



Reaching out to you with...

The Golden Paw



Volume XVII Number 1 February 2025

Published by Arizona Golden Rescue

**"Grow old
with me,
the best is
yet to be!"**

— Robert Browning



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deb Orwig President
 Denise Padavano Director of Activities
 Debbie Ball Director of Operations
 Liz Tataseo Director of Health Care
 Connie McCabe Human Resources Director

BOARD ASSISTANTS

Karin Forsythe Secretary
 Cindy Tigges Organization Accountant

TEAMS AND VOLUNTEERS

* Team Manager
 Adoption Finalizations Liz Tataseo
 Assistants to Director of Activities April Crow,
 Jean Klink, Rebecca Mackerman,
 Jeanne Wegener
 Facilities Managers Nick Dodson,
 Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink
 Follow-up and Bridge Cards Karen Davis,
 Joni Cipollone
 Grants Deb Orwig, Jolene Schlichter
 Graphic Artist Connie McCabe
 Health Care Team Teri Guilbault, Amy Maynard,
 *Liz Tataseo
 Home Evaluations Sarah Brown, Sharon Flores,
 *Sheila Joyce, Connie McCabe, Deb Orwig,
 Fred Prose, Liz Tataseo
 Information Management Team Debbie Ball,
 Sharon Flores, Sheila Joyce, Deb Orwig,
 Jeanine Rogers, *Rick Rogers
 Intake Team Jamie Deppey, *Sharon Flores,
 *Judy Petitto, Julie Wheadon
 Membership Manager Sandra Hansen
 Merchandise Sales Manager Deb Orwig
 Microchip Manager Sandra Hansen
 Newsletter Editor Deb Orwig
 Photography Team *Connie McCabe, Deb Orwig,
 Denise Padavano, Liz Tataseo, Jeanne Wegener
 Placement Team Peggy Andrews,
 *Keri Marchant
 Proofreaders Debbie Ball, Teri Guilbault
 Connie McCabe, Larry Orwig, Liz Tataseo
 Sewing and Crafts Team *Deb Orwig,
 Denise Padavano, Sheri Rodeffer, Connie Wozniak
 Social Media Kathy Blue
 Transport Team Nick Dodson, Sharon Flores,
 Darlene Kaminski, Jean Klink, Connie McCabe,
 Robin Mish, Deb Orwig, Rick Stephens,
 Liz Tataseo, Cindy Tigges
 Vet Records Manager Liz Tataseo
 WAGS Line Manager Sharon Flores
 Masthead photo of **24-064 Brady** by Connie McCabe

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COLUMNS

Wags and Woofs – President’s Message 4 - 5
What's Up DOC? – Director of Operations 5 - 6
Golden Adventures – Director of Activities 6 - 7
Upcoming Activities 6
Health & Safety – Director of Health Care: *When to Neuter or Spay?* 7 - 8
The Human Connection – Human Resources Director 8 - 9
The Financial Picture 9 - 10
Matching Funds Challenge 9
Arizona Gives Day 2025; Giving Tuesday 2024; A Gift for Wrapping 10
 Financials for Year 2024 10

FEATURES

Diamonds in the Ruff 11
Magic Moments 12 - 17
Over the Rainbow 18
Golden Hearts (Donors) 41 - 43

SPECIAL FEATURE

Articles and stories about Senior Dogs 20 - 28

ACTIVITIES

Dine Out With The Dogs at Little Bite of Italy 28 - 31
PACC911 Glimmer of Hope 31
Dine Out With The Dogs at P. F. Chang's 32 - 33
Christmas Tree at P. F. Chang's 33
PACC911 Adopt-a-thon at Pet Supplies Plus, North Scottsdale 34 - 35
Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade 35 - 36
Gift Wrapping at Floor & Decor, Prasada Mall, Surprise 37 - 40

MISCELLANEOUS

Editor's Assistants 3 - 4
Cancer Screening Test for Dogs; Cancer in Dogs 19
Pet Supplies Plus, Phoenix, in Moon Valley 35

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:
***Paws At The Park* will be on Sunday, March 23, 2025**

From Teri Guilbault, who has adopted 6 seniors over the years: **AGR gets several senior Golden and Golden mixes in every year. When considering adopting a dog, please think about bringing a senior into your life. Although time with them will obviously be shorter (we always tell our adopters, though, that we can never guarantee longevity no matter what the dog's age is), it will certainly be just as sweet. At their age, they have been housetrained, are relatively calm and sedate, and their destruction phase has passed, but they are still loads of fun and make fantastic companions. All they ask is your love and tender care in return. We have some wonderful folks who will adopt a senior dog just to give them the very best last months or, hopefully, years of their lives. These are very special people, indeed!**

Cover Design by Connie McCabe; dog is 09-042 **Ben Johnston**

Editor's Note: Any personal opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by Arizona Golden Rescue. THE GOLDEN PAW is published quarterly by Arizona Golden Rescue and printed by AZ Correctional Industries, Perryville, AZ. Members receive it automatically, but nonmembers may subscribe for \$16 per year.

Editor's Assistants' Notes

Our mom, the editor, told us that this issue is about US – that is, about senior dogs. We say US because three out of the four dogs in our pack are now senior dogs: **CaliGirl** will be 13 on March 13; **Duffy** will be 12 on February 6; **Vin** was 9 on January 13. “The kid” **Asher** is only 4, so we won’t talk about him this time.

There have been other Orwig dogs that have gotten to be really old: **Dusty**, their first Golden in 1978, was about 16 when he went to the Bridge in 1994; **Summer** and **Topsy**, littermates who joined the family in 1985, both reached 14½; **Ben**, adopted from **RAG-ofAZ** at age 12, made it to just shy of 16 (read his story on page 21; **14-033 Dolly** was 13½ when she left us.

We three current Orwig seniors are, fortunately, all in good health right now. That is not the case with all senior Golden retrievers that reach our ages, if they do reach even **Vin’s** age of 9. Golden retrievers, on average, live about 11 years. As stresses on their lives increase, their lifespan becomes shorter. Cancer is also a biggie and takes down many Golden retrievers before they reach even 10. Many types of cancer are treatable. There is even a test available now that can detect cancer in its early stage, which is good because the sooner it’s detected, the better the chance of effective treatment. You can learn about that test on page 19.

Here is a little backstory on each of us seniors. From **13-023 Duffy**: Of our current pack, I was an Orwig first. I came into Rescue at 6 ½ weeks of age with five siblings. The “breeder” said it was an “oops litter” (i.e. not planned), and as they were planning a wedding and honeymoon trip, they did not have time to deal with puppies. Deb picked up my whole litter on March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day) and drove right to the Glendale **PetSmart** where **AGR** was doing a Meet-and-Greet. Everyone loved the puppies of course, and we were all given Irish names. Deb took us to her house and fostered the bunch until we were 12 weeks old. Since then, the three girls have passed away, but we don’t know if the other two boys are still alive, as we have not heard from their adopters. When we were 8 weeks old, Mom took us to Connie McCabe’s house for a photo shoot. It was the first time we puppies had been allowed to run free in a large yard, and it was hilarious and tiring for the volunteers to keep us away from the unfenced pool and get us all into one picture.



Golden seniors start out about this size at 8 weeks

We were allowed to run around for almost 3 hours. Then we were

tired enough that Connie was able to get this great shot of my litter on her couch (bottom lefthand column). I am the darkest one second from right. Now, I have a white face. This beautiful photo of me was taken by Lauren Rudin at the 2024 Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade.



From **16-009 Vin**: I was the next one to arrive at the Orwig's – I was born into Rescue at Deb and Larry’s house. My parents were **15-097**



Vin at 6 weeks

Faith and **15-096 Ford**, who were a sister and brother about 10 months old. They were surrendered to Rescue because the owner did not have time for them and kept them (both unsterilized) together in an outside pen. Momma **Faith** had 8 puppies just about 3 weeks after she was rescued: 1 girl, who died shortly after birth, and 7 boys. The 7 males were named after the characters in *The Magnificent Seven*.

I was the last one examined by our vet, so I got the last name alphabetically. The character of **Vin** was played by Steve McQueen in the movie, so the Orwigs decided the name had to stick. Because of my heritage, and because Daddy **Ford** passed away at age 19 months from several different medical problems, the Orwigs purchased health insurance for me. Thankfully, I have been healthy all along with no apparent congenital or genetic problems. My face started turning white when I was eight.



From **22-022 CaliGirl**: Although I am the oldest of the pack, I am the Orwigs’ most recent rescue. When I was 10 in 2022, I blew out my ACL and my owners could not afford to get it fixed. **AGR** had my leg repaired, and Judy Birt fostered me through my rehab therapy (thank you, Judy!). When my leg was healed, Deb transported me to a family whose yard and

the type of dog door they had turned out not to be suitable for me, so Deb took me back to her house. After just a couple of days, Larry said, “Are you thinking of keeping this girl?” Deb said, “I wasn’t, no.” Larry said, “But she fits in here so well!” Obviously, I stayed. When I came into Rescue, I was very overweight at 77 pounds. Thanks to the green bean diet,



I am now down to 58 pounds and no longer look like a blimp! I have attended many **AGR** events, love the attention from the public, and most recently rode in a wagon pulled by April Crow (thanks, April!) during the 2024 *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade*. I am a little arthritic and have some bone spurs on my elbow joints, so I don't walk much but am kept comfortable with daily Cosequin, gabapentin and carprofen. The meds are put right into my food, so I don't even notice that I'm taking them. They do make me feel better.



We would like to review the reasons why adopting a senior can be a great idea.

Ten Reasons to Adopt a Senior Golden

(This list was published on the Internet many years ago by an unknown author)

1. Adulthood. In most cases, senior Golden are well past the chewing and digging stages of life. They cause less destruction than puppies and younger dogs. They also have a longer attention span for training.
2. Peace of Mind. Over 90% of older dogs are housebroken before they go to a second home; those that aren't are easily trained. An adult dog has a larger bladder and can go for longer periods of time without relief.
3. Experience. Most senior Golden have been socialized with other animals. They can provide an example and a calming influence for younger dogs.
4. Tolerance. Older Golden are good first dogs for children because they are patient with tail-tugging and rough petting. They'll generally walk away from a rough-playing child rather than hurt him.
5. Companionship. Senior dogs don't demand constant watchfulness and attention. They're content just to be in the same room while family members are working or relaxing. A Golden Oldie will be more happy with a sedate walk than with intense exercise.
6. Dignity. Senior Golden are generally calmer than young dogs; they won't scare small children or the elderly by jumping up to greet them.
7. Adaptability. An adult dog will adapt more easily to changes in your household, such as a new baby, relatives or guests visiting, or being left alone for long periods of time.
8. WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get). A senior dog is fully grown, and most of its health history is known (hereditary diseases, arthritis, hip dysplasia are some). There are no guesses about how big it will get, what color it will be, whether it will bark a lot, or what its energy level will be.
9. Personality. A senior dog arrives with its own set of likes (e.g.,

soft places, belly rubs, tennis balls) and dislikes (e.g., cauliflower, squirrels, vacuum cleaners), and each one is different. Discovering all the facets of a senior's personality makes life with them truly enjoyable.

10. Memories. Even if you have a senior Golden as part of your life for only a few years, or for just a few months, the days and adventures you share are precious. The love you receive will more than compensate for the sadness of eventually losing such a wonderful companion.



Starting in September 2024, we had four major fundraisers: *Wine & Art Experience* at the **Pavilion Art Gallery** in Scottsdale (see write-up in the November 2024 issue now on our website); *Dine Out With The Dogs* at **Paulie's Little Bite of Italy** in Sun City at end of October (pages 28-31); *Dine Out With the Dogs II* at **P. F. Chang's** in north Phoenix in November (pages 32-33); and several gift wrapping dates in front of **Floor & Decor** at Prasad in Surprise during the holiday season (pages 37-40). We also participated in a **PACC911** adopt-a-thon at **Pet Supplies Plus North Scottsdale** in December (pages 34-35) and, a week later, walked in the *Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade* (pages 35-36). All of these events required hours and hours of preparation and participation time on the part of our Director of Activities, Denise Padavano, Assistant Director of Activities, Jeanne Wegener, and the other "regulars" who attend almost all of our events: Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink and Trishia Murphy. Thank you all for a superb JOB WELL DONE! Thanks to you and all the other volunteers who helped at these various events, we were able to end the year with a total annual income of over \$200,000, so Cindy Tigges, our Organization Accountant, and I will have to prepare the 990 long form for the **AGR** 2024 tax return. We're not really complaining!

In addition to the activities prepared and carried out by Denise and Jeanne, another reason why we had such a great income for 2024 was the *Matching Funds Challenge* issued by **AGR** members Jeannette and David Morrocco (see page 9). Our total from this fundraiser, which was our largest fundraiser of the year and which was spurred by their very generous \$5,000 donation, brought in **\$17,242.75!** Our sincere thanks to the Morroccos for their generosity and to all who donated to the matching efforts. The list of donors is also on page 9.

Months ago, we decided that the focus of the February 2025 issue of *The Golden Paw* would be on senior dogs. In our November 2024 issue, I made an announcement about the theme and invited those of you who had adopted a senior dog to submit a paragraph

or story. Debbie Ball prepared for me a list of all senior-dog adopters – thank you, Debbie! I sent an e-mail to all families who have adopted a dog that was at least 8 years old at intake since the beginning of 2022, the last time we featured senior dogs in the newsletter. Many adopters sent stories and most sent photos, too. The comments are summarized throughout this issue. Thanks, everyone, for taking the time to write to me. I loved reading all those messages, and I hope all you readers will enjoy them, too.

On page 4, my Editor's Assistants have enumerated ten reasons why adopting a senior Golden is something you should consider. I would like to add a few more reasons...

11. Many people who adopt seniors are seniors themselves. A senior dog fits their lifestyle better than a younger dog would.

12. Adopting a senior dog is usually a much shorter-term commitment than adopting a younger dog.

13. Senior people tend to be retired and have more time to travel than they did when they were younger and working full time. Senior dogs are easy to travel with.

14. If you choose to travel without the dog, it may be easier to find someone to pet sit for a mellow, old dog than for a younger, more vigorous dog.

15. Senior dogs usually fit right into a household like they have been there forever – in fact, we frequently hear just that comment from families who have taken in one of our seniors.

The next time you are considering adding a canine companion to your household, think about adopting a senior.



Part of my duties as Director of Operations is to manage the database to ensure accurate documentation and to ensure the various procedures are being used. Those of you who know me well know that I love statistics, so I've compiled those below, a summary of our rescue dog statistics for 2024, plus our Submitted Forms, and some income percentages. All information is as of 1/1/2025.

A total of 88 dogs were rescued by **AGR** in 2024, which is about exactly average based on our previous 10 years of intake history.

2024 Intake Dog Statistics:

Gender: 45 males; 43 females

Age: 57 were under 2 years old
22 were 3-5 years old

6 were 6-8 years old

3 were seniors at 9 years or more

Breed: 43 purebred Golden

45 Golden mixes (including mixes with Poodles, Labrador retrievers, Great Pyrenees, etc)

Intake: 64 were owner surrenders

19 were strays

5 were shelter dogs

Status of 2024 intake dogs as of 1/1/2025:

59 Adopted

4 Available

5 in foster care

4 Euthanized due to untreatable medical issues

14 Pending finalization of adoption

2 Receiving treatment in medical boarding at local vet

Statistics for 2024 Submitted Forms:

Adoption Applications: 427 total

Adopted (finalized adoptions): 61

Adopted Elsewhere: 49

Approved: 67

Approved to Foster: 8

Cancelled (applicant did not want to pursue): 44

Denied (did not meet our adoption standards): 12

Expired (never paid application fee in over 90 days): 20

Hold (had home eval & approved, advised wanted to postpone): 22

Pending (FWITA has a dog awaiting finalization): 15

Requested More Info (conditional approvals): 42

Under Review (app fee not yet paid but less than 90 days old): 14

Waiting Home Visit: 8

Waiting for Landlord approval: 21

Waiting on Applicant (advised they want to postpone BEFORE home eval done): 44

Membership Applications: 178

Home Evaluations (submitted online since Oct 2024): 61

Contact Us request forms: 9

Surrender Inquiry forms: 56

TOTAL 2024 Submitted Forms: 731

Categories of largest percentage of 2024 AGR Income:

Donations = 33%

Adoption Fees = 19%

Memberships = 16%

Grants = 7%

Silent Auctions = 5%

Merchandise sales = 5%

Adoption application fees = 4%

All other = 11%

Specific events with greatest income in 2024:

Matching Funds Challenge in December = \$17K

Summer fundraiser = \$13K

Pavillion Art Wine & Desserts = \$9K

Dine Out With The Dogs = \$7K

Paws at the Park annual picnic = \$7K

Gift Wrapping at Prasada = \$5K

*Golden Adventures!*

Denise Padavano
Director of Activities

agrgoldenevents@gmail.com

Wishing everyone a sparkling New Year filled with laughter, joy, and new Golden Adventures!

Most people look forward to the cool winter in Arizona as the rest of the country is dealing with cold, windy weather and, at times, temperatures below zero. Some states prepare for snow and blizzard conditions, followed by rain and slush! As a child growing up in New York, I looked forward to the snow! I had the opportunity to create different shapes in the snow and paint them different colors as a young child at school. As the snow melted, the colors blended creating new colors. As you look at our many Golden mixes, you see many shades of reds, oranges, yellows and browns. Some can even be all white, while others have earned their white "sugar faces" from the lives they have lived! You will also see Goldendoodles that were mostly black and now have a salt-and-pepper coat. All are beautiful in their own way! When you join us at events as a volunteer, or just come as a spectator, you will see many colors and shades reflecting the different "seasons" of our dogs – a magnificent sight to see! They will touch your heart with love and gratitude because they know that they have been rescued. Life is now better for them, and they show their appreciation in kisses and giving you their full attention! They are showing love because they are now being loved, as they deserve to be!

My youngster **Winnie's** perspective... I went to my first gift wrapping event and had so much fun! So many people loved on me, slid money into my donation vest, and I had my mom all to myself for the day! I also met some new furry and human friends, as my mom was busy wrapping presents. I even surprised a little girl and kissed her on the face! I heard her giggle, and I jumped for joy! Then, came New Year's with loud noises and bright lights in the sky. I overheard my mom and her friend talking about New Year's resolutions. My resolution is to listen to my mom better and take her on walks every day so she can get her exercise. Have to keep her healthy and happy, so I can go to more Golden events! Hope to see some new faces and meet new furry friends this year! Come join the fun and bring your human families too!

New beginnings, new adventures, and new memories await all of us in our upcoming events! NOW is the TIME TO PLAN YOUR SPRING GOLDEN ADVENTURES! Be sure to mark your calendars with the following dates!

*UPCOMING ACTIVITIES***PARADE!**

Parada Del Sol Parade & Trail's End Festival
 Old Town Scottsdale

Saturday, February 1, 2025 9 AM to 4 PM

AGR members and dogs are invited to walk in this fun and memorable parade! Last year we had 32 dogs and 34 people walk in the parade. With so many new adoptions, let's try and beat those numbers this year! Following the parade, *AGR* will have a booth in the Trail's End festival area selling merchandise and having a meet-and-greet with the public. A FUN Day for all!

PACC911 Adopt-a-thon at Anthem

Sunday, February 23, 2025 10 AM to 3 PM

A well-attended event. Note: On a Sunday! We will have our usual booth for merchandise sales and for sharing our information and success stories with the public. Bring your dog(s), join the fun, relax and socialize with fellow dog-lovers!

Paws At The Park – Annual AGR Picnic!

NOTE: DATE CHANGE to March 23, 2025
11 AM to 4 PM

Location: East Ramada at El Dorado Park, Scottsdale

Paws At The Park is *Arizona Golden Rescue's* annual members' meeting and a day of fun with family and friends, good food and uplifting music! We will be celebrating our 16th year in existence! Bring your dogs, especially the newly-adopted ones, to participate in the picnic and our Parade of Rescues! Children are always welcome! We will have merchandise for sale, raffle baskets and silent auction items. Mark your calendars for this memorable event!

