



Winter 2024 | Happy Tails, Golden Hearts



## GOLD RUSH 2023 RESCUING DOGS IS OUR SUPERPOWER!

Everyone involved with 2023's Gold Rush can say "rescuing dogs is MY superpower." From the 61 volunteers who ran the event to the 160+ guests and 20 vendors who attended, you ALL are rescue heroes. Despite the very hot day, your support resulted in a wonderful community celebration of our favorite breed, the golden retriever. Speaking of golden retrievers, we had at least 75 dogs in attendance, splashing in the baby pools, playing games, and painting masterpieces at the new Pawblo Picasso activity booth.

Vendors included Nail Trims by Extra Terrestrial, Hydrodog Oliver, Doggurt, Nature Dog, caricaturist Kirk Kunzel, Bublebee Collars & More, The Foster Kitten Project, Macke Institute of Canine Therapy, Jax & Josie's Smoked Jerky Dog Treats, David Codr with DogGone Problems, Streetside Foods, and Pawfect Choice Dog Grooming, Daycare, Boarding.

Special thanks to our amazing emcees, Kathy Glenn (former GRRIN President) and Curt Bright from The String Beans. We are also grateful for our roving photographer, Michael Ryan, a UNL Media Arts student who shared his photos with GRRIN. You can



find them on our website! Finally, we hope you had a chance to stop and chat with Katie Berry, who showcased her Girl Scout Gold Award project, a collection of pamphlets addressing health concerns for Golden Retrievers.

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



Have you renewed your GRRIN membership for 2024? If you haven't, what are you waiting for?

What do your dues support? Here's some of the work that GRRIN did in 2023:

- We had a record number of young dogs in foster care – 25 dogs aged eight weeks to four years!
- We found permanent homes for 26 foster dogs, including one tripod
- We provided life-saving surgery to a neglected senior dog
- We kept three bonded pairs of dogs together and placed them with new families
- More incoming dogs were not spayed or neutered; our expense for these procedures increased
- More owners are surrendering their dogs because they “just don't have the time”
- Our permanent foster Murphy turned 16!

Still not convinced? Your active membership will provide you with access to the following members-only benefits:

- Voting rights at the annual meeting in April
- Invitations to members-only events for you and your golden
- A subscription to our newsletter

Please take a moment to renew your GRRIN membership online at <https://grrin.org/member/> and pay your dues via our Donate button or by mailing a check. Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

## **DONATIONS**      THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTICIPATING IN OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

**Amy & Kevin Koehler | Amy Pirolo | Anonymous**, in memory of Anne Waldman | **Ashley & Dave Engler | Barbara Garrett**, in honor of Katie Berry | **Betty Johnson**, in memory of Maggie & Rudy | **Bob Williams**, in honor of Buffy | **Bobbi Catron**, in memory of Thomas Catron, past GRRIN adoptee Buddy Little, present adoptee Neptune Little | **Bonnie & Paul Seaquist**, in memory of Daisy | **Bruce & Bobbie Moore**, in memory of all our past GRRIN dogs | **Bryan Warren | Carol Struve**, in memory of Roger Struve | **Cathy Hill**, in memory of Miss Madlyn | **CharityVest, Inc.**, in memory of Anne Waldman | **Chet & Louise Bressman**, in memory of Buddy, Gracie, Sophie | **Chris Fletcher**, in honor Dennis & Barb Garrett | **Christopher Maroney | Claire Baker**, in honor of Jim & Mary Jane Fitch | **Contessa Crees**, Oodles of Poodles | **Cookie Lazar**, in loving memory of all 12 pups who have been a part of my life! | **Craig Connolly | Dan & Sandy Boyd**, in memory of Kandi Boyd, GRRIN rescue from 1993 | **Dan Boyd**, in memory of Koda Beavers | **Danielle Pedersen | Daryl Kats**, in memory of Lorraine Kats | **David & Cindy Buechler | David & Julie Churilla | David & Lori Johnson | David & Michelle Huffman**, in memory of Jake | **Debra Burkholder | Dennis Larson | Diane Mumford**, in memory of Abbie & Pumpkin | **Dora & Kevin Klein**, in memory of Nelly | **Doris & Corky Buell | Dorothy Wright | Elizabeth & James Marriott**, in memory of Sophie | **Greg Christensen**, in memory of Sheyanne | **Harry Quinlanin | Heather Wrenn | J.K. Barker Foundation | Jack & Pat Bell**, in memory of Mozart | **Jacque Rank & Jane Wiederspan**, in honor of Max | **James & Jeri Regan**, in memory of Gracie | **James Thele | Janice Little**, in memory of Buddy | **Janie Tinder**, in memory of Thad Tinder | **Jeff & Cheri Howard | Jeff & Sarah Young | Jeff & Sherrie Chester**, in memory of Lucky | **Jill & Rich Shefte | JoAnn MacDonald**, in memory of John Cole Harris | **Joe & Rhonda Zugmier**, in memory of Sadie | **Joe Supenski | John & Jodi Flores | John Weston | Jon & Sue Sprinkel**, in memory of Harley | **Julie Jerabek | Karen & Dan Throener**, in memory of Casey | **Karen Stevens**, in honor of Keagan & Finnegan | **Karla Sauer | Katherine Creighton**, in honor of Katie | **Kathy Ahrends**, in memory of Abby | **Kathy Richter | Katie Eby | Keith & Laura Beavers**, in memory of Koda Bear | **Kirk's Works | Kristin Rock | Laddie Lastoka | Laraine Roberts | Laura Buresh**, in honor of Stella & Leo | **Laura Roccaforte**, in honor of Rich Roccaforte, and in memory of Hadley & Maia | **Lee Ann Walker**, in memory of Bella | **Linda Kneifl**, in memory of Brandy Lou, Leslie, Cabela, Maverik, Ice & Sienna | **Lisa & Dave McElhose | Mara Schwarting**, in special memory of Scout Anderson | **Margie & Les Ory | Marilyn Maude**, in memory of Chandler & Buddy | **Marsha Peal & Mike Awsiakiewicz**, in memory of Shonie, Scooter, Shelbie | **Martha Gilchrist**, in memory of Jazz | **Matt & Sarah Wickencamp**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## SAT-SUN I LOVE MY DOG EXPO

