about the structure of this event.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

SUPPORT GRRIN ON GIVINGTUESDAY IN NOVEMBER

It may still be a few months away, but it's never too early to start thinking about supporting golden retrievers in need.

SHARE Omaha, a nonprofit dedicated to helping other nonprofits fulfill their missions, is facilitating GivingTuesday access for local organizations. GRRIN has been part of SHARE Omaha for the past few years and we are thrilled to participate on GivingTuesday with hundreds of other nonprofits. GivingTuesday is an easy way for givers to connect with nonprofits they care about and to surprise neighbors with kindness. So, make sure to mark Tuesday, November 11th on your new GRRIN calendar and support GRRIN and other organizations.

Feeling proactive? You can give at any time! Just visit GRRIN's donation page on the SHARE Omaha site and enter the donation code **GIVINGTUESDAY** at <https://shareomaha.org/donate/golden-retriever-rescue-nebraska> to have your donation counted.

To learn more about this international giving event, visit the ShareOmaha web page at <https://shareomaha.org/givingtuesday>.

THREE DECADES OF RESCUE

GRRIN is celebrating 30 years of rescue this year. In honor of all the work that has brought us to where we are today, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the history that brought us here, so we reached out to a few different GRRIN members and asked them to share their memories of GRRIN over the decades.



FIRST DECADE

This first story is taken from Barb Zelechowski's description of how GRRIN was founded. Her full story can be read on the GRRIN website at <https://grrin.org/about-grrin/ourstory/>.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, 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, underfunding, 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. So, with the three goals of providing a resource for people who needed to place their dogs, giving the public reliable information about Golden Retrievers, and forming a social network for Golden owners, Deb (Platt) Goll, Jackie (Stephenson) Smith, and I started 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. 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.

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. 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 first year. The second year we took in 45, and it continued to increase.

We didn't forget our social mission, either. The first Gold Rush picnic was held in 1991 at Elmwood Park. Many of the members attended with their Golden Retrievers for a fun afternoon. The carnival has evolved over time, but it is still a fun and unique event in Nebraska.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who have given so much to GRRIN. I am incredibly proud of the work that we did back then and that you continue to do today. You are, indeed, Golden.

Affectionately, Barb Zelechowski

SECOND DECADE

After working on the GRRIN hotline during the first decade, I was asked to become the Chairperson in charge of the hotline, which was also a Board of Directors At-Large position. Betsy Chase was President and Diane Metz was Recording Secretary, a position she held until 2021. Being on the Board, which meets quarterly, is the way to know how GRRIN operates, and why the policies are so important.

During the early 2000s, GRRIN was rescuing an average of 40 dogs a year. Foster families were and are the backbones of rescue, preparing dogs medically and behaviorally for their adoptive families. The Adoption Coordinator does the important job of matching dogs with people who want to adopt one.

Continued on page 5

SECOND DECADE CONTINUED

During the decade the Board voted to let carefully selected adopters adopt very calm senior dogs without having a fenced in yard. That policy went away after a few years, as some dogs we thought wouldn't wander actually did. Now the fenced-in backyard directly accessible from the house is our firmest requirement.

GRRIN had three Presidents in the decade: Susan Kunkee from Lincoln, Judy Hartlieb from Omaha, and Chuck Killion, from in Treynor, Iowa. The Rescue Chair on the board during this time was a resident of Bellevue, and the Intake Coordinator lives in Silver City, Iowa. We've had volunteers in Beatrice, Nebraska City, Blair, and Wayne.

I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped these wonderful dogs. I'm proud to have been a member of GRRIN in all three decades.

Rescue Chair, Judy Davis

THIRD DECADE

My first interaction with GRRIN was back in 2009, after I lost my first golden retriever. I attended a lot of meet & greets with GRRIN, hoping to find another dog who would be a perfect match. In 2010, I found Greta Lilly and I fell in love. After I adopted her, I continued to participate in GRRIN events. A short time later, I took a position with the GRRIN board as the Outreach Coordinator. I have been on the board as the Outreach Coordinator ever since.

In addition to being on the board, I conduct home inspections for prospective foster and adoptive homes, and I also serve as a caseworker. I also manage GRRIN tags and scarves, ensuring that all of our foster dogs receive both items.

When I joined GRRIN as a volunteer, it felt like I was gaining family members. Everyone was so helpful and there was an abundance of volunteers. It really felt like (and still feels like) everyone is in it for the good of the dogs. They are the primary focus of the organization and the people in it.