New Event: *Chips, Sips and Yips*
 had to be postponed due to a date conflict

NEW EVENT!**Pickle Ball Tournament**

August 2, 2025

Location: *Chicken N Pickle*

Westgate Entertainment District

9330 W Hanna Lane, Glendale, AZ 85305

Details and registration form will be in the May issue of
The Golden Paw newsletter

All events are on the calendar on the **AGR** website (arizonagoldenrescue.org). **AGR** would not be able to do all these FUNraising events without the support of our dedicated and amazing volunteers. We are grateful for any time you can help, whether it be for an hour or two a month or even one day a year. You will meet new people, have fun, get to love on the dogs and find it very rewarding knowing that you are supporting our magnificent Golden beauties! We would sure love to have you join us! The time you spend volunteering will always be treasured in the heart of a rescued Golden!

Interested in VOLUNTEERING, please contact Denise Padavano or Jeanne Wegener at (agrgoldenevents@gmail.com). Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Health Care: Senior Dog Health

By Liz Tataseo
Director of Health Care

e.tataseo@yahoo.com



Editor's Note: For much more information on health conditions we have seen in rescued dogs, please refer to the Healthy Dogs Issue of The Golden Paw newsletter that we published in August 2024. It is available on our website: <https://www.arizonagoldenrescue.org/info/file?file=31148.pdf> Many senior dogs have experienced some of the conditions/diseases discussed in that issue.

Now that your dog is a little older, does he or she have difficulty getting up and down, have trouble going to the bathroom, forget where he/she is sometimes, or gain weight/lose weight when you aren't feeding him/her any differently? These are very common signs of an older or geriatric dog. Know your dog and what is "normal" for her or him.

At what age does a dog become a senior dog? For adoption purposes we think of a senior as nine years or older. Many vets consider six to be the age at which a larger dog is designated as a senior; some consider it seven or eight. Not that dogs act like a senior citizen, but changes do occur as a dog ages. This is probably not news to those of you who have had senior dogs, but for those with younger ones, please keep all of this in mind. As with people, the better physical shape dogs are in due to getting enough exercise, quality food, and play time that helps their mental side stay active, the better that many geriatric issues can be kept at bay.

Some concerns in an older, large dog include anemia, arthritis, bladder stones, dental disease, diabetes, endocrine issues like Addison's or Cushing's disease, eye disorders, heart disease, hypothyroidism, kidney disease, liver disease, obesity, prostate problems (if a male is intact), skin tumors, urinary incontinence,

cancer and sometimes dementia or cognitive dysfunction. I know this sounds like a lot of problems. Like us humans, though, it's usually just one or two issues that arise at any one time.

One way to stay on top of any developing problems in an older dog is to see your vet twice a year rather than the standard one visit per year to update vaccinations. A complete blood panel (CBP) or Total Health bloodwork is a good way to check your dog over each year. We recommend a CBP starting at age 6 or 7, so that your vet has a baseline to compare with results when your dog is older. Don't wait to see your vet if you think your dog is sick or has had a change in behavior. Dogs are very stoic and don't often show that they are not feeling well.

Arthritis is very common in older dogs, which is why weight management is so important. Signs include difficulty rising, falling on slippery floors, trouble climbing stairs and finding a comfortable sleeping position. There are many anti-inflammatory drugs that can really help, and new ones are easier on a dog's kidneys and liver.

Older dogs have an increased likelihood of developing bladder stones. Most are small and may not cause issues, but if one becomes stuck in their urethra, then there will be major problems. A urine test can give an early indication of crystals forming. A special diet can help keep these stones from growing.

Older dogs have a higher risk of diabetes either due to diet or pancreatic insulin issues. Diabetes is treatable with medication, just as in people.

Endocrine disorders such as Addison's and Cushing's diseases are sometimes hard to diagnose. Both conditions are treatable. Addison's results from reduction in the production of the steroids aldosterone and cortisol. It can be controlled by medication given daily.

Cushing's is often caused by a tumor on the pituitary gland. It usually results in the dog drinking tremendous amounts of water and, thus, needing to urinate frequently. As the disease progresses, dogs lose muscle and become weak. Owners might notice a thinning of the skin, lesions on the skin, and hair loss on the flanks, neck, and perineum. Obesity and lack of energy are also symptoms. Because it takes time — at least one year — for these symptoms to develop, and because the symptoms are often mistaken for common signs of aging, many dogs have the advanced form of Cushing's disease before the owner even recognizes a problem exists. It is a treatable condition with medication or, possibly, surgery.

As dogs age, vision issues crop up — cataracts and tear production leading to chronic dry eye. Golden Retriever Uveitis is an autoimmune disease that can lead to glaucoma and cataracts and eventually blindness. If your dog's eyes are gummy all the time, they rub their eyes or blink a lot, see your vet.

Heart disease can include chronic valve issues that lead to abnormal blood flow, which can lead to heart enlargement and heart failure. Congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy are often seen in senior dogs but can remain hidden for years.

Hypothyroidism (low thyroid hormone) is a common condition that affects older Golden Retrievers. Some early signs are sudden weight gain, thinning coat, dry coat, changes in personality and lethargy. Hypothyroidism can be treated easily with one or two tiny pills daily.

Kidney disease is one of the most common diseases of older dogs. Special diet and medication can keep a dog healthy for a much longer life. Blood tests can help diagnose this disease early on, even before the dog shows signs of a problem.

Obesity is caused by over-feeding and under-exercising. If your dog looks fat, it probably is. Now is the time to use "tough love": reduce the amount of food you give, add canned (or frozen) no-salt-added green beans for bulk, and cut down on the number and/or size of treats you dole out. FYI: a small Milkbone® biscuit has 26 calories! Check the calorie content of treats you buy! Do you follow the instructions on the bag regarding how much kibble to give your dog? Don't. More often than not, the food manufacturer will indicate quantities that are considerably more than a healthful amount for your dog. Why? Because they want to sell more food.

Skin tumors and subcutaneous lumps are common in older dogs. Depending on the size, location and test results, vets can recommend removal or just monitor the lumps for changes.

Urinary incontinence can happen as a dog ages, but there are medications that can help.

Cancer often crops up in the senior dog. Many types of cancer are treatable, especially if found early – another reason for regular vet visits! Again, the stoicism of many dogs may mask any symptoms until it's too late for effective intervention.

Cognitive decline in dogs, just like in people, can occur as a dog ages. Some signs are being less patient and more irritable. Sometimes they forget regular behaviors such as peeing and pooping and where to do these. They might sleep more and not answer as usual when you call. There is medication that can help with this type of issue, or there could be a physical problem that can cause these issues. See your vet!

DON'T PANIC! These are just examples of what can happen with a senior dog. Usually issues of one or more of these are mild, and always there is the right medication to help. Remember, feed your dog based on good nutrition and don't overfeed. Look for changes in your dog, see your vet if you notice anything unusual, and make it a practice to take him or her to your vet regularly even if they have no overt symptoms.



The Human Connection

By Connie McCabe,
Human Resources Director

photocraf@aol.com

"It's all about the dogs"

We say that a lot, because that is why we are all part of this wonderful group. You would not be reading this if it were not for your love for the dogs. But as much as that is true, it takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to keep this organization, and therefore the dogs, alive and thriving.

So, since this is the "Human Connection" column, in every issue I am going to continue to mention a few interesting facts and stories about some of the people you might know. Hopefully you will learn something new about them and gain more insight into how they got here. I know there are a lot of people who just wanted to adopt a dog and have no interest in participating in **AGR** activities. I will respect the privacy of those who prefer not to be active and just concentrate on those who are, or have been, most active in the organization.

Hopefully by now you will have noticed that many of our members have stayed to be part of the organization long after their first-year membership has expired. And, many times, even after the **AGR** dog(s) they have adopted have gone to the Bridge. There are many members who have never even adopted a dog from us and some who don't even have a dog at all! We are grateful to those who have continued to renew their memberships year after year and who contribute their time, money, and hearts to the group, whether or not they are interested in adopting a Golden.



Karen and Mark Wengraf at the P. F. Chang's Dine Out With The Dogs event in November 2024

Now let's welcome new members and volunteers, Karen and Mark Wengraf

Hello from two of AGR's newer volunteers, Karen and Mark Wengraf. Recently retired from Corporate America, we are thrilled to join the AGR team! Both of us are natives of Arizona, where we raised a blended family of seven children: six sons and one daughter. Our family is growing by leaps and bounds with three granddaughters and one grandson, with another grandson on the way! Activities are never scarce under our roofs!

We have worked in Rescues in the past – supporting fostering (including foster coordinating), whelping, adopting (including adoption coordinating), and fundraising events.

We met **AGR** members and dogs at our veterinarian's office (**Four Legged Friends**) and of course fell in love! We have many family and friends involved in Golden Rescues, as well in as cancer research for the pups. We've thoroughly enjoyed the events we've been to for **AGR** in 2024 and meeting so many terrific people. We look forward to working more with such an awesome team. One can never have too many friends...two AND four legged!



Mark and Karen both learned to make beautiful bows at the gift wrapping event at *Floor & Decor* in December 2024



Volunteering is a family affair for the Luries: Jake, Brody, Colby and Karie at our *Toyota of Surprise* event in November 2023

Karie and Jake Lurie have been active members for several years since adopting **22-012 Sophie**. They and their sons have been extremely helpful at many of our major events.

In Karie's words... *Karie and Jake Lurie have always been "pet people," but when they met Karie favored cats and Jake had only had dogs. After 20 years of marriage, they now have three dogs, seven cats, and two teenagers!*

In 2022, we adopted our first Golden, **Sophie**, and have been involved with **AGR** ever since. All our pets until **Sophie** were Rescues that found us, but Karie had always wanted to have a Golden. The search for our dream dog led us to **AGR**, and **Sophie** is the most spoiled of all the Lurie gang.

The whole family has been involved in Rescue – though mostly cat rescue – prior to **AGR**. Karie was the President of the Board of Directors for Sun Cities 4Paws Rescue. The Luries have fostered multiple cats, including several bottle-fed kittens. Our older son, Brody, helped to get his National Honor Society involved with the holiday gift wrapping event in the West Valley. The younger, Colby, and mom, Karie, are "socializers" at 4Paws, where they work with cats to get them comfortable being held, having nails trimmed, and being brushed.



Jake, Karie and Brody at our *Wine & Art Experience* event at the *Pavilion Art Gallery* in Scottsdale in September 2024

Karie is an Arizona native and works as the Senior Director of Audience Services at **ASU Gammage**. Jake manages their rental properties and sells used books online. Brody is a senior and will be attending **ASU** in the Fall. Colby is a sophomore who is working on finishing high school a year early.

The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

Matching Funds Challenge

In mid-December, **AGR** members **Jeannette and David Morrocco** issued a **Matching Funds Challenge**. They were willing to donate up to \$5,000 if that amount were matched by donations accumulated through December 31, 2024. Not only did our supporters match this amount, 57 donors contributed a total of \$12,242.75 above and beyond the **Morroccos'** very generous donation! **Thank you all!**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peggy and Jim Alexander | Denita and Dave Kaiser |
| Teddi and Delwin Axne | Susan Kemper |
| Debbie Ball | Rita Koppinger and |
| Stephanie Beard and | Thomas Martinsen |
| Greg Konishi | Sheila Lafford |
| Sharon Briggs | Pam and David Longbine |
| Betsy and Fred Brown | Sarah Martin |
| Carolyn and Peter Brown | Jeannette and David Morrocco |
| Linda and Jeffrey Campbell | Marlene and Dean Mortimore |
| Carol Cleaver | Trishia Murphy |
| Barbara Connoyer | Dave Nerland |
| Covert Surveillance Inc. | Donna and Berek Novak |
| (Elizabeth VanEvera) | Michelle and Steven Ortega |
| Robert D Crouse | Deb and Larry Orwig |
| Kevin Davis | Denise Padavano |
| Charles (Skip) Derra | Fred and Jill Prose |
| Kathleen M Donahue, DO | Bernie and Jean Quick |
| George Douvas | Adam Reingold |
| Patrick Doyle | Barbara and James Renshaw |
| Emilie Duncan | RLZ Internal Medicine LLC |
| Cheryl Duter | (Rebecca Zaner) |
| Sally and Tom Fetherston | Jeanine and Rick Rogers |
| Sharon Flores | Debra Sable |
| Marilyn and Mark Flynn | Karen and James Sanner |
| Patty and Troy Forte | Gina and Greg Shore |
| Ellen and Jeff France | Carrie Stoneburner |
| Teri and Jeff Guilbault | Fran and Jan Strock |
| Joanne Henning | Jane Triplett |
| Krista Hill | Julie and John Tyree |
| Sally and Wendell Jones | Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane |
| Marti Joyce | Julie and Garrett Wheadon |

The total donations received due to the **Morroccos' Matching Funds Challenge** was \$17, 242.75; the \$5,000 mark was reached by the first 20 donors!

Arizona Gives Day 2025

By Deb Orwig

During the last seven years, many of you have donated to **Arizona Golden Rescue** through the AZGives platform in support of *Arizona Gives Day*. In 2025, **AGR** will again be among the participating organizations. Our page can be viewed here: <https://www.azgives.org/organization/arizonagoldenrescue?mode=edit>

The early-giving period starts on **March 11, 2025** and goes until the actual *Arizona Gives Day*, which is **Tuesday April 1**. There are numerous incentive prizes for early donations, as well as for donations actually registered on *Arizona Gives Day*. In 2024, bolstered by a special, unexpected \$2,500 donation from **Fiesta Bowl Charities**, we had received almost \$9,000 in donations by the end of the giving period, so I have made \$9,000 our goal for 2025. Please donate.

In the past, one of the incentive categories has been the number of donations made between the start of the giving period and the actual *Gives Day*. If you intend to give a total of, say, \$100, it would be better, then, to divide that up and do \$20 every other day for 10 days, because if you skip a day in between donations, then they count as different donations. In the past, the *AZGives* minimum acceptable donation was \$10.

When you make a donation through *AZGives*, you will be asked if you are willing to cover their administrative fee, which runs 7-8%. Yes, that is high and you don't have to cover it, but if you do not, then **AGR** will receive that much less of a donation. For example, if you donate \$100 and choose not to cover the fee, then **AGR** will actually get about \$92.50. The entire amount of \$100 is tax deductible, but **AGR** will not get it all unless you choose to cover the administrative fee, which will make your donation amount higher.

Giving Tuesday in 2024

We did not promote *Giving Tuesday* in 2024, due to the fiasco from external hacking that occurred in 2023 regarding donations through Facebook and PayPal. Despite no publicity from **AGR**, several made donations honoring this day:

- Shelly and Jon Buehner
- Andrea Decker
- Carol Gora
- Keri and Rich Marchant
- Martha McDowell
- Deb and Larry Orwig

Robert Wright in loving memory of Uncle Jake Drake
Thank you, all!

Reporting period: January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Adoption Application Fees	\$ 8,075.00	\$
Adoption Expense		1,765.00
Adoption Income	40,317.00	
Adoption Fee Refunds		3,500.00
Calendars		
Printing of 2025 Calendars		3,261.26
Sales of 2024 Calendars	1,638.00	
Sponsorships for 2025	2,640.00	
Credit Card & PayPal Expense		843.03
Donations		
General Fund	80,816.03	
Honorary	7,762.99	
Memorial	7,878.00	
Matching Fund Challenge	17,242.75	
Summer Fundraiser	13,326.00	
Event Expense		1,472.93
Gift Wrap	3,020.76	
Grants	14,700.00	
Insurance		1,645.62
Interest Earned	4,069.64	
Internet Services		1,597.32
Legal & Professional Fees		260.00
Membership Income	32,811.00	
Merchandise		
Purchases		2,264.07
Sales & Shipping	10,646.15	
Newsletter Subscriptions	52.00	
Office Expenses		1,878.45
Pavilion Art Gallery Wine Tasting	1,404.00	
Donations	1,405.00	
Auction Income	6,010.00	
Paws At The Park	1,992.00	725.13
Auction	1,570.00	
Donations	1,075.97	
Prizes (Raffle Tickets)	1,075.00	
Postage		2,968.81
Rent or Lease (storage facility)		3,146.59
Stationery & Printing		7,982.10
Telephone		348.53
Dog-related Expenses		
Behavioral Training		3,375.00
Boarding		26,465.00
Dog Food (Rx/Specialty)		1,452.68
Microchip Expense		851.19
Veterinary Services		228,912.10

A Gift for Gift Wrapping

Debbie Ball paid for the cost of a newspaper ad we submitted in early December about upcoming gift wrapping for donations at tables set up in front of **Floor & Decor** in the new Prasada mall in Surprise. We ran the ad in the local weekly newspaper. Our gift wrapping in 2024 brought in more than double what we earned in the same location in 2023! The ad, which cost \$187.50 was worth the expense! Thank you, Debbie, for paying for the ad – our income from gift wrapping was that much more thanks to your generosity!

Diamonds in the Ruff

By Debbie Ball
Director of Operations

debbie.ball@arizonagoldenrescue.org

Diamonds in the Ruff are dogs on which **AGR** has had to spend at least \$2,000 in expenses. For the fourth quarter of 2024, we had four dogs that met this benchmark. Please consider donating to help with the expenses of a specific dog, or just earmark it for *Diamonds in the Ruff*. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, of course, and will be acknowledged as such.



23-075 Bodhi came into Rescue in late September 2023 as a 3-year-old neutered male Goldendoodle surrendered by his owner, as they could not keep this strong, untrained boy with their young family. The typical veterinary workup was done and vaccines updated. In fall 2023, a mast cell tumor was discovered on the side of his chest area. Oncology surgery was

done, and **Bodhi** continued to be boarded at the veterinary office. In mid-January 2024, one of our member families took **Bodhi** in as a foster, and he received periodic electrochemotherapy treatment. In June 2024, **Bodhi** was adopted by Carmine and Marisa in Phoenix, with an addendum to cover **Bodhi's** follow-up expenses for his tumor treatment. In November 2024, **Bodhi** underwent a splenectomy costing \$2,299, for which the adopters generously donated payment! **Bodhi's** overall expenses since his 2023 intake have totaled **\$10,724**.

24-045 Spam, now called **Sam** since none of us liked her original name, was rescued in early July 2024 as a then 14-month-old purebred female puppy in need of medical attention. **Veterinary Emergency Group** contacted **AGR** as they had this puppy with neurological symptoms which the original owner surrendered to the ER vet. After evaluation by **AMSC** in Scottsdale with a CT of her abdomen, echocardiogram, and ammonia test, it was discovered she had an internal liver shunt, a vascular anomaly which is congenital. The abnormal vessels allow normal blood which drains from the digestive system to bypass the liver where it would usually be detoxified, and flow directly into the systemic circulation. This condition results in an underdeveloped liver, a deficient protein supply, and abnormal fat and protein metabolism. **Sam** was too young at the time and her vessels



were still growing, so surgery to repair this could not be done until she was approximately 5-6 months old. In mid-December 2024, **Sam** had a procedure called intrahepatic coil embolization, which essentially meant they inserted various coils as a "stent cave" to open up the vessels, hoping her liver will work properly. She is currently being faithfully fostered by **AGR** volunteer Sharon, who ensures **Sam** gets all her meds on schedule with food and increasing dosages as **Sam** grows. **Sam's** vet expenses for 4th quarter were **\$15,102**, and total 2024 expenses cost **AGR \$19,861**.



Now 8 months old, Sam's surgery has been judged successful!



24-070 Rowan was rescued in early October 2024 by a finder who was unable to keep him. **Rowan** was estimated to be approximately 18 months old and a Golden/Lab mix. He received all the typical initial vaccines and tests, along with a flea/tick treatment, and he was discovered to have a nasty hematoma on his right ear along with an ear infection. These were treated and **Rowan**

was neutered in mid-October. **Rowan** has been adopted by Christopher and Ashley in Phoenix and doing very well with his new loving family. **Rowan's** 4th quarter expenses were **\$2,033**.

24-075 Bear is a 10-month-old intact male purebred Golden Retriever whose owner surrendered him as she worked long hours and had no time for him. He is a gorgeous big red boy but was completely untrained. In mid-December, his potential adopters noticed **Bear** was vomiting and lethargic, and a vet visit diagnosed him with stomach issues and pneumonia.

