



# GRRIN NEWS

Winter 2021 | Happy Tails, Golden Hearts



## GOLD RUSH WAS GOLDEN

Thank you so much to everyone who made it out to Gold Rush, GRRIN's annual golden retriever festival. It was a beautiful, sunny October day at SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion and there were over 100 people and nearly 60 dogs in attendance. We would also like to thank the 57 volunteers who so graciously helped to set up, run the festival, and tear down at the end. We even had half a dozen brand-new volunteers this year!

The festival kicked off at noon and was emceed by the very talented Shari Stone from THE BEST MIX 105.5 KFMT and My Boomer Radio. Attendees were then able to watch a presentation on dog training by Ashlee Osborn, owner of Pawsitive Pups Academy, and then sit back to enjoy a parade of GRRIN foster dogs and GRRIN alumni dogs, as well as a costume contest.

Our favorite pup-based games were back, with plenty of opportunities to win prizes playing the shell game, spin to win, plinko, the cake walk, the bean bag toss, and bobbing for tennis balls. And those wanting a picture to share could snap a shot at the GRRIN photo booth or get a puppy portrait drawn by caricaturist Kirk Kuenzl.

We also had a number of vendors in attendance. Thank you to Doggurt, Nature Dog, Nail Trims by Jourdan, Hydro-dog – Oliver, Cora Taylor Art Photography, KiCo Creative Art, VCA Midwest Veterinary Referral & Emergency Center, Sirius Orthopedic Veterinary Center, Oodles of Poodles Treats, Ashlee Osborn – Owner of Pawsitive Pups Academy, Lynn King-Grieve – roving photographer, Kirk's Works Caricature Drawings, and the Willie Dog Hot Dogs food truck.

Thanks to all of the vendors, donors, and friends of GRRIN who support our organization – we couldn't do it without you!





# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## THE LATEST NEWS + RECENT HAPPENINGS

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

## GRRIN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time again! It's time for GRRIN's annual membership drive. You should have received a letter from GRRIN's president Barb Garrett reminding you to renew your membership or to become a first-time member. Not only do the membership dues go toward helping GRRIN fulfill its mission of finding forever homes, but as a member, you have access to a variety of benefits, including the GRRIN newsletter and the ability to vote at the annual meeting. This year, many dogs have required more expensive vet care and we are ending 2021 with a very big expense: five-month old Athena needed surgery to correct an ectopic ureter.

Memberships are only \$15 (\$10 for each additional member in the household) and go a long way toward helping us care for all of our wonderful rescue dogs. Go to <https://grrin.org/member/> to either purchase your membership online or for information on how to pay by mail.

## 2022 GRRIN CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE

It's not too late to order a GRRIN 2022 calendar. Each month contains a glossy, full-page golden retriever photo submitted by their owner.

To purchase calendars online, head over to <https://grrin.org/product/2021-grrin-calendar/> or mail in the order form below. It's the perfect gift for the dog-lover in your life and a great way to support GRRIN.

### 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**

# ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Want to learn more about how you can support the mission of rescuing golden retrievers? Do you enjoy free lunch?

Whether you're a new volunteer or a seasoned one, there's always something to learn.

GRRIN will be hosting its annual volunteer training on Sunday, January 23rd from noon-3pm at the Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium at 8929 Fort St. in Omaha.

The event will start with lunch and a bit of social time and then the training sessions will take place after that.

Plan to come and learn more about GRRIN and how you can help make a difference in the lives of golden retriever rescue dogs.



## SMILE FOR GRRIN

Want to finish up that last-minute holiday shopping AND make money for GRRIN?

If you're not familiar, Amazon Smile is a program through amazon.com that enables you to choose a charitable organization to support. Every time you purchase eligible products on Amazon, your chosen organization (GRRIN, of course!) will receive proceeds at no cost to you. All you have to do is go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

The first time you visit, you will need to select GRRIN as the organization you would like to support. To do this, find "Or pick your own charitable organization" on the lower right hand side. You can search for GRRIN by typing in "Golden Retriever Rescue in Nebraska." You only need to do this once. In the future, Amazon will remember that you want your shopping to support GRRIN.

After that, all you have to do is make sure you go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (instead of [www.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)) every time you shop on amazon. Everything will look and function the same, but GRRIN will receive money every time you purchase eligible products!

## UPCOMING EVENTS SAVE THE DATE, PARTY ANIMALS!

SUNDAY

23  
J A N

### ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TRAINING

WHEN: noon - 3 pm

WHERE: Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium  
8929 Fort Street, Omaha, NE

Whether you're a new volunteer or a seasoned one, there's always something to learn. Join GRRIN for an overview of our available volunteer opportunities.

