

Reaching out to you with...



The Golden Paw



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**PETS
CHANGE
OUR
LIVES**

**Thank you
for sharing how
your pets have changed your lives!**



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Masthead photo by Connie McCabe: **19-070 Abbey Ruth**
Cover Photo and Design by Connie McCabe – dog is
19-083 Bowie

Editor's Assistants' Notes

Some of you know that we lost our brothers, **Mufasa** and **Dallas**, in November 2020. **Mufasa** left us on the 10th. We had known for a couple months that he had lymphoma. Fortunately, he did not act sick – and apparently did not feel sick – until just a couple days before our mom and dad helped him to the Bridge. What happened? He just stopped eating – not even his favorite cheese or peanut butter – the sign that many Golden Retrievers give that they have had enough and want to leave.



Vin and Duffy Orwig

Dallas joined **Mufasa** only 14 days later on the 24th. His passing was so much harder to adjust to. He was such a fighter... born without an anus, endured two reparative surgeries, tolerated 19 months of digestive upsets with alternating diarrhea and constipation, neither of which he could control even by taking two medications twice a day (one of which he hated), so he was never able to have the run of the house like the rest of us. He did like to run once he was outside, though. He loved chasing hose water, loved chasing a thrown tennis ball (and dropping it right in front of the thrower only to go after the next one and the next and the next, up to 65 times!) and loved chasing and wrestling with the rest of us, never backing down because he was so much smaller, even when he was full grown. He also loved, loved, loved any human company who would come by. He would jump up and down and up and down and smile, smile, smile and dispense kisses to anyone who would give him a few minutes of attention. Such a sweet little boy.

We miss our playmates. So, what did Mom and Dad do? They adopted another one. His name is **Asher**, and he is so much fun! As Dad said, it was much too quiet around our house with just the two of us canines here; Mom said there have not been only two Golden Retrievers in residence for 37 years. So, now there



are three and it feels much more normal in our house. We welcome our new brother, and all of us look forward to introducing him to everyone when we can finally go to **AGR** events again.

Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, Co-founder and President

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I want to thank all the Board members and Team Managers for sticking with us during a difficult three-quarters of a year. We were fine through the end of February, then Covid-19 took over the world and we had to cancel almost everything we normally would have done in March through September, as well as during the holiday season. We did manage to host *Dine Out With The Dogs* at **Little Bite of Italy** in Sun City at the end of October because that restaurant has an eating area outside (see pages 32-33). Also, early in October we were able to set up merchandise sales at **Sam's Club** in Surprise. However, by the time gift wrapping season came around just after Thanksgiving we decided to cancel that activity even though **Sam's Club** had invited us to be there.

Thanks to Carolyn Brown's efforts, we did continue to do merchandise sales throughout the year via Facebook advertising. Our Mother's Day and Father's Day promotions of microwave bowl cozies and oven mitts were a great success. We also sold a lot of face masks and bowl cozies during the holiday season. My thanks to Denise Padavano for helping with the sewing of the cozies. In addition to having Denise's help, I have given Cindy Tigges a workshop on making face masks, so I will now have help with those, too. Even when people are able to get the vaccine, the CDC will continue to encourage mask-wearing at least for another year, so we are prepared to help with that. We will make seasonal ones for such holidays as Valentine's Day (get yours now!), Mardi Gras, St. Patrick's Day, patriotic ones that can be worn on or around Flag Day and 4th of July, as well as some for Halloween and the Christmas/Hanukkah season. Of course, we have numerous dog-theme, cat-theme and horse-theme fabrics, Southwests, florals, some sports-theme fabrics and some with just interesting designs. Contact me at dorwigaz@cox.net if you want something custom made.

Our members and supporters came through for us, and we ended the year in the black financially, despite having taken in some very medically-expensive dogs and not being able to host our major fundraising activities. Our average cost per dog for the 37 dogs we rescued in 2020 was almost \$3,800. Our grant writers were busy all year. Jolene Schlichter kept us in touch with the **Golden Retriever Foundation** – we received over \$7,000 in grants from the **GRF** to help with extraordinary medical expenses. Rebecca Mackerman spent considerable time researching grants that we might be eligible for, applied successfully for a couple from **Colorado Animal Rescue Express**, and administered the **Petco Foundation Holiday Wishes Contest** (see pages 15 - 31), which brought in \$625 and \$5,000, respectively. Great job, both of you! Thanks, also, to all who submitted an entry to this contest – without your

time and efforts, we would not have won third place for the most submissions. I have published many of the *Holiday Wishes* stories in this issue.

When we lost access to our database completely in November, Sharon Flores offered to type in all the adoption applications one of us had saved from 2020 and 2019 – hours and hours of typing! Unfortunately, some of those applications were never saved except in the database. If you applied to adopt in either of those years, or before 2019 for that matter, and you are still interested in adopting, please contact us to be sure we have your application. If we do not, then we will ask you to complete another one, but we will waive the application fee unless you have moved.

We can now accept applications from our website thanks to Adam Cardinal's considerable efforts. We have more or less perfected a process for both adoption and membership applications. There are still a few bugs, but we figured out a work-around for most of them. Maybe this is an example of you get what you pay for. The problems we've encountered in setting up our website and database with RescueGroups.org are not trivial. As Adam explains in his column on pages 6-7, we chose this company because of their low fees in order to reserve as much of our finances as possible for helping the dogs we rescue. We won't regret our choice once everything is working properly, but that will take some more time.

He's Not Just a Pretty Face!

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson have been fostering a special needs dog who was brought into Rescue on November 15 by *AGR* members Fred and Jill Prose, who drove to California to pick him up from a breeder from whom we have gotten dogs before. Fred and Jill graciously offered to absorb the transportation and motel cost for the trip. The dog, **20-033 Danny Boy**, is a gorgeous, nice-tempered (even likes cats, as well as other dogs), 4-year-old male English Cream Golden who eats rocks (pica). In the *Health & Safety* column on pages 8-9, Liz Tataseo addresses this condition along with coprophagia (compulsive poop-eating). Rock eating is not a habit that can usually be trained out of a dog who does it. For his own safety – and success as an adoptee – **Danny Boy** must, must, must be placed in a home whose yard has nothing but concrete, grouted pavers, and/or artificial turf – no real grass, no garden areas where any size rocks could exist (no mulched plants either) and **no gravel or rocks of any kind**. If he is taken outside the yard, he needs to wear a box muzzle or the OutFox Field Guard mesh headpiece that Connie purchased for him. Anyone who has a back yard as described – **no rocks of any kind anywhere** – is welcome to apply to adopt this nice, special needs boy.



Danny's bandanna says, "I Believe" – we believe the perfect forever home is out there somewhere... is it yours?



Goldens on the Go!

By Carolyn Brown
Director of Activities

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Whether it is around the world or around the block, it is always better when your travel companion is a Golden. Always happy to be with you, seeing new things, meeting new people. Even most Goldens are happy to put 2020 behind us and hope that 2021 will be a year of fun activities and seeing all their *AGR* friends out at our normal activities.

While the coronavirus may still see us modifying how, when and where events can take place, we are hoping that everyone will join me in saying, "Here's to FUN in '21". We will do everything possible to get events scheduled and still operate within CDC and AZ guidelines. Events may need to be rescheduled, so always check the *AGR* website calendar the week before the event to confirm it. Or feel free to call me at 602-781-1001 or email me at azgoldenlady@gmail.com.

2020 was a year of some new events like Craft Sales at *Sam's Club* in Surprise, renewal of some older events like *Dine Out with the Dogs* at *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy* in Sun City and cancellations of some of our favorites like *Paws At The Park*, the *AGR Fore! Paws Golf Tournament* and December gift wrapping. But we made it through, and 2021 will hopefully shape up to be a better year. The health and safety of our members and Goldens will always be in the forefront of events scheduled, rescheduled or when necessary, cancelled.

Even though we were limited in the number of physical events, our crafters were busy at work through all the lockdowns. Craft sales brought income into *AGR* from all over the United States! In addition to what was sold at *Dine Out with the Dogs* and the two *Sam's Club* Craft Sales days, 206 sets of microwave bowl cozies made their way into homes throughout the US. Word of mouth from previous owners of the cozies brought *AGR* orders that were mailed to Florida, Texas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Oregon and Michigan. It's unknown how many other places our cozies got mailed off to, but *AGR* benefitted to the tune of \$4,120 for them. Sincere thanks go out to Deb Orwig and Denise Padavano for this handiwork – they spent countless hours cutting and sewing them.

"When you get lemons, make lemonade" and "When you have a pandemic, make face masks." Deb Orwig created and produced decorative and functional face masks. These are not like the ones she made almost a year ago, on which she had to use seam binding for ties because elastic was not available. The pattern she uses now fits the face much better than the pleated type she first made,

has an inset nose piece that serves to hold the mask away from your mouth and nose, 4 layers of fabric (two cotton fabrics and two layers of interfacing), and elastic ear pieces. She also makes a different (bigger) size for men. At \$10 each, 301 of Deb's creations were sold bringing in an additional \$3,010 to help cover some the medical expenses **AGR** incurred in 2020. If you were not lucky enough to buy one before, be sure to look for them at upcoming **AGR** events (if we have any) or on our Facebook page. They almost make mask-wearing fun!

We had scheduled three winter/early spring events, but they have all had to be cancelled, plus we are still not doing Meet-and-Greets at **Petco** or **PetSmart**. The vaccine roll-out has not gone as fast or been as far-reaching as was expected, so we will not participate or host any public events until that situation changes.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: NONE

OPEN!

Director of Dog Care

**YOUR
PHOTO
HERE?**

From Deb Orwig: *The position of Director of Dog Care is still open, so I have written the column article for this issue. Won't one of you please consider volunteering for this job?*

What does the Director of Dog Care (DDC) do? I have been thinking about this and what I have done in this position for over a year since our previous DDC resigned after holding this Board job for six years.

Our *Policies and Procedures* handbook includes a list of responsibilities, the following one being the most important:

Oversee all dog-oriented teams of Rescue: the Dog Management Teams of Intake, Shelter Walkers, Health Care, Behavior, Home Evaluations, Placement, Adoptions, and Follow-up.

The operative word here is "oversee." All our teams have experienced managers who have held their individual positions for years, so they do not need much oversight – the Team Managers are all pros at handling their particular departments. So, the DDC just needs to keep up with what each is doing, mainly by reading e-mails that are exchanged among Teams and Team members, and responding where appropriate. It is sometimes necessary to facilitate communication among Teams, and, rarely, to make decisions that affect all dog-oriented Teams.

The DDC is a Board position, so when a Board meeting is called (we haven't had one in over 1½ years), the DDC is expected to attend (in person or by phone or Zoom) and to participate in online and telephone Board communications. The DDC also needs to write a column for this newsletter every three months.

The DDC will respond to all e-mail and telephone inquiries regarding any aspect of dog rescue, including those asking about adopting a specific dog or just the adoption process in general.

The DDC is responsible for preparing all adoption contracts and sending them to the designated transporter before a dog is transported to its new home – takes maybe 5 minutes for each contract.

The DDC should keep in touch with the Health Care Manager (HCM) regarding the health status of all non-finalized dogs. If a dog is determined to need specialized care, the DDC will discuss the situation with the HCM and the President to decide on the best course of action. In an emergency, the DDC can approve sending a dog to an emergency vet. If a dog is determined to need behavior modification training, the DDC will work with the HCM and the President to determine what type of training would best benefit the dog and where that training should be done.

The DDC will coordinate with Intake and Placement Managers on all out-of-state dog rescues, including international rescue efforts.

After the Follow-up person determines that a FWITA wants to finalize the adoption of their foster dog, the Health Care Manager prepares and sends out the Letter of Finalization and any Addendum that is appropriate. The DDC then contacts the new family, gets their input about the success of the adoption, writes up that information for the database and sends it to the newsletter editor.

If a dog is in dire straits and cannot be helped by veterinary intervention, the DDC must initiate a motion to the Board for euthanasia. Once a Board vote is taken, the DDC must communicate the decision to the Health Care Manager.

The DDC must have some basic computer skills (we have a great teacher in Adam Cardinal, though) and be familiar with spreadsheets – we have a great teacher in Debbie Ball, who now takes care of tracking all dog expenses by dog and by vet, composes the *Diamonds in the Ruff* column for the newsletter and also provides the statistics necessary for completion of the Annual Survey we are required to submit to the National Rescue Committee in order to remain eligible for **Golden Retriever Foundation** grants.

Website and database data entry will be required of the DDC. Procedures for guiding an application through the process have been established. Once the database is functional, some additional input will be necessary.

The bottom line is the Director of Dog Care must be extremely interested in the welfare of every dog we take in, keep up with what's happening with the dog, and must follow every dog through the adoption process to make sure the dog is being taken care of to the best of our ability and has been placed in the best possible home. Please contact Deb at dorwigaz@cox.net if you are interested.



The Information Highway

By Adam Cardinal
Director of Information Management

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What Lies Beneath

I'm pleased to announce that our new website went live the middle of December 2020. It has been a long time coming, but I hope you like the work we have done. Our first priority was to re-establish the website as our "public face" and the way that prospective members, adopters and surrender-owners will interact with us.

When the outage first occurred, we looked at other rescues to understand how they were interacting with their stakeholders online. There was an interesting dichotomy. The analysis came down to a few interaction styles:

- Website Only
- Website Primary
- Social Media Primary
- Social Media Only

Website Only are Rescue organizations that drive all interactions through their website. They don't maintain a Facebook or Twitter presence. They tend to have a deep, faithful user base and rely on established relationships as their primary source of adoptive families and for intake/surrender. They rely on newsletters and email subscriptions to update donors and supporters of dogs available for adoption, for appeals marketing and to promote events and fundraisers. They either maintain a fairly static website or they employ a web developer / development service to regularly make updates to their website. Their spending on development work, site hosting, email marketing and other supporting services was at the HIGH range of fixed and variable technology expense.

Website Primary are Rescue organizations that maintain a website for transactional interactions but use a Facebook page to support ongoing engagement with members and supporters and to drive traffic to their website. They tend to be Rescue organizations that have been operating for 5 years or more and have added social media to their operations in the past few years as interaction styles began to change. They maintain a mostly static website with a set of frames or content areas where up-to-date information is posted. This normally includes a calendar of events, a list of adoptable dogs and promotion of fundraising events like Arizona Gives. What is interesting about this group is cost variance. For Rescues that are still hosting and maintaining their own website the cost is Medium High in terms of the range of fixed and variable technology expense. For those using a service provider to deliver a supported website as a service, their cost is Low to medium Low. For those who host and support their own website, their cost is

Medium Low to Medium High.