Since I started working with GRRIN around 10 years ago, I feel like the organization has gotten more organized. We've worked over the last decade to more clearly define the roles of our board members and volunteers. People now have a better idea of what they have to do to fulfil their roles and duties. Also, I feel like GRRIN has become more community oriented. We've developed relationships with local veterinarians, other rescues, and local businesses. This mutual support has allowed us all to strengthen each other.

When I think of big things that GRRIN has accomplished over the past decade, the Turkey dogs come to mind. Back in 2016, GRRIN rescued four golden retrievers from Turkey, where there is a very high population of homeless dogs, including golden retrievers. The endeavor was quite expensive and took a lot of work and coordination on the part of many volunteers. But, in the end, we were able to give four homeless dogs from a different country a forever home here in Nebraska.

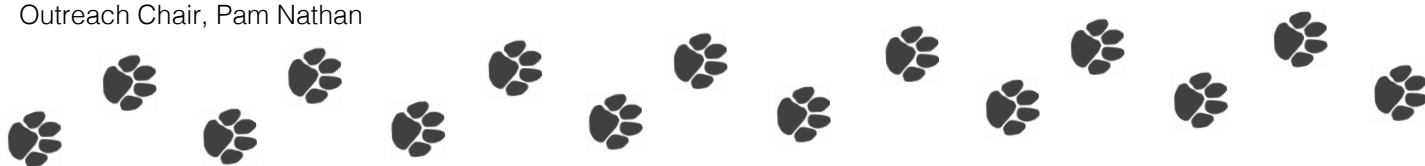
Also, due to fundraising efforts and generous donors, GRRIN has really been able to step up and provide some very extensive medical care for the dogs it takes in. This has allowed us to accept dogs with serious medical issues and provide quality care instead of having to turn those dogs away. This level of care and commitment would not be possible without our donors, without the volunteers who work tirelessly for our dogs, and without our foster homes, who are willing and able to put in the work to support dogs with special needs.

One aspect of rescue that our organization has struggled with in the past few years is having enough foster homes. Our foster homes are the backbone of GRRIN. We can't do our work without them. I would love for our organization during the next decade to work on keeping our adoptive families engaged after adoption and getting them interested in volunteering or becoming foster homes.

One of the strongest memories I have from the past decade is of a dog that I case worked. He had a combination of pressing medical issues and ended up spending a month in a specialty vet hospital. As his caseworker, I visited him there every day except for one. It was so heartwarming being able to see him get the surgery he needed and then to be able to find him the perfect foster home and perfect forever home. Also, there was so much community support from veterinarians, small businesses, and donors. So many people inside and outside of the organization came together to provide him the care he needed and to pay for that care. It was a really big commitment to usher him through everything he went through, but it was so rewarding.

GRRIN has been such a big part of my life over the past decade and I am looking forward to the decades ahead!

Outreach Chair, Pam Nathan





WE REMEMBER

REMEMBERING THE 9/11 DOGS

In the aftermath of 9/11 twenty years ago, nearly 10,000 rescue workers arrived on the scene of the twin towers in New York City. Of those 10,000, more than 300 were dogs. Those animals, along with their handlers, worked tirelessly as search and rescue dogs, but for many of the rescue workers, their mere presence was just as important as their skills.

Mental health professionals on site noticed that first responders were not really talking to the therapists, but that they would interact with and take comfort from the dogs. Dr. Cindy M. Otto, a vet who worked at ground zero and runs a canine search and rescue training school, stated, "When people saw or touched the dogs, they would relax or have a moment's hope."

The public was generally aware of search and rescue dogs before 9/11, but the media attention on the dogs after the attacks inspired many people to seek search and rescue certifications for their dogs, and it inspired others to begin financially supporting organizations that train and certify search and rescue animals.

Of those hundreds of dogs who worked tirelessly in the aftermath, two of the most well known, Bretagne and Riley, were golden retrievers.

BRETAGNE

Bretagne (pronounced Brit-nee) was two years old when she was brought to Ground Zero. It was her first search and rescue assignment with her handler and owner, volunteer firefighter and engineer Denise Corliss, who had been training her since she was eight weeks old. As the days wore on, Bretagne took on a new role beyond search and rescue - that of a therapy dog to many of the responders. Speaking with NBC Today, Corliss described a time when Bretagne ignored her command to stay and instead approached a firefighter sitting on the ground. "I was surprised that she wasn't listening to me, but she really wasn't," Corliss told the show. "She went right to that firefighter and laid down next to him and put her head on his lap."

