



GRRIN NEWS

Summer 2024 | Happy Tails, Golden Hearts



NEW DATE FOR GOLD RUSH

Do you have free time in September and a burning desire to see all of the golden retrievers? Well, you're in luck! Gold Rush, GRRIN's annual golden retriever festival, has been moved to Sunday, September 22nd! Join GRRIN anytime from noon-3pm at SumTur Amphitheater in Papillion for a dog-gone good time.

We're bringing back the classic games you love, like the cake walk, plinko, and the wet tshirt dog race. Plus, there will be a range of booths where you can learn about pet care or shop for pet supplies and services.

Want a snack? Head over to the food truck. Feel like taking a seat? Visit with other golden owners in our expanded picnic area right next to the food truck. Feeling thirsty? Stop by the concessions stand. Need more GRRIN products in your life? Head over to the GRRIN store for shirts, dog toys, and even the 2025 GRRIN calendar, featuring dog photos submitted by GRRIN members.

SAVE THE DATE!

Date: Sunday, September 22nd

Time: 12 pm to 3 pm

Location: SumTur Amphitheater

South of Highway 370 on 108th St.



We are hoping for perfect weather, but this is Nebraska, so you never know what the weather will bring. What we do know, though, is that, rain or shine, GRRIN will be at SumTur on Sunday, September 22nd from noon-3pm hosting Gold Rush for all of our two-legged and four-legged friends. All leashed, well behaved dogs are welcome.

Make sure to watch Facebook and the GRRIN website for the most up-to-date information on this free event.

Want to donate or volunteer? Send an email to goldrush@grrin.org.



GIRL SCOUT GETS GOLD AWARD FOR HELPING GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

Nebraska-based Girl Scout, Katie Berry, achieved Girl Scouting’s highest honor this year for a project that she led to benefit golden retrievers, their owners, and GRRIN. She was awarded the Gold Award on Thursday, May 30th for her work focusing on large dog health and wellness.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is not an easy achievement. In order to earn one, a Girl Scout has to identify an issue they care about in the community, learn about that issue through research, diagnose the root cause of the issue, create a plan to address the issue, form a team to assist them in carrying out that plan, and then reflect on the change they have created in the community after they execute their plan.

For her project, Katie researched health issues that affect large breed dogs, as well as advice for new adoptive owners. After putting her research together, she worked with a veterinarian to ensure that the information was medically sound, and then she put together tri-fold pamphlets on six different topics:



Katie at the Gold Award ceremony with GRRIN volunteers Kelly Horrigan and Warren Narducci

- Cancer in Large Breed Dogs
- Adopting a New Dog
- Cataracts in Large Breed Dogs
- Heart Conditions in Large Breed Dogs
- Skin Conditions in Large Breed Dogs
- Hip Dysplasia in Large Breed Dogs



All six of these pamphlets (previewed on the right) can be found on the GRRIN website at the following location (or through the QR code above):

<https://grrin.org/health-resources/>

Two GRRIN volunteers collaborated with her on this project and even got to attend the Gold Award ceremony at Ralston High School.

Katie was even featured on channel 7, along with fellow Gold Award recipient Katherine Miller! Check out their interview here:

<https://www.ketv.com/article/10-nebraska-girl-scouts-receive-highest-achievement-through-organization/61715628>

CANCER IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- Types of cancer
- Basic Information
- Warning signs
- Susceptibility
- Warning Signs and Treatment options

ADOPTING A NEW DOG

- Safe Space
- What to do at home
- Creating a Routine
- Introducing them to family

HEART CONDITIONS IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- Types of Heart Conditions
- Basic Information
- Heart Murmurs
- Warning Signs and Treatment Options

CATARACTS IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- Types of Cataracts
- Basic Information
- Other Facts
- Warning Signs and Treatment Options

SKIN CONDITIONS IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- Types if Skin Conditions
- Basic Information
- Underlying Issues
- Warning Signs and Treatment Options

HIP DYSPLASIA IN LARGE DOG BREEDS

- What is Hip Dysplasia
- Basic Information
- Susceptibility
- Warning signs and Treatment options

BOARD ELECTIONS

Thank you to all of the board members who ran and all of the board members who continue to serve. As our members know, GRRIN is an all-volunteer organization with a working board, and everyone who volunteers their time to GRRIN is instrumental in our mission to rescue and permanently home golden retrievers. Thank you all for your service!