Social Media Primary and Social Media Only are Rescue organizations that maintain a website as a facade on the Internet but provide service primarily through interactions on Facebook, Twitter, etc., or have chosen not to have an Internet presence other than through Social Media. They tend to rely on adoption volume as their primary revenue source. They are all multi-breed rescues and have between 6-25 intakes a month. They do minimal engagement with previous donors and adopters, and what they do is via posts to Social Media. They do little to no email marketing, have a small but highly engaged group of volunteers and don't host fundraisers or events beyond pop-up adoption events. They rely extensively on an online pet rescue portal (PetFinder, Adopt-a-Pet, ASPCA, RescueMe) for content updates and to drive prospective adopters to their social media pages. Their technology service cost was Low to Medium Low.

While our website was unavailable we relied on our Social Media presence on Facebook, along with direct e-mail to members and supporters to maintain operations. The impacts of Covid-19 reduced our ability to interact face to face with supporters and prospective adopters.

We found engagement on Social Media was active – it was a great area to engage with members, provide recommendations to local businesses and resources, and update on *AGR's* activity. However prospective adopters came looking for a dog actively available for adoption – and that's not the primary way that *AGR* places dogs. Normally a dog who comes in is placed with an applicant who has an active application on file with *AGR* and who have had a successful home evaluation completed.

We also found many adopters had negative experience with Social Media Only Rescue organizations. Slow response times, poor transparency and high turnover – some Rescues being active for a few months only before closing or folding their activities into another established Rescue. Very few were active for more than 2 years.

Based on this analysis we knew that the effort to develop the website was essential to continue to operate as a Rescue with the business model we have found most effective in enabling long term successful placement of rescued Golden retrievers. I am pleased to say that our early experience with the new website has been very positive. While the website was offline, adoption applications averaged 5-10 a month. The new website went live December 18th. During the month of December we received 72 adoption applications through the website and another 42 adoption applications the first week of January. We know that having a beautiful Golden available for adoption (thank you, **DannyBoy!**) was a big help. Having a website presence in addition to a strong Social Media presence is a key to *AGR's* ongoing success in placing dogs and attracting

qualified adopters.

While our public face is important, many of our members may not be aware of the ways we rely on the database behind our website to support the organization's operations. The database is where we keep our membership lists updated, where we store the applications for new adopters, where we record the results of home evaluations, maintain medical records, initiate requests to transport dogs and, most importantly, collect and retain the experiences of our volunteers when interacting with dogs and adopters. Our volunteers' knowledge and experience are invaluable, providing us with the information that frequently is the most reliable indicator if a placement is going to be successful for the dog and for the adopting household.

We are still working on the website's internal component interfaces. There was a lot of post-launch tuning and refining to do that has now, for the most part, been completed. We've brought up the Contacts module this month, giving our volunteers access to the contact information for members, adoption applicants and other service providers (Veterinarians, Groomers, Trainers and other rescue organizations). Home Evaluation Solutions and Placement Evaluation Tools are our next priority.

I will keep the upcoming updates more concise. However, I thought some of our members and supporters might be interested to know the research we devoted to online interaction options, the cost implications, and how they align with *AGR* operations. Thank you for your patience and your ongoing support. It's all for the dogs.



The Human Connection

By Connie McCabe
Human Resources Director

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"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 the some of the people you think you know. Hopefully you will learn something new about them and gain more insight into how they got here. I have generally been going in order of membership number, beginning at "one" and featuring several members every column. You may notice that there are some missing member numbers. I know there are a lot of people who really 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.

If you would like to view previously-featured members and do not have access to the printed newsletters, you can download them from the Information tab on our website once our new one is functional.

Hopefully by now you will have noticed how very 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 very 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.

First, let's meet Trishia Murphy and Bill Richardson, sharing number 2213. You have probably met Trishia at one of the many events that she attends and helps with.



Trishia writes, *Hi, my name is Trishia Murphy. My husband, Bill Richardson and I moved from the Chicago, IL area to Phoenix, AZ back in the early 1980s, when his company offered him the opportunity to transfer. We both grew up with dogs as family pets but we hadn't loved Golden Retrievers until we moved here. I sing with an Irish/Celtic group 'Celtica!' and play handbells at St. Joan of Arc Parish. Bill is a retired electrical engineer and active in model train operators' organizations here in the Valley.*

Our last Golden Retriever, Sydney, was adopted through Rescue A Golden of Arizona before AGR was organized. It was through RAG and their R.E.A.D., Reading Education Assistance Dogs program, that I met Deb Orwig. Deb steadfastly brought her family of Golden Retrievers, starting with Rocky, into my third grade classroom on a weekly basis to read with my students for over 10 years until my retirement in 2016.



We currently do not have any four-legged family members, so I volunteer as an extra pair of hands at AGR events or for set-up, sales, and teardown at fundraising events. I love the camaraderie of AGR and the chance to get my Golden kisses and hugs. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Now, let's meet Marlene and Francis (Berry) Breton, family number 2238. In the past, you may have seen Marlene helping at many *AGR* events from fall to spring, while they were escaping the cold

Canadian winters. This year it was not possible for them to travel to Arizona, but we look forward to seeing them again in the fall of 2021.

Marlene writes, *Greetings from Canada – hope you are all well and staying safe in these uncertain times. Berry and I left Arizona March 21, 2020 and hope to return in this fall or sooner once vaccines are available. We are, as usual, behind in this regard here in Canada.*



I became involved with AGR about 5 years ago, after attending a fundraiser at Little Bite of Italy. I was so excited to be surrounded by so many Golden Retrievers! They are my favorite breed and melt my heart! As we were only down south for a month back then, I vowed to join the Rescue once we became official 'snowbirds'.

In the past, we mostly had cats as pets – love them too – they were easier to care for when I was working full time and raising two boys on my own. We did have a Cocker Spaniel from a breeder one year – called him Ritz – but, sadly, a couple months in he started having multiple seizures, bless his heart, and we ended up putting him down shortly thereafter.

Now, since we fly south to stay five months out of the year and live in a very congested area here in B.C., Berry and I decided we will wait until we make another move to a more rural area once we are done traveling.



Marlene with Jackson McCabe/Dodson

So, I fulfill my love of Golden Retrievers by belonging to your wonderful group when we're there and help with fundraisers (and joined in two parades last year) etc. I've met many of you, you are all great people with huge hearts.

We're hoping things get back to semi-normal so we can return soon, and I can help out once again. Please stay safe and well everyone.

Sending virtual hugs,
Marlene Breton

Finally, let's meet Lynn Parkhurst, sharing number 2279 with her partner, Cid Stoller. Lynn has been active in doing home visits for AGR and has also participated in the Fashion Paw Tea event with her Collie, Teller. As a vet tech and cold laser specialist at **Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital**, she gets to meet many of our rescued dogs and adopters.

In Lynn's words, *In July of 1997, my*



A beautiful white collie, Teller looked spectacular in the red, white and black "Coming Up Roses" outfit for the 2017 Fashion Paw Tea

partner Cid and I made the trip from Ohio to Arizona to start our new lives. When I left Ohio, I told my friends that I was going to find a way to follow my passion and make a living by using that passion to work with animals. After several years in Arizona, I started to take courses to become a licensed Veterinary



Cid Stoller

*Technician. **Four-Legged Friends and Dr. Valerie Ferguson** was the clinic I used for my own fur babies, so I asked Dr. Ferguson if I might be able to perform my practicals there. I ended up not only completing my course work at her clinic, but also becoming a team member.*



Lynn Parkhurst at Four-Legged Friends with Grizzly McCabe/Dodson

My love of animals has grown continuously under Dr. Ferguson's kind and guiding hand, and I continue to learn every day. We added Therapeutic Laser to the clinic five years ago, and I have had the pleasure of treating many animals as they age. It was through the laser program that I became acquainted with several members of AGR. What a great experience the last 13 years of my life have been. I thank God every day for the opportunity that the clinic, the people, and the friends I have made have bestowed upon me.



Health and Safety

By Liz Tataseo
Health Care Manager

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WHAT Is My Dog Eating and Why?

Most dogs gladly eat their food and treats and nothing else. But many dogs (like some of mine) love to grab and eat stuff not considered food: tissues, paper towels, batteries, rocks, grass, dry-wall, wood, shoes, socks/underwear and poop. Time to make sure the house has nothing lying around! It's up to us to make sure our home, inside and out, is safe for our canine friends.

But somehow they do find non-food items, like little magicians, and end up with strange looking poop – that is if we are lucky that it comes out of their intestines. Vets are used to doing intestinal surgery for stuff that gets stuck either in the stomach or the intestines, BUT one time is enough, and that one time might even be too much. Adhesions form, peristalsis can stop and infection can occur.

AGR lost a beautiful puppy, an older golden and one in the prime of his life because one too many intestinal surgeries were needed. If you are lucky, like me so far, they grow out of eating non-food

items and/or have an intestinal system that is really, really, large!

Pica is the name we give to the eating of non-food items by dogs. They might just like to eat one type of object like rocks, or a variety of items. Rocks, underwear and socks are particularly dangerous. They are not digestible and can cause blockages very easily. Some dogs have eaten towels and those for sure don't pass through. One of my dogs grabs used tissues that do digest. One other one eats poop, which gets digested a second time – this has a special name, coprophagia.

Pica is usually considered a behavioral issue but there can be a medical problem that causes this habit. Pica can be triggered by separation anxiety, stress or boredom. Medical issues might be malabsorption issues, parasites, starvation, nutritional imbalances and/or illnesses like diabetes and thyroid problems. Also liver disease, EPI (exocrine pancreatic insufficiency), Cushing's disease or side effects from steroids or other medication.

Some experts recommend making dietary changes due to nutritional deficiencies or adding supplements such as probiotics, enzymes or antioxidants. Or you can change to 3-4 small meals throughout the day rather than two. See your vet first of course for diagnosis. My one dog (who lost weight inexplicably) and loved to eat all forms of paper, was discovered to have a Vitamin B¹² deficiency, so she now gets injections once a month.

Behaviorally, anxiety can be treated with medication; some dogs need more stimulation and different types of activities are needed or a wider selection of chew toys. They might have an obsessive-compulsive disorder or other neurological disorders.

Puppies are teething and want to chew stuff; female dogs eat their puppies' poop and the afterbirths – those are normal but can start a behavior that continues. Much of the time there is no reason that can be found for Pica behavior; they just do it.

Watch out for vomiting, pain in their abdomen, not eating, coughing, no pooping or difficulty pooping – all signs of a possible blockage. Get to your vet or ER if your dog has symptoms like these or you see your dog eat something you know won't pass through.

If there is no reason that can be diagnosed or behaviorally corrected, then use a muzzle when on walks or when the dog is outside if s/he likes rocks, gravel and junk. Keep objects out of reach in the house, don't leave clothes lying around, be patient and calm when correcting your dog, don't leave your dog alone for long periods of time. Crate the dog if you will not be home.

Why do dogs eat poop? The same reason they eat other non-food stuff. Often it is a puppy behavior and with good food and behavioral changes they grow out of it. Puppies left alone may play with it and eat it, and we sometimes unknowingly reinforce this behav-

ior with the way we respond. Don't stick their nose in it. Cat feces should not ever be eaten by dogs. The best thing to do is clean up poop as soon as you can and supervise your dogs. Know when they need to evacuate and clean it up then. Redirect them when they are poop-sniffing or seem interested. There are products that supposedly make the poop less appealing (like adding pineapple, Brewer's yeast or zucchini to the dog food), but I've never found one that worked for my dogs. Fortunately, my one dog that eats it (another grew out of it) does so intermittently, but she likes to bring a sample into the house for later consumption periodically.

Often there is no discoverable reason for either Pica or Coprophagia – it's often just habit. Poop eating seems nasty but it is not usually a problem healthwise unless the poop they eat has parasites – another reason to be vigilant. Pica, however, can be a major health issue if not treated or if blockage occurs.

In all instances, your vet is the best person to consult.



From China with Love

By Carolyn Brown
International Intake Division Chairman
 AZgoldenlady@gmail.com

*The love of a Golden does not stop at a state line or shoreline
 ... It is universal.*

~ Carolyn Brown

All international rescue efforts have been suspended until further notice due to the coronavirus situation. During all of 2020, we took in very few dogs from Arizona – only 37. So, we look forward to bringing some Golden Retrievers in from China, South Korea and/or Turkey in 2021. If you are interested in adopting a Golden from out-of-country, submit an application [now](#) if you are not already on our approved-to-adopt list.

Also, anyone interested – already-approved or not – please let me know your preference for gender and age as soon as possible. We have not worked with a Turkey or South Korea rescue yet (although other US-based Golden Retriever rescue groups have), so we don't know if we can specify age and gender, but we do know we can do that with our China contact.

It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.

~ Unknown

The Financial Picture

By Deb Orwig

Reporting period: January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Total Assets as of January 29, 2021: \$260,360.23

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Adoption Application Fees	\$ 3,375.00	\$
Adoptions	13,259.00	
Adoption Fee Refunds		400.00
Bank Charges (PayPal & Credit Card fees)		1,052.48
Calendars		
Printing		3,695.65
Sales	2,015.00	
Sponsorships	2,200.00	
Donation Income, General	59,776.61	
Debbe Begley Memorial Fund	107.00	
Dine Out With The Dogs	2,409.96	
Honorary	10,461.66	
Memorials	9,600.00	
Summer Fundraiser	18,374.76	
Event Expense		50.00
Gift Wrapping	50.00	
Grants	15,385.15	
Insurance		615.98
Interest	24.47	
Internet Services		1,043.71
Legal and Professional Fees		10.00
Membership Income	22,519.00	
Merchandise	12,365.59	667.30
Newsletter Subscription	16.00	
<i>Paws & Pasta (Dine Out With the Dogs)</i>		522.23
<i>Paws At The Park 2020</i>	1,507.00	792.37
Donations	241.12	
Office Expenses & Supplies		995.22
<i>Photos with Santa in Dec. 2019</i>	638.80	
Postage		2,194.39
Prizes	850.00	
Rent or Lease		3,233.14
Stationery and Printing		6,040.34
Telephone		211.70
Dog-related Expenses		
Behavioral Training	202.75	
Boarding	636.00	
Collars, leashes & tags	114.50	
International Rescue Expenses	47.88	
Microchips	39.89	
Miscellaneous, Dog-related	257.66	
Veterinary Services		144,954.60
TOTAL	\$175,176.12	\$167,777.79
NET INCOME	\$7,398.33	
Checking Account on 1-29-21:	\$157,102.80	
Savings Account on 1-29-21:	\$ 94,116.11	
Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 1-29-21:	\$ 9,141.32	
Outstanding Credit Card Balance on 1-29-21:	\$ 18,193.23	

Facebook Donations

By Deb Orwig

If you make a donation to **AGR** on our Facebook page, Facebook generously covers the administration cost. So, your entire donation is received by **AGR** without 4% or 5.2% or some other amount being subtracted. It usually takes two weeks for donations to be confirmed in our checking account.