23 &  
24  
MAR

WHEN: Sat @ 9 am - 5 pm, Sun @ 10 am - 4 pm  
WHERE: Lancaster Event Center,  
4100 N 84th St, Lincoln, NE

Come visit the GRRIN table at the I Love My Dog Expo in Lincoln! The I Love My Dog Expo is an annual benefit for Domestic-PUPS that includes entertainment, games, training demonstrations, and, of course, plenty of shopping. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. For more information, visit [www.ilovemydogexpo.com](http://www.ilovemydogexpo.com).

## SUNDAY ANNUAL MEETING

28  
APR

WHEN: noon - 2 pm  
WHERE: Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium  
8929 Fort Street, Omaha, NE

Join us for GRRIN's annual membership meeting where we'll serve lunch, have a short business meeting, vote for board positions, and catch up with our fellow GRRIN members. Friendly dogs are welcome. Please RSVP to [volunteer@grrin.org](mailto:volunteer@grrin.org).

## MEET & GREETINGS

### 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 second Sunday of each month from 11 am - 1 pm at The Bookworm in Omaha, NE.

## DONATIONS CONTINUED

**Michelle Wright**, in honor of all the dogs that have graced my life! | **Nancy & Phil Wolf**, in memory of Mazel | **Patricia Newman**, in memory of Oscar | **Patty Carrell & John Binderup**, in memory of Maxie and in honor of the Mellican family | **Patty Carrell & John Binderup**, in memory of Daisy & Sydney, and in honor of Beth & Gary Feltus | **Patty Carrell & John Binderup**, in memory of Daisy & Sydney, and in honor of Beth & Gary Feltus | **Patty Carrell & John Binderup**, in memory of Maddie, Sam & Jake | **Patty Duarte**, in honor of Matix | **Paul & Amy Passauer (Hydro-Dog)** | **Paul & Lori Synhorst** | **Penny Landuyt** | **Rachel Weiland** | **Reagan Pufal**, in memory of Bree | **Rita Kean**, in memory of Joseph Kean | **Rita Vetter**, in memory of Ken Vetter | **Robert & Kathleen Binderup** | **Robert Feit** | **Ryan Massey** | **Sarah & Mo Birdwell**, in memory of Harley & Rusty | **Sheryl Block** | **Shirley Doherty**, in memory of Brandi | **Sid French** | **Ted & Judy Brass**, in memory of Missy, Casey & Ginger | **Thomas Nipper**, in memory of Ralph W. Anderson | **Tom & Linda Hanson**, in memory of Dudley, Dusty, Scarlett & Husker | **Tracey & William Ackerman**, in memory of my beautiful Bailey | **Tracy Brouillette**, in loving memory of Buddha | **Vern & Karen Wirka** | **Victoria & Richard Sklenar** | **William Andres**, in memory of Micki Andres

## IN MEMORY OF RICH ROCCAFORTE

**Pamela Head** | **Kara Wells** | **Kathleen Berg** | **Howard Kooper**, **Tom Fellman & The Broadmoore Family** | **Morningstar Ventures** | **Maija Nielsen** | **Kimberly Shanahan** | **Dena Stevenson** | **Shari Wheeler** | **Liz Koop** | **William & Theresa Radil** | **Deborah Swenson** | **Clo AnnLangdon** | **Lori Johnansen** | **Jean Ann Ballinger and Ward Peters**

## SHARE OMAHA

**Colorado Animal Rescue Express (C.A.R.E.)** | **Catherine Kennedy** | **Andrew Wong** | **Jaymee Corcoran** | **Melissa Messina** | **David Meier** | **Josh Bucy** | **Lisa Miers** | **Melissa Stebbins** | **Heather Babka**

## SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks to the JK Barker Foundation and Karen Sedoris Trust for their incredibly generous donations to GRRIN. We'll have a story in the next newsletter about long-time volunteer Karen Sedoris and how her thoughtful gift will benefit GRRIN dogs for years to come.

