



Gold Ribbon Rescue

Celebrating Fifteen Years of Helping Golden Retrievers 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 Sheila Thomas at Sheila@grr-tx.com

We Appreciate Our Members

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?

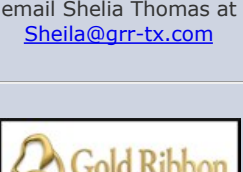
Make a [tax deductible donation](#) to GRR

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 Sheila Thomas at Sheila@grr-tx.com

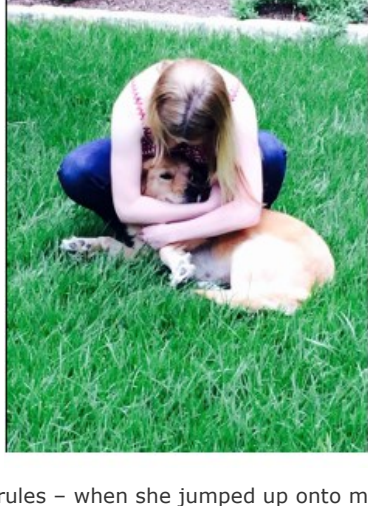


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"Tails" from a First-Time Foster

Contributed by Stephanie Hertz, GRR Web Stories Writer and Foster Mom



I'd always been interested in the idea of fostering, but never taken the plunge until two months ago when my husband and I decided to welcome Ally (14-056) into our home. Ally was a stray dog who was picked up by Palm Valley Animal Shelter down in South Texas - we didn't know a whole lot about her, but I took a deep breath and said "we'll take her" when offered the opportunity to foster this poor gal. And with that statement, Gold Ribbon set the course for transporting Ally all the way up from South Texas into my home. Let the adventure begin.

I have to admit, I was both nervous and excited about Ally coming into our lives. When she arrived at my doorstep on a Saturday morning, a little bit of fear rose in me as well. What if we don't get along? What if I become attached to her? What if I don't become attached to her? Luckily, the Gold Ribbon community was right there to talk me through the emotions I was feeling as a first time foster.

Fostering wasn't always easy. Ally needed some medical care and a lot of TLC. At first it felt strange to care for a dog that I didn't yet have a relationship with. Ally also needed to learn some house

rules - when she jumped up onto my kitchen table in an attempt to scarf down some cookies, I had a fleeting moment of panic, like "what have I gotten myself into!"

Gradually, Ally's behaviour improved as she gained comfort in her surroundings. Slowly but surely, Ally also started walking into my heart. I might have thought she was crazy from time to time, but her sweet nature shined through more and more with every day that I had her.

As I got to know Ally, I also began to learn what kind of home she needed. I started to realize how much Ally enjoyed being around people, and started to think about what her life might look like with a big family. The matchmaker and I began to talk about future families, and I started to feel excitement just thinking about Ally's possibilities.

About two weeks before Ally met her forever home, I stumbled upon the view through my back window of Ally playing by herself in my backyard. She was running around without a care in the world, jumping with joy as she tossed a rope toy to herself and caught it. In that moment, I felt a tremendous amount of gratitude for witnessing that joy. When I thought about how she arrived compared to how she looked on that day, I realized that I had made a tremendous difference in the life of a deserving dog.

When Ally's future family headed to our home for a potential adoption, I suddenly had a lump in my throat at the idea of saying goodbye. Although I was incredibly excited for Ally to move to her forever home, the waterworks came by full force. After the family arrived and I saw Ally interact with her future owners, I was instantly comforted by the immediate connection I saw between Ally and the family. When Ally hopped into the backseat of her new minivan and drove off with her forever companions, tears unleashed as I worked through the bittersweet moment. Deep down, I knew that Ally had hit the jackpot and was going home with the best family possible. So this is what fostering was like.