As an individual Facebook subscriber, you can host a fundraiser on Facebook – it can be for a birthday, an anniversary or another commemorative occasion, and you can designate **Arizona Golden Rescue** as the beneficiary. Although Facebook acknowledges for tax purposes the donor of every donation, I cannot since the Transaction Report I receive every two weeks does not show either e-mail addresses or US mail addresses of the donors. So, I am depending on those of you who host fundraisers for **AGR** to thank your own donors on our behalf.



Diamonds in the Ruff

By Debbie Ball

rlbdlb@cox.net

Diamonds in the Ruff are dogs on which **AGR** has had to spend at least \$2,000. In the fourth quarter 2020, we had only two such dogs. 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 both in the newsletter and in a personal letter to the donor.

Diamonds in the Ruff Fourth Quarter 2020



20-017 Cooper/Rudder came into Rescue as a young, 10-month-old male pure-bred Golden who was surrendered by his owner for playing too rough with their older, smaller dog. After his initial exam, updated vaccines, fecal and heartworm test, he was also given a good ear cleaning by **Complete Pet Animal Hospital** in Litchfield Park. In May, he was evaluated by **VetMed Emergency & Specialty**

Care in Phoenix and found to have bilateral hip dysplasia. In mid-August, he was given a total left hip replacement and recovered well with swimming and physical therapy. Most recently, in December his right hip replacement was completed and he is now recuperating from that surgery. **Cooper** was adopted by Cindy and Robert in Waddell and renamed **Rudder**. Fourth-quarter ex-

ARIZONA GIVES DAY IS ON APRIL 6

penses cost **AGR \$7,911**, with total 2020 expenses of **\$14,993**.

20-033 Danny Boy is a 4-year-old male purebred Golden who was surrendered by the owner due to his medical needs being too demanding. **Danny Boy** likes to eat rocks and had required surgery for the removal of one before he was surrendered to us. He received his initial vetting at **Kennel Care** in Chandler for updated vaccines, cocci profile, and an ear cleaning. While in foster care with Connie and Nick in Glendale and while Placement has been helping to search for the perfect “rock free” home for him, **Danny Boy** inadvertently consumed another rock (actually two). Emergency surgery was required for an enterotomy and gastrotomy along with X-rays and lab work. He is recuperating nicely and still in watchful foster care awaiting his forever-diligent “rock free” home. Fourth-quarter expenses for him have cost **\$4,801**.



****NOTE:** Some interesting analysis for the five years that I have been tracking expenses by dog... In the prior four years, 2016-2019, **AGR** averaged 88 new intake dogs per year with an average overall expense of \$1,719 per dog, some lower but also many more which incurred higher expense. This past year, 2020, we did only 37 rescues, but the average expense per dog was \$3,786, which is more than double the prior four-year average! Also in prior years, an average of 25% of intakes qualified as *Diamonds In The Ruff* with expenses greater than \$2,000. In 2020, some 49% of our intakes were *Diamonds in the Ruff*, and those 18 dogs averaged \$5,814 per dog in expense. In other words, while we (like many other rescue groups) are taking far fewer dogs into Rescue, those dogs we are getting are generally costing far more in expenses. While we never know for certain what our predictable expenses might be for each incoming rescue, our policy is still to rescue those purebred Golden and mostly-Golden mixes that are not aggressive and take care of their needs as best we can. That is why every event in which we participate and every donation dollar is so important to keeping us financially viable and stable. Thank you for your continuing support!

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

**PLEASE JOIN AGR ON FACEBOOK –
LOTS OF FUN!**

Care Credit®

Most of us live on a budget; some even live paycheck to paycheck with little in reserve. So, what options do you have if your pet becomes seriously ill or has to have emergency surgery? You surely do not want your pet to die unless he or she is determined to be terminal and that nothing can be done to save or prolong the animal’s life. Look into CareCredit®. It is basically a no-interest credit card that is somewhat controlled by the specific doctor or veterinarian who participates. The amount that you charge determines how long they will give you to pay off the bill interest free! It can be 3, 6, 12 or 18 months. CareCredit® can really help – you won’t have to take the entire amount you owe out of your bank account or put it on an interest-bearing credit card. Most of the vets who cooperate with **AGR** offer CareCredit®. This company’s roster of participating vets also includes many specialists, such as canine dentists, canine ophthalmologists and canine oncologists. If you access the CareCredit® website, you can determine if your vet or the specialist you intend to consult is a participating vet. CareCredit® is also available for human medical needs, such as Lasik and vision issues, cosmetic surgery, dentistry, hearing problems, and other specialties. Check out their website and keep it handy – you never know when you might need it: <https://www.carecredit.com/vetmed/>

Symptoms You Should Not Ignore

- * **Pacing and restlessness**
- * **Unproductive retching**
- * **Collapse or fainting**
- Pale gums
- Lethargy or weakness
- Not eating or loss of appetite
- Losing weight

*** CALL YOUR
VET
IMMEDIATELY
OR GO
TO THE ER**

- * **Breathing problems or trouble breathing**

- Red eye
- Jaundice
- Trouble urinating
- Excessive drinking and urination
- Fever

- * **Seizure**
- Bruising and bleeding
- Coughing

- * **Bloated or distended abdomen**

- * **Bloody diarrhea, bloody urine, or bloody vomit**

- Bite wounds

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 15, 2020 through January 15, 2021. All adoptions finalized after January 15th will be in the next issue.



20-030 Daisy is a cute little 1-year-old Golden mix (Golden with Welsh Corgi most likely). Her owner and son developed allergies. The niece took **Daisy**, but then her husband got a new job out of state and they could not take the dog with them. **Daisy** was reported by the surrendering owner to be housebroken, loved playing tug with a rope toy and squeaking squeaky toys. She knows "sit," enjoys

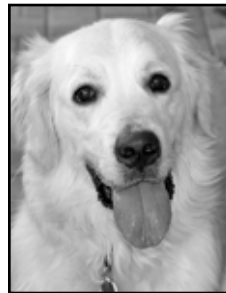
her walks and likes to sit next to a person watching TV. **Daisy** was well taken care of and came in with almost all of her vetting done. She only had to have a valley fever test and heartworm/tick fever test and exam. All was well and her tests all negative. At the new home, **Daisy** and resident dog **Roxie** hit it off right away and seemed to really

like playing run-and-chase... **Roxie** is bigger, but **Daisy** is faster! She has been adopted by Angelica and Allen in Phoenix. Transporter Connie reported: Poor



little Daisy was very scared when I picked her up. Her owner was very, very sad and I could see that she and her daughter took excellent care of Daisy. She rode quietly in the crate to her new home. At first she was very shy and wary of the new family, especially Allen. However, he was extremely patient in winning her over; and within ½ hour she was happily running around from person to person with no fear. With the resident dog, Roxie, it was love at first sight and they immediately commenced to playing and running. Daisy eyed the pool; I was glad to see that she was aware of it but made no attempt to get in. Once they were all comfortable with each other we sat down to go over the contract and everything. Her new buddy took her for a tour of the house and they had a blast. Allen mentioned that Daisy was a lookalike to a dog that they had prior to getting married and was just thrilled with her. She might be mostly Corgi/ Golden mix, but I also think

there is a little more to her than just the two. In any case, cute as a button! Allen told me that Roxie never plays with toys. But this morning she picked up one of Daisy's and was squeaking it! No problems at all! It looks like a match made in Heaven.



20-031 Luna is a beautiful 16-month-old English Cream Golden. The surrendering owner had a contract with the breeder (we always check), but the breeder did not want her back. That was a lucky day for Patty, Mike and their three teenaged children in Phoenix! The owner's son and girlfriend originally had purchased **Luna** as a puppy, but they broke up and gave the dog to the son's mom. She could not keep the dog,

though, due to her own health issues – the dog was too big and needed too much exercise for her to manage. **Luna** was vetted at **Four-Legged Friends Animal Hospital** and given our standard valley fever and heartworm/tick fever tests. She had an ear infection that was treated and was sent home with medication. She was also microchipped with an **AGR** chip. Patty and Mike offered to foster **Luna**.

Two of their resident dogs were older and their newly-adopted puppy, **20-021 Sully**, needed a playmate. You can guess what happened... just a few days after **Luna** was transported to their home, foster failure! They renamed her **Winnie** and everyone is gloriously happy now. The two young dogs gave the teenagers something to do during the long lockdown of the summer and fall, and the two furkids keep everyone entertained with their antics. Happy new life, **Winnie**!



Winnie and Sully

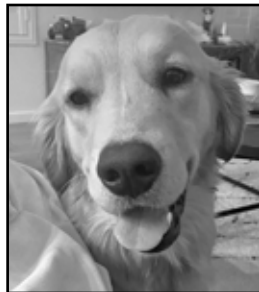
20-032 Ruby was quite sick when she came to us in September. She had black, tarry diarrhea and a valley fever titer of 1:16, for which she was taking fluconazole. She was not spayed and had



only had one set of puppy shots. The owner had gotten her off Craig's List from a farmer who kept her outside and fed her the innards of the cows he butchered. She was pooping rocks when he got her. She had developed a fever and the owner was putting her in a tub of cold water every day to get her temperature down, but he felt he could not handle any more medical

expenses. We took her to **Animal Medical and Surgical Center** in Scottsdale. **Ruby** had X-rays and was given medication for her intestinal issues. She was tested for valley fever and found to be negative. To make sure, another test was done a month later: still negative. She also received a booster distemper/parvo vaccination. After being cleared from her earlier issues, **Ruby** was spayed and is now a healthy and happy girl. Stephanie and Greg in Scottsdale had recently lost their old **AGR** dog, **11-009 Kasey**, and were really wanting another Golden. Male, they thought, since that was **Kasey's** gender. But they got a girl and could not be happier! Stephanie sent an update: **Ruby** was very skittish when she came to us. With the help of the **AGR** Behaviorist, Sharon McKenzie, she is not as skittish but still has a ways to go. We were very happy that she got along with our 10-year-old Border Collie, **Bandit**. They love each other and kiss each other all the time. **Ruby** is such a sweet, gentle dog. Originally I really wanted a puppy, but **Ruby** is exactly what we needed. We are so thankful and appreciative to everything that **AGR** has done for us and for all the good work they do for the sake of the dogs.

20-034 Keeley, now **Stevie** (any Schitt's Creek fans?), is truly one of the sweetest and smartest dogs according to her new family, Kristin and Joe in Chandler. **Keeley** was vetted at **Kenel Care** in Chandler and updated on all her vaccinations, plus she had heartworm/tick fever and valley fever tests and was microchipped. She was also spayed after pre-surgical blood work showed she was a healthy girl. This 13-month-old girl was very skittish and nervous when we brought her to the FWITAs. Kristin commented:



*We had a great evening and **Keeley/Stevie** slept in a pen next to our bed. Went out around 2 AM when the other pup did and peed and pooped. She is eating like a champ and doing very well. Has claimed Joe as hers. Took the three for a walk and decided to take Connie up on the Halti/leash combo, as she does not do well on a regular collar and leash. We are absolutely in love! An update a couple weeks later: Now, after*



Stevie in the middle of the puppy pack

*getting settled in the past couple weeks, her personality is shining. She loves her evening walks with her pack (we are still learning leash training but she is quickly catching on), she LOVES feeding time with Mom's homemade pumpkin/chicken treats, and her favorite thing is to wrestle with her brother and sister every morning bright and early. She even tolerates her 16-week-old sister who sometimes doesn't have the best manners! **Stevie** can't wait to start daycare next month with her siblings and play all day with other dogs! We feel blessed to complete our pack with this girl, and we are very thankful that **AGR** brought sweet **Stevie** into our lives. **Stevie's** adoption was finalized with an addendum for follow-up treatment of an ear infection.*



20-035 Sadie, about 1 ½ years old, was adopted by Michelle and Jim in Chandler. She had a long trip to get to them, though, all the way from a small town near Roswell, New Mexico. Her owner had found her as a skin-and-bones stray back in March. By December, she realized that her work hours were such that **Sadie** was left alone for a long time every day and she knew that

wasn't good for a Golden. The owner contacted Carolyn through a private message on Facebook. Carolyn and Peter graciously offered to go get **Sadie** and even donated the trip cost (thank you!). They drove her directly to the FWITAs' home, and Connie met them there to facilitate the administrative work and take photos. **Sadie** is a lovely cream-colored Golden who needed our standard intake exam with a valley fever test, a heartworm test and spay surgery; her vaccines were up to date. She also had a skin condition which needed treatment. **Sadie** has an addendum to check on and treat her skin condition for three months post adoption. Michelle and Jim have three other non-Golden dogs, all of whom are named after some kind of liquor: **Guinness**, **Stella (Artois)**, and **Brandy**. They finally settled on **Hennessey** as a new name for **Sadie** and call her **Henny** for short. Carolyn Brown commented on the new name: *Hennessey is a fine, expensive cognac! One of the vintages is VSPO "Very Privileged", which something tells me she definitely is!*

MICROCHIPS

All **AGR** dogs are microchipped. Do you own another dog? Not just an **AGR** dog, but a dog from any rescue organization that microchips their dogs, or a dog that you have had a veterinarian microchip for you? Have you moved since you adopted the dog? If so, please contact the microchip company and give them your new contact information. Without your current address and phone information in their database, the company cannot trace your dog to you if it happens to get out and wander off.

OVER THE RAINBOW

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



09-039 Maggie Hill

11-046 Shanley Oline



11-046 Mufasa Orwig

12-056 Buddy Fischer



12-059 Riley Hetrick

12-140 Maggie Tavor



14-050 Bentley Praul

14-082 Trisara Rampmeier



16-022 Max Erickson

16-070 Simba Pasiecznik



19-019 Sierra McCabe / Dodson

19-044 Dallas Orwig



20-002 Doug Amaral

Carter Angarella



The Rainbow Bridge Squiggy Crow

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.