PRESIDENT: Barbara Garrett

VICE PRESIDENT: Brad Burwell

RECORDING SECRETARY: Amy Vifquain

TREASURER: Chris Fletcher

CORRESPONDING SEC: Celia Lazar

VOLUNTEER CHAIR: Laura Beavers

RESCUE CHAIR: Judy Davis

PHONE LINE CHAIR: Heather Wrenn

OUTREACH CHAIR: Sarah Young

COMMUNICATIONS: Megan Van Alstine

RESOURCE CHAIR: Warren Narducci



UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE, PARTY ANIMALS!

SATURDAY **GRRIN & GRAPES FUNDRAISER**

17
AUG

WHEN: 12 pm - 2 pm

WHERE: Vino Mas

16255 14450 Eagle Run Dr. #220, Omaha, NE

Come and enjoy an afternoon of wine and beer tasting (or soda) at Vino Mas. Admission is \$20 per person and includes 5 wines and 3 beers to sample. The event is also family friendly, as kids and those who don't drink alcohol can enjoy a sampling of 5 different sodas for \$10. Bring cash or check for tasting fee.

SUNDAY **GOLD RUSH!**

22
SEP

WHEN: 12 am - 3 pm

WHERE: SumTur Amphitheater, Papillion, NE

Want to volunteer? Many hands make light work at Gold Rush! Send an email to goldrush@grrin.org and let us know you'd like to help.

SUNDAY **MARGRE DURHAM WALK & DOG FEST**

29
SEP

WHEN: 11 am - 1:30 pm

WHERE: Nebraska Humane Society, Omaha, NE

Join GRRIN at Nebraska's largest dog-friendly event! This event has everything: sponsor booths with giveaways, family zone, silent auction, rescue groups, beer garden, live music, adoption parade, and did we mention 500 dogs?!

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

DONATIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Aaron Rouse in honor of Kristen Rock and Poppy | **Alisyn Brennan** | **Allison Keller** | **Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation and its Donors** | **Christopher Maroney** | **Debbie & Ken Elson** | **Debra Burkholder** | **Dennis Larson** | **Greater Omaha Caged Bird Society** | **Helen Moore** | **Jill Shefte** | **Julie Jerabek** | **Laurie & John Tavlin** in memory of Max, foster of Jacque Rank and Jane Wiederspan, and in memory of Pip, owned by Jacque Rank and Jane Wiederspan | **Melissa Korth** | **Omaha Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter** in memory of Col. Gilbert Robertson | **Owen Henderson** in memory of Matthew Henderson | **Polly ReQua** | **Robert Vojslavek** in honor of John Weston on his 75th birthday | **Sid French** | **Teresa Brown** in memory of Zoe, long time companion of Nancy Bowen & Helen Moore

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET K. ALLEN

Debbie Smith | **Denise Jorgensen** | **Edward & Christine Montanez**



REMEMBERING KAREN SEDORIS

LONGTIME VOLUNTEER AND GENEROUS DONOR

Karen Sedoris (second from the left in the above photo) was a passionate advocate for animals and a dedicated volunteer who left a lasting impact on GRRIN through her tireless work and a generous donation from her estate.

Born and raised in Omaha, Karen was a graduate of Benson High School and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. After moving to Arkansas with her husband, Nick, she felt a deep longing for Omaha and returned in 2012. Once back, Karen channeled her energy into volunteering, becoming a devoted member of the Gold Line in 2014. Her involvement with the organization was driven by her desire to honor her late GRRIN dog, Toby, and by her friendship with Joe, the president of GRRIN. Karen, who thrived on being methodical and organized, enjoyed working the Goldline. She also enjoyed working with the other Goldline volunteers, especially Dennis Garrett, the Goldline chair.

In addition to her work with GRRIN, Karen was actively involved with HETRA, where she volunteered to care for horses, clean the stalls, and facilitate guided walking for HETRA patrons. She also donated to causes she cared about, including GRRIN, HETRA, and the Crane Trust.

Karen's life was also rich with personal achievements and activities. She was an enthusiastic member of Lifegate Church, which held great importance for her, and her active lifestyle included playing tennis, golf, and Pilates. She was known for deciding what she wanted to do and then making it happen, such as traveling to Cabo to ride a horse on the beach and spending a night in a castle during a wine country tour. She was even part of a women's group who would take bicycling trips together - they named themselves the "Bicycling Bags."