SUNDAY

24  
A P R

### ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: noon - 3 pm

WHERE: Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium  
8929 Fort Street, Omaha, NE

Save the date! Join GRRIN for our annual membership meeting where we'll talk shop, vote for board positions, and catch up with our fellow GRRIN members. Dogs are welcome!

## MEET & GREETES

### 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.

Meet and greets occur on the first Sunday of each month from 12 pm - 1 pm, at The Bookworm in Omaha, NE.



# INTERVIEW WITH A TRANSPORTER

Have you ever wondered how our GRRIN dogs get from their surrendering homes to their foster families? We haven't yet been lucky enough to rescue a dog with a driver's license, so that responsibility falls to our transport volunteers. Without them, we could never even get the rescue dogs in the door. To shed light on what goes into transporting our new goldens, we asked transport volunteer (and volunteer coordinator) Laura Beavers what it's like to do this work.

## **Q. How long have you been a transporter?**

A. I have been transporting since early 2017, so about 5 years.

## **Q. How many dogs have you transported?**

A. Well over 10, but I haven't really kept track.

## **Q. Can you describe the general process for transporting a new foster dog to their foster home?**

A. The transport process basically has five steps:

Arrange to pick up the dog and make the vet appointment. The transporter must coordinate times with the surrendering owner and foster family and make a vet appointment so that the dog has a vet visit before going to the foster home.

Pick up the dog from the surrendering owner's home and have the Transfer of Ownership papers signed. This can get emotional for the surrendering owners. Usually the dog comes with toys, a bed, food, medicines, even a crate. My little Juke car prohibits me from transporting dogs with their crates unfortunately.

Transport the dog to the vet appointment where the dog will have a check up, any needed vaccinations, heartworm and fecal testing, microchip inserted, nails trimmed, etc.

Transport to the foster home. This can be a time-consuming part of the process if there are resident pets at the foster home, as you need to make sure the resident and foster dogs will get along.

Communicate with the Transport coordinator/Rescue team. Mail the Transfer of Ownership, send photos of the dog, and get any new vet records to the coordinator also.

## **Q. Why did you decide to volunteer as a transporter?**

A. Transporting is a vital part of the rescue process. I liked it so much that I even got GRRIN license plates.

## **Q. Why do you continue to be a transporter?**

A. It is very rewarding. You are the liaison between the surrendering owner and the foster family.

## **Q. What is the best part about being a transporter?**

A. You are representing the GRRIN organization and helping the surrendered golden to transition into their new situation as a GRRIN dog. It is very rewarding when a dog gets their forever new home and knowing that you were part of that.

## **Q. What is the worst/hardest part about being a transporter?**

A. The sadness and tears that sometimes come when a dog must be surrendered. You, as a transporter, need to always remember that oftentimes the reason for surrendering is beyond the owner's control - like moving to an apartment, allergies, health concerns, money issues, divorce, or small children. We don't always know the whole story. It takes courage and humility to ask for help rehoming a beloved pet.

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

A. I have had many interesting transports. One surrendering owner told me that their golden threw up in the car when traveling. Sure enough, there was truth to that one. The dog vomited almost immediately as we started our one-hour drive back to Omaha. One dog came complete with her own SUITCASE full of toys...a very large suitcase, might I add. Another time, there was a VERY overweight senior golden that I was transporting. This dog was well over 100 pounds. When we got to our destination, the dog decided to step on my arm rest console between the seats and snapped it right off!!!!

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

A. Find out more by emailing our volunteer coordinator (me) by going to <http://grrin.org/volunteer/>



# FUNDRAISING FOR ATHENA

**YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS WILL HELP TO PAY FOR THIS EXPENSIVE SURGERY**

This sweet little girl came into GRRIN because she has a condition requiring surgery and it is quite expensive. Her original owners provided amazing care and invested a lot to determine Athena has an ectopic ureter. Translation: she regularly leaks urine and is at risk for regular infections and urine scald. GRRIN's board of directors approved an expenditure of \$7,000 for Athena's surgery and care. Athena had her surgery in the middle of December and is on her way to a full recovery! Because of members like you, GRRIN is in a position to be able to provide this level of care for Athena.

When Athena first came into GRRIN, she settled right in to her foster home and has been wonderfully adaptable to everything she encounters – trips in the car, her foster fur-buddies, and GRRIN events. If you'd like to help GRRIN pay for Athena's medical expenses, please visit our donation page at <https://grrin.org/donate/>.

Make sure to follow her updates on our website!