Flora Carson

Squiggy Crow



Winslow Oline

Sweetie Slagowski



AGR Members and Relatives

Candy Millsop, AGR Member

Martha Anderson

Beloved sister of AGR member Debbie Ball

Lenora Sue Franklin

Beloved mother of AGR member Jill Imler

June Newton

Beloved mother of AGR member Craig Newton

Petco Foundation's Holiday Wishes Contest

In early August, I received a notice from **Petco Foundation** about their upcoming *Holiday Wishes* contest. I read the contest rules, reviewed the winning stories from last year and thought, "We can do this!" I sent the following message to all adopters:

Would you please help **Arizona Golden Rescue** win a Holiday Wishes Grant from **Petco Foundation**? All you have to do is submit a short story about how your adopted dog has changed your life for the better – easy!

- There is no cost to submit a story.
- The story cannot be more than 500 words.
- The story must be about a living dog or a bonded pair, one per story and one story per household. You will need to mention the current age of your dog.
- Emphasis in the story should be on how the dog has made a difference to you and/or your family (the change does not have to be extreme) – share the big and small ways your pet brightens your life.

Here is what **Petco Foundation** said: "We're looking for a diverse range of stories that celebrate the simple ways that pets bring more joy to life, to one-of-a-kind, extraordinary stories. We want all adopters to be able to see themselves in these stories, and animal lovers of all backgrounds to be inspired by the life-changing power of adoption."

Last year's big winner of \$25,000 had 50 submissions – with about 800 adopted dogs still living, we could easily beat that! So, submit your story soon!

By 11:33 PM on September 22nd, when the final story was submitted, we confirmed **102** submissions! So many of our adopters came through in wonderful support of **Arizona Golden Rescue**! We sincerely thank you all. We did not win the \$25,000, but we did win **\$5,000** for third place! Fact: At contest time, we had rescued a total of 1,063 dogs since we began in 2009. Facts: The top-submissions winner in 2020 rescues 100 animals per month! The next-to-top winner rescues close to 2,000 per year. See box on page 23.

I would like to thank our Grants Writer Rebecca Mackerman for setting up **AGR** on the *Holiday Wishes* contest site. She checked the site daily for new entries to confirm that the dogs being written about were **AGR** dogs. The last couple of days before the contest closed, she visited the site multiple times to be sure every story was confirmed. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, Rebecca!

All who submitted a story were listed in our November 2020 issue. At my request, many of them sent me their story and the submitted photos, so now you can read some of these, too. The stories are not presented in any kind of order – I put all the names in a bowl and pulled them out one by one. I have not done any editing on any of the stories. Enjoy!

17-023 Axel By Jen M.

On March 10th, 2017 I saw his story on Facebook & something told me he needed to be part of our family. With support of some amazing people with **Ari-**

zona Golden Rescue, it became possible. He came to us with the name of **Paddy** & was so scared. He had been hit by a car, had a few wounds & just had FHO surgery, so had some recovering to do! After he was settled, I could not wait to hug him & when I did, I just knew this was meant to be. I called him **Axel** & if you could have seen his eyes it was like he knew his name before I said it! Our family & his new furry siblings laid by him day & night, making sure he didn't feel alone. His recovery went well & quickly compared to what we were expecting. After a few months, he became more comfortable & it was like he has been with us since the day he was born. Then 5 / 11 on June 5th, we were excited to hear the news that he was officially **Axel** & now with his FOREVER family!

When you see **Axel** now you would never know he had anything wrong with him (unless you saw him hop, which he did for a while when he got tired or in a hurry). He really is the most beautiful boy, his eyes are captivating; when you look into them you see the love & he never takes them off me when he's by my side. I think he adores me just as much as I do him. The smile he gives when I enter a room brightens my day! His markings are like nothing I have ever seen. And his tail, well, it looks like it belongs on a fox; when he wags it, it lets off quite a breeze! I guess that's because he spins it in a circle. He wants to be with someone at all times, loves hugs & kisses, and loves to give them back!

Axel is very intelligent. He already knew quite a bit when he came home to us, but when you ask something of him it only takes one time & he remembers. I sure wish he could talk so I could know what he's thinking, because it seems like he has a lot to say by the expressions he makes. He loves to watch TV, though when he sees any animal on the screen he tends to get excited & thinks they are really there. If he is in another room and hears a commercial that has animals on it, he will run to see it. He will always tell you when he needs something by giving a bark. He loves to play, go on walks, go to the park, visiting the beach & going out for special treats.

I'm forever thankful for the day I saw those eyes & couldn't imagine our lives without our boy **Axel**!!

11-091 Keller By David J.

After losing our beloved dog of 15 years, **Maggie**, to cancer, we weren't sure we wanted to ever go through that again. Thus, no more dogs for us (or so I thought). About a year later, a friend associated with *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)*, encouraged us to reconsider foster/adoption. We had always wanted a Golden and realized that our family was "missing" that special thing that canines bring to a family. So, we applied. After much thought and discussion, we agreed...we thought an adult female with no special needs would be the best fit for us. Within a few weeks we received the much welcomed call that they had a dog for us. However, the person from *AGR* said the dog wasn't exactly what we had requested, but they thought that we might be a great fit for the dog. See, we forgot that "rescue" is really about fitting the home to the dog, not the other way around. First, she shared it was an 8-week-old puppy! Oh, and it was a boy...and there was this special circumstance...he was born blind. Might we be willing to at least meet him? *AGR* knew that my wife and I both had backgrounds working with children with special needs and thus, thought we might be just what he needed to have a complete life. We agreed to think about it. We called back 10 minutes later and said yes.



So, we met him, took him home, and have been blessed with his presence ever since. On October 5, **Keller** (yes, after Helen Keller) will be 9 years old. What an absolutely remarkable member of our family! We added 4-month-old **Bo** to the family later thinking he might provide good companionship and guidance for **Keller**. In an interesting twist, however, **Keller**, not realizing he was the one without sight, took **Bo's** leash to show him around his new home. He represents the "senior" of our now 3 Golden and doesn't let the other dogs forget that (and yes, they do defer to him). He is such a joy, filled with love for all...especially the grandkids! While sightless on the outside, his "insight" astounds. His greeting skills make all who visit feel special and welcome. He knows when anyone is down and brings his special brand of love and care to uplift them. He brings smiles to everyone. Our friends often forget he's blind, because he is so adept at getting around.

While his life has been filled with barriers, he never complains and meets all challenges with strength and resilience. He had surgery on both elbows during his first year. In addition, he survived Bloat thanks to emergency surgery. That was followed by multiple bouts with Valley Fever and also a near fatal episode of pneumonia. Through all of this, his kind and loving nature has never wavered. His life has been an example to all...he lives, he loves, and yes, he overcomes!

19-005 Dillon By Debbie B.

Dillon was an owner surrender to *Arizona Golden Rescue* in January 2019 from a couple who had new jobs and no longer had enough time for him. I was very fortunate to be chosen as his new owner and adopter. This beautiful, handsome, reddish-gold, four-year-old male golden retriever was to be the perfect addition to our home! My husband had been placed into a Memory Care support center several months earlier, and our home was lonely with just me and my female 5-year-old golden retriever. We both needed another creature in the household to love and cherish.



From the moment **Dillon** entered our house, he has been the perfect dog! He is so very well behaved, knows many tricks including how to jump on command, loves his toys, absolutely loves to fetch anything, loves to ride in the car, and walks pretty well on the leash. He and my female golden, **Shelby**, play numerous times during the day, and **Dillon** picked up on our daily routine so very quickly. Within the first few months of his life with us, **Dillon** became a wonderful ambassadog for *AGR* with his donation vest at various group meet-and-greet events, helping to raise money for *Arizona Golden Rescue*. I've also taken him to the memory care facility to visit my husband, and **Dillon** does very well with visiting the residents there. Most of the staff and residents greatly appreciate seeing this big boy and giving him generous pets and loving attention.

Dillon has been the answer to my fondest wishes. I could not have hoped for a better dog. Being a big, relatively young, full-grown adult, he needs lots of exercise. So, he has gotten me into a routine of either walking him and **Shelby** daily, or we swim in the pool daily, weather-permitting. **Dillon** is quite the swimmer and readily jumps in to fetch the toy! And since he loves to fetch, he has taught me patience since he will firmly plant any toy in my lap over and over and over again, waiting for me to throw the toy so he can bring it back. He has a real need to retrieve. He has given me much joy and laughter watching his comical antics playing with **Shelby**, tugging with toys, circling in excitement, and running around the coffee table. I am grateful that every time I come home he is the first one waiting at the door to see me. He has given me security in knowing he will bark to announce any coming visitors, arriving delivery packages, or unusual sounds in our quiet neighborhood. And he gives me comfort at night as I listen to him snoring on the floor beside my bed.

I am truly blessed with this wonderful boy, **Dillon**, and I cannot imagine my life without him. While I gave him a home, he has given me so much love and contentment!

18-022 Mimi By Jocelyn R.



In my house, dogs are family. In 2018, I was finally able to accept that my diva dog, **Roxy** was gone and my heart had healed enough after 2 years to accept another wet nose into my life. My daughters started to bug me that I needed another fur baby to be there for me and for **Bubba**, my 8-year-old golden. I found myself checking the *Arizona Golden* website often and decided to put in my application for another rescue.

I knew I did not want to go through the puppy stage again, so I requested a dog between 3-7 years old. Soon a golden mix became available. I had high hopes as I took **Bubba** to meet him. Unfortunately, this beautiful guy was just too overwhelming for my sweet **Bubba Joe**. Even the behaviorist who tried to work with them on our second meeting thought it was not the best fit. As my daughter and I were walking **Bubba** to our car, the volunteer from *Arizona Golden Rescue* mentioned a young “2-year-old” golden-mix, that had just come in a few days ago. Not much was known about her as she had been passed around and the woman who had her lived in an apartment and thought she was part golden. Of course, I could not leave without seeing her. They brought out this Australian Shepherd looking fluff-ball who ran straight at me and threw her body belly-side up right at my feet! That was all it took! Mimi was mine.

It would be great to say everything went smoothly but that would have been too perfect. Being told she was 2 years old, her behavior of chewing, digging, jumping and plain old terrorizing **Bubba** by chasing and nipping at him was frustrating! After she gained 10 pounds in just 6 weeks, I came to realize she was a puppy and nowhere close to the estimated age given! I had to readjust my expectations and go back to puppydom! Not only that, her temperament and inconsistent upbringing made her anxious, making training and incorporating her into our lifestyle difficult. However, at every moment when I was most frustrated – when she dug up my sprinkler system, destroyed numerous plants and shoes, etc. – all I had to do was to look at that sweet face and those eyes which said “Mama, I love you!” and everything was forgiven.

Mimi is now 3 years old, for real. We had to say good-bye to **Bubba** this past March, the last day before COVID-19 lockdown, which has left another hole in my heart. However, it is the constant companionship of this little princess who has taken me through these very strange times, waking me up with a kiss for a belly rub and passing quality time hiking and learning new tricks to show off just how amazing she really is! **Mimi** is the light of my life with just enough spunk and attitude to entertain me and keep me on my toes!

17-076 Sasha and 17-077 Sultan By Deborah V.



Sultan and Sasha

Depression is different. It is all encompassing for the whole family and deep, very deep in your soul. We were running out of solutions and then two golden retrievers came to our rescue.

My husband, a very social guy, in a new job requiring a home office and constant solitary travel. The head office executive staff was negative and toxic leaving little positive in his life on which to focus.

We had been without a dog for three years at this point and were sure we could not go through the loss of another. It was suggested by family that we consider getting a dog to provide a different focus. We reached out to *Arizona Golden Rescue* and they were so kind and helpful. As luck would have it, we were asked to consider a bonded pair. Wait two?! We drove out to meet them and fell in love immediately! They too, had gone through their struggles of being returned many times back to *AGR*. They are beautiful together and I cannot imagine separating them.

Our gorgeous female Sasha, age 6, feels she must be our protector from other dogs. We needed assistance in learning how to handle her on the leash. *AGR* was right there to teach us by providing a canine behaviorist at no charge! We learned so much from this patient guide, Sharon, and Sasha now has tackled her challenges all while helping “Dad” with his.

Sultan, age 9, is our ever patient, couch potato that lives to make sure we know we are loved. My handsome prince! Never without his ball, we are almost sure he is a former Short Stop. He teases Sasha off the couch with her favorite toy to make room for himself. When snoozing they will even lay paw to paw reminding us of how important their bond is. They now hold down the carpet in my husband’s home office, keeping him company and gently reminding him it is time to focus on them not his challenges. They have not yet learned how to answer the phone for him. That may come in time.

Depression across the planet has increased with the solitary world now dictated by Covid-19. I cannot imagine where we would be without our wonderful Golden pair. As cliché as it sounds. These two rescued us. We now experience love rather than loneliness. The three years we went without the love of a dog was deafening. Our phone call to *Arizona Golden Rescue* saved our lives.



12-133 *Hannah* By Cynthia W.

It was a beautiful November afternoon in 2012. Members of *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)*, Denny and Deb, volunteers on the transport team, met us near our home for an introduction to **Rosebud** #12-133. At first sight, **Rosebud** was a petite Golden, absolutely darling, but her size was just a physical description. She was so frightened. Frightened to leave the comfort of Deb's arms, leaving us to

wonder if she would come out to meet us and our resident Golden, **Bailey**. Thankfully, with Deb and Denny's reassurance, she left the car to nervously meet her new brother and her new human parents. *A Rosebud by any other name, is still the same.* We loved **Rosebud's** name, it was so fitting for her, but, it was also very similar to a family member's name. A new name was in order, so **Rosebud** blossomed into **Hannah**. It took a several days for **Hannah** to investigate her new surroundings and gain confidence with **Bailey**. In that time, two things were immediately evident about **Hannah**: 1) She had the most infectious smile of any Golden we'd ever met, and 2) she was very shy, yet was beginning to relax and thrive in the comfort and love of her new home and family. We, including **Bailey**, were smitten.