He is currently on antibiotics and improving but will still need to be neutered within the next couple months, hopefully. **Bear's** expenses so far have cost **\$2,786**. NOTE: In January 2025, **Bear** had a relapse and cost **AGR** an additional **\$936**.



Everyone wants a puppy! Me too! Except I want a senior puppy! Your senior, if you choose to accept him or her, will surround you with love, laughter, and everlasting joy (did I mention entertainment?). Your senior puppy will amaze you with all the exercise that you are getting – walking around the block, throwing balls, pulling you away from that dratted computer so you give him/her ALL your attention. Your senior might have some issues... but don't we all! ~ Pat Amaral

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Deb Orwig

*Magic Moments... when a stray Golden Retriever or Golden mix is spotted in a shelter kennel and does a happy dance when taken out; when a neglected backyard dog is surrendered by its owner to a member of our Transport Team and is delivered to a foster family that shows the dog love, comfort, toys and good-quality food for, perhaps, the first time in the dog's life; and the most magical of all... when a rescued dog meets his or her forever family and we see the dog's excitement and the sparkle in the family's eyes. As rescuers, we are privileged to share in these Magic Moments. Below are stories of **Arizona Golden Rescue's** Magic Moments from October 16, 2024 through January 15, 2025. All adoptions finalized after January 15th will be in the next issue.*



24-038 Teddy is a 4 -year-old neutered male Goldendoodle. He was surrendered because he started having seizures, and his owner worked and traveled so was not home to give him the meds he needs. Her father could not take **Teddy**, as he could not afford the medicine or food. **Teddy** had been taking seizure medication, but he had been having break-through

issues – had a couple of cluster seizures. They could not afford to take him to a neurologist. It took seven months for **AGR** and the neurologist we use in Scottsdale to get **Teddy's** seizures under better control. During that time, he was fostered by Leslie and her pack. He got along well with all. The medication recipe for seizure control can be difficult to determine. Each time a change is made in type and/or dosage, some time has to elapse before the vet can decide whether further changes need to be made. **Teddy** is given a special neuro care food, as well as a drug cocktail. He now takes a combination of phenobarbital, Levetiracetam and potassium bromide, but the vet hopes to reduce all that to just the phenobarbital. Only time will tell if that will be possible. **Teddy** is good with everyone – loves to interact with people, loves to watch movies or a TV program that has dogs in it. He is loveable and easy-going. After much effort, Placement finally found a home for **Teddy** with Allison and Russ, a couple experienced with seizure dogs. As **Teddy** has had new seizure activity at his new home in Sierra Vista, the vet the family uses has consulted with the neurologist in Scottsdale who dealt with **Teddy** for the time he was in foster care. We are confident that **Teddy** will be well cared for and loved. When his adoption was finalized, we provided an addendum whereby **AGR** will pay for three months' of medication and vaccination boosters.

24-046 Mickey has quite a story to tell! These words were contributed by Connie, his transporter and eventual adopter.

*In mid-July, **Mickey** was taken to an ER clinic by a police officer who, when she came in, told the staff she had a "seizure case." The*

attending vet gave him an injection for seizures about a half hour before I got there to pick him up. They also gave me some Keppra to take home and a script for more.

*At that point we had no information at all about the dog except that his owner had left town and that whoever was watching him relinquished him to the police, who took him to the ER. I took him home and, in the meantime, it caught Liz's eye that the police report was worded as "Report of Animal Seizure." She wondered if, in fact, **Mickey** really was a "seizure dog" or, more likely, a "seized dog." She emailed the police officer for more details and left a message to the vet about it too. She did not get any replies, but the owner's name was on the report, along with the address, but not the phone number.*



*I went to the address, a trailer park in West Phoenix, and knocked on the door. There was no answer, so I went to the manager's office, where she was very helpful. She tried to call the owner and texted her, with no luck. The manager was kind enough to give me the owner's phone number, along with a very interesting story of past events, which I won't go into here. I tried to call and text the owner for several days, and she finally called me back with some more info about **Mickey**. She had adopted him, she said, from the **Humane Society** four weeks prior. That's where he was neutered, and she said he received all his shots. She said she would be back in town August 8 and would give me the records then, so we did not do any vetting until we knew what has been done. Most importantly, she verified that he is **NOT** a seizure dog. Also, his original name was **Bob**. When she left to go to California, she could not take him and left him at the trailer for her friend to take care of. But **Mickey** locked himself in the bathroom and barked so much that the police were called. She agreed to give him to the police, and that is how we got him. I was hoping to get his records before the 8th (of August), so I went to the **Humane Society** to see if they would give them to me. They looked up the owner on the computer*

and there was no record of her adopting **Mickey**, so I think she has the **Humane Society** confused with **MCACC** or some other rescue. She never did get back to me, even after I called and texted her numerous times.

Mickey stayed with us for a while and then was adopted by another family, where it did not work out as hoped, because he had some behavior problems and a conflict with a resident dog. We took him back to foster and worked on his issues. After a month or so, he was just the perfect dog with no problems at all, other than barking. We had also grown very attached to him and he to us.

When we lost our **Bowie** in August, there was a big hole in our family dynamics that festered there, waiting to be filled. So, although you can never, ever, replace any dog, **Mickey** joined the family to help us be whole again. He is currently training to do home evaluations and attend meet-and-greets. He's doing a great job and will hopefully be attending the Parada Del Sol in February.

Three-year-old **Mickey**, already neutered when he came to **AGR**, has now been fully vaccinated and tested for heartworm and valley fever, both negative, fortunately.

24-054 Apollo came to **AGR** as a 4-year-old neutered and very overweight (at 127 pounds) purebred Golden. **Apollo** was the dog of the surrendering owner's grandmother, who passed away in April. The grandson, now the owner, was not able to care for **Apollo** any longer. **Apollo** needed training and exercise, as the grandmother had been confined to a wheelchair, and **Apollo** just stayed by her chair for pets. He was described as loving and loyal. In her transport report, Connie called him "a walking coffee table" and said: *When I got him from the SO, I didn't want to try to get him into my traveling crate, so put him loose in the back. Before I could even get belted in, he was up in the passenger seat and there was no going back from there. He is an immovable object at that point. Fortunately, he rode well to AW. Unfortunately, his weight triggered my passenger seat belt alarm and I had to hear the constant dinging the whole way. Oh, what our transporters sometimes have to deal with!* **Apollo** was fully vaccinated and had our standard tests for heartworm and valley fever, both negative. Placement had a difficult time placing him because (1) he was so overweight, (2) he was food-aggressive and (3) he was not leash-trained. Finally, after trying numerous families and experiencing a couple of failed meet-and-greets, Placement found Sarah and Philip in Paradise Valley. They were willing and eager to work with him, and renamed him **Bear**. By December (5 months after intake), **Bear** had lost 40 pounds and was down to 86.4! Sarah reported: *On occasion, he has counter-surfed and got down some sausages. First month we had him he*



was silent without barking. He now barks at any and all noises. I feel he is protecting his new family. **Bear** is like Velcro with my mom. **Bear** is the perfect dog and we can't imagine not having him. When they took him to **Four-Legged Friends** for a follow-up on the kennel cough he'd developed at the boarding facility before he was placed, Sarah related: *He was sitting on the chair in the vet's office like a little human. He did not like getting his ears cleaned, but all in all he has been a very good boy. We love him!*



24-057 Maggie is a 6-year-old spayed Goldendoodle. At her original home, **Maggie** was being attacked by the resident pit bull, who had developed food-guarding behavior. The pit bull had been in the home first, so, to protect **Maggie's** safety, the owner surrendered her to **AGR**. **Maggie** has Addison's disease but has been stable for 3 years on 0.1 mg prednisone twice a

day. As the foster family discovered, **Maggie** is a counter-surfer and will chew up anything she can get her teeth on. She had to be watched constantly or would "get into something" and had to be crated when the fosters both left the home. **Maggie** was transported to a second foster family when the first had to go on a planned vacation. At the second foster just before she was transported to her new home with Tiffany in Phoenix, **Maggie** ate a sock and chewed up a set of headphones. Consequently, **Maggie** had to have treatment at **Veterinary Emergency Group** to remove what she had ingested. The anesthesia caused her to have "an Addison's crisis", but that was cleared up with medication. Tiffany has **Maggie**-proofed her home, so we do not expect any more incidents like this! When she called from Seattle after attending her brother's funeral, Tiffany related: *I adore Maggie. She came into my life at the right time – I had just lost my other dog in July and then my fiancé broke up with me right after that. Maggie and I have our silly routines together. Before our morning walk, Maggie comes and sits on my lap while I get ready. She sits by the refrigerator while I make her breakfast, waiting for something. Maggie loves to fetch anything and everything. She will play until my arm could fall off. It is easy to love her. I am thankful to AGR for all that they did to make Maggie happen in my life.*



24-061 Chance and 24-060 Champ

24-060 Champ and **24-061 Chance** were found as strays in Northern Arizona. The finder thought they might be a father/son pair, but our vet later judged them to be littermates about two years old. Neither boy was neutered. Both were friendly with the finders' dogs (a German Shepherd and two Chihuahuas) and ignored the two cats. The finder reported:



24-060 Champ now Rocky

Both seem scared to go outside but do use the dog door to go potty and then come right back in. Both seem to love the doggie kiddie pool that is in the dog run. When he was found, **24-060 Champ** had a scab near his right eye that is now a scar. **AGR** was first notified about this pair in early July. After a month, the finder thought she had located their owners, but the people could not answer some very pointed questions, so the finder did

not let the dogs go and called us to finalize intake procedures. Our Placement Manager, Keri, and husband Rich, who have a summer home up north, picked up the boys in Eager and drove them to their house. They were met there by our primary transporters, Connie and Darlene, who brought the dogs the rest of the way to **Academy West Animal Hospital**. The dogs were given the standard vaccinations and were tested for valley fever and heartworm, which were negative. They were placed with Diane and Mark in Dewey, so the dogs' records were transferred to **Prescott Animal Hospital**, where follow-ups and neutering of both boys were done. **Champ** is now known as **Rocky** and **Chance** as **Kelce**. A short time after they arrived in their new home, Diane related: *The boys went to their first outing and camp-out in the woods for the night with us on Saturday. They were awesome! We are so attached to them! We painted and redid the office so they have their own room with beds.* Diane takes them to school with her once a week and the students love them. As they do not like to walk on wood or tile floors, she has rugs for them and has taught them to hug the wall going down the hallway. Welcome home, **Rocky** and **Kelce**!



24-061 Chance now Kelce



24-063 Wiley was four months old when he was surrendered to **AGR** in August 2024. He had been left at a pet sitter's home, but after two months his original owner could not be located and had blocked texts and phone calls. The pet sitter said they were out of money and space and could no longer keep this sweet young Goldendoodle. After receiving all his vacci-

nations at **Academy West Animal Hospital**, **Wiley** was taken to a foster home with Barb and Vic in Surprise, where he stayed for a couple weeks and during which he had some digestive problems that needed attention. Barb and Vic did a wonderful job assessing **Wiley's** personality and behavior and gave us some great notes which we gave to the next foster family. Deb and Jose fell in love with this playful, energetic young Goldendoodle and ended up

adopting him. Deb shared this message: *He came to us as **Wiley**, and we renamed him **Willow**. We started our journey thinking we were just going to foster him, since he was so young and we were not looking for a puppy of four months old. He was already bigger than our three-year-old Goldendoodle, **Adeline**. She had just lost her 17-year-old brother, and we thought that she would benefit from having someone to keep her company until we found the right fit. Well, needless to say, **Willow** was the sweetest big goof-ball we could've hoped for. **Addie** wasn't so sure in the beginning, but it didn't take long for her to warm up to him, and they are now the best of friends. While we expected that he would not shed like **Addie**, we were quite mistaken, as many people are with this breed. By this time, of course it was too late, and we had already fallen in love with him. He loves to hug (literally) and is probably one of the silliest dogs I have ever owned. He quickly bonded with our family, which also comes with a downfall of we can't leave him alone or he will cry. As long as he has **Addie** with him, he does just fine. After his first grooming, we discovered that he has angel wings on each side of his shoulders that are pure white and we find this to be a very special trait of his. I can't encourage you enough to bring a foster into your home and give them a chance at a new beginning. At nine months of age, **Willow** was neutered in January, a little younger than we usually like to have the surgery done, in hopes that it would help curb his marking in the house.*



24-064 Arthur is a 19-month-old neutered purebred Golden. The **Soldier's Best Friend** organization got him out of **Mari-copa County Animal Care and Control** to train as a service dog for a veteran. They surrendered the dog to **AGR** because he is not focused enough to be a service dog. He is not treat/food or toy motivated, so it would be hard for a veteran who has never trained a dog to work with him. He is also

obsessed with shadows – he will focus on a shadow and nothing else. He was already fully vaccinated but was taken to **Academy West Animal Hospital** to be treated for an ear infection and a wound on one side of his face. He was fostered for a short time by Judy in Phoenix before being placed with Jordan and Russell. At Judy's, he spotted a reflection on the wall and spent a frenzied 10 minutes trying to find it until he finally settled down. His new permanent family changed his name to **Brady**. He is a gorgeous, friendly boy who loves to shake hands. Russell related the story about the new name: *Years ago I adopted a dog named **Darby** from **AGR**. **Darby** recently passed away. We decided to take the center letters of **Darby's** name and use them to create **Brady's** name. We are giving him private lessons to walk on the leash better. He loves any and all people and wants to jump on them. We are taking **Brady** on a big adventure next week. He will be going on a non-commercial plane to Denver, CO to visit my wife's brother who has a 9-week-old Golden. This will be an exciting trip for **Brady**, not only to meet a puppy Golden, but also to expe-*

rience snow for the first time. **Brady** is very lucky to have both his parents home all day since they work from home. He has a nice set-up with a big dog door that leads to a nice run. They love him very much and keep him active and engaged.



24-065 Bella May is a 3½-year-old female Goldendoodle that does shed. She is friendly, playful, loves to fetch and play with her toys. While she does follow basic commands, she could use some leash training to overcome the pull to meet new friends while out walking. **Bella** does have seasonal allergies that requires an OTC med and digestive issues that are managed by

prescription dog food. The surrendering owners are in their 70s, and **Bella** pulls when she sees someone or another dog on their walks. She was surrendered because she is too big for them to handle and they are moving out of state. She was fostered by Rose and Dan in Phoenix and got along well with their houseful of dogs (3 resident Doodles plus some visiting guests). **Bella** had some digestive problems for a while, probably all due to her being fed a chicken-based food. When a hydrolyzed protein food was introduced and the chicken stopped, her stools firmed up and she has had no further digestive issues. She needed vaccinations and to have an ear infection treated. Her new owners, Constance and Scot in Sun City West, have an immaculate home which they have professionally cleaned and sanitized regularly in order to cut down on environmental allergens. In short order, they had **Bella** trained to do her business only in a specific part of the yard. Constance related: *I take **Bella** to all stores that are dog friendly and she does well. **Bella** also spends time at my parents' home— she likes getting spoiled there. I walk **Bella** two miles each day around our community. She is good on leash but sometimes growls or gets anxious if dogs approach.* We gave her the contact information for a good trainer we know, Sharon, in Phoenix.

24-066 Lola is a Golden/Lab mix who was found as a stray. The finder met us at *Academy West Animal Hospital* where **Lola** was put on stray-hold status. The dog has a microchip, so her original owner was reached, but he said he was moving and did not want the dog back. He was cooperative in getting the dog's medical records



to Liz. That is when we discovered that **Lola** is 12½ – we had thought she was 4 to 5! She was given a complete exam, vaccinations, treated for an ear infection and placed with fosters Karen and Jim in Sun City. They took care of getting her booster shots. Karen was amazed at how young **Lola** seems to be and said she's sweet and knows her commands. After less than two weeks as fos-

ters, Karen and Jim became fosters-with-intent-to-adopt (FWITA). **Lola** had a bout with Old Dog Vestibular Syndrome – she became disoriented, was wobbling around (acting drunk) and was salivating. Vestibular disturbance is not uncommon in old dogs and usually resolves on its own in a few days but may last as long as 3 weeks. Karen said: *We love **Lola**! She is the sweetest dog. She is learning her way with our cat – **Lola** knows what a claw is, so they just look at each other. **Lola** came with very good manners – she doesn't get on the furniture or bed, which Jim likes, but I would rather she get up to cuddle. **Lola** sleeps on her own bed each night and sleeps through the night. At 9:00 each night, **Lola** comes looking for me for her peanut butter. She loves car rides and, so far, is good on a leash but hasn't gone for any real long walks yet.*



24-067 Sammy is a two-year-old, unspayed, female Golden retriever. Her owner had to move to a small studio apartment, so a friend had been watching **Sammy**. The friend could no longer keep **Sammy** – he was in the military and was going to be deployed in a couple of months and could not take **Sammy** with him. Connie, who transported **Sammy** to *Academy West Animal Hos-*

pital, said she is a gorgeous and sweet girl, pretty good on leash. She had initial vaccinations at *AWAH* and was then placed with Jessica and Kolby in Mesa. Their children and their resident dog, **Jackson**, were thrilled with **Sammy**. Connie reported that **Sammy** had the best greeting ever. Everyone was very excited to have her, and **Jackson** was out of his mind with happiness. He is used to playing with other dogs in the dog park and didn't hesitate to get her to play. She did, but also wanted to explore her surroundings. They ran and ran and had a great time. Also, in the house they were enjoying each other. They are very similar in height, although **Jackson** is much thinner. The family is very pleased and tickled to see that she knew how to use the dog door and appears to be perfectly housetrained. **Jackson** was already neutered, but we did have **Sammy** spayed only a couple weeks after she arrived at her new home. The family told us **Sammy** is wonderful, and everyone is very happy.

24-069 Dolly, formerly #21-054, is a return-to-Rescue by an adopter who has some serious health issues and could no longer care for her. She is a three-year-old spayed female Golden Retriever, very loving, not destructive to her toys, minds very well, and she has lived with a cat. She was also about 20 pounds overweight, so she needed a home where she would get a lot of exercise and attention. Teri and Jeff in Sun City have just that kind of home – four resident female Goldens who will run her ragged, and



a cat. **Dolly**, who has been renamed **Molly**, just needed some vaccination updates and testing for valley fever and heartworm. Aside from too much extra weight, she is healthy. Teri wrote: *Our sweet Molly joined our pack of four in October. She has been such a joy to have, and all the girls love her. She's been on the green bean diet since she was packing some extra pounds, and we're seeing great success with that! We call her Molly-mouth since she is very vocal about most things, but especially when the television is on and she sees animals of any kind – she barks, whines, makes those gurgling growly noises- the whole thing! She's an absolute hoot!*

24-070 Rowan is a young male Golden/Lab mix who was found as a stray. The finder, who could not keep him, got him scanned but he has no chip and was not wearing a collar with a tag. At **Academy West Animal Hospital**, **Rowan**, who was named by transporter Connie, was given all the core vaccinations, tested for valley fever and heartworm and treated for an ear infection. The



vet judged him to be about two years old. The ear had apparently been bothering him for quite some time, as he had developed a hematoma on the ear flap from scratching at the ear. He was transferred to foster Judy. Judy oversaw his recovery from neutering and his ear hematoma surgery. Judy also made some astute observations about his behavior and passed those along to us so we could use the guidance in selecting a new home for him. Judy tried to socialize him with a houseful of dogs, but he didn't do well. She said he would do fine with one dog as a playmate, but was overwhelmed by the four she had at the time. Placement settled on Christopher and Ashley and their two children in Ahwatukee as **Rowan's** forever family. On their application, they noted: *We love Labradors and Golden Retrievers. Our nearby family members have a few Golden Retrievers, too. We like the energy and the family friendliness of them.* At the time of placement, they had no resident pets, which was just fine with **Rowan**, who soaked up all the attention from everyone and enjoyed going after a ball the kids were throwing for him. **Rowan** apparently paid no attention to Chris when Chris pronounced the bed off limits, because the morning after **Rowan** was delivered Chris reported that **Rowan** had slept on the bed all night. They love him and are glad to have him as a family member.