Corliss and Bretagne continued to work after 9/11, assisting in rescue efforts after hurricane Rita, hurricane Katrina, hurricane Ivan, and other disasters. At the age of nine Bretagne retired from search and rescue work, but she stayed busy by serving as a reading dog for first graders and students with autism at a local elementary school. She was believed to be the oldest living 9/11 dog when she crossed the rainbow bridge in 2016, just shy of her seventeenth birthday.

RILEY

Riley, a four-year-old trained search and rescue dog, was brought in with his handler Chris Selfridge to search for survivors after the attacks. Riley is probably one of the most famous 9/11 dogs because of a photograph taken of him and featured by news outlets around the world. In the photo, he can be seen riding in a metal basket, suspended from a cable over a 60-foot crater of rubble. He was being sent over to the north tower to search through the wreckage for survivors.

In Mackenzi Lee's 2019 book *The History of the World in Fifty Dogs*, Selfridge spoke about the work that Riley did during those difficult days - both the work that he was trained to do and the work that he wasn't. "Riley knew the people he continued to find were dead. He was never a formally trained cadaver dog. His job was to find the still living. I tried my best to tell Riley he was doing his job. He had no way to know that when firefighters and police officers came over to hug him - and for a split second you can see them crack a smile - that Riley was succeeding at doing an altogether different job. He provided comfort. Or maybe he did know."



MAXIE 21-04

ADOPTED BY: Jordan & Renee

We're very happy to report that Maxie found her forever home! She quickly found a place in our hearts. Maxie is a big puppy full of energy and loves exploring our backyard. She seems to fit in nicely with the neighbor dogs, too. She especially loves car rides! Thank you GRRIN for everything you do and for bringing Maxie into our lives! We just love her!



LUKA 21-07

ADOPTED BY: Tim & Ashley

Hi I'm Luka (formally Thor) and this is my new family. With the help of some amazing people at GRRIN, we were able to find each other. Some of my favorite things to do with my family are to play catch with my favorite stuffed taco toy, chase my brother and sister around, and keep my momma's feet warm while she reads first thing in the morning. Oh, and I love when we all cuddle in bed for story time at the end of the day. I can't wait to see what kinds of adventures we will have as a family.



SAMMI 21-03

I am home!! It feels so good!

I was a scared little girl when I came to stay at my GRRIN foster home. What a changed girl I am now! I became very secure and confident with myself with my foster family. Mom and Dad helped me over my fears.

One of my favorite things to do was to "counter surf" which I still try to do. I have taught Mom and Dad to keep food out of my reach!

I have wormed my way into their hearts and they have fallen in love with me. I am quite the snuggly dog I am told.

I am officially part of the family and I even have a fur brother, Harley. We love to play a lot, especially outside, where we can chase each other all around the big yard. I love to try to follow the squirrels up the tree, which I have not mastered yet.

I want to thank all of my GRRIN friends who have helped me realize that I was already home!

Yours truly, Sammi



JAX 21-01

ADOPTED BY: Nick & Colleen

Loving, caring, silly, attentive. Those are the first words that come to my mind when I think of Jax. We adopted Jax at the end of March and he without a doubt makes us smile every single day.

He is such a joyful and wonderful five-year-old golden retriever. Don't let his age fool you, at five years old he still loves to fetch, fit as many toys as he can into his mouth at once, play tug of war, and steal hugs every chance he gets.

We are so thankful to GRRIN and all the volunteers who helped in our adoption process. We hope Jax's story brightens your day as much as he brightens ours!



Q2 QUICK STATS

 19 goldens adopted

 7 goldens in foster care



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 if you prefer to be removed from the list.

2022 GRRIN CALENDARS

GRRIN's calendars were so popular last year that we're doing them again! Like last year, each month contains a glossy, full-page golden retriever photo, each submitted by their owners. These calendars will be available for purchase at Gold Rush, but if you aren't able to make it to our annual golden retriever festival, you can purchase one (or more!) on our website using PayPal or via the mail-in order form below. Give yourself and those you love the gift of twelve precious pups for 2022.

Mail-In Calendar Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Number of Calendars: _____ Total (\$20 x Quantity): _____

Cut this form out and mail it, along with a check or cash, to the following address:

Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska

PO Box 126

Boys Town, NE 68010