Several years flew by and life was good for **Hannah**, with daily walks, a large pool shared with **Bailey** and her newest challenge, certifying as a therapy dog. This once shy girl, who was frightened of the sound of shoes shuffling on a gravel road (and every other noise) was now ready to walk the road to success, passing her final certification, earning the title of Certified Therapy Dog. **Hannah** and I have visited several memory care/senior living communities. Hundreds of seniors have been touched by **Hannah's** gentle personality and her ability to invoke a glimmer in the eyes of a long-silenced Alzheimer's resident, or the shaking hands of a Parkinson's friend. Her diminutive stature and personality are the perfect match for the active residents, too. Once again, **Hannah's** infectious smile is enjoyed by everyone she meets, including two retired veterinarians, she now calls friends. The joy she shares doesn't end when her therapy vest is removed. **Hannah** is equally calming and approachable by people we meet when running errands. *Walmart, Lowe's* and many other places all welcome her and her gentle, well-mannered nature. We look forward to 2021, when the now 9-1/2 year old **Hannah** can return to visiting her friends, as we call the senior residents, and going on shopping trips to the delight of many shoppers. The once shy 18-month old has grown into a well-adjusted adult, sharing her golden light with us and all she meets. Every day is just a little bit sweeter with **Hannah** in our lives. That she has touched the hearts of so many outside of our family, with a sprinkling of her golden light, is icing on the cake of **Hannah's** life and a blessing in our lives.

13-039 *Lucca* By Julie T.

Over seven years ago, *Arizona Golden Rescue* called to let our family know that a Golden Retriever puppy needed a home. Wow! A puppy? Naturally, we said yes! We met **Lucca** on April 19, 2013, and immediately fell in love. **Lucca** was a wiggly, spunky, beautiful, and extremely curious puppy! He was and still is fascinated with everything. He loves to go on walks, go swimming, watch television, search for

bunnies, and play with his best friend, **Finley**! **Lucca** brightens our day, every day! After a long day of work or just simply running an errand, **Lucca** is there to greet us with a wiggly welcoming hug and a huge smile. **Lucca** has a true gift for knowing when someone is not feeling well, had a bad day, or is sad. He is very affectionate and nurturing, and will not leave the individual's side until he knows things are better. Sadly, we nearly lost **Luke** in August of 2018, when he was diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy (an enlarged heart) and heart failure. Thanks to the expertise and dedication of his cardiologist, his veterinarian, and a multitude of medications, two years later he's beating the odds and still with us! His enlarged heart has only made him more loving! At 7.5 years old, he still acts like a youthful puppy. **Lucca** loves everyone and is everybody's best friend. He is always the life of the party and makes us laugh every single day. We are grateful for each and every day with **Lucca** and are truly blessed to have him in our lives.

18-058 *Gypsy* and 18-059 *Apollo* By Daniel L.

Gypsy and **Apollo** came to our house in July of 2018 and changed our life instantly. They helped our broken hearts to heal faster after losing our beloved Golden Retriever, **Zeus**, just 17 months earlier. They made us enjoy the outdoors more and sit on the couch



less. They are taking us for vacation. Last year they took us to White Mountains and San Diego where we got to enjoy long hikes and plenty of playtime on a dog beach. This year they decided that vacation in Flagstaff and Sedona would be wonderful, and we did have a great time indeed! Somewhere along the way they asked for an older sister who could watch them when we're not at the house, so we adopted **Lady** the Goldendoodle (also a rescue). All three of them are very bonded and love each other. Earlier this year the twins came to a conclusion that our house was too small, the backyard wasn't big enough and it didn't have a pool. So we had

no choice but to sell the house and get a bigger one with 0.38 acre lot and a pool. Well... It actually has a pool and jacuzzi, because **Gypsy** loves to swim and **Apollo** loves to sit and cuddle in water. Our babies also have an expensive taste when it comes to food and they love proactive visits at their veterinarian, so they are not cheap! They were only about 15 months old when they came into our life and they were a handful! But with lots of love, patience and positive training they turned into the best dogs. They are golden!

17-004 Emma By Liz T.

Have you ever been stuck in a rut, thinking only one way? After retirement, I think I lost some of that "look at all sides" outlook. Years ago, when I found my first Golden Retriever, I thought this is it, THE dog I will always have. And then one day, **Emma** came into my life.

I knew friends who had Doodles. Our Rescue took in Goldendoodles, but I never thought I'd get one – half poodle, nope. Well, **Emma** came to me for medical rehabilitation after her surgical procedure for a fractured femur. Thirteen months old, black with wavy hair and a little golden on her muzzle. She had not been using the leg for a while before surrender to **Arizona Golden Rescue** so she had lost half her muscle mass.



One of Emma's rehab exercises was swimming; she now loves the pool

After recovery from the surgery and weeks of walking and other rehab exercises, she was not improving, so another procedure was done. Again, more rehabilitation – this time a rehabilitation vet was added. She progressed and progressed. She loved to lie on the bed while I

treated her with a TENS unit that stimulated her hip and leg muscles. She didn't like walking outside when loud trucks went by, but she trusted me to protect her and we walked for miles. What a sweetheart.

One day it dawned on me... this is a great dog! What had I been doing by thinking so narrowly that I might have missed a great dog and friend? Time to get out of my rut and open my mind to other possibilities. So much so, a couple of years later, I adopted another Goldendoodle, **Watson**. **Watson** is different from **Emma** but still a great dog. Glad I did not miss him by thinking only one breed of dog was for me, that only one way I thought was right or correct. Thank you, **Emma**!

Now I extend that idea to what I do, who I meet and how to look at all things. Open your mind; look at all sides because you might miss something great in this world.

14-065 Maggie By Amanda R.



August 30, 2014 was one of the best days of my life because that's when **Maggie** walked into it. I had just graduated college and been hired for my first big girl job, and was ready to fulfill my lifelong dream of adopting a Golden Retriever.

I don't know much about **Maggie's** life before it intertwined with mine, but what I do know breaks my heart. We guessed she was about 2 years old, she had recently had puppies, she was severely malnourished, her hair was coarse and her nails brittle, and she was covered in ticks. She has a misshapen tail that the vet says is the result of it being broken in two places. Despite facing these hardships, it was as obvious then as it is now that **Maggie** is the sweetest, most loving, and playful girl! We became inseparable from the moment the volunteers of **Arizona Golden Rescue** brought her to me.

As I said, that year brought a lot of change in my life. I moved home from college and I started my career as a nurse. As any RN will tell you, the first year of nursing is incredibly stressful. I can't tell you how many times I arrived home from work in tears, but **Maggie** was always waiting to kiss them away. That same year I experienced a great deal of loneliness when my best friends moved away from Arizona to pursue jobs and graduate school. But **Maggie's** gentleness cured my sadness. When **Maggie** knows you're upset she sits right in front of you and puts her paw on your shoulder. She has the sweetest soul of any dog I've ever known. **Maggie** and I have experienced a lot together: moves, breakups, new jobs, illnesses, but she's always there, ready to put a paw on my shoulder.

Fast forward 6 years, and **Maggie** is still one of the best parts of my life. She was even the flower girl in my wedding! She and my husband's dog are best friends. They spend their days playing, chasing rabbits, and getting belly rubs. She goes everywhere with us! She loves to go on the boat when my husband goes fishing. In fact, if she knows he's getting it ready, she goes outside and sits by the boat, refusing to move, so that he won't go without her.

I could go on forever about all the ways that **Maggie** makes my life better but the fact is, she just does. The way she greets me by the door, the excitement she shows when I ask her if she wants to go for a ride, the way she rolls in the dirt and swims in the lake, her sleepy face when I wake her up...everything about her warms my heart. She makes a difference in my life everyday, simply by being herself.

13-021 *Darby* By Sarah G.

2020 has not gone as expected due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. My busy job as a traveling attorney for a Bank quickly halted and I began a work from home posture on March 17, 2020. While I was a bit apprehensive of this new home office environment,

my rescue golden, **Darby**, was equally as unsure of this new arrangement. **Darby** joined my home from *Arizona Golden Rescue* as a boisterous 11 month old puppy. He had a penchant for snacking on Apple charging cables and any remote control within his reach. To get out some of his excess energy, I used to take him for walks in the morning and at night. This helped to tire him out during the day so that he could nap while I worked and then he would be ready to play again when I got home. Over the last several years, we have continued with our evening walks, if the Arizona weather permitted and have adjusted to having some alone time during the day. Within one week of my new 2020 work from home arrangement, **Darby** and me were struggling to adjust to our new routine. My hourly conference calls were interrupting **Darby's** nap time, and **Darby's** afternoon bird greeting sessions were interrupting my various client calls. To compromise, we went back to basics. Around lunch time every afternoon, I would take **Darby** out for a short walk around the neighborhood. **Darby** would get to go greet all of the birds and smell all the smells, and I would get to take a break and reconnect with nature. Once we returned to the house, I would get back on my conference calls, and **Darby** would return to his relaxation time in the corner of my office. Although the work from home assignment was not what I was expecting for 2020, **Darby** has helped me to see the value in slowing down, taking time to relax, getting outside to enjoy the fresh air, and taking change in stride. About a month ago, **Darby** began experiencing some scary health issues. I was grateful to have had the time to spend with him over the last 6 months so that I knew almost immediately when something was not quite right. I have also been grateful to have had the time to take **Darby** to various specialists and collaborate with his professionals to come up with a treatment plan. As we embark on the last quarter of 2020, we are approaching it with renewed zest for life and with gratitude for the time we have had together and the remaining time we have to left to get out and take in the world around us.

10-069 *Lucy* By Carol T.

Lucy came to us a one-year old golden retriever without hip sockets. We fostered her through two surgeries, where she received new hip support thanks to a surgeon who is a miracle worker. The surgery gave **Lucy** the use of her legs for everyday activities. She will run after a ball only in short sprints, and then only once or twice. Most goldens will run after a ball till the cows come home, but not our **Lucy**. She knows her limits and she won't push them.

At 73, I have medical issues that limit my lifestyle considerably. I cannot shop without a motorized cart. I miss church, volunteer work, so many things I use to do. I have good days and bad days but with **Lucy** here, the good usually outnumber the bad. When I'm having a bad day, **Lucy** does such sweet things, like bringing me her favorite toy. Do her acts of kindness make me feel better? Of course! Her exuberance is impossible to ignore. She continues to make me smile and laugh daily. I will always have pain, but with **Lucy** I've been given a nudge – or push to think of each day in a positive way.

Lucy likes delivering items to a neighbor, who waits on her driveway for **Lucy** to bring her "the goods". **Lucy** delivers, gets some loving and then rushes back home, mission accomplished. Her favorite "task" is fetching the mail. **Lucy** and Don go to the mailbox, and when the mail carrier drives up, **Lucy** steps up on the first step and leans forward for a piece of mail. Our new mail carrier was delighted to see her step up to greet him and he said "You must be **Lucy**! Everyone at the post office knows about you!" Then with mail in her mouth, **Lucy** heads back to the house with Don.



Because of **Lucy**, I have learned Appreciation. Witnessing her zest for life, after everything she has been through, has made me appreciate all of the good things in my life, and there are so many. Appreciation is in my thoughts daily. **Lucy** also taught me Acceptance. Before **Lucy** I really worried a lot about the future, my children, my husband, just about everything. Since **Lucy** joined us, I don't worry so much. I take one day at a time. **Lucy** also taught me that giving up is not an option. Accepting my limitations as gracefully as possible is now my goal.

For **Lucy**, each day is an adventure in which I'm involved, and this has helped me immensely. **Lucy** and I have grown old together, and she rarely leaves my side. She is a true "Velcro" golden. Such devotion from one of God's creatures is truly humbling.

For **Lucy**, each day is an adventure in which I'm involved, and this has helped me immensely. **Lucy** and I have grown old together, and she rarely leaves my side. She is a true "Velcro" golden. Such devotion from one of God's creatures is truly humbling.

19-081 Riley and 19-082 Cassie By Sharon F.



In 2011 life changed dramatically. In May my daughter-in-law passed away, followed by my husband in July, then my Mom in September. I was numb, and the grief was debilitating. My daughter suggested I rescue a Golden. I contacted *Ari-*

zona Golden Rescue (AGR) and was very fortunate to be chosen to adopt **Honey**, a 7-year-old who was my Velcro dog. She opened a whole new world for me, helped to alleviate my grief and saved my sanity. **Honey** went to the Bridge in 2015 and my heart wasn't ready to have another dog in my life, but I found my niche with *AGR* as a foster. *AGR* had lots of potential adopters but very few foster only homes so they were glad to know I was available to foster and not picky about age, gender or illness. I was a quiet home for Golden Retrievers to recuperate from surgery or sickness. By 2019, I had fostered 23 Golden Retrievers. They ranged in age from 7 weeks to 10 years; there were 15 singles and 4 pairs. Each stayed until they had recuperated, which was anywhere from a couple of weeks to 10 months. I was happy to see each go to his or her forever home knowing I had helped each dog regain their health, and each improved my perspective on the world as a better place.

While this story is really about the two special Golden Retrievers I have adopted – I have 23 Golden Retrievers that live in my heart if not in my home. I was then asked to foster a pair of 13-year-old sisters. They were originally surrendered to *AGR* due to a lost job. They went to a loving home for 3 years then one day a neighbor realized she had not seen the dogs or the lady for two days and used her key to go into the home. Disaster as **Cassie & Riley** were with the lady for two days as she lay dying. The family lived out of state so they were returned to rescue again. From the moment they walked into my life I knew they were special. Finding a home for one 13-year-old dog is hard but a pair of 13-year-old sisters was going to take a while.

Cassie and **Riley** are extremely bonded. They are never out of each other's sight. **Riley** always goes out a door first but waits on **Cassie**. **Cassie** is a bit hard of hearing so **Riley** watches over her and will lick her face to tell her it is okay. When sleeping they touch each other in some way.

I realized to move them again would be as traumatic for me as for them so I adopted them. I live alone and my family lives thousands of miles away. During this pandemic they have given me love, they provide companionship so I don't feel so isolated, they bring me smiles daily and they give me a purpose in my life.

19-016 Chloe By Cindy A.

Chloe came into our lives in March of 2019, and we officially adopted her April 11th. Timid at first, she quickly became "The Little Prancing Princess". Even **Carter**, our eleven-year-old Golden, immediately took to her; although he was rather confused at first, because there was something different about her. We soon found out that **Chloe** was in heat. We have never had a female dog before, so this was all new to us. A true learning experience! After waiting a few months, we were able to get her spayed at the *Stetson Hill Veterinary Clinic*, where we also found out that our little **Chloe** had Valley Fever and the indicators of potential hip dysplasia. Poor baby! The good news is that her Valley Fever numbers are significantly down, and our vet has informed us that she might be taken off the medication by the end of September.



Chloe, now three years old, has completely taken over our household. Her favorite things to do are chewing on her squeaky toys, going for walks with us in the neighborhood twice a day while searching for rabbits, and teasing her brother **Carter** while playing in the backyard. Although **Chloe** still likes to catch and retrieve tennis balls, she seems to be afraid of large balls, such as Pilate/Yoga balls for some reason.