# PERMANENT FOSTER MURPHY CELEBRATES 16

When GRRIN volunteers Ian and Megan received an email in late 2019 about a 12-year-old golden retriever named Murphy who needed a temporary foster home, the last thing they expected was to still have that same foster dog in their home over four years later.

Murphy ended up being a difficult dog to place. He was a 12-year-old who could run 5k with his foster owner and still have plenty of energy to play ball when he got home; he definitely preferred to be the only dog; and, let's be honest, he was a bit of a nervous barker. He just didn't seem to tick all the boxes of any of the potential families he met. After meeting a number of potential matches that didn't quite work out, GRRIN decided that Murphy would probably be most comfortable living permanently with his foster family. He had already settled in and become attached, and GRRIN felt that at his age, it might be more traumatic to move him again.



Well, almost four and a half years later, Murphy is still going strong. He is definitely slower than he used to be and he has a bit of arthritis, but he continues to be healthy and very alert. He still loves chasing a ball and going on walks. Even his eyesight is still great, which he proves by barking every time an animal or an ewok is on TV. His hearing is still good, too, but you wouldn't know it sometimes when he's practicing his "selective listening." And on his most recent vet visit, the tech saw Murphy walk in, double checked his chart, and asked, "Are you sure about his age? You should be carrying him in at 16." Needless to say, Murphy is an amazing dog, and everyone feels lucky to have him as a permanent member of the GRRIN family.

Check out his photo in the 2024 GRRIN calendar! This 16 year old makes a very handsome Mr. May.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PERMANENT FOSTER?

When a dog is brought into GRRIN, GRRIN initially places that dog in a foster home. This provides a safe and caring place for the rescue dog to live while GRRIN gets to know the dog and its needs before finding a permanent home. The preference is for the foster period to be short and temporary. However, sometimes, due to health or end-of-life issues, GRRIN will decide that it is best that the dog remain in its foster home permanently.

When it comes to permanent fostering, It's basically the same as short-term fostering. A caseworker is assigned to ensure that the dog is happy, healthy, and has all of its needs met; the foster parents pay for food and some additional items, such as toys and bedding; and GRRIN pays for all veterinary care and medications. In the case of a permanent foster, this commitment by GRRIN is lifelong.



# WHERE ARE THE TURKEY DOGS NOW?

## PART 2

In the last newsletter, we recounted GRRIN's rescue of five dogs from Turkey, and we brought you the stories of Mollie and York and where they are now. In this newsletter, we are continuing the series with Valentine's story.

## VALENTINE 16-12

In 2016 we first fostered, then adopted Valentine. She is now about 8 years old.

When she first came to us she was a wild and untrusting pup. It took quite a while before she ever made eye contact with us. She slowly learned to trust us. She bonded right away with Cooper, our golden doodle. They continue to be the very best of friends. Cooper needed a bossy girl to take the lead and Valentine relishes her top spot and I really believe he helped her learn to be confident and trusting. They don't like to be separated so years ago we learned the benefits of Valentine going with Cooper to his long haircut appointments at the groomer. She loves the social outing and helps him not be so nervous about the whole experience. In the last year Cooper has lost his eyesight due to diabetes and Valentine helps guide him and alert him in our backyard and on walks.

In true Golden fashion, Valentine loves to eat and does a little dance when we feed her. She loves to go on walks more than anything. She loves French fries, car rides, taking naps while lying on her back in the middle of our living room, playing in the snow, stuffed animals, looking out the front window, neck scratches, and meeting people on walks.

In the early months she was very guarded when she was sleeping and didn't trust anyone who neared her. We also learned she is afraid of brooms and water, especially garden hoses. She is still not super comfortable with people petting her face.

Taking in a traumatized stray dog was not without challenges. It probably took a full year for her to start to relax. Valentine has amazed us with how much she has grown and changed from the traumatized pup who first came to us. As a family we worked together to be patient with her. We didn't push her out of her comfort zone and we patiently waited for her to be ready. We walked her a lot and we had consistent routines. We praised her and loved her, but didn't hover over her.

Unfortunately, our kids barely remember the goldens we had prior to Valentine, but I know they will never forget the experience of adopting a rescue dog from Turkey. Valentine continues to prove the power that love and support has on all of us.