*Please note, we are not accepting adoption applications for Athena. She will not be available for adoption for a few months and we have several families already approved for adoption or in the process of getting approved.*



## Q4 DONATIONS THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS!

**Sid French | Laraine Roberts | Margie Ory | Janice Little | Brad Burwell | Matt Tondl | Cookie Lazar | Brett & Lindsey Shunkwiler | Chris Maroney | Jordan Mellican | Katherine Creighton | Paul & Lori Synhorst | Ted & Judy Brass | Dennis & Linda Larson | Scot Anderson | Harry Quinlan | Steve & Rhonda Bors | Charlie & Michele Klinger | David & Julie Churilla | Chet & Louise Bressman | Chris Fletcher in honor of Judy Davis | Bob Williams | Diane Mumford | Jeff & Sarah Young | Dave & Cindy Buechler | Vern & Karen Wirka | Vickie & Dick Sklenar | Gregg Christensen | Kristen Rock | Joe & Rhonda Zugmier | Rich & Laura Roccaforte | John Weston | Rita Vetter in memory of Ken Vetter | Dora & Kevin Klein | Karen Stevens | Kim & Jim Walsworth | Bruce & Bobbie Moore Bruce & Bobbie Moore in honor of all GRRIN dogs & Volunteers | Greg & Sarah Knudsen | Donn Demaree | Ken & Debbie Elson | Karen & Dan Throener | Leigh Houfek in memory of Ralph Houfek | Michelle Wright | Christopher Maroney | Thomas & Linda Nipper | DogGurt | Sarah Riedler | Amanda & Pete Anderson | Regan & Mary Jane Zeller | Trisha & Jason Kuiper | Mike & Nikki Moravec Charitable Fund | Gary & Robin Widhelm in memory of Ken Vetter**

## IN MEMORY OF JOHN GRANT

**Robin Taylor | Steve & Sally Reck | Robert E. O'Connor | Paul T. Kearney | Paul & Susan Yatron | Amanda Thoendel | Scott Moore | Natalie Simms | Angie Drees | Sherolyn Benton | Jay & Tracy Hancock | James & Sheryl Taylor | Melvin & Barbara Dodenhof | John & Lorrie Swanson | Judy & Donald Lyman | Cheryl & Joe Hazel | John & Sharon Grant | Marc & Dr. Karen Spencer-May | Sheryl & Jeffrey Forehead | James & Jeana Gilin | Gary & Deborah Rosenberg | Richard & Connie Rensch | Alfred & Patricia Suarez | Thomas & Ricki Lauritsen | Theresa & Timothy Grant | Christina & Michael Brown | Cynthia & Stephen Forehead | Thomas & Michele Kiefer | Leigh Jacobs & Grant Brassette | Kay & Thomas Keefe | D.C. & Patricia Bradford | Margaret & John Falck | Ken & Jane Sibilia | Richard & Molly Drews | Steve & Sherry Brownrigg Foundation**

## GIVING TUESDAY

**Mila Franco | Lisa Miers | Amy Johnson | Cheryl Krenk | Laraine Roberts | Lynn Bowman | Jon Armstrong | Barbara Zelechowski | Celia Lazar | Tracy McMahon | Theresa Houston | Judy Davis | Milla Shullaw | Andrea Carson**



## GERTIE 21-05

ADOPTED BY: Laura & Keith

Hello everyone! My name is Gertie and I am a 3-year-old golden doodle! I was recently adopted by my foster parents, Keith and Laura. My official adoption day was the exact same day as their wedding anniversary AND my birthday – June 24th. I figure I was the BEST anniversary present ever! Let's see, 25 years is the silver anniversary and 50 is the golden ...so 16 must have been "dog!"

I have a brother and a sister whom I love. My mom says we need to buy a bigger car now that I have joined the family, so we can all go out to play at GRRIN events.

Ruby is 2 and just the right size to play around the clock with me... she and I LOVE to run around our large yard and wrestle with vigor.

Koda is a 9-year-old BIG golden doodle. He shows me how to be a good dog – and someday I want to help at a local retirement/rehab center like he does. I need a lot more training, but I sure am sweet and loving enough to be the BEST at enhancing the lives of elders!



## FRANKLIN 21-12

ADOPTED BY: Austin & Emilee

Hi, I am Franklin (Frank), and I am one of the four blind goldendoodle puppies who were surrendered to GRRIN. My dad knew that mommy's dream dog had always been a goldendoodle (mommy always wanted to therapy train a goldendoodle, so she could take it to school with her each day). My dad also knew that if he told mommy about me, a goldendoodle who was born blind, that she would never be able to say no to me. My mommy is a special education teacher, so adopting a dog with special needs holds such a special place in her heart. After a few months in my awesome foster home with the best foster parents, dad and mom finally got to rescue/adopt me, and on Friday, August 13th, I officially found my forever home.