Chloe has also become an avid traveler. Because of the COVID lockdown, she has become so attached to us that it is almost impossible for us to leave the house! She will follow us everywhere – even into the bathroom! Once the lockdown was lifted and travel was permitted, we took **Chloe** and her brother on a few road trips this past summer. We drove up North to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and then to Flagstaff a couple of times to escape the heat; and she absolutely loved traveling! No car sickness either!

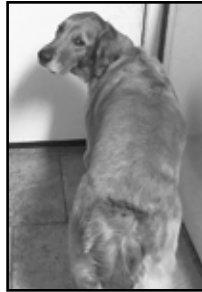


Chloe has recently attended basic and intermediate dog training and has graduated top of her class. Although she can be rather stubborn at times, we have seen a vast improvement in her behavior.

We love our little **Chloe-Patra** with her exotic eyeliner eyes, and she has totally taken over our hearts. Now that we both are retired and empty nesters, **Chloe** has become such an important part of our lives. Plus, she is such a great companion for her older brother **Carter** and keeps him young. **Chloe** is such a sweetie! Not only has she found her Forever Home, but we have also found our Forever **Chloe**.

18-003 Crosby By Doreen C.

We adopted **Crosby** almost three years ago. We already had a Golden Retriever, **Cooper**, but we knew we wanted to add to our family. The minute **Crosby** and **Cooper** met we knew they would be best friends. They definitely play and fight like real brothers, and they have even adopted each other's bad habits. **Crosby** has added so much love to our family. He definitely is an attention seeker and we all love to snuggle with him and bring him on car rides. **Crosby's** favorite thing each morning is going in the car and dropping the boys off at school. After he eats and goes outside, he waits by the door leading to the garage because he knows we will be leaving soon. On the mornings he can't come with us, the sad puppy eyes he gives breaks our hearts. When he does come on the drive, all the kids at school wave and say hi to him as we drive through the parking lot. He definitely missed this activity while the boys were doing online school because of COVID-19. **Crosby** loves to take **Cooper's** ball and hide it, and he doesn't play fetch very well. He will get the ball, but not bring it back. This drives **Cooper** crazy, and even if there is more than one ball to play with, they always want the same one. **Crosby** will be five in January, but we actually celebrate his birthday with treats, his favorite is a puppuccino from **Starbucks**, on the day his adoption was final. There is something so special about **Crosby** and his sweet ways that have truly brightened our lives. I always ask him, "how did you find me?" and I tell him, "I am the luckiest mom in the world." Since I have been working from home the last several months, **Crosby** (and **Cooper**) are always by my side and I call them my favorite coworkers. **Crosby** has even joined a couple of Zoom meetings and of course everyone loved seeing his sweet face. We kept the name that he had when we adopted him, but he now has a variety of nicknames including **Crozy Bear**, **Crozzington** and **Crozzle Hozzle**. I can't imagine our family without **Crosby** and I thank **Arizona Golden Rescue** for bringing him to us.



20-004 Madden By Rhonda C.

"It's time," I said to my husband Lorenzo one Sunday morning. He looked up from his newspaper. Looking down at our two rescue dogs, I pointed to them and reiterated, "It's time."

Five years earlier we had lost **Josh**, our 16-year-old Golden Retriever. Life had never been quite the same. Without fully understanding why, I knew it was the right time for us to begin our search for another Golden to complete



our pack. Knowing we wanted to rescue, we contacted **Arizona Golden Rescue** to begin the process. We knew it might take some time, but we were willing to wait for the right dog; one who would be a good fit for our family and other rescues. As it turned out, our wait was a short one. **Arizona Golden Rescue** called to tell us about **Madden**, a 10-year-old Golden who had lost his life-long home when his owner lost her home and had nowhere to go. Were we interested, they asked? Interested?! Without question, we said yes. A few days later **Madden** arrived; all 85-pounds of him. His big brown eyes sized us up and his signature Golden tail began wagging. It was love at first sight. That first night, **Madden** curled up on his new dog bed by my side of the bed. He sighed deeply. I did, too. He was home. And suddenly, our home felt complete again.

Now 10-1/2 years old, **Madden** feels like he has been a part of our family forever. His freckled wet nose wakes us up each morning as he rests his snout on the edge of the bed, urging us to get up. Lumbering downstairs, he begins each morning by choosing a stuffed animal to carry outside to greet the day. A shameless beggar, his sweet brown eyes plead for whatever is on our plates. No amount of scolding dashes his hope! It takes every bit of willpower on our part not to share, keeping him on a diet that keeps his weight in check so he remains a healthy senior. **Madden** lives to be adored. And he never stops adoring his "pawrents" in return. Working from home, **Madden** is a frequent guest attendee in my video conferences, wandering into my office looking for a pat on the head. He then sighs contentedly, settling down for a nap at my feet while I work at my computer. Adopting a senior Golden has brought such joy to our home. Our other rescues love his gentle nuzzles and kisses. So do we! His presence brings such comfort and quiet contentment to our hearts. **Madden** makes us laugh. He makes us slow down and appreciate the sunlight gleaming on his coat as he lays in the grass. As he runs outside with his stuffed animals, he reminds us to play. Looking into his soulful brown eyes, **Madden** reflects back to us the love that can only come from a rescue. These truly are happy Golden years!

19-059 Levi By Joan M.

There is nothing on earth quite like a senior Golden Retriever. After losing several seniors, my heart had to take a rest – but not for long! Last summer I began the search for that special senior to join our pack to be loved and spoiled through their final years. Then I saw him. Sweetness in Halloween attire. Yep, he was the one. He is a boy full of joy! Spinning and talking are part of his morning routine as he waits for me to fill his bowl. He is a constant companion, a delight to the soul and the dog everyone wants. It is my deep pleasure to love and live with **Levi** for as long as I am given.



10-037 Izzie By Denita K.



In 2009 we lost **Zoey**, our 10 year old female Golden to cancer. We were heartbroken. So was **Harley** our 10 year old male. He wouldn't eat or play and was very sad. We decided we would rescue a new little Golden girl, and contacted **AGR**. We went through the application process, and told them our preference was a young, light colored girl. A few months passed and we got the call that our girl had been rescued from a Puppy Mill in Tulsa, and would be here that week. She was perfect. **Isabelle**, **Izzie** for short was a little 6 month old blonde angel. We instantly fell in love with her. **Harley** did too. She made him act like a puppy. He showed her how to play, how to swim, and the best places to nap. **Izzie** is very sweet to everyone, but it soon became clear my husband was her person. They were inseparable. Wherever he went, she had to be touching him. My husband had developed a serious heart problem, and **Izzie** could sense when he was having chest pain, and would lay next to him with her head on his chest until the pain subsided. She helped nurse him after heart surgery. He says she saved his life, and I believe him. To this day she is the most gentle, kind and loving dog I have ever seen. Everyone that meets her falls in love with her, adults, children, cats and other dogs. She is the perfect Golden.



18-021 Natasha By Cindy T.



I first met 14 month old Goldendoodle, **Natasha**, while she was being fostered in our home for **AZ Golden Rescue**. She had been surrendered after her owner passed away and was just supposed to be at our house "for a few days". When her potential adoption fell through, I knew that she was already home with us. Because **Natasha** had never been socialized as a pup, she was a bit nervous when facing new situations. She and I began taking classes to help her feel more in control. While the classes worked magic for her, I was also gaining back much of the joy I had been missing since the loss of **Charm**, my first Golden and "heart" dog. **Tasha** and I have progressed on our healing journey together and now enjoy a sweet, funny, quirky relationship. She will always have an independent streak that is part of her crazy character. Facing all challenges is what has made our friendship special and so precious.

18-076 Cassie By Pat M.

When Did **Cassie** Make a Difference in my Life?

Was it when she came into **Arizona Golden Rescue** and I was called to see if I would foster her? I had just lost my Golden the day before, **Cassie** needed a home and I needed the comfort of a new dog to love on.



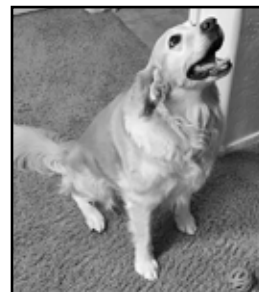
Maybe it was when she arrived at my home, came bounding in and immediately wanted the ball thrown for her.

Perhaps it's when she wants to be near me no matter where I am to let me know I am the most important person in her life.

I bet it could be when she comes over and lays her head on my lap so she can be petted.

It could even be when she digs a hole in the yard and when confronted turns away with an adorable sheepish grin.

Maybe it's when I come home from work and she does her award-winning "wiggle butt", complete with moans and groans, just to let me know I have been missed.



Possibly it's when I throw the ball for her to fetch and she immediately brings it back and lays it at my feet, time and time again.

It could even be when she looks at me with those big beautiful brown eyes that melt my heart.

Or, it could be when we go get pizza and she dances around in circles when we get home waiting for me to sit on the sofa and share with her.

There are so many more scenarios, but I guess it really doesn't matter when it happened, it just matters that it did.

TOP FIVE WINNERS in 2020
for Number of Submissions to *Holiday Wishes Contest*

- Muddy Paws Rescue NYC \$25,000**
- Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition \$10,000**
- Humane Rescue Alliance \$10,000**
- Ten Lives Club \$5,000**
- Arizona Golden Rescue \$5,000**

11-079 Jackson By Carol G.



Jackson came into our lives on November 20, 2011 as a foster with intent to adopt from *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)*. Although **Jackson** clearly isn't a golden retriever (he's all black!), *AGR* rescued him; that probably tells you a lot about the soul of the organization. He officially became ours on December 20, 2011.

When *AGR* rescued **Jackson**, he was about 8 months old and was found wondering the streets of Phoenix. He was diagnosed with Parvo and subsequently had a foot of his bowel removed to allow him to survive. His medical cost came to approximately \$7,000 for *AGR*.

Jackson has never learned to play with other dogs and as a result he'll leave the area, hide in the closet or literally take refuge by hiding behind one of us when one of the other dogs start to play. He's very independent and knows what he wants. The word "come" is arbitrary! Treats don't matter, unless he sniffs and thoroughly inspects them to ensure that they are of his quality and liking. When he was younger, I would take him with me horseback riding in the Coconino National forest near our house. We'd easily ride for 3 hours and he'd never tire. **Jackson** is 10 this year and as he's gotten older, he still loves his walks, but after 30 minutes or so, he's happy to go back into the car and go home.

Our Golden Retrievers have always required a lot of loving and attention. **Jackson**, not so much! Occasionally, he'll come up for affection, but after awhile he decides he's had enough and walks away. One thing that he loves to do is to give kisses; on the mouth; wet and sloppy! He especially loves to lick off Carmex from your lips and knows exactly when it's newly applied; no matter what room of the house you're in.

One of **Jackson's** greatest joys is to wait until I have my first cup of coffee in bed each morning. He'll then charge from the kitchen, into the bedroom, jump on the bed and bounce on top of me with the biggest smile you can imagine. He smiles even more if I'm screaming with delight during the process. Jackson would much rather be outside than inside any day. He'll sit directly in the hot sun when it's 100 degrees outside (he is pure black!). When we lived in Flagstaff, he would roll and bury himself in the snow, and pop out of the snow cave with a white tipped nose and a vigorous wagging tail. Catching balls or sticks are just below his pay grade and he will absolutely never retrieve. It's always life on Jackson's terms. Some may not like Jackson's quirks, but for us, it's who he is and we appreciate the intelligent and independent dog that he is. He has not changed our lives; but he has made our life richer and fuller.

18-018 Molly By Theresa C.

I have loved golden retrievers since childhood. The first dog I had as an adult that absolutely stole my heart was a golden retriever I got as a 9-week old puppy named **Soleil**. She was with me nearly 10 years before she succumbed to cancer. My heart was utterly broken. Around the same time I was moving to another state and starting a new job, so I decided I was not yet ready for a new dog.



Through a series of events in my life over the next 3 years, it was never really the right time to have a dog again. I passed time in between volunteering at animal shelters to get my "dog fix" but it would be a long time before I was ready to open my heart fully to another dog.

I first met with *Arizona Golden Rescue* while visiting a local *Petco* store and decided I was finally ready to open my heart to another dog. After going through a rigorous screening process, they contacted me about **Molly**, a 3-year old golden who was kept in a backyard with limited interaction with people.

Having only ever raised dogs from puppyhood, I wasn't sure what to expect getting an adult dog with limited social interaction skills, but **Molly** far exceeded my every expectation. She is so loving and sweet and friendly to everyone she meets, it is like she has never met someone who isn't immediately her friend.

For the first 2 years I had **Molly**, I traveled extensively for work, so she was either home with me or when I traveled she went to doggie daycare where she was a favorite of many of the staff and other pups because her warm and playful personality could win everyone over.

Little did I know the impact that COVID would have on my personal and professional life, with a 4-month gap in employment, and lots of free time suddenly on my hands, we welcomed 2 more pups to our family, an 8-week old pug puppy and an 8-year old rescue lab. **Molly** found the perfect way to be the bridge between two other dogs in a new place at very different points in their life and it is truly her presence that I know made our family whole once again.

I feel so fortunate that *Arizona Golden Rescue* paired me with this amazingly sweet and gentle soul who not only finally helped to heal my heart after the loss of my first beloved golden but also helped to pave the way for having 2 more dogs join or family and make us realize how much more love we had to offer.



20-012 Remington By Karen F.



It was a dark and stormy night when, wait a minute wrong story.

Ours began with a phone call asking us if we would consider adopting a male golden. Our beautiful gal of 15 yrs passed over the rainbow bridge in January

2020 and we grieved. In our processing we felt another female would be the best. Well, we thought, we pondered and then we saw the photos of the big guy. Immediately our hearts went out to him. So on May 21st we went to meet him. The connection with him was immediate on my part, he was my big teddy bear. **Remington** came home with us and met his new sister **Bailey** our previous rescue. Finally his adoption was completed on June 20, 2020. Also recently with the help of **AGR** we got him a birth day. This October we'll celebrate his turning the big 2.

He never ceases to amaze us with his antics from swiping food off the island to running loose with our underwear in the backyard. Thank goodness we have a 4' wall and live on an acre. We've tossed the alarm clock since Remington has developed his own. Somewhere between 4:30 and 5:00 am he's on the bed ready for his walk. He either sits on us or sticks his cold wet nose in our ear! The next alarm goes off around 3:30 pm when it's pool time. Thanks to the grandkids they taught him about the pool float. I've become the official toy tosser as well as the float person. He loves to chew on a toy as he floats down the pool.