24-071 Polo is an almost-year-old Goldendoodle puppy that the owner had for only two months. The dog was a gift from the owner's mother, who previously owned him. **Polo** seemed healthy and happy and reportedly loves the dog park and seeing other dogs. The owner lived in an apartment, so **Polo** had been crated most of his life. He was surrendered because the owner had no time to spend with him. **Polo** needed vaccination updates and our standard tests for valley fever and heartworm. He was fostered by Sheryl and had

a great time playing with Sheryl's three resident dogs, two of which she had adopted from



Yes, these two photos are of the same dog, 24-071 Polo, now called Bondi – left picture was his appearance at intake; right photo was taken after he was groomed.

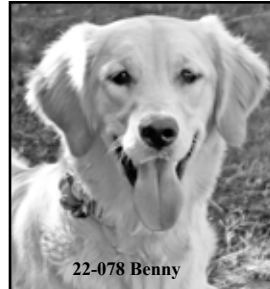
AGR. Sheryl found out that **Polo** can jump really high and could get right up on her kitchen table without any trouble. Forewarned is forearmed for the Flagstaff family that was chosen for **Polo**. Tracey and Lane have renamed him **Bondi**. Where did that name come from? Tracey told us they arrived at the name of **Bondi** because their son wanted the dog to have an Australian name and **Bondi** is the name of a beach there – their son calls him **Bondi Bean**. Tracey related: *Bondi is learning the ropes and finally not so skittish. He had a very fun-filled Christmas with lots of children around. We are using a harness for walking him, and he is doing well. Bondi didn't mind when I put him in Christmas pajamas to match the rest of the family. Bondi is getting better with the cat. If he gets too close, she still has her claws to warn him. They will adjust to each other given time. Bondi was neutered after he arrived in Flagstaff and settled in with the family. In his shaved-down condition, he will definitely need the sweater the family said they would get for him.*

24-074 Sunny is a two-year-old neutered male Goldendoodle. He does not shed. His family was moving and could not take **Sunny** with them. The owner originally tried to place **Sunny** with a friend, but the friend's resident dog would not accept **Sunny**, so the owner called **AGR**. After vaccination updates and testing for valley fever and heartworm, **Sunny** was placed with Brandi and AJ in New River, who were eager to have him join their household, but the resident animals (a Chihuahua, a cat, and a large bunny) not so much. **Sunny** quickly learned to stay away from the cat, give the bunny a wide berth, and basically ignored the small, growly Chi. Brandi tried to walk **Sunny** around the yard, but realized she could not control him well, so she bought one of our Sidekick leashes and did much better with him on leash. The Chi was the first to come around; he and **Sunny**, who has been renamed **Murphy**, play well together now. Brandi followed up with us after about a month: *Murphy joined our family on November 5th. He came to us with so much energy, lacking manners (we thought) and an attitude that said "this is my world now." We weren't quite sure what we had gotten ourselves into, but he settled right into our*



family within a few hours and showed us just how good his manners really are. He still has a ton of energy, but that's excellent for taking walks, playing fetch and mostly for playing with our 9-year-old-Chihuahua, **Louie**. **Murphy** and **Louie** play nonstop and are the best of friends. **Louie** needed this (he's started losing some much-needed weight) and **Murphy** did, too. We are so happy with our sweet boy, though it truly is his world now! The cats are doing well with him, too, and he's got all of our hearts.

24-077 Dakota is a five-year-old neutered male Golden Retriever. He came from a small home with a 6-month-old baby and the parents just didn't have time for him. He had had obedience training and knew basic commands like sit, down, stay, place and wait. He is a dog that needs time to adjust to new people and situations, as he gets nervous and anxious until he feels comfortable. After being vetted at **Academy West Animal Hospital** and spending some time at foster Stacey's in Phoenix, **Dakota** was placed with Sami and Zach and their two children – from them he will definitely get the attention he deserves. It took **Dakota** only a short time with this family to feel right at home. After a little over three weeks, Sami was almost begging to finalize the adoption! She told our follow-up caller the following: **Dakota** is still somewhat skittish, but I was aware of that from the letter that I was given when we adopted him. He isn't very good on a leash, but we will be taking him for some training. **Dakota** is a big cuddle bug. He likes watching cooking shows with the family and takes turns visiting each child's bedroom at night. Every morning, he goes out and does what I call yoga stretches on the grass. **Dakota** is a good eater. Didn't like the green beans, but I will try other veggies and fruits. The thing that made me the happiest was **AGR** arranged that **Dakota** would arrive for Christmas. Since our son still believes in Santa, this was the most perfect gift for our family. After owning Greyhounds, this is our first Golden and we all really love him!



22-078 Benny

tongue. Both girls needed all our standard vaccinations and tests. They also need to be spayed, but that will have to wait until both finish their heat cycle – one of them went into heat soon after being placed but we're still waiting for the other one to start. The pair has been adopted by Linda and Jeff in

Phoenix. This couple met the girls at the boarding facility. They seemed to be quite taken with them, but Jeff asked if they could have overnight to make a decision. We applaud them – it's a big step to adopt two dogs at once, especially young, active ones.

Once Linda and Jeff committed to the adoption, they couldn't wait to have the girls delivered to their home. Linda recently related: **Benny** and **Joon** have adjusted very well in our home. They are getting more comfortable and more destructive each day. They are not really counter surfers. However, they have chewed on rugs and electrical cords! They also find the gate that is used to keep them in a room when we are not home quite tasty! We really don't know who the ringleader is – we change our minds constantly! They are sweethearts, though, and we absolutely love them!



24-079 Joon

24-083 Bailey was three on January 14, 2025. She is a spayed female Goldendoodle that looks like a Golden, but a DNA test showed she was 49% Golden, 51 % Poodle. **Bailey** was surrendered to us because her original owner abandoned her with the surrendering owner and then ghosted her for over a year. She



does have separation anxiety, and when left alone she will chew anything if she is not crated. **Bailey** was taken to foster at Rose and Dan's in Phoenix. They took care of getting her vaccinations and tests done. Overall, she did well with their pack of three Goldendoodles but was a little intimidated by a little dog they were also fostering. In less than a week, Placement found a forever home for this pretty girl with Jana and Darin, also in Phoenix. She settled into their home like she'd been there forever and was getting along well with their 16-year-old beagle, **Barbie**. Jana reported: **Bailey** is amazing. She has done a good job of adjusting and has really attached herself to Darin. She is a very quiet dog. Darin took her for a walk this morning and said she walked great on leash. The family was given an adoption addendum for a follow-up valley fever test because **Bailey** was a low-positive. If the titer goes higher, **Bailey** will be started on medication, which **AGR** will pay for for three months.



24-078 Benny (on right in photo) and **24-079 Joon** (left in photo) are 11-month-old bonded littermates. They were surrendered because the wife was very ill and could not come home from the hospital until the dogs were re-homed, as they were too active/energetic for her. Both dogs were described as happy girls who like playing with shadows and bubbles.

They are talkers and curious. Neither of the girls was spayed. They are almost identical, except **Joon** is a tad bigger and darker and has a little more wave in her coat on her back; she also has a bit of pink on her nose and a "put food here" black spot on her

OVER THE RAINBOW

We honor the memory of our human and animal companions who have passed on...

11-079 Jackson Gora



12-019 Tanner Collins-Fritzer

12-067 Boz'n Drake



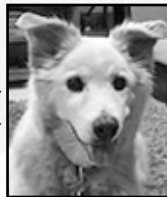
13-010 Charlie Joyce

14-090 Sadie Kotin



16-051 Astra Derra

18-035 Ali Zaner-Garcia



18-040 Hunter Flynn

18-035 Sarah Zaner-Garcia



24-062 Tuesday Tataseo

The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors.

Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth.

So each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The ears are up! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group!

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace.

Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

25-005 Katana Hines



Annie Novak



Gracie Prose

Sucy Rodeffer



And

Jane Ellen Fastiggi
Beloved younger sister of
AGR member Isabel Fastiggi

Ken Roberts
Beloved father of
AGR member Michael Roberts

Cancer Screening Tests for Dogs

By Liz Tataseo

People have available many types of screening tests for specific types of cancer: mammograms, colonoscopies, and various blood tests. Plus, humans can speak about how they are feeling or explain changes in their body. Unfortunately, dogs can't speak, nor do they let us know they don't feel well until cancer has spread extensively. Lumps, bumps, and growths can be seen and these give us a heads-up on some cancers, but the insidious ones – lymphoma, osteosarcoma and hemangiosarcoma – most often are not discovered until it is too late.

Now, vets have a simple blood-screening test that allows them to detect cancer much sooner. It does not detect specific cancers, but rather the molecules that arise from the growth of cancer cells. The Nu.Q Vet Cancer Screening Test developed in collaboration with Texas A & M scientists has been shown to detect cancer chemicals in dogs that yet to have any symptoms of cancer. (VolitionRX Limited developed the product in conjunction with Texas A & M).

The OncoK9 Cancer screening test (PetDx® – The Liquid Biopsy Company for Pets™) is a San Diego-based molecular diagnostics company. Its flagship product, OncoK9®, enables veterinarians to detect cancer in dogs with a simple blood draw. As a first-in-class multi-cancer early detection (MCED) test, OncoK9 employs cutting-edge genomic analysis that leverages next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology and proprietary bioinformatics algorithms, empowering veterinarians to provide superior care to canine patients.

The screening tests can be used for older dogs when cancer more commonly occurs and for younger breed dogs that have high risk of getting cancer: Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Flat-Coated Retrievers, Beagles, Bernese Mountain dogs, Rottweilers, West Highland Terriers, and Shetland Sheepdogs.

There have been several studies, one with over 1000 dogs, to test the efficacy of the simple blood test. How does it work? When a person or dog develops cancer cells, nucleosomes are released into the blood and can be detected with antibodies specific to nucleosomes. For the three most aggressive cancers mentioned above, the detection rate in this study was 85.4%. Detection for eight of the most common cancers in dogs was 62% (lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma, soft tissue sarcoma, mast cell tumor, mammary gland carcinoma, anal sac adenocarcinoma and malignant melanoma). Once nucleosomes are detected, veterinarians can suggest more specific types of tests to look for cancer: ultrasound, X-rays, CT or further blood testing.

The tests can give three types of results:

- Nucleosomes not detected. This result does not totally rule out cancer developing in the future. If other symp-

toms or signs are present, retesting several months later might be prudent, or other types of testing may be recommended.

- Nucleosomes detected. This result increases the probability that cancer is present. A more detailed and extensive exam will then be needed to determine where cancer might be.
- Sample failed. Bad sample or not produced correctly.

These tests might be most helpful for the specific breeds mentioned that are 7-8 yrs old and older with no symptoms or signs of illness but that are prone to cancer.

One of our vets, *Four Legged Friends Animal Hospital*, offers the OncoK9 cancer screening test, and they have information on their website. One of our other vets, *Stetson Hills Animal Hospital*, also offers cancer screening and advises discussing with your vet about testing, especially if your dog is 7 or older.

As is usual when something new comes along, you need to decide if this testing is right for you and your dog. The most important action on your part is to know when your dog has changes that occur such as: eating/not eating, difficulty peeing or pooping, energy level, lumps and bumps, limping, difficulty getting up, coughs, breathing difficulties, changes in personality, seizures, unexpected weight gain or loss. If so, see your vet!

Cancer in Dogs

One in every 3 dogs will suffer from cancer. Cancer does not have to be a death sentence, though: 50% of all dogs with cancer will die from the disease, **but the other half will live!**

The probability of a positive outcome is much higher if cancer is found early – routine veterinary care and wellness screenings are the best way for early detection so **make sure that your dog is seen by his/her vet on a regular basis.**

American Veterinary Medical Association's top 10 signs of cancer:

1. Abnormal swellings that persist or continue to grow
2. Sores that do not heal
3. Weight loss
4. Loss of appetite
5. Bleeding or discharge from any body opening
6. Offensive odor
7. Difficulty eating or swallowing
8. Hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina
9. Persistent lameness or stiffness
10. Difficulty breathing, urinating or defecating

Three Myths About Dog Aging

Reprinted with permission from Pet Place
(PetPlace@mails.petplace.com)

We think we know what's best for our pets, but the truth is that sometimes we're misinformed. When it comes to aging, for example, there are a number of misconceptions that pet owners sometimes believe. Here are three "facts" you may believe about aging in dogs... and why they're wrong.

1. *One dog year is equal to 7 human years.* This formula was developed as a simple way to gauge a dog's stage of life. However, it is much too simple to accurately reflect a dog's age. This formula is also misleading because it does not take into account the size or breed of the dog. Larger dogs tend to age quicker and have shorter life spans than smaller dogs.

2. *It's easy to tell when your dog is getting old.* This statement goes hand in hand with the "fact" that sick dogs show that they're sick. For animals in the wild, there is a large disadvantage to displaying symptoms of sickness or weakness. It is simply not advantageous for dogs to show that they're sick. As a result, you don't always realize that your dog is sick or getting old until they are at an advanced stage of the process.

3. *Slowing down is a natural part of a dog's aging process and there's nothing I can do about it.* Many dog owners assume that as their dogs age, they will experience mobility loss and difficulty getting up and moving around. And because they truly believe that their dogs are simply undergoing natural changes, they will also assume that they can't do anything to help their dogs. Once again, this statement is false. Loss of mobility and joint issues are common in dogs of all ages, breeds, and sizes. Plus, there are many preventative measures and treatments for mobility issues in dogs.

Winter is a good time to be conscious of the symptoms of mobility, flexibility, and joint issues in your dog. These symptoms can be subtle or more significant and can often include pain. As we mentioned above, these are not the typical signs of aging.

Be on the look-out for any of the following symptoms: difficulty jumping or climbing stairs, not keeping up on walks, less active overall, unexplained weight gain, and a bad temper. If you notice that your dog is showing one or more of these symptoms, you should speak to your vet and help determine if there is a mobility issue or any pain.

Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog.

~ Sydney Jeanne Seward

Old Gold Treasure

By Jude Fulghum and Deb Orwig

As all good jewelers know, there is yellow gold and then there is white gold, both being equally priceless. Many of us who choose to adopt an older Golden are immediately smitten by the soulful look from the eyes of a gentle white face. These are the jewels in the Golden line. The true 24 carats. They have seen it all, done most of it, and now are content to share their Golden love with whomever they meet and to lie quietly at our sides.

Most of our requests in Rescue are for young, vibrant dogs still in their early years. Although puppies are fun and cute, those of us who have experienced Old Gold will gladly skip the housebreaking, the chewing, the 24/7 playfulness, and the need to keep a constant watchful eye on all the exuberance. While the younger dogs are a joy, they can also wear you down! And many of the older ones still have plenty of energy left!

So why adopt an older Golden? The reasons are myriad. Some folks are attracted to the mellowness and contentment of older dogs, their happiness at simply being by your side. There is just something comforting about having an older dog in your life – a stability, an evenness of temperament. Even though your time together will be shorter than with a younger dog, it is far outweighed by what you will receive in return. Senior Golden's have been described as a gift to enjoy each day. People speak of an unconditional love that can't be matched, the honor of just having Old Gold in their lives.

Then there is trust. I know I would not hesitate to have left my old boy in a room with anyone without completely trusting him – whether that be with a two-year-old or a ninety-year-old. He was the perfect babysitter. The trust level in these older dogs is unquestionable – this is where the true gold standard of the breed shines through.

People ask, *Won't it take longer for the dog to adjust to us because he's older?* or *Will he or we be able to bond to each other at this late stage in the dog's life?* Most of our senior owners see no such issues and report that the senior dogs blended right into their families with few problems, even if there were already other dogs there. One adopter said, *Never had a dog adopt me like he did – wonderful companion for 7 months.* Many owners have said, *We would not love him more if we'd had him all his life.*

On the more practical side, many seek an older Golden as a companion for another older dog. Some resident dogs even become quite protective of their new senior friend. We have even seen situations in which an owner was hesitant to make a long-term commitment to a dog because of perhaps an upcoming change in

lifestyle. Yet they soon felt more than amply rewarded.

The most altruistic and unselfish of rescuers are those who adopt or even foster older dogs. It is not easy to take a dog into your home and heart knowing the dog will not be with you for very long. Some make a conscious choice to adopt Old Gold. Some have fostered an older Golden and ended up becoming so attached in such a short time that they couldn't bear to give up the dog to someone else, regardless of how long the dog would live. It is a risk, for sure, but those who have taken it have felt no pangs of regret and, for the most part, would do it again in a heartbeat if the chance arose. Fortunately, there are many people like this, and to them we are eternally grateful.

Yes, senior dogs are older and grayer. Yes, they may come with their own set of issues from previous experiences and homes. Yes, their medical needs may be more than those of a young adult dog. With Old Gold, WYSIWYG – What You See Is What You Get – her health history may not be known; no guesses as to what her energy level will be, etc. But, once you look into those eyes and see the thanks and the trust, all those potential problems fade away and you realize that you have been given an extraordinary opportunity – to love and be loved, unconditionally – in return.

The exuberance of youth is gone, replaced by a peacefulness, a calm and quiet, loving and gentle spirit. They take the time to smell the flowers, to enjoy basking in a sunbeam, but still have the energy to chase bunnies in their dreams. Soulful, wise eyes look at you with adoration and thanks. Infirmities, once so aggravating and upsetting, have been accepted and, in some cases, even become less troubling as the dog strives to please. Nothing can make you feel more important, more appreciated, more needed, more loved than the patina of Old Gold. After all, you can take tarnished gold, rub it gently, and restore it to that burnished flame of true gold – all it takes is love.

Memories of Ben

By Deb Orwig

Ben came to us as a foster when he was 10, or so we had been told. I took him everywhere I could – to Meet-and-Greets, *PACC911* events, and the *Women's Expo* at the Phoenix Convention Center where 10,000 women came by our booth in the 2-day event. People would stop to pet his beautiful, soft, platinum coat, then ask how old he was when they were told he was available for adoption. At my response of “10”, they would say, “Oh, I don't want to adopt a dog that old. He's going to die too soon.” And they would walk away. After three months of fostering him and getting angrier every time I heard that remark, I told my husband we were adopting **Ben** – he needed a permanent home and was a terrific dog. To my sort-of surprise, my husband agreed at once. When we got **Ben's** finalization paperwork including his vaccine history from his former vet, we found out that he was 12, not 10. Did not matter to us at all.

Ben had two physical issues when he came into Rescue. First, he was overweight at 98.8 pounds. Weight loss necessitated our first experience with the Green Bean Diet, and we found that it works – he lost 32 pounds over the next 6 months and really looked grand! The second problem was that he was losing his hearing, fairly common in old Golden retrievers. He had had basic obedience training, so I brushed him up on the basic commands and taught him hand signals at the same time. By the time he was stone deaf at age 13, he would respond to my hand signals as long as he could see me.

When he was 13½, we went to the Golden Retriever National Specialty in Malibu, CA. Etched in my memory is sight of **Ben** galloping along the beach in the surf, chasing the seagulls. Poetry in motion. A good friend of mine rendered the scene in watercolor from a photograph I had taken. The painting captures his zest for life and bliss in running along the sand chasing the birds.

When **Ben** was about 14, I was training my other four Golden retrievers to get them certified for therapy work. When the time came for the test, I asked the instructor if she would mind if I also brought **Ben** “just to see how he would do.” The instructor was certified to test for both Canine Good Citizen and Therapy Dogs International. **Ben** passed both tests with me using only hand signals.

When he was 14½, we attended the Golden Retriever National Specialty in Cleveland, OH. There had been a huge storm and the humidity made **Ben's** coat absolute glorious – full and lush-looking. One morning when I was walking him down the hotel corridor to go out to do his business, a woman stepped out of her room, saw him and said, “Oh, what a beautiful Golden! Do you have him registered in the Veteran's Class today?” I said, “No, I have him entered in the National Parade of Rescue today.” She replied with both an incredulous and smirky tone of voice, “THAT is a RESCUED dog?” I said, “Yes, he is.” She responded, “He's gorgeous!” As if a rescued dog couldn't be. I just smiled and walked on out with him. Later in the day, **Ben** was the oldest dog in the National Parade of Rescue. He flowed around the show ring with his head up, back straight and tail out, like he'd been born for it – looked as good as any “show dog” that had been in that ring earlier in the day, and he got a standing ovation from the large crowd. It was a rare moment I will never forget.