Daddy and Mommy say they are beyond grateful for GRRIN and my foster mom for giving them the best addition to the family. (Please don't tell my sister I said that.)

Read Frank's full Happy Tail at <https://grrin.org/happy-tails/>



## MILLIE 21-11

ADOPTED BY: Pam & Craig

Hi! Millie here! I am one of the four blind goldendoodle puppies who were surrendered to GRRIN. I really don't know that I am blind, because you know, I can see with my heart!

I was in the best foster home with my brother Franklin. I learned so much from my foster family. Best of all, I learned how to snuggle!

I am mom's emotional support service dog. I will be going to school and will become a Canine Good Citizen, whatever that means.

I LOVE to find sticks and carry them around. We go for lots of walks and I have made new friends. I, like my brother Franklin, love ANYTHING FOOD. I love ice cubes, Doggurt frozen yogurt, sweet potato chips, and bully sticks.

We play with doggie puzzles and find-it games. I sure can smell things great. Just recently, I learned to swim, and that was fun! I love baths and massages.

Thanks to all of you humans that helped me get to where I am today. I am one lucky girl!

Read Millie's full Happy Tail at <https://grrin.org/happy-tails/>

# HAPPY TAILS! HAPPY TAILS! HAPPY TAILS!



## JACK (HERKY) 21-16

ADOPTED BY: Lucas & Rachel

Hi! It's me Jack (previously Herky)! I went home with my mom, dad, and dog sister Ruby in September 2021. I'm a pretty goofy guy. Whenever my parents get home from work I like to find a toy and run through the house and howl to welcome them home. I also make them laugh with all the silly faces I make. My lips often get stuck on my teeth and it looks like I'm smiling. My parents know that I'm very smart. When I first moved in I showed them that I know how to open the kitchen trash can lid by stepping on the lever. The look on their face was priceless but I'm not allowed to do that anymore.

I really enjoy my daily walks on trails around my house and playing fetch in the backyard with my sister Ruby. Ruby has been doing a good job showing me the ropes. I like her and she thinks I'm pretty great too. I follow her around everywhere. If Ruby and my mom fall a little behind on our walks I get worried and make dad wait until they catch up. Speaking of walks I used to be a big puller and now I'm only a moderately big puller. Progress is progress right?

Anyway I'm doing great and my new family loves me a whole bunch!



## RIPKIN 21-19 & REESE 21-20

ADOPTED BY: Eileen & family

The Dynamic Duo, Reese and Ripkin, here to say HELLO. We have been together for two and half plus years, but uncontrollable circumstances happened to our family, and so we went to GRRIN to live with a foster family.

Soon, we met this awesome family who had two kids that we had a blast playing with, AND they have a pool that Reese couldn't resist investigating. They knew immediately we were the perfect golden duo to join their family. Now, every day we are busy, busy, busy: we start by taking our human sister and brother to school; then we help mom with her gardening by taking the garden tools and hiding them and playing with the instruction sheet which somehow gets destroyed; then it's time to go back to school to pick up our sister and brother and see all the other school kids. Plus, we always make time to practice our basic commands, remember our manners, and perfect our leash walking skills...even when it rains and we can play in the mud (fun, fun, fun)!

Read Reese & Ripkin's full Happy Tail at <https://grrin.org/happy-tails/>



## BRILEY 13-31

ADOPTED BY: Robert & Sally

I have a terrific story to tell you about me. My name is Briley and people say I am the sweetest senior golden. I lived with my previous family almost my entire life. We went for walks, car rides, and played in the yard; I loved living with my dad and mom and they dearly loved me. Somehow, I injured my leg and was having trouble walking. GRRIN was notified and the decision was made for me to leave my family and go live with a foster family.

GRRIN took me to a specialized vet and my leg diagnosis was a torn CCL....YIKES. I had surgery and my foster family took excellent care of me; and, after several weeks, I made a remarkable recovery. Soon, a wonderful couple also thought I was the sweetest, senior Golden girl and they adopted me.

Wow, I have so much fun in my new home! There are all these TOYS and I constantly carry a toy around with me and sometimes share them with my fur-brother.

I have to be the luckiest, senior Golden ever...having such wonderful families to care and love me. I am so thankful to everyone. LIFE IS GOOD!

Read Briley's full Happy Tail at <https://grrin.org/happy-tails/>



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.

2021 Quick Stats: 26 Goldens Adopted | 10 Goldens in Foster Care



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