He loves everyone he meets both human and animal no difference. I feel that I'm at the top of the list, since I cannot convince him that when I go to the bathroom I won't disappear behind the door. He insists on butting it open and plunking his big head on my lap. He delights in dragging his dog bed around the living room if he can't get one of us to allow him to sit on our laps. Riding in the car is a delight but the golf cart is even better. If we even think about opening the refrigerator door he's there. We know he can read minds. He certainly keeps us on our toes but he's so worth it.



So eager to please and learn. Such an intelligent and huge bundle of loving fur. He's forever in our hearts.

17-009 Nina By Helaine R.



Our rescue dog **Nina** and how she has changed our lives...or who rescued who?

First of all, thanks to **Arizona Golden Rescue** for making it possible to adopt this most wonderful dog, **Nina**, formerly named **Minnie** when originally rescued.

Nina was found by the side of a major highway in Northern Arizona along with her sister **Pearl**. A nice couple found them and cared for them until **AGR** came to pick them up. The volunteer from **AGR** then provided for **Nina** and **Pearl** until they found a permanent home for them. We were then one of the lucky families to get one of these wonderful dogs.

Nina is now 3½ years old, and she was brought to our home on Valentine's Day 2017. It was love at first sight! She was a sweet little white fur ball only 3 months old at the time. What a gift for me, my husband, and my daughter!

We believe **Nina** is a Golden/Border Collie mix, and she now weighs 50 lbs. She has a beautiful golden and white hair color, and she is the sweetest and loving dog.

Nina loves going to the dog park and has several buddies there who she likes to run around with.

One of the cutest things that she does after her meal is that she comes immediately over to the person who fed her and gives a kiss/lick to show her thanks!

Since on furlough from my job over the past 5 months, **Nina** has been keeping me great company throughout this pandemic. She's been by my side every day, since my husband has been busy working from home and my daughter has long been in her own apartment. So **Nina** has also been my best buddy!

We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to rescue **Nina** and give her a great life. We are all so happy to have her in our family and I know **Nina** is also very thankful to have us! What a sweetheart, we just adore her!



Whoever declared that love at first sight doesn't exist has never witnessed the purity of a puppy or looked deep into a puppy's eyes. If they did, their lives would change considerably.

~ Elizabeth Parker, *Paw Prints in the Sand*

13-098 Misty By Sharon R.



Misty has always been a lady of mystery. She came to **AGR** from an unpleasant breeding situation. Records were unreliable. Our biggest surprise came when our reportedly spayed new family member came in heat! (Fortunately, no puppies resulted.) Over the seven years that **Misty** has been with us, she has been the best dog a family could ask for. She only wants two good meals a day and a quiet place

to snooze. But every once in a while, she surprises us, like the time she decided to let some of her goldenness surface and show us that she knows how to swim and likes it! She's docile and polite, except when she tries to steal silverware from the dishwasher. Of course she passively tolerates absolutely everything, except when she decided to stand up for herself when her bossy brother **Jack** the dachshund picked on her. (No injuries and all has been forgiven.) **Misty** spent her first eight years in a concrete kennel, popping out puppies. So maybe **Misty** didn't know the joys of a grassy lawn? Oh yes she did! Her favorite pastime is to lie in the grass in the sun and roll onto her back and do what we call her "rolly-polly" (all four legs straight up in the air, wiggling butt, scratching her back.) And for the longest time we thought **Misty** was one of those barkless dogs, until one day we were maybe a little late with her dish, and she let out a very expressive multi-syllable scolding howl.

My husband says every morning, "God smiled on the earth when he made you, **Misty**." Now at age 15, **Misty** can't see or hear very well. However, she can still tell time. She always finds her way into the kitchen at meal time. Her nose works perfectly, and can always find our hands to nudge when she wants outside.

One last very important note: **Misty** recently taught us about Idiopathic Vestibular Syndrome, otherwise known as "Old Dog Syndrome". One day about a month ago, **Misty** toppled over. She was up walking, and then she wasn't. Over the course of a few days, her condition worsened until she couldn't stand. Her eyebrows were jumping up and down, and her eyes were bouncing from side to side and in crazy circles. When she did hold her head up, she was tilted to one side. We thought she had had a stroke. The veterinarian explained that when this condition occurs, your dog's inner ears are out of whack and she can't pinpoint the horizon and control her balance. At her worst, we thought we were losing **Misty**. But being typically **Misty**, she recovered mysteriously and miraculously. It took about 10 days to fully resolve, and now **Misty** is back to normal. I'm telling this story here because I don't want anyone to ever give up on their dog if this happens to them. Be patient, help them steady themselves, and you too will see a miracle.

15-061 Joy By Linda P.



Joy bounded into our lives in August of 2015. She was 2½ years old and full of energy and love. She immediately became a sister to our 9 year old muti-poo and our 2 year old cat **Scamp**. **Joy** seemed to know that we needed her to complete our family.

We greatly appreciate the work of the **Arizona Golden Rescue** organization.

They helped make our family complete while helping **Joy's** former family part with her when they could no longer afford to keep her. The mother in that family wrote a letter telling us about **Joy**. She mentioned that giving her up was one of the hardest things she had ever done. Knowing that **AGR** would find a good home for her made the parting easier. We could tell from the beginning that **Joy** had been loved and well cared for, because she was healthy and friendly from the moment we met her.

Joy doesn't know that she is too big to be a lap dog (we will never tell her). She seems to know when someone needs extra attention. One day when I was sick, my blood pressure was so high that my husband called the paramedics. **Joy** sensed something was wrong and climbed up on my lap. Holding and petting her brought my blood pressure down before the paramedics even arrived.

She also knows how to make friends. We call her "The Cat Whisperer," because cats who have never met her will rub against her and allow her to sniff them when we take her for walks. She also makes friends with anyone who comes to our house and with anyone we meet on walks. After one meeting, people who don't know our names will call her by name and will rush over to pet her.



Joy loves our grandchildren and they adore her. She seems to recognize their car before it even pulls into the driveway. They have all helped bathe her and often bring her toys and treats. She likes to sleep with them when they spend the night.

During these difficult days of separation from our family and from our church, **Joy** has brought smiles and joy that sometimes elude us. She even attends church with us sitting between us on the couch for the live streaming services. We will always be grateful to **AGR** for finding **Joy** for us.



17-030 Rusty and 17-032 Ginger By Wendy P.



The dictionary defines rescue as an act of saving or being saved from danger. At question is who saved who?

Our family was forever changed when we lost our beloved daughter, Kendra, to suicide in May 2012. She was 20 years old and was two days away from graduating with her AA degree in Equine Science. She was on scholarship at **SCC** and was

bullied by a professor throughout her last semester. Her dream of being an equine veterinarian and continuing her education at **Colorado State** were trampled on when this professor told her that she was going to fail her internship which required a passing grade in order to graduate two days later. This professor told Kendra that her power point presentation did not meet her requirements yet the syllabus for this internship did not outline any requirements for the power point presentation other than it had to be a minimum of 15 minutes in length and how she had met her 5 goals established prior to commencing the internship. Kendra received a rave review from the world renowned horse trainer confirming that she had put in twice the number of required hours for her internship and ultimately offering her a job. Yet, the professor failed Kendra on her power point presentation because it included red lettering, she did not have her hair pulled back, did not step away from the podium and she said “um” too many times. On the day of her passing, Kendra reached out to this professor a final time pleading for her to change her grade so that she could graduate. The professor’s response in that final e-mail and the final moments of Kendra’s life was “if you feel that the last two years of your life have been a waste of time, then maybe they were.” Kendra read this final e-mail and 7 minutes later she ended her life. Channel 12 News did an investigation in to this professor’s background and found that she had a history of bullying and was forced out of **Clemson State University** and **Utah State** as a tenured professor. Kendra’s story, a three part series, aired on Channel 12 News in 2016.

After our son graduated from **ASU** and moved into his own home, our once lively home became too silent. Within weeks we contacted **AGR** and received a phone call from Sharon Flores who asked if we were willing to adopt a bonded pair; a brother and sister who were from California and who were used for breeding purposes. We immediately responded with a resounding “yes” and our once silent home was filled with love and light that we never thought was possible again.

Rusty and Ginger are now 9 years of age and it’s clear that they saved us. We will be forever indebted to **AGR** for bringing **Rusty and Ginger** into our lives and for bringing life back into our home once again.

12-011 Maddy By Leslie M.



I am black as midnight and the name **Maddy** seems to be very fitting for me. My eyes fall back into my darkness so people don’t know when I am looking at them. That makes me very mysterious and I like that trait very much. I am not a talker so I silently move around to my favorite places. I was adopted by Ted and Leslie in April of 2012. There is a bit of mystery surrounding my age, and that is probably due to the long talk my mom and I had when I came to live with them. She said that we do not talk age in this house, so I was to keep my girlie age a secret. Just between you and me, the secret lies between 13 years from my vet, 15 years from paperwork my mom found about me and 19 years from a vet and the **Arizona Golden Rescue** when I was picked up. I am a black smooth hair retriever with a little pepper of gray around my eyes and a gray chin that I probably have had from early puppy days. My mom says that I have a beautiful coat that really shines. I have shorter ears than many golden retrievers for when I lick the bowl, my ears do not get in the stuff that I probably should not eat, but I do. My tail is thick and full and curls up in the back. I always walk with that air of superiority with my tail held high and graceful. I am very quiet for I do not bark when in my house. I bark a little in the yard but that is because some other dog next door barks first. My dad is gone now and I still look for him so he can rub my head as he would sit in his recliner. I immediately bonded with him when I came into his home. He kept me down for the first month nursing me after treatments for heartworm. Once I could get up and running, I helped him landscape the garden, repair the shed and arrange and rearrange the garage. I loved to sit in the porch swing with him and swing and swing and swing. We would watch the world go by as the sun rises and sets. I also got into his business affairs as I laid by his feet when he was doing important stuff. I kept a good eye on him, whether he saw it or not. My favorite spot, besides the porch swing, is my mom or dad’s lap. Even though I am 65 pounds, I am sure I was meant to be a lap dog so I try the best that I can to get at least half of me on their lap. If they do not pay attention, I have back legs that just ease the rest of me up and soon I am totally in the recliner chair with them. I just sit there like the princess I was meant to be and take it all in. In my younger years, I was the great black hunter who flushed out the rabbits that are plentiful in my large desert backyard. My favorite line was, “Rabbit, rabbit, where is that little rabbit?” And, if I watched and waited long enough, there he was! Rabbits still come into my yard, but I merely sit and watch them. I do have a bush up the street that I love to have my mom take me by on our walks. I climb right into that bush for I am sure there is a rabbit hole for me to find. All one sees is a big bush with

a black tail poking out of it. When I was younger, I got in a bit of trouble with mom, the chef, for I consumed a bit too many baked goods. Although baked or others, I felt that I was one of those “others” so I needed to check and be sure the goods were good. I also found a few pieces of meat and whether fresh or frozen, I ate them too. I now have refrained from that habit for not much is left on the counter, but you will see me in the picture laying in one of my favorite spots in the kitchen waiting for something to fall in my mouth. I helped make some birthday cake last week and did get to lick the bowl, YUM. My mom loves to work in her sewing room and I will go in to give her some kisses and lay by her feet. Mom also takes me on walks every night so I can sniff around the neighborhood. I am not real friendly to other dogs that we pass so we keep our distance. I now watch over my mom very carefully for we have become quite the two-some. I lay by her bed at night protecting her and keep her in my sights most of the time. I have my favorite spots that I “camp” in so that I can see from one room to the next and make sure all is well. I relax a lot in my life at this time, but am ready and always eager for a walk at night. My vet says that I am healthy and I hope to stay that way for a long time.

11-017 *Bela* By Hannah S.

Bela Barktok (named after Bela Bartok the classical composer) has lived up to his name! **Bela** is a BARKER!! And **Bela** is a Smiler! He has the most comical smile which brings me to spontaneous laughter. When I adopted **Bela** from the *Arizona Golden Rescue* in 2011, he was 3.5 years old and there were many secrets about **Bela** that the previous owners did not share with the Rescue. I discovered quickly that **Bela** had pre-existing emotional conditions brought on by two previous owners who had abused him and made him live outside all year in the very hot climate of Phoenix, Arizona. I wanted to return **Bela** to the Rescue but was asked to give him another chance by connecting with a skilled trainer to work with **Bela**. Five years of weekly trips to the trainer to socialize **Bela** has turned him into a lover of a pooch. **Bela** ‘graduated’ in 2016 and he enjoys everyday surrounded in love and understanding. You will see the joy in **Bela’s** face. He is 12-years-old now and in outstanding health. Since my husband passed away in 2016, **Bela** and **Clara Schumann** (my 12-year-old Chessie Rescue) are my family and both poochies are a constant source of comfort, love and chuckles. I am so happy that I gave **Bela** another chance for a full and loving life. As I shelter at home this year due to the pandemic, I am truly blessed to have my **Bela** and **Clara** by my side and in my life. **Bela** has proven to me that he just needed the right “forever” home and owner to give him the second chance he needed. Yeah for **Bela**! And the *Arizona Golden Rescue*.



19-044 *Dallas* By Deb O.



Now 16 months old, **Dallas** has been among the most amenable dogs I’ve known in 42 years of living with Golden Retrievers. If he could talk, **Dallas** would say: *there’s good in everyone; “dance” by spinning around and around when anyone comes to visit; do not be intimidated by older, bigger Goldens; play as much as you are able* (he loves fetching tennis balls, chasing hose water, and “killing the prey” by shaking stuffed toys with squeakers); *a spoonful of peanut butter helps the medicine go down; nap when you’re tired; do something you enjoy every day; don’t let tough times get you down – have a positive attitude in the face of adversity.*

Dallas had a difficult beginning among a litter of eight that was kept in a small pen by a backyard breeder. The breeder never noticed that one puppy could not poop. When the puppies were seven weeks old, a friend of the family observed something amiss with this pup – the pup was about as wide as he was long and looked miserable. The breeder took the pup to the vet the next day. The vet informed the family the pup had a condition called atresia ani – he was born without an anal opening. When the vet told the breeder how much it would cost to repair (~\$4,000), they wanted the puppy euthanized. Knowing the condition was treatable, the vet refused and suggested the breeder contact *Arizona Golden Rescue*. That evening, I transported the puppy to *Animal Medical & Surgical Center* and named him **Dallas** after a shelter dog *AGR* was not able to rescue before the dog died – this Dallas was going to survive! The surgeon had repaired six animals with this rare condition and said he could fix **Dallas**. The actual cost to *AGR* of the surgery and month-long hospitalization was \$8,902. It was a bumpy ride for this little boy, as the first anal opening created would not stay open even with a stent in place, so a second surgery was necessary. Despite all the pain we’re sure **Dallas** endured, he showed nothing but loving gratitude and a desire to play.