Ben lived until he was two weeks shy of his 16th birthday. He was healthy and no trouble until about 4 weeks before that when his bodily systems started failing. We did what we could for him to make him comfortable, then let him go when it was obvious that that was no longer possible. It was a very sad day.

I feel so grateful for having been given the opportunity to bring this old, thrown-away Golden into my life. He enriched us all beyond measure. Although I wish he had been 12 weeks instead of 12 years when he came to me, I was thankful that he was with me for four years. He will always hold a special place in my memory and in my heart.

Reflections On Old Gold

By Kathy Blue

White faces kept in heart places,
a gift for us to share.
Every day that they gave us
such devoted love and care.

Special moments last through time
much more than words can say.
Beautiful heartdog who was mine,
I reflect on that today.

Angel eyes so wise and deep,
muzzle soft, kisses sweet,
happy murmurs while you sleep,
that "look", please..one more treat.

No matter how very hard my day,
cares and worries seemed to fade
with hugs and roos, rest and play
safe in the bond we had made.

You loved me and forgave me for
my selfish worldly ways.
I could not have asked for more
if I searched for all my days.

I think they'd tell us if they could
do not weep for me.
What we had was rare and good
and now we're running free.

You gave us strength and purpose
to explore our world and grow.
Then you gently freed us
with tears and love we know.

We left our love within your heart.
So remember us this way.
Share that love while we're apart
'til we reunite one day.

There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other. To those who have never lived through its turnings and walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible. Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given.

~ Suzanne Clothier



***Do you have yours?
We still have some left.***

I only wish that the folks who turn their dogs out, the ones who can give them up so easily, could take 30 seconds of their busy schedules to notice how much the dogs are giving to them and they are just too busy to notice. If they ever woke up and recognized the joy that they could get if they just opened their hearts and eyes, I don't think another dog could ever be brought to the pound – it would be like giving away a part of themselves, you know?

~ Patti Karas

Change of Address?

If you move, even temporarily, such as during the summers, or if you are waiting for a new house to be built and must move out of your old one, please e-mail us with your temporary address and the date range you will be there. We send *The Golden Paw* and other group communications by bulk rate mail (much cheaper than First Class), and bulk rate mail is not forwarded, so we want to be sure you get our mail!

Old Dog in a Locket

By Heidi Stamm

Old dog in a locket,
That lies next to my heart;
I will always love you,
As I did right from the start.

You were right beside me,
Through the darkest of my days;
It was your kind and gentle nature,
That made me want to stay.

Now I hold you in my arms,
Your breath still warm against my hand;
Our hearts still beat together,
And I wonder if you understand.

Through the hours that I held you,
Before the light did leave your soul;
I knew a way to keep you,
Forever in my hold.

I snipped the hair from around your eyes,
So I would always see;
The beauty that surrounds me,
Even in times of need.

I snipped the hair from around your ears,
So I would always hear;
Music in the distance,
To quiet any fears.

I snipped the hair from across your back,
To bring me strength in time of need;
And the power of your essence,
Would always be with me.

I snipped the hair from around your heart,
That beat in time with mine;
So I would know that love would find me,
At some distant time.

And so, your life slipped out of mine,
On a quiet Spring-like day;
But I knew that a part of you,
Was always here to stay.

Old dog in a locket,
That lays next to my heart;
I will always love you,
Even though we had to part.

Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.
~ Bonnie Wilcox, "Old Dogs, Old Friends"

The Oldest Rescued Golden

Michele Wehry remembers the oldest Golden that had ever been rescued in the 18 years (before 2016) since she and Deb Orwig had been involved in Golden Rescue in Arizona. She named him **FuegoLaFuego**. **Fuego**, which means "fire" in Spanish, was over 15 when he was taken in from a family that had had him since he was a puppy and said they were tired of waiting for him to die. He lived with Michele until he was almost 16! Michele wrote: *He came in with soul already dead, and had the BEST year ever. I think of him often. I can say that with a senior there is not a day in life that has more meaning than that of their last year.*

Friends and family members will offer several reasons not to adopt a senior – the dog won't live that long; the dog will probably need extra medical care; we will become too attached to the dog for such a short time. All of these points and others are true. We have lost dogs to old age, cancer, and other age-related maladies. But after weighing the pros and cons – what you can give to a senior Golden in return for what you will be given – there is really no comparison. You will receive so much more!

Adopting a senior should be reserved for that very, very special kind of dog lover – one who loves unconditionally, much like the senior Golden who adopts you. ~Alice Courtney

I can't say enough good things about adopting a senior dog. They are usually mellow and wise, and so grateful for a place to call home. With a senior there will be medical expenses, but caring for these dogs is a labor of love. ~ Emily Deer

Seniors come with many preprogrammed benefits, a little secret many don't consider. Some of these benefits include ability to communicate, follow commands, life experience, personality development and relaxed energy.
~ Michelle and Steven Ortega

I used to look at my old dog, Smoky, and think, "If you were a little smarter, you could tell me what you're thinking," and he'd look at me like he was saying, "If you were a little smarter, I wouldn't have to."
~ Fred Jungelaus

Senior Dogs

Editor's Note: In the November 2024 issue, I invited members who have adopted a senior dog or who have lived with one to send me a paragraph or story. To those who did submit something, I thank you.

Senior dogs are our special dogs. They don't have the cuteness or flashiness of puppies and they're usually not the athletic partner that they were in their "prime." Senior dogs are special because they've earned their right to become our true companions. We know them and they understand us intimately, which is why we owe it to them to provide them with the best quality of life and comfort in their golden years.

~ Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC Website 1-7-22



From Debbie: *When I first adopted **19-005 Dillon** in January 2019, he was not a senior; he was not quite four years old. I have had him for six years so far, and he will be 10 years old in April. He has aged gracefully and his sugar-face makes him a distinguished senior. **Dillon** is still plenty active, goes on regular walks with his two housemate "brothers" and he always walks on the outside*

*curb, I think to keep the other two in line and protect them. He still loves to play and retrieve, maybe with a little less stamina, but keeping him on a regular dose of Cosequin® helps with his joints, as he did have TPLO knee surgery in Summer 2022. When I first acquired **Dillon** in 2019, he was the second dog in my household and instantly bonded with my female Golden, **Shelby**. When I lost **Shelby** to lymphoma in 2023, **Dillon** was heartbroken and mournful. So, soon thereafter I adopted **22-085 Levi** to give **Dillon** some much-*



*needed companionship, and then in November 2023 I also adopted **23-080 Tyler**. It's amazing to watch how **Dillon** has shown these two younger guys "the ways of Mom" in our home. **Dillon** is always the gentleman, allowing the two younger guys to scramble out the door first. If they want a toy he has, then **Dillon** just allows them to take it right out of his mouth without any arguing. **Dillon** is also a great ambassadog at various AGR events, always eager to go, whines and wiggles when someone comes up to pet him, and always tries to steal a new toy out of the bin of toys for sale. He is my sweet older boy, and I hope to keep this precious older soul around for many more years!*

From Reidun: *Lew and I have raised, trained and loved six Golden Retriever puppies since 1976. When our last gal, Mollie, passed away in the summer of 2022 we decided to apply to AGR for a senior Golden. We are seniors now and the thought of all that puppy energy and training seemed daunting! As our luck would have it, 22-073 Layla, at almost 9 years old, was being surrendered to AGR in October. She had been a puppy mill mom in her early years, then adopted by one couple who passed away, then loved by another couple who decided to give her up to Rescue. It was our lucky day when Joni called to say there was the perfect dog for us!*



Connie brought the lovely **Layla** to our home with food, toys, bedding, jeweled leash and collar and detailed letter describing her habits and idiosyncrasies! **Layla** arrived tail wagging, grinning and giddy! It was love at first sight! **Layla** adapted quickly to our retired lifestyle. She displayed perfect behaviors from the start: house manners, walking manners, car manners, gentle interactions



Layla is pretty spry and still loves to chase a ball

with other dogs and people and kids of all ages. Over the last two years we have routinely walked her to the delight of all! She has become quite the celebrity on the trail! She loves to be petted by everyone and never refuses a treat! It's a real cookie party every morning. We love her to the moon and back!

Of course, as we experienced with our other Golden, life with an aging dog is not without health concerns, scares and expenses! Golden are prone to fatty cysts and **Layla** has a few. In April 2024, a golf ball-sized tumor was found, determined to be cancerous, required surgery and follow up. Luckily, it was removed, and she recovered nicely.

In July, **Layla** collapsed in the middle of the night, and we were sure she was dying! She couldn't move! We spent hours at the ER, finally getting the news that she had suffered an Old Dog Syndrome dizzy spell! With TLC and Dramamine, she made a full recovery... scared us for sure!

Recently, **Layla** required dental surgery with extraction of her four canine teeth. These were mere stubs due to her gnawing on a crate during her breeding years. She recovered fully and is again the picture of perfect senior health!

In short, we are so delighted to have adopted a senior Golden! We fully enjoy every day we can love on her. She is very special!

From Adam: *I'll admit it... when it comes to dogs, I'm a big softie. A few years ago, a dog came to AGR that caught my eye. His owners had dropped him off at their local animal control office to be euthanized. When asked why, they said, "He's old". The animal control staff decided to try and place him – yes he was old, but he wasn't sick or infirm. They knew that placing older dogs is hard – most adopters (myself included back then) don't want older dogs. In my case, I know that I get attached – very attached. The thought of experiencing that grief and loss after only a few months or years downright scared me. The other reason is old dogs don't do well in pound or kennel environments. After a lifetime as a pet, they suddenly find themselves in a place that's cold, hard, noisy and smells bad. Their entire world disappeared in an instant. They are shell-shocked and broken – they will likely cower in the back of their kennel or crate, not seeking out human affection. They are also likely to shy away from other dogs. So the potential adopter sees a dog that doesn't appear friendly and doesn't show warmth to other dogs.*

As someone who AARP classifies as a senior, I could see how I would feel – after a lifetime of service and dedication – to find myself in that situation. I'd be broken too. Then I thought about my reticence to adopt seniors. I discovered my reason was about me, not about the dog. Was I so limited that I'd leave a dog in a situation like that because I was afraid of the grief? So I decided to take a risk. I called Deb Orwig and said, "If no one speaks for that dog, I'll take him." Deb said, "I'm afraid to say that if you don't want to take him it's unlikely that anyone else is going to." So, the decision was made.

His name was **Brando**. He came to live with me – for as long as he was going to live. We shared 11 months together. And yes, his passing broke my heart. But I made him a promise, amazing guy that he was. I promised that I'd keep that love alive, that I'd continue to give that gift to other seniors.



I'm now on my fifth senior rescue. Each one I take in – when we have that first moment alone, I touch them, look into their eyes and say to them, "You're beautiful, and I know you're going to break my heart." Each one that has passed has kept that promise – I'm confident that every one of them will. But I can heal. And the love they give is hard to describe. They know what you did for them, and they have a way of reminding you how happy they are that you did.

As I age, I better appreciate the gift of adopting a senior dog. They don't want to play fetch for hours, or go for long walks. They just want to be with you – to be petted, brushed, talked to. Short walks or time in the back yard in the sun is heaven to them. As is having a comfortable bed in a quiet spot where they can see you before

they fall asleep and when they wake up. They give what they most need themselves – company, companionship and love. They also have wisdom to share, if you're able to listen. My partner, Duane, died suddenly at the end of 2023. We hadn't been together that long, maybe five years. Would I have opened my heart to him if I'd known he'd only live five more years? In retrospect, yes, definitely. And now - if faced with the same situation, I'd definitely say yes. I know because I learned it from a dog named **Brando**.

Editor's Note: Adam currently lives with two senior **AGR** dogs, **14-013 Rhys**, age 11, and **23-071 Rufus**, age 12.

Senior dogs wiggle their butts right into the hearts of the whole family within days. They are happy to join the pack and don't look back. ~ Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

From Daisy: Both of the dogs we have rescued from **AGR** have been seniors: **18-048 Hugs**, age 11, and **23-104 Harley**, age 8. Although many people would shy away from adopting a senior, our family has found that seniors are truly one of a kind. **Hugs** was the sweetest and most energetic dog, and truly got along with everyone (people and dogs) she met. As long as she got her daily walks and tons of pets, **Hugs** was happy! We lost **Hugs** in February 2023, just shy of 16½ years



old. **Harley** came into our family in January 2024. Over the last year, we have truly seen **Harley** transform into a new dog. **Harley** is a very mellow dog. He likes to walk and meet new friends, but spends plenty of time taking naps! He has learned new skills, including leash manners, which shows a dog is never too old to learn a new trick! He is so sweet and always wants to follow me around. We truly find a greater appreciation for the time we have with our senior dogs. The only bad part of rescuing a senior dog, is they leave us so much sooner – but no amount of time is ever enough with our pups.



People ask us how we can adopt an older dog that will not be with us long. Our response is, you never know how long you will have any dog. So, you need to make sure every hour, day, year counts. We have a soft spot for senior dogs. The pros definitely outweigh the cons. We get the sense senior rescues really have a tight connection to their adopters – ours certainly have. Seniors will always be the only dogs we will adopt. ~ Chris and Tim Brzycki

From Lisa: He came to us on 02/18/2012 as **12-019 Chico**. We re-named him **Tanner**, a.k.a. **Cheeky T**. He was an incredibly patient 9-month-old Goldador with his 12-year-old Golden Retriever sister, **Roxy**. She taught him the daily routine: sleep, eat, pee, poop, go for a walk, play with toys, and request belly rubs. He loved his daddy more than his mommy. When daddy went away and came back, **Tanner** would squeak and squeal, wiggling his entire body. His mom said to his daddy, "You will never be that unconditionally loved by any person, ever." **Tanner** loved playing ball, dig-



ging under the shed, self-massaging by rolling on his tennis ball, chasing a laser, swimming, and being with **Toby** dog. He hated fireworks and found his safe place with mommy, whether it was under the bed or in a closet. He stopped zombies from entering the house by digging up the rug, creating a trip hazard. When he was a year old, we discovered he was allergic to his own skin. Monthly allergy shots and

daily allergy pills for the rest of his life. He didn't really become a senior until he was 11. He liked spending 22 hours a day napping, sleeping at the foot of the bed instead of on it, using a ramp to get in and out of the car, and monthly vet visits. We learned that aging gracefully was easy for him and that we are capable caregivers. The last year of his life we would open and close the door for him because limbering through the doggie door wasn't easy. Many days he would go outside, turn around and look for a verbal reminder of why he went out. We wisely chose not as many laser runs through the house or how much fetching of a stick in a lake was enough. Regular, slower nightly walks were still fun. He went to the Rainbow Bridge hearing our voices and surrounded by love on 12/11/2024. Grief is the price we pay for love. Our priceless memories of **Tanner** are filled with love and laughter.



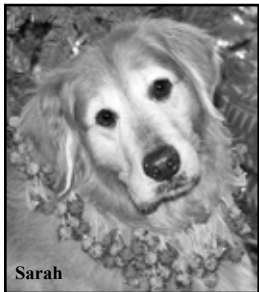
From Karen: We recently adopted **24-066 Lola** after fostering her for a while. We weren't sure how it would work out with our cat, **Abbey**, since we recently got her, too. After about four months, **Abbey** is finally coming around, and **Lola** seems to be afraid of her! **Lola** is super sweet and loves people. She's not real interested in toys but loves attention and runs and jumps like a puppy. She likes her rides. Our grandkids are crazy about her, which means everything. **Lola** just turned 13 yrs old on January 8th. We are lucky to have her and plan to make her as happy as we can.



From Tiara: We adopted **24-047 Apillow** at the age of 15. The adjustment period for her was difficult, as she had been with the same family her entire life. My son who is AuDHD was with her the entire way through this process. It was amazing to see the empathy develop right before my eyes. He watched **Apillow** adjust, struggle, and then get better. **Apillow** has brought us so much joy! We did not think we could handle a third dog; however, she has fit right in with our other two dogs. An older dog teaches you to slow down and to be thankful for the little things in life. We were happy when she started eating again. When she found joy in a new toy. When she started to show joy in her movements. She was able to be placed in a new home at the age of 15, and she did not give up hope! At the age of 15 she has good days and bad days, but overall you can see that she is happy and feels safe. There are so many lessons to be learned from senior dogs! Beautiful lessons!



From Rebecca: **18-031 Ali** and **18-085 Sarah** were both "super seniors." We loved them both so much. **Ali** was 15 when we got her and lived another two years. That girl was my soulmate.



Sarah

We got **Sarah** when she was 13 and she lived another two years until age 15; Both have gone to the Bridge now. I love senior dogs because they are just so sweet and so loving and really just want to be part of a family. They're all about snuggles and love and just want

to spend time with you. Both of these girls became the queens of our neighborhood. There's a group of people who walk their dogs every morning, and these two would see them in the window and they would wait for them and go out and everyone called them the Old Golds. The thing about old dogs, too, is that they're relaxed. We had cats and they were great with cats, as well, so they fit seamlessly into our home. We have adopted other senior dogs since then whom we have loved until they passed. We will always have a space for senior dogs in our home. I recommended adopting a senior dog to anyone. You know you're only going to have them for a few years, but knowing that, you just want to make their lives amazing and fill it full of love. They add joy and love to your home, and you can give them an amazing loving environment for the years they have left – it is worth every minute.



Ali

From Sharon: Adopting a senior dog is so fulfilling. I am a senior citizen, so they fit into my lifestyle perfectly. I have adopted three senior dogs from AGR. I was recently widowed when my first senior, **13-044 Honey**, rescued me. She was six when I adopted her, and she went to the Bridge at 11.

Honey is the reason I am a volunteer with AGR. She gave my life renewed purpose and got me out of the house and going to AGR events. **Honey** loved people, and had a face of pure sugar that drew lots of attention – her vest was always full of donations at meet-and-greets. Because of **Honey**, I became more and more involved with



AGR. After she went to the Bridge, I fostered 25 dogs before being ready to fully open my heart to personally having another dog for myself. Then I met sisters **19-081 Riley** and **19-082 Cassie** who were almost 12 when they became a part of my family. **Cassie** was always a happy girl, wagging her tail and enjoying life regardless that she was deaf – being deaf was not a handicap to her in the least. **Cassie** had expressive eyes that could look deep into your soul when you talked to her...she was a great listener. With an internal clock that never failed, **Cassie** greeted me every



19-082 Cassie and 19-081 Riley

morning by nudging my arm with her big wet nose. **Riley** was 6 months older than **Cassie** and was always by her side watching over her. **Riley** loved every animal and human she ever met – she knew they were put on this planet to pet her! **Riley** loved "her babies", small soft toys,

that she would carry around two or three at a time. She never made a rip or a tear in any baby. She was so sad when **Cassie** went to the Bridge, but we moved forward together for another 1½ years before **Riley** went to the Bridge at the age of 16 years and 3 months. One of the most amazing facts about living with **Cassie** and **Riley** is that they never barked. Never! **Riley** barked one time after **Cassie** was gone, and I was shocked at how deep a voice she had been saving all the years they lived with me. **Honey**, **Cassie**, and **Riley** were all Velcro dogs, following me everywhere and enriching my life. I promise you that adopting a senior dog is a gift to yourself that you will always treasure. They give you a new sense of purpose and that purpose is to make their "golden years" truly golden because, believe me, they will give you back more than you ever give to them. Senior dogs are perfect companions because they have learned all the life lessons of puppyhood and have mellowed to being well-mannered companions. They are eager to please and still enjoy learning, and I assure you that you will never regret adopting a senior dog, because the love they share with you is immeasurable.



From Frank: **22-059 Arti** was 9 when he came to me. He used to sit next to me when I watched TV and he slept with me. He was borderline hypothyroid and he had to have 21 teeth extracted! After I'd had him for 1½ years, he passed away last year, and I miss him! He was such a good boy!