Sincerely,  
Andrea & Ben,  
Lars, Jonas & Helena,  
And Cooper & Valentine





## CANELO 22-29

ADOPTED BY:  
Robert & Amber

Hello! My name is Canelo! My humans also call me by all sorts of names like Nelo and Nelly, but most recently they added fishy because I LOVE to be in the water. I love to swim and play keep away with my brother's ball.

Up until a few months ago I only spoke Spanish, but I have since learned that words like "sit," "come," and "down" all mean yummy treats.

I joined a family of two fur brothers and six humans. Yes, SIX humans, which means I get pets and kisses all day long.

I spend my days playing with my fur brothers or chasing the kids in the backyard. I am one very loved boy. Not sure what my family would do without me (I'm the source of a lot of laughter around here). Anywho, that's my story!



## TEDDY 23-01 (TUCKER)

ADOPTED BY:  
David, Noelia & family

Very handsome Tucker here. For only being 8 months old, I have really been on the move trying to find my fur-ever home. I am so happy to report that I found it! Also, I got a new name: TEDDY. (I think it fits me perfectly!)

My new family recognized all of my wonderful traits right away: I'm smart, goofy, playful, and I love to cuddle.

I have a wonderful Collie/Bernese Mountain fur-sibling, Tonk. She is the best. Our days are full of activities. We go on two daily walks (rain, snow, shine) where we can do a lot of sniffing, explore new places, wrestle, run, and play. Sometimes we go for car rides, which I really like. After all of these activities, I usually have to take a nap.

I am so thankful for the wonderful GRRIN volunteers who helped me find my fur-ever home, and for my wonderful foster family who gave me the love, encouragement, and training to be an exceptional Goldendoodle. So many pup hugs and kisses to all of you!



## RILEY 23-02

ADOPTED BY: Dwayne & Lori

Just over two weeks ago we welcomed Riley, a special dog we adopted through GRRIN, into our home. Riley is gentle and has a cute habit of carrying toys in his mouth without applying any pressure. He is crazy about cheese, which motivates him more than regular dog treats.

Walking Riley is easy, except for one thing—he is scared of geese! He made sure we were no closer than 50 feet from them.

Riley still is not sure how to play, but our other Golden Retriever, Toby, is sure trying to teach him, as well as our son Gavin.

He's been a great addition to our family and we would like to thank all at GRRIN who helped bring Riley to us.





## KYRA 23-04

ADOPTED BY: Sarah & Mo

We were so happy to be able to adopt Kyra in March! She instantly became part of our family and settled right in. She came to us with such great manners. She knows her basic commands, doesn't destroy her toys, and is a fantastic walker. She is the sweetest girl. She is so good and just loves being around family.

She also enjoys being out in the yard watching (and chasing) birds and squirrels. We took her to get a "pup cup" at Dairy Queen and she thought that was pretty fun! She is very curious about everything and is such a joy. We love having her in our family. Thank you GRRIN, for everything that you do, and for bringing our sweet Kyra to us.



## JESSI 23-05

ADOPTED BY: Scott & Geri

Little, sweet Jessi here! I want to share some fantastic news: my foster family thought I was just the cutest, sweetest little girl, so they adopted me. Some say that they failed fostering 101.

From the very first day I came, my mom and dad made sure that I was comfortable and happy. I have this big back yard where I can run around and play ball. And, when my dad has the hose on, I play keep away with the hose and try to catch the water.

Every day we go for long walks around our neighborhood's park path and I meet so many friendly people and other fur-buddies. Sometimes, if we are driving around the neighborhood, I get to stick my head out the window and let the wind brush against my face.

Memories of my first family will always be in my heart, but now I am enjoying making new memories and getting all the attention and love with my new new, wonderful family.

I think I am a very lucky golden!



## MAVERICK 23-08

ADOPTED BY: Jon & Megan

In my wildest puppy dreams, I never thought that I, Maverick, could be so happy. I found my wonderful forever home; I have a new fur-brother and we run around in the back yard all the time; and, the best part...no crates! I also have a human brother and a little human sister that I play and cuddle with and give puppy kisses.

Every day we go for a walk around the neighborhood and I'm meeting many new fur buddies. My mom and dad are awesome. They think that I am just wonderful, so I'm doing my best to always be on my best behavior. (Though sometimes I may chew on something I'm not supposed to – but that's okay, I'm still learning!)

I've decided my favorite spot in the house is the big bed I share with my humans. We snuggle every night. And my most favorite thing to do is run in the sprinklers outside! Sometimes I try and drink the water coming out of the hose too. Water is so fun!

I'm so glad that my foster dad and mom were so kind and patient with me. If it weren't for them, I might have never found my wonderful forever home.

Much puppy love and kisses!



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.

2023 Quick Stats: 32 Goldens Adopted | 38 Goldens in Foster Care



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