Karen's love for her three GRRIN dogs—Chester, Razy, and Toby—was a central part of her life. She hosted large birthday parties for Razy, celebrating her beloved pets with the same enthusiasm she brought to all her endeavors.

Karen's legacy is one of dedication and a profound commitment to making a difference. Her contributions to animal welfare, her active engagement in her community, and her deep connections with others reflect a life lived with purpose and passion. Her memory will continue to inspire those who knew her and benefitted from her kindness and commitment.

From Judy Davis, Rescue Coordinator for GRRIN. "Karen was part of the Gold Line for years, but always wanted to double check when making decisions regarding calls she answered. I had many calls from her to make sure she knew what to tell the people when she called them back. We always had wonderful conversations, and she attended every meeting of the Gold Line. I personally miss her very much."



Karen in UNO newspaper as co-ed of the week



Karen at the lake with Chester and Toby

GRRIN'S ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, April 28th, the GRRIN community gathered for its annual members' meeting from noon to 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Humane Society Auditorium. The meeting, attended by 41 people and over 10 dogs, offered members social opportunities as well as updates on the organization's accomplishments and areas of need.

Communications Chair Megan Van Alstine opened and led the meeting, which included key activities such as voting on board members, reviewing the organization's financial health, and presenting an overview of the rescue statistics from the previous year.

During the event, attendees enjoyed pizza, salad, and cookies while engaging in conversation and petting all of the dogs. The board votes were then tallied and the results announced after lunch. A significant highlight of the event was the collection of over \$200 to assist pets affected by the recent tornadoes, showcasing the community's generosity.

Treasurer Chris Fletcher then provided a detailed financial overview, followed by Rescue Chair Judy Davis, who shared an overview of the rescue operations for 2023. Megan then concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude to all of the volunteers who make GRRIN's mission possible.

The annual meeting is a nice yearly touchpoint. It offers members a chance to reflect on the past year and also strengthen the bonds within the GRRIN community, reinforcing our shared commitment to animal rescue and welfare. Thank you to all GRRIN members for your ongoing support!



TRAINING TIPS FROM THE VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

On Sunday, January 28th, GRRIN hosted its annual training and volunteer luncheon at the Nebraska Humane Society. As part of the training, Christina Ferency from Double Rainbow Dog Training was invited to speak and she provided some valuable insights on improving dog behavior through enrichment activities and understanding canine body language.

Christina emphasized the importance of enrichment in keeping dogs mentally and physically stimulated. She recommended activities such as scent walks, and alternate feeding methods, such as lick mats, puzzle toys, snuffle mats, and shredding items to engage dogs and reduce anxiety.

Understanding dog body language was another important topic. When meeting new dogs, Christina advised approaching them from the side rather than head-on, keeping your hands close to your body, and allowing the dog to decide whether to engage. She highlighted that direct eye contact can be intimidating and explained that tail wagging can indicate different emotions: a stiff tail wag might signal stress, while a flagging tail suggests a positive mood.

She also outlined effective strategies for introducing a new dog to a family dog. She recommended starting with "buddy walks" where both dogs are leashed but kept at a distance. Gradually, the distance should decrease, keeping the pressure off the leash and collar. The initial introductions should be brief, lasting just a couple of seconds, and then the dogs should be walked away and then, again, slowly approach and be introduced. The introduction time should be gradually increased over the cycles, and this process should next be repeated in the backyard and then inside the house.

To ensure a smooth transition, Christina suggested picking up food bowls, toys, and other high-value items and also feeding the dogs separately. If, after a few days, things are going well, low-value toys can be introduced. If the dogs continue to get along well, higher-value toys can be introduced.

Thank you to Christina and Double Rainbow Dog Training for offering your time and expertise and to everyone who attended the volunteer training session.





TAFFY 22-28 & MAGGIE 22-27 (Formerly Little Girl)

ADOPTED BY: Mark and Deb

Deb here! We have learned so much from these sweet “golden” girls. They have been fearful, and still are at times, but they are also so loving and we are being loving and patient with them. They have come such a long way getting used to our routines and learning that they can trust us!