From Teri: Since 2009 we have been fortunate to have adopted 11 Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes from AGR. The first one, **09-002 Goldie**, was AGR's second intake and was, at that time, 10 years old – our first senior. We thought if we were fortunate enough to have her for two or three years we'd be lucky. She lived to a very ripe old age of 17 years and one



09-002 Goldie



17-090 Maddie and 17-089 Bailey

From Rita: Our sweet senior dog, **17-089 Bailey**, is 13. She has slowed down, but she still loves her daily walks which are now neighborhood strolls. We have a ritual every morning after she eats. She goes to her toy box and barks so we will come help her pick out a toy and play with her. Having

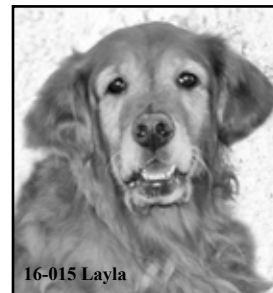
an older dog is a perfect match for us as we get older too. Our precious **Maddie (17-090)** lived to be 14 and was pure love on four feet. She was always happy even as her health declined. She seemed very wise in her old age and never stopped taking care of us by bringing us a toy or putting her head on a lap or offering her paw. Having senior dogs has brought so much joy and peace into our lives.

Seniors, in my opinion, are the perfect "instant" family dog.
~ Vicki Johnson

From Donna: When we adopted **23-074 Quinn**, a Great Pyrenees, he was described as being around 8 years old. Being older ourselves, we knew we wanted an older dog. **Quinn** is very mellow, easy-going, and cuddly. He seems happy to just be with us. We do take long walks, but I think HE would be content to do very little. He enjoys his food, lots of affection, and is easy



for us to manage. We knew that we would not have the energy to meet a young dog's needs. However, we feel that we can meet **Quinn's** needs and make him happy for the rest of his days. **Quinn** followed **Annie** everywhere, but she was somewhat aloof. As of January 6, 2024, **Quinn** is now our only dog, as **Annie** went over the Bridge. He did spend a few days looking for her. We absolutely adore him. He has a silly streak and has given us a great deal of joy. I feel as though the Universe decided he was to be ours.



16-015 Layla

week, and we were beyond blessed to have enjoyed every moment with her! Since then, we have welcomed **16-015 Layla** and **17-042 Lizzie**, who were both amazing senior girls, now at the Rainbow Bridge. Our boys, **09-030 Fresno** and **10-043 Jackson**, came to us when they were younger, **Jackson** as a puppy and **Fresno** at about 5. Both lived incredibly



17-042 Lizzie

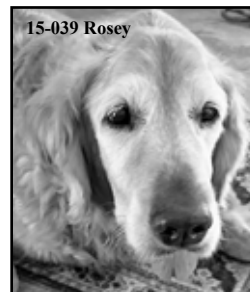


09-030 Fresno

long lives to about 15 years! Our sweet **15-039 Rosey** was about 3 when she came into our family, and she is now 12½. She does have a few health issues but is



10-043 Jackson



15-039 Rosey

doing fine for a lady in her senior years! I can't imagine what our lives would have been like without each one of them, and the other four in our current pack who are all younger. The old adage "you're not getting older, you're getting better" is so true! Seniors are amazing! Would we adopt another senior? Absolutely! There are no guarantees on how long a life any of our dogs will have. With an older dog, we know the time will be shorter, but we would certainly be blessed for whatever time we are given.

Senior Golden Retrievers are much calmer, usually housebroken, very easily trained, adaptable, and great with people. Most of all, senior Golden Retrievers have a willingness to please. There is only one reason I can give you to adopt a senior Golden Retriever – it will be the best decision you will ever make! ~ Everyone!

Reflections from Cynthia: *It was a blessing to share just seven weeks with 13-041 Paolo. We are grateful to AGR for rescuing him from the Humane Society and for giving him health in the last two months of his life. While Paolo was with us, we did as we'd promised: provided him love, shelter, two great siblings, proper food, medication and a comfy bed. We like to think his last weeks of life were his sweetest. He left an impression on us and will always hold a place in our hearts. Was it worth it? Worth the unbelievably short life together? Worth the tears? Yes! We never had a doubt. It was worth it!*



Dean sent us these comments: *The months after going through the emotional loss of our 12½-year-old Golden were terrible, to say the least. We contacted AGR [in 2015] and adopted 11-year-old sisters 15-044 Missy and 15-045 Molly. Molly had cancer and only survived for four months, but Missy was with us for another two years. She had a personality all her own. She brought new life into our*



house. It was wonderful to see her in the snow [in Taos] for the first time and how quickly she adapted. I especially liked working with her on swimming – it was just a real enjoyment. When Missy went to the Bridge in 2017, Dean was devastated. Within a week he was clamoring to adopt another senior, and since then he has adopted four others: 17-073 Mary Kate, 17-074 Ashley, 19-029 Lola and, most recently, 21-052 Sugar. Eight-year-old Sugar's elderly owner had passed away and no one in the family would take her. Dean immediately said, "Bring her over!" Dean has brought beautiful Sugar to almost all AGR events since adopting her. She is always a crowd favorite and a great ambassador for AGR and for adopting a senior dog.



From Dean: *I have nothing, but great respect for the AGR organization. I have met nearly everyone and get the same feeling from all. They genuinely have a great passion for these dogs. They do their utmost for caring and in finding the most suitable family for these dogs. They follow through in what they say. These rescued dogs are given medical care as needed, so they may have the best remainder of their years in their forever homes. The dogs are grateful, and so am I as an adopter.*

HERE and THERE
Events from October 27 through December 24, 2024

Your membership in our organization will be more fulfilling for you if you get involved and join us at our events, especially if you are one of our adopters. Our Meet-and-Greets are a great way to socialize, both for you and for your dog. Our fundraisers are FUNraisers! Please regularly check the events calendar on our website – www.arizonagoldenrescue.org – for dates and times of upcoming events. We would like to include your picture in this section in future issues.



Dine Out With The Dogs
at Paulie's Little Bite of Italy, Sun City

By Denise Padavano



Paul Ghiglieri, owner of Paulie's Little Bite of Italy

We had an outstanding group of volunteers helping with *Dine Out with the Dogs* on Sunday, October 27, 2024! This annual event, held at **Paulie's Little Bite of Italy** in Sun City, had a great turn-out of members, family, friends, the public, and dogs! The morning was beautiful, warming up to 90 degrees in the afternoon! We had 24 dogs join us, six of which dressed in cheery Halloween costumes! Thank you, everyone, for making the day fun and quite profitable! We made an incredible profit of \$6,876 to benefit **Arizona Golden Rescue**, which was almost \$2,000 more than the \$4,927 we made last year! This year's income included \$1,375 from raffle ticket sales, \$2,970 from silent auction items, \$1,151 from merchandise sales, a \$435 donation from **Paulie's Little Bite of Italy** for the percentage of food purchased, and \$945 in other donations. We appreciate everyone who came to help or who just came to eat or get take-out, as well as those who sent donations because they could not come.



AGR's events would not be the spectacular activities they are without the coordination and hard work by Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener!

Helping to prepare for this year's event started with ordering new "Craft Sale" signs. Connie McCabe created the captivating signs, Deb Orwig placed the order, and Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener placed the signs on major streets before the event, while Pat-



Costume contest winners: "Green Monster" Lucy Spiel, 1st Place; Silly, Colorful Mickey McCabe/Dodson, 2nd Place; "Grandma Moses" CaliGirl Orwig, 3rd Place

rick Doyle set up the **AGR** Logo sandwich boards. Additionally, Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener graciously

donated money to place an advertisement in the *Sun City Independent Newspaper* to publicize the event at **Paulie's Little Bite of Italy**. Jeanne Wegener coordinated the needed information and photograph to be submitted. Thank you, ladies!

Six dogs were dressed up in fun Halloween costumes! As always, Connie McCabe took memorable photos and posted them on the **AGR** Facebook page. Members could cast one vote per dog for their favorites. Our first-place winner was **Lucy Spiel**, who stole everyone's heart dressed as a green monster! **Mickey McCabe/Dodson** was voted second place, dressed in silly pink glasses and a rainbow skirt! Coming in in third place was "Grandma Moses" **CaliGirl Orwig** (12 years old), wearing a beautiful lace shawl and granny glasses! The winners were rewarded with a fun Halloween squeaky dog toy! Congratulations!



Three other dogs that were decked out in costumes included: charming **Takota Wilson** as a "Treat Doktor" and celebrating her 6th birthday! Happy Birthday, **Takota!** Dressed as "Dracula" was very sweet **Trooper Meyer/ Earle**. Kelly Rodeffer dressed as "Bashful" with her beautiful service dog **Joie** as "Grumpy"!

An event of this size could not have happened without the dedication, countless hours and hard work from many WONDERFUL volunteers in **AGR**. It took the assistance of over 52 volunteers, 14 of whom were high school students, and many of whom spent the entire day at the event. Additional volunteer hours were spent off site acquiring donations for the raffle and silent auction items, creating the beautiful crafts **AGR** presents for sale and then all the banking and paperwork reports that follow. A special thanks to all the artists and crafters that donated their time and materials for the items we sell at these events. Deb Orwig, and Connie Wozniak are sewing experts extraordinaire! Responsible for assembling



Teri Guilbault with Molly and Connie McCabe with Mickey in the raffle area

the silent auction baskets, and producing the paw labels was Deb Orwig, while Carolyn Brown spent time making beautiful bows that adorned the baskets! Producing all the outstanding table graphics was **AGR's** talented Connie McCabe. Many, many thanks to EVERYONE who pitched in.

Jeanne Wegener was instrumental in getting student volunteers from Peoria and Ironwood High Schools' *National Honor Society*. Thank you, Jeanne, for your time and perseverance in obtaining these young people to assist us with the difficult tasks of unloading and packing up **AGR's** trailer and vehicles!

Packing vehicles on Saturday night at Deb and Larry Orwigs' house and transporting everything to **Paulie's Little Bite of Italy** were Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Connie McCabe, Trishia Murphy, Deb and Larry Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.

Starting the day out early was Nick Dodson towing the **AGR** trailer to the event. Arriving at 9:30 AM were many volunteers to help start the day! Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener directed the morning set-up. First came the task of unloading everything. Next, setting up the tents and tables. Then, arranging the merchandise, raffle and silent auction items. Lastly, setting up the **AGR** signs to advertise our event to the public. We had many wonderful volunteers helping to make everything presentable and ready for our day's event! **AGR's** talented and creative morning crew included Peggy Andrews, Adam Cardinal, April Crow, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Cheryl Duter, Jean Klink, Connie McCabe, Denise Padavano, Jeanine Rogers, Diane Taylor, Jeanne Wegener, and Mike Wilson.



Always helpful, Nick Dodson drove the **AGR** trailer loaded with tents, tables, and merchandise bins

We were also very fortunate to



Jean Klink, Jeanne Wegener and Jeanine Rogers holding samples of our merchandise; Jeanine came all the way from Queen Creek to help at this event!



Wood wine bottle-carrier boxes hand-painted and stained by artist Jean Klink are among the new items we had for sale – they make wonderful hostess gifts instead of flowers or candy!



"Yellow-apron ladies" April Crow and Anne and Abby McGill (here with Deb Orwig) sold raffle tickets

have seven students from Peoria High School's *National Honor Society* volunteering for the morning! Savanna A, Isaiah C, Mia G, Van N, Penelope S, Jordyn W, and Miguel were a tremendous help unloading and setting up the tents and tables, carrying the merchandise and items for the raffle and silent auction. Thank you, Peoria High School students!

A special thank you goes out to the following volunteers that stayed for the entire event. These included Patrick Doyle, Denise Padavano, Deb Orwig, Diane Taylor, and Jeanne Wegener. Jean Klink was there most of the day, went home to care for her dog **Ginger** and returned in the evening to assist with the close out of the days' event.

The afternoon volunteers who handled the merchandise sales included Peggy Andrews, Debbie Ball, Jean Klink, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Jeanine Rogers, and Julie Wheadon. Selling raffle



Marlene Breton helped by holding Rosie Murphy ; Cheryl Duter was a new volunteer; Peggy Andrews helped with set-up and merchandise sales

tickets for our beautifully-displayed items were April Crow, Diane Meyer, Anne and Abby McGill, Trishia Murphy, Jeanine Rogers, and Fran Strock. Monitoring the silent auction items were Marlene Breton, Sherry Ficarra, Teri Guilbault, Jane Lowery, and Liz Tataseo.

Our volunteers also had



We had 27 silent auction items up for bids including this French Door Digital Air Fryer donated by Elizabeth VanEvera, a Ryobi Cordless Stick Vacuum donated by The Home Depot, and a Goldendoodle Christmas yard decoration



Sherry Ficarra and Rusty

the opportunity to share the **AGR** story with the public, encouraging people to become members and maybe consider filling out an application to adopt a beautiful dog!

AGR members brought their 29 beautiful dogs to meet and greet the public. Those

who were in attendance included: Linda Atkinson and **Thunder**; Debbie Ball and **Tyler**; Beth and Jon Chaffee with **Bodhi**; Sherry Ficarra and **Rusty**; Sharon Flores with foster **Sammy**; Teri and Jeff Guilbault and **Molly**; Sheila Joyce and **Charlie**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with foster, **Mickey**; Diane Meyer and Bill Earle with **Trooper**; Dean and Marlene Mortimore with **Sugar** and **Leia**; Trishia Murphy and **Rosie**; Deb Orwig brought **Asher**, **CaliGirl** and **Vin**; Fred and Jill Prose came



Lauren Rudin kindly took over handling of the Orwig dogs when Deb was busy with other tasks



Peter Wong with his well-trained dogs, Max and Sagie

with **Windy** and **Levi**; Karey, Kelly and Sheri Rodeffer brought **Joie**; Chris Spiel and **Lucy**; Liz Tataseo and **Guinness**; Michele Wehry and Mark Hill with **Callan**, **Cassie** and **Dora**; Mike Wilson and **Takota**; and Terri and Bob Witte with **Kadence** and **Mystique**. Providing entertainment once again this year were Peter Wong and his trained pups, **Max**, and **Sagie**. They performed "tricks", bringing smiles to

all in attendance as they ate dinner and visited with friends. Thank you, Peter!

Thanks to Connie McCabe for the outstanding job of garnering photographs of the days' events. Also contributing photos of the days' event were Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano. As there is no way to include pictures in this newsletter of everyone who attended, please view all the photos on the **AGR's** Smug Mug page: <https://arizonagoldenrescuemccabe.smugmug.com/AGR-EVENTS/102724-Dine-Out-With-the-Dogs>



Jon and Beth Chaffee with Bodhi helped with the silent auction and pack-up

Fortunately, this year as darkness fell, we had come prepared with overhead lighting which allowed people to purchase merchandise and finish bidding on the silent auction items and raffle baskets with ease until 6:30 PM. Volunteers who pulled raffle winners and monitored the winning tickets were Joan Mast and Penny Mavroudis, with Jake and Brody Lurie assisting. Closing out the silent auction items and monitoring the winners were Beth and Jon Chaffee.



Intake Co-Manager Sharon Flores brought her foster dog, 24-045 Sammy, up from Sun Lakes and enjoyed visiting with Director of Health Care Liz Tataseo and Guinness



Home Evaluations Coordinator Sheila Joyce with Charlie

Debbie Ball and Deb Orwig handled the check-out for the silent auction winners.

As the evening's event ended, those volunteers who assisted with merchandise pack-up and trailer loading included: Adam Cardinal; Jon Chaffee; Nick Dodson; Patrick Doyle; Cheryl Duter; Jake, Colby, and Brody Lurie with friend Steve Brown; Joan Mast; Connie McCabe; Trishia Murphy; Jean Klink; Denise Padavano; Diane Taylor; and Jeanne Wegener. We also had seven students from Ironwood High

School's *National Honor Society* volunteering for the evening, including: Lilyanna B, Quinten D, Maxwell J, Evelyn R, Cheyenne S, Natalie S, and James V. We were packed up and loaded in record time with the help of our incredible, hardworking volunteers!




Karen Davis brought several friends; Karen does follow-up for AGR and sends out beautiful Rainbow Bridge cards designed Connie McCabe to AGR families whose dog has passed away

Unloading vehicles at the Orwigs' house on Monday after the event were Adam Cardinal, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Trishia Murphy, Jean Klink, Connie McCabe, Denise Padavano, Michael Roberts and Jeanne Wegener.

There were many other *AGR* members who came for the event. Others came with friends, while some just came to eat, but everyone seemed to enjoy the day. Events like *Dine Out with the Dogs* bring a lot of smiles and needed revenue to *Arizona Golden Rescue*. It is a way for the *AGR* family members to touch base, have fun visiting with old friends, let our Golden socialize, and have the opportunity to share the *AGR* story with the public,

while encouraging people to become members and maybe consider filling out an application to adopt a beautiful dog! Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special thank you to all who volunteered. See you in 2025!



PACC911 Glimmer of Hope
November 3, 2024
By Deb Orwig

Glimmer of Hope is an annual luncheon event hosted by *Phoenix Animal Care Coalition (PACC911)* to raise money for their Critical Care Program. Revenue from the event helps the *PACC911* partners, of whom *Arizona Golden Rescue* is one, with extraordinary medical bills of rescued animals. They also help with the cost of spays and neuters.

The 2024 *Glimmer of Hope* was held at the prestigious *JW Marriott Camelback Inn Resort & Spa*. It included a keynote speech by *PACC911* President Bari Mears, a video slide show of some of the many rescued animals *PACC911* had helped during the year, a silent auction and a live auction.



Earlier in the year, Rescue groups had been asked to donate an item to be used in the silent auction. *AGR's* contribution was a collection of 12 restaurant gift cards that we called *Eat Out Once A Month For A Year*. We've had a similar silent auction item at most of our

past golf tournaments, and we had one at our 2024 *Fine Art & Wine Tasting* event, too. We acquired most of the gift cards via the *Chase Bank Ultimate Rewards* credit card points that we had earned mostly from vet bill payments, so we say that the dogs bought the gift cards! Connie McCabe created a beautiful and eye-catching display on foam core board. The collection was valued at a total of \$1,200. The bidding for this very popular item actually went over that amount to \$1,260 and was the second-highest-bid item in the silent auction! We were very pleased to see that a lot of people like to eat out!

As part of the fundraising effort for this event, *Valley Toyota* dealers had donated a 2025 RAV 4 SUV to be raffled off. Raffle tickets started to be sold back in April (\$100 each or three for \$250), and sold out at the November event where the winning ticket was pulled – no, I didn't win the vehicle. All in all, *PACC911* raised almost \$400,000 from *Glimmer of Hope*!

Arizona Golden Rescue has benefitted significantly from *PACC911's* fundraising efforts. In 2024, they donated \$7,000 to *AGR* to help with vet bills for seven of our rescues, including the four parvo puppies, 24-025 Chandler, 24-026 Ross, 24-027 Phoebe and 24-028 Rachel. We are very grateful for their financial assistance and support.



Dine Out With The Dogs at P. F. Chang's

By Denise Padavano



Preview of coming attraction: we planned to set up in the gravel area to the south of the sidewalk and directly opposite the outdoor dining area

new adventure! *AGR* members, families, and friends came out to enjoy the beautiful day, socialize, buy merchandise and dine on delicious Chinese cuisine!

The weather in the afternoon was outstanding, allowing people to comfortably browse our merchandise selection and enjoy a meal on the patio with their dogs!



Morning set-up crew: high school student Natalie S, Trishia Murphy, Denise Padavano, Vic Tolin, Mark Wengraf, Karen Wengraf, Jean Klink, and Barb Tolin; dogs in front: Rosie Murphy, CaliGirl and Asher Orwig

returned home to Sun City to check on her dogs and brought **Charlie** back to meet and greet the public.

Packing vehicles on Friday night at Deb and Larry Orwig's house and transporting everything to *P. F. Chang's* on Saturday were Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Trishia Murphy, Deb and Larry Orwig, and Denise Padavano.

