



# Gold Ribbon Rescue

Helping Golden Retrievers and Their Owners in Central Texas

## Upcoming Events

[GRR Volunteer Training](#)

August 16, 2014

[Puppy Mill Awareness Day](#)

September 28, 2014

[Dogtoberfest](#)

October 18, 2014

For more information about GRR events, contact Shelia Thomas at [Sheila@grr-tx.com](mailto:Sheila@grr-tx.com)

## Join GRR:

Your Membership Expired or Expires on \$expires\$

or

Become a Member for the First Time Click this [link](#) to access the GRR Membership page



Connect with Gold Ribbon Rescue on [Facebook](#)



## How Can You Help a Golden?

Make a [tax deductible donation](#) to GRR

Become a [monthly donor](#) and we'll automatically charge your credit card.

[Volunteer](#) - lots of rewarding opportunities

[Foster](#) - help a golden start its new life

To learn how you can help make-a-difference, email Shelia Thomas at [Sheila@grr-tx.com](mailto:Sheila@grr-tx.com)

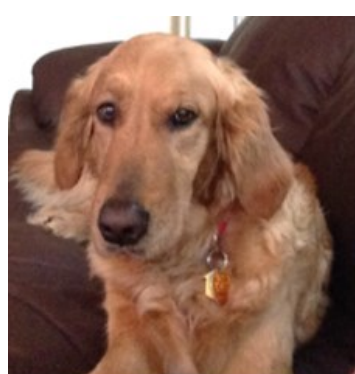


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## Foster Homes Needed as Summer Approaches

by Emily Tuczowski



Summer is upon us once again with all its familiar pleasures: warm days, trips with family, time spent out on our lakes or by the pool. Unfortunately, summer is also the time for another, much sadder event: summer-time dog dumping.

It seems that every year, about this time, we send out a plea asking former adoptive homes, former foster homes, and our supporters for their help. I often worry that such repeated pleas will eventually find themselves quickly dropped into the email trash bin. I hope instead that you read on!

### Gold Ribbon Rescue: A Circle of Love

Know that I am safe. Know that I am loved. Know that I am cared for. Know from where I started. Know that finding you wasn't something that "just happened".

If you're reading this, likely you have one or more Golden foot-warmers nearby. Take a moment and think about what it took for that joyful foot-warmer to have found his or her way to your home (and feet). A call or email from someone started the Circle of Love. A neglected dog. A dog who was once well-loved but whose family fell on hard times. A dog who lost his owner from illness. Whatever the circumstance, the next ring in this Circle of Love is getting perhaps some much needed vet care.

And then the most important ring in this Circle—a foster home!

A foster home who nursed dogs back to health, who showed neglected dogs the meaning of love, and who introduced them to the idea of being part of a family. The foster home is the last ring on the Circle of Love.

We need you. They need you. A ring on this Circle is very close to being torn apart. GRR has taken in—and are being asked every day to take in even more—dogs than we have foster homes to handle. We're asking for help. Not the first time, and it certainly won't be the last, but the urgency doesn't change.

Please, take a look at your foot-warmers again. Please, help us give another one like yours a chance to find his special place with a family and complete his Circle of Love. We will accommodate whatever parameters you put in place—only females, only males, certain age group, heartworm positive dogs, only heartworm negative dogs, etc. You tell us what you're willing to handle. We will make it happen. We are currently being slammed with shelter dogs, and we have had to delay owner-surrenders because of a lack of available foster homes.

If you would like to help us get a Golden to their final ring in his Circle of Love, please contact us at: [intake@grr-tx.com](mailto:intake@grr-tx.com). We so appreciate your support.

## Service Dog is Always at Teen's Side—Even in the Yearbook

From Huffington Post Teen  
June 12, 2014

Taxi Benke, a golden retriever-Labrador mix, hasn't left Rachel Benke's side in the last four years. So it only makes sense that the service dog is pictured beside her in the yearbook.

After the Texas teen's seventh grade school portrait, Taxi got the chance to pose for a picture of his own. The service dog is featured right alongside Rachel in Northside Independent School District's yearbook.



Rachel first met the pup four years ago. Suffering from epileptic seizures since birth, the teen needed a companion to accompany her everywhere in case she experienced an episode. Enter Taxi, a guide dog-turned-service pup who hit it off with Rachel right away.

"We joke, saying he's a guide dog drop out. He did not make the guide dog program because he has a cat destruction problem," Rachel's mother, Theresa, told San Antonio TV station KENS 5.

While Taxi may not tolerate cats, he's been by Rachel's side through school and even once intervened before school officials realized she was having a grand mal seizure.

It's not the first time a school has taken some extra effort to include man's best friend. Earlier this year, a service dog named Walton donned a cap and gown for senior class photos. The golden retriever was also expected to walk at his human's graduation.

Please note: GRR does not provide service dogs and suggests you contact [Texas Hearing and Service Dogs](#) for more information.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Michelle Goldberg



### How long have you been volunteering with GRR?

I have been volunteering for just about 4 years.