Would I recommend fostering for Gold Ribbon Rescue? Absolutely. The process is not always easy, but Gold Ribbon volunteers were right there with me to help me through the challenges. In the end I feel proud that I was able to help a dog in need, and all of the struggles were worthwhile just to see Ally get the life she deserved. If you love dogs and would be willing to join the rollercoaster of fostering, I think you'll find that it was one of the most gratifying things you've ever done.

If you're already an approved family or have adopted previously from GRR, you can be ready to foster. To learn more, contact Kelly Green at golden91105@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.grr-tx.com/about/fostering>

2015 GRR Calendar Auction - Bid Today and Help a Golden



Prepare now by taking photos, going through older photos and finding just the right one you want to use when you win the auction for your Golden to be featured as the Golden of the month!

We are auctioning each of the 12 months of the 2015 GRR calendar to the highest bidders. Calendars are a larger size of 12x12, and of the highest quality printing, paper, and binding. One complementary calendar will be sent to each winner.

The auction began July 1st and is conducted entirely online through Ebay. Bidders bid to win one of twelve months in the calendar to feature their favorite Golden (non-GRR Golden are welcome, as are other pets in the picture - but no humans, please). Winners will be able to use their own photo (preferably 8x10 at 300 dpi, an 8x10 print that can be scanned, or a digital photo in tif, jpg, or bmp format).

While you can bid on more than one month at a time, each bidder can only win one month. If one bidder wins multiple months, the first closing bid month will be the one awarded. All other months will default to the next bidder in line. Winners will be notified via email on the month that they have won.

There are only a few days left to bid on a page in our 2015 calendar, visit <http://grr-tx.com/calendar> for more information.

To Shave or Not to Shave: That is the Question

From article titled "Wait!" by Nancy Byner, Certified Dog Groomer with more than 38 years experience. First published in Nevada City Union, June 2011

With warmer temperatures finally coming to Nevada County, many dog owners are exploring options to help their pets stay comfortable.

Shaving off all that hair is probably the most popular option. Indeed, for some coat types, this is an ideal solution. Not for all.

With the exception of hard-coated terriers, dogs come in one of two coat types: single coated and double coated.

Examples of single-coated breeds are poodles, shih-tzus, bichons, etc. This type of coat will continue to grow longer and longer, much like human hair, with genetics being the final determination in reference to length.

Double-coated or fur-bearing breeds have coats that grow to a predetermined length. They can be further separated into open coats and closed coats.

These breeds have a hard, protective outer coat (guard hairs) and a soft, dense undercoat. Examples of open, double-coated breeds are any of the spitz-type breeds, such as Siberian huskies, Pomeranians and chows.

This coat is designed to shed snow or ice and provide maximum protection against freezing weather.

Closed, double-coated breeds have noticeably longer guard hairs, which lay down over the undercoat, sort of like a blanket. While the outer, or guard, hairs get wet, the undercoat works to keep the dog's skin dry. Examples include golden retrievers, Australian shepherds and Newfoundlands.

Single-coated breeds can be clipped down to the skin, and the coat will grow back pretty much as it was before. The same is not true for double-coated breeds. For this reason, shaving these dogs down is not a solution to summer heat.

Think of a healthy double coat as an old-growth forest. There is a balance with different parts providing different benefits. If you clear-cut an old growth forest, there will be immediate regrowth of a lot of young trees very soon.

Unfortunately, they won't initially be the same kind as those you cut down. Instead, the forest has to start from scratch and spend decades, first growing ground cover and softwoods that provide an environment for slower growing hardwood varieties. It takes generations before the natural balance is restored.

While on a much shorter timeline, it's the same thing with a double-coated dog. Guard hairs represent old growth, and undercoat represents ground covering vegetation.

The act of shaving a double coat removes the dog's natural insulation and causes his system to kick into high gear. He'll now produce coat to protect himself from extreme temperatures, sunburn and sharp objects.

Since the top coat or guard hairs take a long time to grow, what the dog's body produces first is soft undercoat. That's why we hear people say, "I shaved my dog, and it grew back twice as thick and really fuzzy!"