AGR's event, *Dine Out with the Dogs #2*, was held at *P. F. Chang's*, located in the shops at Norterra in north Phoenix, on Saturday, November 23, 2024. We had a wonderful group of volunteers helping with this fun and



We set up four tents and six tables paralleling the sidewalk on its south side

A special thank you goes out to the following volunteers that stayed for the entire event. These included Patrick Doyle, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, and Jeanne Wegener. Jean Klink was there most of the day, went home to Surprise to care for her dog, **Ginger**, and returned in the evening to assist with the close-out of the day's event. In the afternoon, Denise Padavano returned



Sarah Martin with Mr Meatloaf (a.k.a. Milu)



Bill and Jamie Deppe brought Theo all the way from Wittmann

When Patrick Doyle returned from arranging the signs, it was noticed that one of the signs was gone! Denise Padavano walked across the street to another restaurant to investigate the missing sign. Apparently, the southside property management did not allow signs and took it to their storage unit. Patrick Doyle and Denise Padavano took a long drive through the parking lot, following a security personnel member on a golf cart to rescue *AGR's* sign! Thank goodness we were able to locate it, otherwise, no one was planning on notifying us of our infraction, and *AGR* would have been minus one sign! Fortunately, we did not have to pay a fee for the sign recovery.



Rick Stephens and Darlene Kaminski came to eat and shop

Set-up was very efficient, as Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano had been there the week before, took photos and made a drawing of where the tents and tables should be placed. Arriving at 12 noon were many volunteers to help start the afternoon! Everyone went right to work unloading everything, setting up the tents and tables, and arranging the merchandise. Patrick Doyle drove around the area, strategically setting up the *AGR* sandwich board



New friends: Karen and Mark Wengraf holding CaliGirl and Asher, and Jeff and Ellen France with Rose

signs to advertise our event to the public. Our wonderful and creative morning crew helped make everything presentable and ready for our days' adventure, and included Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Jeanine Rogers, student Natalie S, Barb and Vic Tolin, Jeanne Wegener, and Karen and Mark Wengraf.



Jane Lowery worked in the merchandise area

The afternoon volunteers who handled sales and monitored the merchandise included Debbie Ball, Jane Lowery, Sarah Martin, Diane Meyer, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, and Jeanne Wegener. Our volunteers also had the opportunity to share the *AGR* story with the public, encouraging people to become members and maybe consider filling out an ap-



Sharon Wieser came to shop

plication to adopt a beautiful dog!

We had 14 charming dogs and their adopters join us throughout the day to meet and greet the public. Those who were in attendance included: Debbie Ball with **Levi**; Jamie and Bill Deppey with **Theo**; Sherry Ficarra and **Rusty**; Jeff and Ellen France with **Rose**; Sarah Martin and **Mr. Meatloaf**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with newly-adopted **Mickey**; Diane Meyer and Bill Earle with **Trooper**; Dean Mortimore with

Sugar; Trishia Murphy and **Rosie**; Deb Orwig brought **Asher** and **Ca-liGirl**; Denise Padavano and **Charlie**; Karey, Kelly and Sheri Rodeffer brought **Joie**, as well as six human friends; and Liz Tataseo came with **Guinness**. Stopping by to support us were **AGR** members Darlene Kamin-ski and Rick Stephens, Carolyn and Peter Brown, Sharon Wieser, and Cindy and Dave Jenkins, who are friends of Denise's.



Enjoying eating together were Peter Brown, Deb Orwig, Larry Orwig, Dean Mortimore, Debbie Ball and Carolyn Brown

As the evening approached, we realized we had forgotten to bring overhead lighting! As we started to shuffle around in the evening dusk, **P. F. Chang's** Senior Operating Partner, Cody Lewien, came to the rescue with outside lights! Thank you, Cody! Since we had limited lighting, we started to pack up a little early. Assisting with merchandise pack-up, taking down tables and tents, and loading vehicles were Patrick Doyle, Trishia Murphy, Jean Klink, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.



Cody Lewien holding one of our Advent Bone Christmas Trees

Once all the vehicles were loaded with our items and dogs, we went to the Orwigs' to unload everything into their garage.

Thanks to Connie McCabe for the wonderful job of photography of the day's event. Also contributing photos were Denise Padavano and Deb Orwig. As there is no way to include pictures in this newsletter of everyone who attended, please view all the photos on the **AGR** SmugMug page: <https://arizonagoldenrescuemccabe.smugmug.com/AGR-EVENTS/112324-PF-Changs-DOWD>

Our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed in any way to the success of this fundraiser! Income totaled **\$923.46**, which included a \$100 donation from **P. F. Chang's**. A special thank you to all who volunteered – you are all amazing! A heartfelt thank you to Cody Lewien, who enabled **AGR** to hold our event at **P. F. Chang's**!

Christmas Tree at P. F. Chang's Featuring Special Needs Dogs

By Denise Padavano



Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener setting up the tree

The holiday season can be magical with people giving gifts from the heart! That is how our dog ornament tree developed into a delightful adventure! Denise Padavano and Jeanne Wegener pursued several locations to place our tree during the holidays. We finally obtained approval to put up a tree from Cody Lewien, Senior Operating Partner at **P.F. Chang's** in Phoenix.

Once we had approval, the real work began! Deb Orwig started to peruse photos of our special needs dogs and printed them onto photo paper. Then, Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano wrote short stories about each dog, and, with the help of Jeanne Wegener, attached them to the photos. Using one of last-year's gift cards for **The Home Depot**, they went shopping for an artificial Christmas tree, lights and ornaments. Deb, Denise, and Jeanne transported everything to **P.F. Chang's** at **Norterra** in North Phoenix, decorated the tree and placed it in the entry way – a beautiful sight!



Sample ornament – all 28 had the same message: Please donate money!



First box collected \$188

A box decorated by Denise was then placed on the hostess counter for collecting donations. After two weeks, the box was checked and replaced by a new donation box. Although no one took the dog donation ornaments off the tree, **AGR** collected a total of **\$201.21** in spare change donated



Second box had only \$13.21, but it was after this box was left at P. F. Chang's that we received both the \$50 check and the \$50 Zelle donation



by diners from November 26th to December 28th, 2024. In addition, a \$50 check was sent in by Melinda Rudibaugh and another \$50 in honor of **24-011 Bailey** was sent by Zelle from Kristia Peloke. All in all, the income for our beautiful, precious special needs dogs totaled **\$301.21!** Cody Lewien (right) and restaurant manager Ramon Ontiveros (left) happy with our decorated Christmas tree

**PACC911 Adopt-a-thon at
Pet Supplies Plus, North Scottsdale**

By Denise Padavano



The morning of Sunday, December 8, 2024, was cool and comfortable for our new PACC911 location at *Pet Supplies Plus, North Scottsdale*. As we arrived, we were greeted by a group of PACC911 volunteers who helped move merchandise, arrange tables and put up tents in our designated spot! PACC911 requested registered attendees to decorate their booth area for the holiday season. The “best” decorated spot would receive recognition at the event. We were inspired by the challenge!

Deb Orwig brought a carload of Christmas decorations, garland, a live tree she purchased at Costco, and a beautiful new holiday banner which she donated. Thank you, Deb, for your generosity! Our exuberant morning volunteers helped to unload and arrange merchandise and worked hard to make our area look festive for the days’ adventure!



Morning crew: Dean Mortimore with Sugar, Jeanne Wegener, Deb Orwig with Vin and Asher, Jeanine Rogers, Jean Klink, and Denise Padavano

The Christmas tree was carefully adorned with (mostly) Golden Retriever ornaments and garland! Paper ornaments with merchandise prices on them prepared by Deb were hung on our backdrop for display. We also had a full-size red-and-white quilt that had been donated by Penny Mavroudis as a backdrop. Our booth looked very cheery and festive! The nine dogs that joined us throughout the day wore red and green holiday donation vests to greet the public! Although we did not win the prize for the best decorations (we did not find out which booth did), our booth shone with the holiday spirit!

Thanks to April Crow for registering us for the event.

Patrick Doyle, Kevin Hall, Jean Klink, Denise Padavano, and Julie Wheadon met at Deb and Larry Orwig's house Friday evening, and with their help, loaded vehicles with equipment and merchandise for the event. The set-up crew arrived at the event at 8:00 AM and included Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Jeanine Rogers, and Jeanne Wegener. We had two booth spaces, which gave us plenty of room to display our merchandise



Cynthia Wenström and Humphrey



Jane Lowery



Suzie Downs and Max



Joan Mast with Edén

and literature.

The event started at 10 AM. Arriving to help with merchandise sales were April Crow, new member Suzie Downs with foster Max, Jean Klink, Jane Lowery, Deb Orwig with Asher and Vin, Denise Padavano, Jeanine Rogers, and Jeanne Wegener. Also joining us during the day with their furry friends to meet and greet the public were, Tracy Buffington with Lovey, Joni Cipollone and David, Reidun Halpert and Layla, Joan Mast with Edén, Dean Mortimore and Sugar, and Cynthia Wenström with Humphrey.

Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener were photographers for the day. Although we used our phones to take photos, we were able to capture some precious moments of the dogs’ enjoying attention, pets and love!



Dean Mortimore and Joni Cipollone with Sugar

Jeanine Rogers left for part of the day to have lunch with friends but returned to help with pack-up. Around 2:00, it became a little windy, so we started to take down some of the Christmas decorations and merchandise hanging from the tents. Fortunately, the wind calmed and didn’t cause any issues. By 2:30, we started packing merchandise a n d



David Cipollone

decorations and taking down tables and tents. Helping to accomplish these tasks were April Crow, Suzie Downs, Patrick Doyle, Jeff and Ellen France, Jean Klink, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Jeanne Wegener, and Julie and Garrett Wheadon. After pack-up, Jeanne Wegener left to deliver a live Christmas tree that she bought at the event for her daughter and son-in-law – an early holiday surprise!

After the event, we headed to the Orwigs’ to unload our cars. Helping were Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Deb and Larry Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Julie and Garrett Wheadon.



Reinforcements for pack-up: Ellen France, Jeff France and Julie and Garrett Wheadon

The event was busy and many people from the public stopped by to purchase merchandise, meet the dogs and learn about our adoption process. **AGR** received two

confirmed new adoption applications from the event! In addition, **PACC911** adoptions for the day totaled 37, with 20 pending adoption applications! Happy new life for those dogs that went to a new home today!



Reidun Halpert and Layla

Although we didn't receive "best" recognition for our holiday booth, we did very well with sales and donations! Our merchandise sales brought in \$462.50, calendar sales were \$192.00 and donations from the heart



Tracey Buffington with Lovey

were \$180.52, equaling a total of **\$844.50** for the day!

We really appreciate everyone who came and helped throughout the day! Thank you to all the INCREDIBLE volunteers for a fun and festive day!



Pet Supplies Plus, Phoenix, in Moon Valley

By Denise Padavano

After **AGR** did a meet-and-greet at the **Pet Supplies Plus, Phoenix**, in Moon Valley, 245 E. Bell Road, Suite 16 in October 2024, Event Coordinator Silvia Ciarlo and Team member Julio spoke with us about future possibilities of working together. They agreed to place a donation box in their store for the month of November to support our dogs. The money collected during that time would be transferred into a **Pet Supplies Plus** gift card for **AGR**. During the month of November 2024, **\$145.09** was collected from the public in support of our Rescue! Thank you, **Pet Supplies Plus, Phoenix**, for your generosity and continued support! When she picked up the gift card, Deb Orwig mentioned that the gift card would be useful in preparing a raffle or silent auction item for our upcoming **Paws At The Park** event in March. Store personnel then offered to "put something together" for that event, too! So, thanks, again, **Pet Supplies Plus, Phoenix!**

*He is your friend, your partner,
your defender, your dog.*

You are his life, his love, his leader.

*He will be yours, faithful and true,
to the last beat of his heart.*

*You owe it to him
to be worthy of such devotion.*

~ Unknown

Glendale Hometown Christmas Parade

By Denise Padavano





April Crow pulled CaliGirl Orwig in the wagon

being pulled by April Crow, and Ellen France pulled the wagon with water supplies for the dogs and people. Bringing up the rear and keeping the group moving were Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano.

Other participants included Joni Cipollone with gorgeous Ray; and



Joni Cipollone walking Ray

Jaime and Bill Deppey with their three sweet Goldendoodles, lovable Manda, quiet Max and youngster Theo – all were decked out in holiday attire. Suzie Downs



Marcus, Sharon and Philip Wieser with Kiki and Mushu

brought good-natured foster Max and Trishia Murphy walked with her beautiful Rosie. Anne and Nick Pappas brought sweet Sam and delightful Delilah, while Lauren Rudin walked kind-hearted Vin Orwig, and student volunteer Natalie Soto walked handsome Asher Orwig. Philip and Sharon Wieser brought their two beautiful dogs, Kiki and Mushu.



Kai Wheadon was all dressed up but missed walking with us because of no available parking

Chris Spiel brought her friend Trish Haskovec and her lovely Goldendoodle Lucy wearing a Santa hat and beard. Also walking in the parade and collecting donations were Jeff France with Rose; Dean Mortimore and sweet Sugar with a pretty Christmas collar; and Cindy Tigges with her two furry friends, Natasha and Lucy. While walking in the parade, we passed Gary Tigges on the sidelines cheering us on with pretty 15-year-old Casey! Julie and Garrett Wheadon brought adorable Kai but were unable to join us because they had difficulty finding a place to park! All the dogs wore red or green donation vests and collected a total of \$863.86, which was \$337.86 more than last year!

We were #27 in the lineup this year, positioned between State Senator Janae Shamp and staff from Abrazo Arrowhead Campus. We had a nice leisurely walk, allowing the dogs to greet the enthusiastic children and adults along the way. The one-mile parade route went west on Glendale Avenue from 52nd Avenue to 58th Avenue. Thousands of onlookers and cheering fans came out to enjoy the parade this year! So as not to fall behind and delay the parade, we were careful to stay together and keep up the pace, especially when passing the judges' stand on 54th Avenue. Seeing the wagging tails, you could tell that the dogs were enjoying all the extra attention they were receiving!



Nick and Ann Pappas with Sam and Delilah

A beautiful day for a parade with a clear blue sky! AGR members and dogs gathered on Saturday, December 14, 2024, for the Glendale Home-town Christmas Parade for the ninth time since the city started hosting a parade during the holidays. Liaisons with the Parade coordinator included April Crow, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.



Jamie and Bill Deppey with Manda, Max and Theo



Chris Spiel and friend Trish Haskovec with Lucy



Cindy Tigges with Natasha and Lucy

The day started out to be cold at 49°. By the time

the parade started, we were peeling the outer layers of clothing off, as the temperature warmed up to 72° by the end of the parade. Waiting in the staging area was fun and gave members a chance to catch up with each other and for dogs to socialize, while other parade participants came over to meet and pet the dogs.



Duffy Orwig

Leading our group with the eight-foot-wide banner were Darlene Kaminski and Rick Stephens. Following behind, carrying our new "Have a Golden Holiday" banner donated by Deb Orwig were Patrick Doyle and Marlene Breton. Then came our group of 26 AGR members and 19 Golden and Golden mixes dressed in Christmas attire and donation vests. This year we had three

wagons to pull. Deb Orwig decorated the large garden wagon in Christmas garland and beautiful bows, as almost-12-year-old Duffy Orwig rode in style while being pulled by Marcus Wieser. Catching a ride in another wagon was sweet 12½-year-old CaliGirl Orwig



Gift Wrapping Floor & Decor at Prasada in Surprise

By Denise Padavano



Gift-wrapping and merchandise-display area in front of Floor & Decor and next to Kohl's

For the second holiday season, we gathered at **Floor & Decor** in Prasada Mall to do gift wrapping. Last year, we dealt with a lot of construction and noise surrounding our gift wrapping area. This year, all the stores in Prasada had been completed; we were located right next to **Kohl's** and across the parking lot from

Dick's Sporting Goods and **Hobby Lobby**, among several other stores. We were very excited because the area stores were bustling with holiday customers!



Denise Padavano, a regular, brought either Charlie (left photo) or Winnie (right)



Jeanne Wegener, a regular and the student volunteer coordinator

The Rest of the "Regulars"



Debbie Ball with Tyler



Carolyn Brown



Peter Brown with CaliAnne



Patrick Doyle



Jean Klink and Trishia Murphy



Deb Orwig



Except for the first day, we did not have time for group photos! Standing are Tracy O'Callaghan, Jeanne Wegener, Jean Klink, Carolyn Brown, Denise Padavano, Patrick Doyle, and Deb Orwig; sitting, Debbie Ball with Dillon; Asher next to Jordan O'Callaghan

Helping to prepare for this year's event was Debbie Ball, who graciously donated money to run an advertisement in the *Surprise Independent Newspaper* to publicize the dates for our gift-wrapping. Jeanne Wegener coordinated the needed information to be submitted. Thank you, ladies!

Jeanne Wegener once again reached out to the local high schools for student volunteers. Amazingly, she was able to secure a total of 30 student volunteers during our six-day gift wrapping adventures. While some stayed for the whole day, others returned on a different day! They were just a delightful group of students, and they were a tremendous help setting up tables and merchandise, caring for the dogs, wrapping presents, greeting the public, and packing up at the end of each day's event! Thank you, Jeanne, for procuring our much-needed volunteers!

AGR's gift wrapping adventure at **Floor & Decor** took place on December 13th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 24th, 2024. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped during these gift-wrapping days! You were amazing and we would not have been as successful without all of you! Providing our dogs with the love and care they deserve, your help and dedication in making this event fun and



A member for whom we wrapped gifts had this conversation with someone at home: *Did they wrap like this just for you because you are an AGR member? No, they wrapped like this for everyone! Wow!*

profitable is admirable! Special thanks to the following members who joined us for the majority of the six days: Debbie Ball, Carolyn and Peter Brown, Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.

We started preparing for our gift-wrapping activities on Thursday, December 5th at Deb Orwig's home. Members who signed up to volunteer for the event were invited to Deb's house for an evening of instruction on bow-making. Gathering for a lesson and a glass of wine were Jean Klink, Denise Padavano, Jeanne Wegener and Julie Wheadon. Thank you, Deb, for a fun-filled evening!

Then on Friday, December 6th, Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano went to the storage unit to sort through and load bins of assorted wrapping paper into their cars. Next, on Tuesday, December 10th, Jean Klink and Denise Padavano met Deb Orwig at her house to sort merchandise and select an assortment of wrapping paper for the



Student Volunteers

The student volunteers Jeanne Wegener coordinated from Millenium High School were terrific! Most were members of the school's *National Honor Society*. They helped set up tables, tents and merchandise; they wrangled dogs; they walked around the mall with dogs in donation vests and collected donations; they wrapped packages, and several learned how to make bows – all in all, extremely helpful! For safety reasons, I am not showing any names for the students.



event. Carolyn Brown stopped by to pick up the bins of microwave bowl cozies, and spent time at home preparing 16 ready-to-go hostess grab bags, garnished with beautiful bows!

Many people helped to make our gift-wrapping a success throughout the six days! A sincere thank you to the following volunteers! Packing vehicles with tables, tents, merchandise, wrapping paper and ribbon for Friday's gift-wrapping event were Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Deb and Larry Orwig, Denise Padavano, Fred and Jill Prose, and Garrett Wheadon.

Morning set-up crew during the six days included: Carolyn and Peter Brown, Adam Cardinal, Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Trishia



Dean Mortimore with Sugar and Tyler



Chris Spiel with Lucy



Mark and Karen Wengraf both learned to make bows

Murphy, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Jeanne Wegener, and Sharon Wieser. We also had the help of the following students: Natalie E, Phoebe F, Philip F, Dazlynn H, Brian L, Brody L, Molly L, Myles M, Vy M, Victor M, Alicia N, Emily N, Siya P, Jackson Q, Arriana R, Stella W, and Jasper W.

Working together to wrap gifts, make bows, monitor merchandise and sales, watch and care for the dogs, and speak to the public about *AGR* involved the combined efforts of the following people: Debbie Ball, Stephanie Beard, Carolyn and Peter Brown, April Crow, Patrick Doyle, Teri Guilbault, Jean Klink, Dean Mortimore, Trishia Murphy, new volunteers Jordan and Tracy O'Callaghan, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Chris Spiel, Fran Strock, Vic and Barb Tolin, Jeanne Wegener, Mark and Karen Wengraf, and Connie Wozniak.