### What made you want to volunteer with GRR?

My husband and I lost our first Golden Retriever to cancer in 2009 and knew we would definitely have another GR. So after doing research on rescuing, we came across Gold Ribbon Rescue. We went through all of the steps to adopt our first GR, Sedona. I felt so lucky to be able to bring such a great dog into our lives, and it only seemed appropriate that we give back to the organization that gave us our precious boy. We now have 4 GRR dogs and volunteering really gives me some way to be able to repay GRR for what the organization has given to me and my husband.

### What volunteer position do you hold?

I am a matchmaker and also do home visits and an occasional

phone interview.

### Explain the activities you participate in as you fulfill this position.

As a matchmaker, I review all of the information that comes in for each family through the applications, phone interviews and home visits to become familiar with the families who I am assigned to work with. I also review all of the information we get on all dogs that come in to learn as much about them as possible. When I am assigned a family to work with, I will contact them to ensure that I have as many details as possible about their family members, lifestyle, other pets and the type of dog they are looking for. You really have to have a thorough understanding of who the family is and have an in-depth understanding of the dogs you are matching. We get many emails throughout the day, so there is a lot of deciphering of information to determine what is pertinent to matchmaking. There is a lot of communication with the family in determining which will be the best dog for them. I also follow up with each family after the adoption had been made to ensure that all is going well and encourage them to share stories and pictures of their new family member.

### About how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in this position?

It really varies but on average, about 10-12 hours per week.

### What is your favorite part about volunteering in this position?

I love seeing the end result of a family finding their new dog to bring home. There is so much that goes into bringing a dog into GRR and getting families approved. Being a matchmaker allows me to see it all come together. I love being part of the excitement when a family gets to bring their new dog into their lives.

### Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position.

The most interesting thing to me is keeping in touch with families who I have met through home visits or matchmaking and becoming friends. It feels like you become part of this huge family when you adopt a dog from GRR.

### Give one piece of advice for volunteers interested in serving in this position.

You have to really trust your gut instinct and remember that what we do is about what is best for the dog. What a family thinks may be the best fit for them may really not be what we, as matchmakers, know is the best fit for them. We know that as a rescue organization, we have to always have the dog's best interest first and foremost in our minds and hearts.

### What is one word that describes your experience while volunteering for GRR?

Rewarding and at times frustrating (frustrating only because I want to adopt as many Golden Retrievers as I have matched. I would have many more if I could)

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to [Sheila@grr-tx.com](mailto:Sheila@grr-tx.com).

## Seniors: What are They Good For?



Lucy, age 11

Zeke, age 7

Peyton, age 7

Miranda, age 10

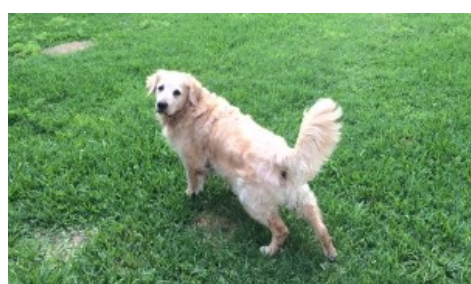
Absolutely everything! After asking Gold Ribbon Rescue's Facebook Group, "What's your favorite part about having a golden—ages 8 and above?" the consensus is in: seniors are definitely top dog.

Here are what some of our members said about their Golden gems:

- "Loyalty and small glimpses of puppyhood!" ~Lynn Fisher
- "They are calm, experienced, and I can out run them!" ~Scott Thomas
- "Mine was perfectly content just to sit by me." ~Amy Churchill
- "They know our routines and can almost read our minds. They know what to do and when.... no surprises, just lots of unconditional love." ~Sandy Aristocrat
- "They actually let you sleep in!" ~Carey Gunthert
- "I love how they are just content and happy to be lazy all day or go for a joy ride." ~Stephanie Coker
- "Their ability to love and be loved. Those golden eyes look right into our souls." ~Daisy Russell

If you or someone you know is the perfect fit for a senior, please visit Gold Ribbon Rescue's [website](#) and check out all of our Golden gems.

## Adopt Me: Cooper #14-063, Age 10



Cooper is man's best friend. Content just to be by your side, he would make the perfect companion for someone who is looking for a mature good ol' boy.

Just say those magic words: "Cooper, wanna go bye-bye?" and he's the happiest golden around. He'll stick his head out the window, letting the summer breeze tickle him off. So what if he catches a few bugs while he's at it?

Described as very mild mannered, his foster family has no concerns with him around their three children, ages ranging from 8-10. Cooper is more like Nana from J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan—at his best when he is near his family. And no jumping or counter-surfing from this fellow either.

In addition, he absolutely enjoys his walks, sniffing around for the newest signs of life in his foster family's neighborhood. Cooper also seems to do well with other dogs, adapting easily to his foster family's resident male golden; he'd be the perfect mentor to a young pup, teaching him the proper etiquette of an indoor dog.

Probably more than anything, Coop just loves to be groomed, getting all the head pats and belly rubs while the getting's good. But be careful though when you pull out the water hose. Expect Cooper to be right at your side, patiently waiting for a few slurps while you're out on garden duty. And when he needs to go potty outside, he will either sit at the back door and softly bark, or if you're not paying attention to him, he'll come right up to you and give you "the stare" (which he's mastered quite beautifully). Once you make eye contact, he'll "ruff" and then trot towards the door, leading the way.

To learn more about Cooper, [click here](#).