We were wanting our next dogs trained to be therapy dogs but were told that because of their past they wouldn't be able to. So, my husband said, “They will be our therapy dogs and we will be their therapy people”. And that is truly what has been happening.

I believe we have been successful in creating a home where these golden girls know they are loved, know they are safe, and know they can be the dogs they were denied being as puppies!



ADDIE 22-30 & WILLA 22-31

ADOPTED BY: Jon, Sue & Sammie

We can't believe that we are so very lucky! We get to join our new family that included a sweet golden that needed “rescuing” herself. She had just lost her fur-brother, with whom she was very bonded. Within a short time, all three of us were playing and having fun! We are happy that she feels like she can be a part of the “in-crowd”.

We love to cuddle with our new mom and dad. Sometimes we must rush to the couch to get the good spot to be loved on first. The evenings are our quiet time with mom and dad. We can enjoy the relaxing time after wearing ourselves out playing in our big back yard. We even got to go to their kids' house to play with their golden and their friends (and of course the grandkids).

Life is going to be wonderful now! Thanks to all our special GRRIN friends who helped us find our new family!



JJ 23-06

ADOPTED BY: Lisa

When JJ was surrendered to GRRIN, he had several obstacles to overcome before he could be adopted. He had a bad back leg that needed to be assessed, so the perfect home for JJ was one with few or no steps. Weight loss was also important for the sake of his leg, so special dog food was required until he maintained a healthy weight. Above all, JJ needed someone who could love him despite his physical challenges.

JJ spent several months in his foster home just hoping to find his perfect fur-ever home. Despite JJ's hurdles, his sweet temperament and loving heart soon captivated all he met. One day during a GRRIN event, JJ met a wonderful woman who happened to be looking for a golden retriever. It appeared to be love at first sight for both of them.

He now has someone to love and dote on him, to help him find his slimmer self, and to make every day a happy one. There are bunnies and squirrels to chase at his new home, tons of toys to play with, and many friends that take him for gentle walks. Yes, JJ, dreams do come true.



WILLOW

23-11

ADOPTED BY: Danny

Hello, Willow here with an update. I was adopted by my foster family in July. Everyone keeps talking about 'foster fail' but how can it be a fail when I got a furever home and my family got me?

I have two great older brothers who are also GRRIN dogs and I love them lots. I like to snuggle with them and show them how happy I am to be their little sister. Oso and I are really great together and we play lots. We even get zoomies together. Ceasar is kind of an old guy but he makes a good snuggle partner and is really patient when I show him how much I love him. He even tries to join in our play sessions sometimes.

I like to play a lot! Sometimes I even wake my new dad up when it is still dark out to play ball but he doesn't seem as enthusiastic as I am when I do that.

We get daily walkies and I am learning how to be good on a leash and how to properly meet other people we see on the sidewalk. I have also learned some new things that get me treats, which I really like. I am ready to learn some more if it means more treats.

Thanks for reading and maybe I will see you at a GRRIN event sometime.



WINNIE

23-10

ADOPTED BY:
Terrine & Charles

Hi there – Winnie here! I love, love, love playing with my new dog brother! We have the best time running around the backyard, sharing toys, and following each other as we sniff all the cool smells.

We go for a long walk with our mom each morning and get pooped out for the start of the day. It makes for a nice nap on the couch or comfy dog bed before dad comes home to let us out to play at lunch.

I am good and don't get into anything while my parents are gone, and sometimes I play with one of the MANY dog toys during the day. Sometimes I still feel a little nervous and like to carry my favorite tennis balls around the house, but I am getting more comfortable every day. I know my new family loves me!



EVIE 23-03

ADOPTED BY: Tracy & William

Evie came home the day before her 5th birthday! She had been set up for success with her foster mama, who had worked so well with her.

Evie had come from a breeding situation and she had not lived in a home. She was nervous and timid and didn't have any confidence. She would belly crawl through the house. She and our resident golden became fast friends. Evie became Gracie's shadow and mimicked all of Gracie's behaviors. It was so important for Evie to have a resident dog to learn from.

Fast forward to a year later and Evie is confident and she has a very sweet and funny personality. She has come so far and we are so proud of her. People tell us how lucky Evie is but we think we are the lucky ones! Thank you GRRIN for all you do!





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.

Quarter Quick Stats: 20 Goldens Adopted | 29 Goldens Fostered



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