In reality, what happens is that the original coat isn't restored at all. What grows in instead is thick, prolific undercoat mixed with short new guard hairs. We call it false coat or coat funk.

So, why is this bad? Picture this scenario:

It's 90 degrees outside. You're getting dressed to go work in your yard. Are you going to put on a light cotton T-shirt and sunblock or thermal underwear and a sweatshirt?

A dog's shaved-down false coat is like that sweatshirt. It's dull, soft and soaks up water like a sponge. Burrs and foxtails stick like Velcro. Above all else, it's way too thick for hot weather.

By the time that false coat grows out enough to protect the dog from sunburn, scrapes and bites (the usual job of the top coat), it is so thick that the poor dog might as well be wearing thermal underwear and a sweatshirt.

Remember, Mother Nature designed the undercoat to be extremely heat-retentive.

Do you take your dog to a grooming salon? You can request a bath and blow-out. Virtually all modern professional grooming salons have high velocity blow dryers in their work areas.

These powerhouses can literally blast the dead undercoat out of your dog's hair after a thorough bathing with minimal brushing and combing needed.

The benefit to your dog is a healthy, balanced coat you can both live with. Sure, you could opt for the shave-down, but you'll more than likely be back in a month or so for another "shave-down" because your dog is cooking in its own hair.

Then, if you're like most owners who fall into this cycle, you'll intentionally let your dog's woolly false coat grow out all winter "for warmth," only to have it shaved off again in the spring.

In reality, all winter long while you're under the false notion that your dog is staying warm and dry under that thick layer of fuzz, his coat is matting, retaining water and mud and possibly even mildewing. It will stay cold and wet for hours. Do you see the vicious cycle that started?

In some cases, owners really don't have a choice. If there's an underlying skin condition, requiring removal of the hair, obviously shaving is the lesser of two evils.

Same applies if the coat is so matted that shaving is truly the most humane option, affording the owner a chance to start over and improve their brushing skills.

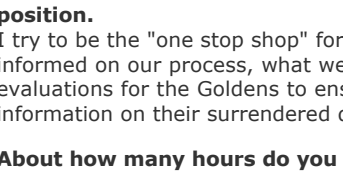
These are situations to thoroughly discuss with both your veterinarian and your groomer so you can make an informed decision.

However, if your sole motivation for shaving your dog in the spring is to "keep him cool," you need to know that you're actually creating a far worse situation than you think.

Aside from destroying coat integrity, shaved dogs are susceptible to a multitude of complications, including, but not limited to, alopecia, heat stroke and skin cancer, specifically Solar-induced Squamous Cell Carcinomas and Dermal Hemangiosarcomas.

Sometimes, these complications are not reversible.

Volunteer Spotlight: Carey Gunthert



How long have you been volunteering with GRR?
I have been volunteering on and off since 2009.

What made you want to volunteer with GRR?
We had a foster dog in March 2012 named Cassidy, who turned out to be distemper positive. It was a stressful but rewarding time. The volunteers of GRR were always willing to answer questions or offer advice on how to approach each hurdle. They were our rocks while we helped Cassidy battle and beat distemper. She was adopted in May 2012 with almost no after-effects of her sickness. I wanted to give back to the organization that helped us (and Cassidy) succeed!

What volunteer position do you hold?
I'm the Intake Coordinator for our Owner-Turn-ins.

Explain the activities you participate in as you fulfill this position.
I try to be the "one stop shop" for owners who would like to surrender their Golden Retrievers to GRR: keep them informed on our process, what we need from them, and what they can expect from GRR. I set up the evaluations for the Golden Retrievers to ensure they are as their owner describes. I also offer follow-up information on their surrendered dog(s) if they would like updates at a future time.

About how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in this position?
This can vary to less than 20 minutes a week to 3-4 hours in a week depending on how many dogs are awaiting intake.

What is your favorite part about volunteering in this position?
I enjoy talking with people and helping them realize that even though they may not feel right, they are doing the best they can for their pet.