Barb and Vic Tolin with Josie

Bow-makers extraordinaire were Debbie Ball, Carolyn Brown, April Crow, Jean Klink, Deb Orwig, and Connie Wozniak. Mark and Karen Wengraf learned to make bows and spent most of Saturday filling our bow bin! Some of the students learned to wrap presents and make bows, too! Deb's a good teacher!



Very talented Connie Wozniak made all the table pads, table runners, pot holders and purses we had for sale

Capturing the activities during the six days of gift wrapping were photographers Debbie Ball, Connie McCabe, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.

Dogs joining us during the six-days of wrapping to greet the public and enjoy all the extra attention were: **Dillon, Levi and Tyler Ball, CaliAnne Brown, Rhys and Rufus Cardinal, Raya Guilbault, Mickey McCabe/Dodson, Sugar Mortimore, Rosie Murphy, Asher and Vin Orwig, Charlie and Winnie Padavano, Lucy Spiel, and Josie Tolin.**

Packing up at the end of the day takes a lot of effort, strength and working together! The following people helped to place merch-



Asher Orwig, Vin Orwig, Levi Ball, Tyler Ball, and Dillon Ball
Sorry, boys, no treats up here!

dise in the correct bins, organize wrapping paper, fold tables, pack tents and load everything onto carts and into cars:

Stephanie Beard, Carolyn and Peter Brown, April Crow, Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Dean Mortimore, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Denise Padavano, Chris Spiel, Vic and Barb Tolin, and Jeanne Wegener. We also had the help of the following students: Hailey C, Addy C, Kayla C, Philip F, Merissa H, Nora H, Dazlynn H, Payton J, Annabelle J, Izabela K, Brody L, Daniel L, Boaz M, Myles M, Victor M, Alicia N, Sophia S, Melissa T, and Ava T.

With loaded cars at the end of the six-day gift wrapping event, the following people went to Deb and Larry Orwig's house and unloaded tables, tents, merchandise, and wrapping paper in their garage: Patrick Doyle, Jean Klink, Deb and Larry Orwig, Denise Padavano, and Jeanne Wegener.

The first day of the event, Friday, December 13, 2024, brought cool temperatures with the afternoon reaching 67° – a beautiful day to be outside, wrap presents and greet the public. Joining us for this lovely day were the following dogs: talkative **Dillon Ball**, sweet **Rosie Murphy**, handsome **Asher Orwig**, and quiet **Winnie Padavano**.



Tracy and Jordan O'Callaghan with Asher

At the end of the day, we were allowed to store our tables, tents and wrapping paper in **Floor & Decor** until our next gift wrapping on Sunday. Jean Klink kindly let us load and store the merchandise in her truck, Deb Orwig took the bows and ribbon, Carolyn and Peter Brown stored the decorated cozy bags, and Patrick Doyle placed all the signs in his vehicle. Thank you, everyone, for taking care of **AGR's** goods! The day was rewarding and brought us donations and merchandise sales totaling **\$540.88!**

The second day of gift-wrapping, Sunday, December 15, 2024, was very busy! The morning was cold at 49° but quickly warmed up, and we started shedding layers of clothing. The afternoon was a comfortable 69°, a delightful day for both humans and our sweet dogs. Dogs joining us included: gentle **Levi** and loving **Tyler Ball**, happy **CaliAnne Brown**, photogenic **Sugar Mortimore**, delightful **Rosie Murphy**, personable **Asher** and kind-hearted **Vin Orwig**, goofy **Charlie Padavano**, and spunky **Lucy Spiel**.

Stopping by to support us was **P.F. Chang's** Senior Operating

Partner, **Cody Lewien**, his wife **Melissa**, daughter **Allie** and son **Ryan** with his German Shephard puppy **Beau**. Cody has been very supportive of **AGR** and featured us in **P.F. Chang's** corporate newsletter! Thank you, Cody!



Also stopping by to visit was **Trishia Murphy's** daughter, **Katherine Richardson**, with **Trishia's** darling 6½-month-old grandson, **Harvey!** As in past years, **Mary and Bert Engstrom** brought their Christmas presents for us to wrap! Thank you, **Mary and Bert!** Another member stopping by to visit was **Shotzie Workman**. So nice to see everyone!

We had 11 student volunteers join us throughout the day! They were very attentive and helped care for the dogs while we wrapped presents. We were very grateful and appreciative that we had the extra help at the end of the event for loading all our vehicles with everything we had brought! The day was very productive! Donations and merchandise sales totaled **\$950!**

The third day, Friday, December 20, 2024, started off with a flurry of activity! A man was already waiting for us to arrive, and a lady, **Kim**, came by and dropped off a carfull of gifts! We had our work cut out for us throughout the remainder of the day! We were all pretty exhausted and ready to put up our feet



Denise Padavano, Deb Orwig, Debbie Ball, Jean Klink and Carolyn Brown all pitched in to wrap Kim's first carload of packages

to pick up her carload of 50-plus wrapped packages. She started unloading more for us to wrap, but since we were starting to pack up, we asked her to return the following day. While we were loading vehicles with merchandise, a man walked by and gave us \$60, a generous, heartfelt donation, as he had just lost his Golden Retriever the week before.

Dogs joining us for the day were lively **Dillon Ball**, gentle **Rosie Murphy**, and delightful **Asher Orwig**. Nine student volunteers came and helped throughout the day! What would we do without all this tremendous help?! Thank you, students! We appreciate you very much! It was another very productive day, with donations and merchandise sales totaling **\$914.31!**



Teri Guilbault



Beautiful Raya

On the fourth day, Saturday, December 21, 2024, seven students

joined us for the morning shift, and were busy getting the tents, tables, merchandise and wrapping materials ready for us! They were so enthusiastic and ready to handle the nine dogs joining us throughout the day: **Levi** and **Tyler Ball**, elegant **Raya Guilbault**, devoted **Mickey McCabe/Dodson**, **Rosie Murphy**, **Asher** and **Vin Orwig**, **Lucy Spiel**, and good-natured **Josie Tolin**. Some of the students took dogs wearing donation vests for a walk, and while passing stores, gathered donations from generous people sharing the holiday spirit!

AGR members stopping by to visit were Sharla and David Jewett. Cheryl Duter came by to say "Hi" and return a basket she had won, for a future event. Returning again were Trishia Murphy's daughter, Katherine Richardson, her son, Harvey, and gifts for us to wrap! No peeking, Trishia, some may be for you! Teri Guilbault's daughter Michelle stopped to visit and then was on her way to wrestle the crowd in **Kohl's** for holiday shopping! Another very fruitful day, with donations and merchandise sales totaling **\$796.34!**



April Crow

The fifth day, Sunday, December 22, 2024, was another busy day for all who volunteered! We started the day with Kim returning with over 50 more gifts for us to wrap! She explained that the gifts were for needy children coming to her



Debbie Ball and Fran Strook

home who were experiencing a difficult home life. She gave **AGR** a generous donation for all the gift wrapping we completed for her! We were appreciative for the nine student volunteers who helped throughout the day! Dogs joining us for the day were charming **Dillon**, **Levi** and **Tyler Ball**, sweet **Rosie Murphy**, good-hearted **Asher** and **Vin Orwig**, and calm **Josie Tolin**. The 22nd was our best day yet, and, actually, overall! Donations and merchandise sales totaled **\$1,247.63!**

Since we weren't returning until Tuesday, Christmas Eve, we were allowed to store our tables, tents and wrapping paper in **Floor & Decor**. Several of us loaded our vehicles with the merchandise, and Jean Klink decided to load the tents and wrapping paper in her truck, while Patrick Doyle placed all the signs in his vehicle. Thank goodness we did, because we had a surprise waiting for us on Tuesday!

Returning on Tuesday, December 24, 2024, our sixth and last day of gift wrapping proved to be an interesting adventure! Jeanne Wegener arrived early to meet the four students who were scheduled to start the day. When Jeanne attempted to enter **Floor & Decor** to get the tables, she found that they were closed for the holi-

day! Jeanne called me, and between the two of us contacted those who were volunteering for the day to see if anyone had tables to bring to the event. Gathering tables from their homes were Debbie Ball, Carolyn and Peter Brown and Deb Orwig. Deb Orwig was on her way with **Asher** and returned home to leave him and load tables into her car. She even brought her sewing table! Seventeen tables of various sizes showed up, and we were ready to go by our starting time of 11 AM! Amazing **AGR** teamwork!

Dogs joining us were cuddly **Tyler Ball** and gentle seniors **Rhys** and **Rufus Cardinal**. The day was overcast and proved to be beautiful with a slight breeze. The day was busy, and people continued to show up for last-minute gift wrapping until 3:20. We were able to be packed up by 4:00, heading to Deb and Larry Orwig's house to unload tables, tents, all the merchandise, and gift-wrapping materials. The day was profitable – donations and merchandise sales totaled **\$926.56!**



Adam Cardinal with Rhys and Rufus

Jean Klink and Peter Brown returned to **Floor & Decor** Thursday morning to load the rest of the eight tables. Unloading the tables at Deb and Larry Orwig's house in the afternoon were Jean Klink, Denise Padavano, Jeanne Wegener and her brother Patrick Savage.

Thanks to everyone who contributed all the goodies to snack on and enjoy during our days of gift wrapping! Debbie Ball brought yummy pecan butter cookies; Jean Klink brought Rice Krispie treats and delicious sugar cookies; Denise Padavano brought a scrumptious chocolate cake to celebrate Debbie Ball and Jean Klink's birthdays, as well as an assortment of cookies; Deb Orwig brought melt-in-your-mouth ginger snaps; and Jeanne Wegener brought an array of tasty snacks.



After six days of wrapping, we'd had enough! In the little "down time" we had during those six sessions, we wrapped our own gifts.

The six days were fun and profitable for **AGR**! Total income from all six-days was **\$5,359.16** with \$1,751.40 from merchandise sales, \$216 from calendar sales, and \$3,391.76 from donations! Last year our 5-day grand total was \$2,504.74. This year we wrapped gifts for an extra day and brought in an additional \$2,884.42 more than last year! All our hard work and dedication is for our beautiful rescue dogs and their care!!!

Thank you all for a great season! See everyone in the New Year!



Golden Hearts



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support! All donations to **AGR**, a 501 (c) (3) organization, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The donations shown below were made between November 1, 2024 and January 15, 2025; donations that were made after January 15th will be acknowledged in future issues. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. Donations made after January 1, 2025 will receive an acknowledgment letter in January 2026, unless a receipt for taxes is requested sooner.

General Donations from the Heart

Davina Anderson	Katrina Johnson
Jennifer Anderson	Marsha and Steve Kleinz
Vincent Argana	Jean Klink
Nancy Bae and Mark Swanson	Tiara and Paul Korpalski
Debbie Ball	Donna and Jeff Kozel
Stephanie Beard	Kearstyn Krause
Nancy Becerra	Abigail Kuehnau
William Beckett	Susan Lawson
Patricia and Thomas Blackman	Sherry Lee and
Marietta Bowler and	Gary Landwehr
Bradford Elliott	Tiana Mendoza
Christine and Timothy Brzycki	Sarah Moore
Michele Choinski	Trishia Murphy and
James Clancy	Bill Richardson
Jill Deluce	Daniel Neace
Charles (Skip) Derra	Christina Phaneuf
Victor Diaz	Veronica Rademacher
Monica Dietrich	Jose Ramirez
Susan and Peter Downs	Kim Rennie
Paul Eancheff	Jeanine Rogers
Violet Eason	Melinda Rudibaugh
Kristin Eaton	Magdalena Sanchez
Mary and Bert Engstrom	Kelsie Sanders
Julio Diaz Figueroa	Karen and James Sanner
April and Ben Fischer	Jerry Sheridan
Elaine and David Fulton	Joyce Spawn
Jessica Gonzalez	Margaret and
Vincente Gonzalez	Thomas Spigelmire
Reidun and Lew Halpert	Joan Takamine
John Hammond, Jr	Dale Thorne
Liz and Mike Harman	Anthony Treviso
Leslie and Eric Hugg	Ingober Valle
Hermes Hurtado	Karen and Mark Wengraf
Frank Jacks	

Memorial Donations

In Loving Memory of Emerald's Amazing Love O' Gracie
 Debbie Ball
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Fred and Jill Prose

*Memorial Donations**In Loving Memory of 13-010 Charlie Joyce*

Debbie Ball
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Patty and Tom Morris
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Jill and Fred Prose

In Loving Memory of our Big Boy, 18-040 Hunter. We were graced with his gentleness and stubbornness for many years. He is surely missed. Thanks to all in AGR for your help in brightening our home.

Marilyn and Mark Flynn

In Loving Memory of 11-079 Jackson Gora

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson

In Loving Memory of Jane Ellen Fastiggi

Isabel Fastiggi and Cathy Gorham

In Loving Memory of All Fourth-Quarter 2024 Bridge Dogs and People we have lost including:

AGR Dogs:

11-079 Jackson Gora
12-019 Tanner Collins-Fritzer
12-067 Bos'n Drake
13-010 Charlie Joyce
14-090 Sadie Kotin
16-051 Astra Derra
18-040 Hunter Flynn
24-062 Tuesday Tataseo
25-005 Katana Hines

Non-AGR dogs:

Cody Edwards
Annie Novak
Gracie Prose
Sucy Rodeffer

People

Jane Ellen Fastiggi
Ken Roberts

Debbie Ball
 Teri and Jeff Guilbault
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Denise Padavano
 Liz Tataseo

Our sincere thanks to Mark Leibowitz for continuing to make a sizable annual donation from the *Jo Leibowitz Memorial Fund* set up through Schwab Charitable.

Diamond Donors

Diamond Donor for 22-007 TK
Liz Tataseo

Diamond Donor for 22-067 Reggie
Golden Retriever Foundation

Diamond Donor for 24-045 Sam
Kathy Jones

Diamond Donor for 24-088 Mac
Jeannette and David Morrocco

Honor

In Honor of Karen Farrand
Elizabeth Farrand

In Honor of and thanks to all the Board of Directors and Team
volunteers their efforts in rescuing our dogs
Debbie Ball

In Honor of Emma Gutekunst, "daughter" of Anne and Rick
Gutekunst -- Happy Holidays!
Susan Skinner

In Honor of 24-011 Bailey from P. F. Chang's Christmas tree
Kristia Peloke

In Honor of Shana's birthday
Mariangela Chiaravalloti

Gift Memberships

For Jason Sykes from Adam Cardinal

For Mary and Kim Spiel from Christine Spiel

Final list of Donors for *Pavilion Art & Wine Tasting Event*
is on page 37

Special Thanks

To Daisy Barsetti-Nerland, who made a generous donation
through her employer, JP Morgan Chase and to JP Morgan
Chase Foundation for contributing double the amount
Daisy donated

To those supporters who have set up a regular monthly donation
through their bank or PayPal

Stephanie Beard
Robert D Crouse
Patrick Doyle
Ellen and Jeff France
Rosa Johanson

Rachel Manley
Judy Petitto
Jeanine and Rick Rogers
Carrie Stoneburner
Mike Watts

Memberships - Fourth Quarter

121 families purchased or renewed a Single or Household
Membership during Fourth Quarter 2024

Memberships - Fourth Quarter 2024
*New or Continuing Advanced-Level Supporters***COPPER (\$60)**

Patty and Troy Forte
Leigh Ann and Joe Hilleary
Sarah Krajnak
Grace Kocur and Keith Volant
Mary Whitmer
Mike Watts and Lew Williams

AMBER (\$100)

Rebecca and Mark Allegra
Daisy Barsetti-Nerland and Blake Wach
Linda and Jeffrey Campbell Jennifer and Nick Micatrotto
Lisa Collins and Aaron Fritzer Janis and Randy Moore
Charles (Skip) Derra Jeannette and David Morrocco
Jerryl and Fred Dogan Trishia Murphy and
Carol Gora Bill Richardson
Kelly and Jeff Gorski Mark Nelson
Reidun and Lew Halpert Adam Reingold
Shawn and Anthony Kehoe Cindy and Mark Roter
Donna and Jeff Kozel Cindy and Gary Tigges
Anne and John McGill

TOPAZ (\$250)

Carolyn and Peter Brown
Isabel Fastiggi and Cathy Gorham
April and Ben Fischer
Joan and Keith Mast
Mariruth Brooks Wittkamp

GOLD (\$1,000)

Jane S Lowery

Thank You Donations

To Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson for vacation care of
Dillon, Levi and Tyler
Debbie Ball

To Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson for vacation dog care
Denise Padavano

To Connie McCabe for our Christmas family photo
Joy and Todd Slagowski

To Denise Padavano for help with personal matters
Janice Mercer

Celebrate Fine Art, Wine and Dessert at Pavilion Art Gallery, Old Town Scottsdale

Below are listed all the item and cash donors for AGR's Wine Tasting Event held on September 29, 2024

Due to their generosity, this event profited \$8,955!

The write-up on this event was in the November 2024 issue which is now available on our website

Facility: Pavilion Art Gallery

Owners Alicia Hidalgo and Jon Wendell

Beverages

Aridus Wine Company, Old Town Scottsdale
Arizona Stronghold Winery, Old Town Scottsdale
Carlson Creek Winery, Old Town Scottsdale
 Teri and Jeff Guilbault
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Denise Padavano

Desserts

Butta Cakes – Employees Kirsten Testa and Lauren Saccuci
Dawn's NY Bakery on Central
Fairytale Brownies
 Trishia Murphy
 Deb and Larry Orwig
Nick's Baklava – Nick Pappas
Sprouts
 Elizabeth VanEvera – gift cards for *Crumbl Cookies*

Silent Auction Items

Note: *AGR* received many more item donations than are listed here; the majority were used for our raffle and silent auction at the October 27th *Dine Out With The Dogs* at *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy* in Sun City

Peggy and Jim Alexander – Two one-week stays in Alpine Cabin
Arizona Cardinals Football Club
Arizona Golden Rescue
ASU Gammage – 2 tickets to "Some Like It Hot!"
 Louise Carreiro – turquoise and sterling silver bracelet
Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers
Cracker Barrel
Dahl Restaurants, Sedona
Dillon's
Dutch Bros
 Mary and Bert Engstrom
 Diane Heller – 2 tickets to *AZ Cardinals vs Los Angeles Chargers*
Hotel Valley Ho, Scottsdale
 Kneader's
 Rebecca Mackerman
 Penny Mavroudis
 Connie McCabe – photoshoot
Oak Creek Coffee Shop, Sedona

Oak Creek Country Club, Sedona

Olive Garden

Deb and Larry Orwig

P. F. Chang's

Texas Roadhouse

The Cheesecake Factory

The Hermosa Inn, Paradise Valley

The Home Depot (several locations)

Valle Luna

Wines for Humanity

Yard House

Cash Donors – helped with expenses:

Debbie Ball
 Beth Chaffee
 Kathleen M Donahue, DO
 Mary and Bert Engstrom
 Sharon Flores
 Dean Mortimore
 Diane Taylor
 Cindy Tigges
 Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane
 Connie Wozniak

Corporate Donors and Sponsors

American Online Giving Foundation – Benevity Causes Portal
 The Austin Foundation through Arizona Community Foundation
 Charities Aid Foundation CyberGrants LLC
 Fry's Grocery (Kroger) Community Partners Program Activity
 during 4th Quarter 2024
 Nationwide and the Nationwide Foundation
 Paulie's Little Bite of Italy – Paul Ghiglieri, Owner
 P.F. Chang's
 Pledgling Foundation

THREE IMPORTANT NOTICES:

- 1) **Date Change for PAWS AT THE PARK:** now scheduled for Sunday, March 23, 2025 from 11 AM to 3 PM
- 2) **PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT on Sunday, August 3, 2025, from 1 PM to 4 PM** – start getting a team together now!
- 3) We will be hosting a **GOLF TOURNAMENT on Friday, May 1, 2026;** more information in future newsletters



5350 W. Bell Rd.
Suite C122-158
Glendale, AZ 85308

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENDALE, AZ
PERMIT NO. 116

623-566-WAGS (9247)
www.arizonagoldenrescue.org
info@arizonagoldenrescue.org

Your membership expiration date is shown at
the top of the mailing label below



*Rescuing Dogs will tear your heart out, stomp on it and bury it where you never think you will find it.
Then along comes another dog that needs Rescue who digs it up and gives it back to you.
~ Author Unknown*