Describe a cute/funny/interesting story while volunteering in this position.
A couple of years ago, not long after I started as IC, a girl was surrendering her two dogs because life changes and a move just wouldn't let her keep them. It was a difficult parting, and we emailed a few times as she wanted to make sure her boys were loved in their new home. Imagine the smiles and tears at a recent volunteer training, when the former owner's circumstances had improved. She wanted to "Give Back" to the organization that helped her through a heart-breaking time and found she was sitting by the woman who had adopted her dogs! .

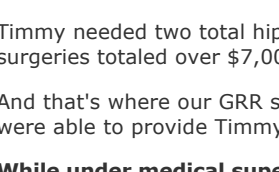
EMPATHY. Piece of advice for volunteers interested in and sometimes in this position.
EMPATHY. Most of the owners are in difficult places and sometimes just need a person to listen or offer them hope or the knowledge that they are doing the right thing.

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

To learn more about volunteering with GRR, send an email to Sheila@grr-tx.com.

Where Are They Now: Timmy #13-049

Contributed by Nancy Weisz Kirchoff, Emily Tuczowski and Cam Snyder



Many of you are familiar with our Wonderboy Timmy. His story is truly one of a kind and defines the heart and soul of a rescue organization.

In the beginning: Gold Ribbon Rescue received a call from a family wanting to surrender their Golden puppy to us; he had two severely malformed hips and required hip replacements on both if he was to have a chance at living a normal Golden life. The expense and rehabilitation restrictions were too much for the family.

At Timmy's intake evaluation, we expected to see a dog whose mobility was severely restricted. Instead, Timmy was a darling puppy who had grown muscles to help compensate for some of the hip issues. Unfortunately, that compensation would not be able to provide him with a normal, long, healthy life.

Did this puppy deserve the chance to have that long, healthy life? Of course!

Timmy needed two total hip replacements. Even with the generous discount CTVSH provided, the surgeries totaled over \$7,000.

And that's where our GRR supporters came to the rescue! With the generous outpouring of support, we were able to provide Timmy with what amounts to a new start in life.

While under medical supervision: During his rehab stay with Cam Snyder, Timmy became one of the household and didn't allow his two back legs to slow him down one bit.

Though he was described as an 8-month old puppy who needed both back hips replaced, this "puppy" was taller and longer than either of Cam's adult Golden Retrievers. His excellent behavior during recovery was an anomaly. During the periods following his surgeries, he was required to spend a lot of time either crated or on other activity restrictions while his bones and the new hip joints fused. He had superb crate manners - no barking, whining, no attempt at a break out or damage to the crate. He would only bark or whine when he needed to go outside.

Although he had two bad hips, he never let it slow him down. He would chase and romp and play with his two golden sisters, both outdoors and in. He would occasionally levitate with all four paws off the floor at supper time. He loved to play with his two golden sisters and although he was larger than they were, he respected them when they let him know it was time to back off, and even ended up on the bottom of the pile sometimes.

Adopted by the Kirchoff family: Fast forward to over a year later, Timmy is thriving in his new home without even a glimpse of the surgeries he had to endure. He's quite the water dog, not yet comfortable to test out the pool, but wining and whimpering while his mom waters the flowers with the hose. All he wants is a little spray! He is as thick as tuff as until as buddies with his buddy Bear. They bound after balls, go round and round, and play bitey-face until the cows come home. A match made in heaven!

Not only does Timmy learn from buddy Bear, but Bear (almost 6) has even learned new tricks from Timmy. They can both play ball for hours, and it is amazing how they work out a fetching system. When the Kirchoffs throw the ball, Bear fetches first, Timmy steals from Bear and throws the ball with his snout back at his mom and the process repeats. However, Timmy lets Bear run after the ball because he knows Bear is faster.

Each day is an opportunity to see some of Timmy's fun traits show themselves. He has a special bond with us. He learns very quickly and seems to know he's in his forever home. The Kirchoffs love his sweet, gentle soul and mischievous spirit. He is a special gift to the family.