Not at all confident I could handle this special-needs puppy, I offered to foster **Dallas** once he was finally released from the hospital at age thirteen weeks. I found an inner strength and determination to help **Dallas** have the best life possible. It was five months of taking him out every two hours round the clock for him to be more or less housebroken. He struggles to poop, but once he manages to start he cannot stop. He needs two different kinds of medicine administered every eight hours and his food needs to be ground up with a lot of water. It was like having a new baby in the house! **Dallas** has made me a more patient person and more understanding of individuals with disabilities. He puts a smile on my face every day.

17-073 Mary Kate and 19-029 Lola By Dean M.

For years, my family had multiple dogs. In 2015 when we were down to only one, I applied to adopt from *Arizona Golden Rescue*. One question on their application was, "Would you accept a pair?" I thought about it and answered "Yes." Very soon after I submitted the application, I got a call – *AGR* needed someone to take a pair of 10-year-old females, **Missy** and **Molly**. I said, "Sure!" So, the first bonded pair came to our home.

Unfortunately, **Molly** had cancer and passed away within a few months. But **Missy** kept me company for two years. She was such a wonderful "people dog" and because of that she and I started going to as many *AGR* events as we could. We made lots of new friends. We even participated in a doggie fashion show! When **Missy** finally went to the Bridge, I knew I had to get another dog right away. Just my luck that **Ashley** and **Mary Kate**, another older pair of girls, had lost their owners, one to death and one to disability. I immediately said, "Yes!" when *AGR* contacted me about taking this pair. Again I was on the road to many *AGR* events, this time with **Mary Kate** and **Ashley**, originally rescued as strays and thought to be a daughter and mother pair. They were so beautiful and very popular at the events, always allowing anyone and everyone to hug them and pet them. But **Ashley**, the older of the two, passed away in just a couple years. **Mary Kate**, now about age 10, was lonely and depressed, and I really missed having two girls. I also watched the *AGR* website and Facebook page daily hoping to see that another middle-age or old female needed a new home. It was only a couple weeks before I saw 5-year-old **Lola**. Her owners had gotten divorced and neither "parent" could keep her as both were moving to separate apartments. I immediately called *AGR* and said I had to have **Lola**! One of the best decisions I've made. I now have a pair again.



The two girls get along great and have become inseparable, as if they had always been together. Of

course, they are both always with me, too. I own my own business, and they even go to work with me – my employees adore them, too. I have been recovering from a bad knee surgery and they have kept me comforted. I can't walk them daily as I used to, so I have hired a neighbor to walk them. I've also found wonderful companionship with another Golden owner whom I discovered lives around the corner from me. Our two families have had some great times together all because we both love Golden Retrievers!

19-075 Valor By Rebecca M.



Our family had been debating for around a year to add a 3rd dog to our pack. One look at our future puppy's photos and we were sold! While we not so patiently waited for him to arrive to our home, we immediately started discussing names. In our family, names mean a lot as we believe they shape who a dog becomes. In our excitement of adopt-

ing this tiny little ball of fur, we realized that we were adopting him the same day our 1st Golden, **Moxie**, went to the Rainbow Bridge and we decided to honor her and named our new fur baby **Valor Bear**. You see, **Valor** is a synonym for **Moxie**, meaning full of great courage and bravery. And true to form, he became one brave little puppy!

Valor's first month with us was just a bit rough for a little guy. He came to us at 10 weeks old with Giardia that we had to treat twice for to finally rid it out of his system. In addition to that, he had 3 UTI's going on at the same time. Potty training for us (& him), needless to say, was very challenging. During this time, we noticed that **Valor** just didn't seem happy or playful like a puppy should be and while we knew it was due to his Giardia and UTI's, we still felt we had done something wrong. Finally, with a lot of patience & love, we were able to get **Valor** healthy. And, in doing so, he found his smile. We are thankful that he is a happy and healthy pup and that the issues he had were mild compared so many other pups.

Life comes at you fast when you are a puppy and even faster when you're the smallest of your pack. **Valor** has a big brother, **Indiana Jones**, that he chases and tortures on a routine basis and a sweet older sister, **Sadie Mae** who wrestles with him and slathers him with love licks. **Valor** is very much a mama's boy. **Valor** is an intense cuddler and a voracious swimmer often leaping into the pool again and again just to swim by to say hi. He'll bring you a treasure every time you walk in the door – even if you were gone 5 minutes. His now never-ending smile is contagious as if it is his sole job on earth to make you replicate his grin. **Valor** coming into our lives expanded what we knew about dogs and made us better humans. He taught us that love comes in all sorts of packages and attitudes and that there is always happiness to find in a life lived with a Golden. **Valor** taught us patience, the importance of boundaries (re: intense cuddler), and most of all love. He is the perfect caboose to our family, our baby bear and brightens every day we've been lucky enough to share with him.



12-100 *Rusty* By Beverly F-H.

Who rescued Who is often the question asked when animals are adopted by humans. I had no intention of adopting another dog at this point in my life, but other forces had other ideas.

I had been going through several years of loss... the real estate market had crashed and we lost our home. Then my beloved 88 year old father fell, broke his hip and died a few months later. My mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's during this time so I was trying to work and take care of her which was difficult. My husband decided at this point that he wanted a divorce. As you can imagine, I was an emotional mess. It seemed like I was losing everything I loved. My brother took my mom to Texas with him for a while, giving me a break from the care giving role. I moved into my mom's house, thankful to have a home to live in. But, I was also anxious about living alone as I had gone from home, to college with roommates, to marriage. I had never lived alone and was worried that I might never sleep again!

One day, the President of *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)* called to ask if I would adopt **Rusty**. He was a special case as **Rusty** is a Golden Mix and not as friendly as your typical Golden Retriever. He needed a home, preferably with one person and no other pets... I happened to be the perfect match. However, I really didn't feel it was the time to take on a dog. *AGR* asked several times if I would just go and meet **Rusty**. I finally agreed and I knew I was in trouble that minute I saw his beautiful face.

Rusty eventually came home with me after several months of obedience training. As it turns out, **Rusty** thinks it is his job to protect me...from EVERYONE! We bonded right away and I have never had a sleepless night. I know **Rusty** is there to keep me safe. Who knew I needed **Rusty** as much as he needed me?

Rusty was about 6 years old when I took him home and I can hardly believe 7 years have gone by. In all these years, and as luck would have it, **Rusty** has only really bonded with one other person, my cute neighbor Frank! This is really a blessing as I have bonded with Frank too. Frank is the only person **Rusty** doesn't bark at when he rings the doorbell!

I am so glad that *AGR* thought of me when **Rusty** needed a home. He gets me out of the house every morning for a walk, he greets me with his smiling face every time I come home, he reminds me every day around 4:30 that he is ready for dinner, and of course, he always protects me. A match made in heaven!

18-074 *Riley* By Connie M.

It was early May 2017, and we were so happy with our five-pack of adopted seniors - **Grizzly**, 14; **Sammy**, 13; brothers **Shaggy** and **Teddy**, 12; and our **Winnie**, also 12. But of course, nothing lasts forever. We lost our **Sammy** to a spinal infection at the end of May that year. In August 2017, **Shaggy** succumbed to the cancer that he had been fighting for two years. Seven months later, in April 2018, **Teddy** developed a disseminated

form of valley fever that attacked his brain and kidneys. Despite intensive care, we lost him, too. Just a month later, it was time to let our most beloved **Grizzly** go to the Bridge. His spondylosis had progressed to the point that his quality of life was poor. But we still had our precious **Winnie**, who had turned 13 in June. While we were on vacation in August, we received a call from her pet sitter that she had to be taken to the ER vet because she could not get up. We flew home immediately, and surgery was planned for her bleeding adrenal tumor. But the vets decided that she really was not a good candidate and that it was best to let her go, too.

We were devastated. We had lost our entire pack within a year and a half. It was too hard to even think about adopting again, so we made the firm decision to continue to foster and not even consider adopting. Our lives were about to change, and we made glorious plans to travel extensively now that we were "carefree" and had no responsibilities!

That lasted one month until crazy **Riley** came into our Rescue group and needed a foster home. It took just a few weeks for us to fall in love and start rebuilding our pack. She was the first of our new family and the one to bring us out of our deep sadness. She changed our lives back to what they always were and meant to be – incomplete without a pack of wonderful rescued Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes! Seven-year-old **Riley** is the now the leader and queen of our current four-pack – Bowie, 3; Jackson, 8; and Sierra, 15.



She has a zest for life that has earned her story the title of "The Life of **Riley**." She has come from once being homeless to spending her days chasing balls (but not relinquishing), swimming and diving and playing with every dog she meets.

And yes, we have given up the idea of glorious "freedom," in exchange for the deeper satisfaction of our happy family.

16-016 *Valentina* By Patty F.

Valentina is an 8 year old Golden Retriever that I adopted 4 ½ years ago from the *Arizona Golden Rescue*. It was necessary for her to have immediate surgery to remove a lower left jaw mass along with 8 teeth. The mass proved to be benign and recovery was relatively easy. She instantly became a wonderful companion to our male Golden who had just lost his lifelong littermate. After losing

him shortly thereafter, we adopted another Golden/Lab mix and again **Valentina** became his new best friend.

This sweet girl loves people and although she is not a trained therapy dog, she seems to know what is needed when meeting humans of all ages. Remembering meeting a young toddler at a park, **Valentina** allowed her to hug and pet to her and even walk her with her leash being ever so gentle. Another friendship formed with an autistic boy who found it difficult to converse with people. When **Valentina** slowly approached him with her tail wagging, he suddenly began asking questions about her and from that point on regularly joined us on our walks. Thank you **Valentina**!

This sweet devoted dog is always nearby, supervises my daily pool workouts, and is such a perfect companion to her male “brother.” Words cannot express how much we love **Valentina** and how thankful we are to *Arizona Golden Rescue* for choosing us to be her pet parents!

2021 Calendar: A Touch of Gold



AGR's fabulous **2021 calendar** is still available! If you want a copy of this really beautiful calendar, send a check soon to the address on the back cover of this issue. If you want only one copy, it will be \$14.25 with postage.

You can also pick up a copy from any of the following:

Academy West Animal Hospital, 6231 W Bell Rd, Glendale
Animal Medical & Surgical Center, 17477 N 82nd St, Scottdale
Four-Legged Friends, 3131 E Thunderbird Rd, Phoenix
Sun Valley Quilts, 9857 W Bell Rd, Sun City

14-013 *Rhys* By Adam C.

2013 was a rough year for me. My marriage ended in January and I found myself finally putting an end to living a life I didn't want to live in a city in Florida I never wanted to live in. As usual my parents were there with love, understanding and encouragement. Within the span of about 4 months I changed work locations, sold my condo, bought my house, hired movers and packed my car for the journey west. Four days driving cross-country was therapeutic. My thoughts continued to return to one thought – I wanted a dog in my life again. When my last dog passed I chose not to get another dog. I traveled frequently for work and I didn't know if that would be good for a dog. Fortunately there was someone else I knew who loves dogs as much as I do – my dad. When I arrived in Arizona I sat down with my parents and asked my dad, “Would you be willing to time-share a dog with me”? My dad answered with a hearty “yes” and the journey began.

I was on the list with three Rescues but nothing seemed to be happening. It was almost two months and I was about to start checking with other Rescues when I got a call from *Arizona Golden Rescue (AGR)*. The placement coordinator was going to pick up a dog who had been abandoned in Kingman, AZ. He was a two year old unaltered male who was found tied to a light pole in a rest area. I said yes and he was at my home the next day. He was beautiful of course – a healthy male despite the matted hair and knots, nothing a good grooming wouldn't fix. His adoption name was **Toby** but he came to Rescue without a name. I named him **Rhys**.

The first night together was rough –as was the next – and the next. He couldn't / wouldn't settle. He paced constantly. He was obviously agitated. I was thinking about not going through with the adoption. And then things began changing. **Rhys** was quickly bonding with me. We were learning a new shared language. He needed some time to trust again. I also realized that I had my own trust issues and wasn't giving him the physical affection that he craved. When we both decided to invest things begin to blossom. People often comment on **Rhys'** personality – how engaging and outgoing he is. How happy he is – and how much he loves his dad. As for my Dad he and **Rhys** are the best of friends.

Rhys and I participated in a charity fashion show a few years ago. Our rescue president, Deb Orwig, designed his costume: *The Gambler*. And it was (and is) so fitting. We both gambled – on each other. And we both won.

Arizona is my home now. But it wasn't home until **Rhys** came along. I'm so glad I was rescued.

HERE and THERE

Events October 10, 2020 through December 2020

We hope that once the threat of coronavirus is much less and public activities resume, you will consider joining us at one or more.

Dine Out With The Dogs

By Carolyn Brown, Director of Activities



We were lucky enough to squeeze in one outdoor fall event. *Dine Out with the Dogs* was held on Sunday, October 25th at *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy* in Sun City, AZ. Paul Ghiglieri (photo at left) is the new owner. The event allowed

for ordering directly off the menu of delicious Italian favorites with a portion of each meal and bar cost being donated to *AGR*. An outdoor patio was perfect for the members who brought their dogs, and spaced-out indoor seating was also available. A perfect day weatherwise brought out many non-*AGR*



Liz Tataseo and Carolyn Brown setting up the merchandise sales tables



Our event was close to Halloween, so Cindy Tigges wore a fascinator and brought Lucy and Natasha dressed in costume

diners who were very generous with donations and purchases from our craft sales area. A silent auction and great raffle prizes were a big draw. *AGR* added \$5,323.60 to our 2020 income, beating our previous record by \$1399.60!

Dine Out with the Dogs is a

very labor-intensive event, so I want to thank everyone who volunteered to make it a success. Connie McCabe produced a fantastic flyer to get it rolling. Deb Orwig and Carolyn Brown created the raffle baskets.



Sharon Flores brought Cassie and Riley all the way from Sun Lakes



Jeff and Donna Koziel were a huge help with tear-down and dog wrangling, respectively

Saturday's loading of raffle items, supplies, tables and merchandise into the *AGR* trailer was handled by our driver Nick Dodson and his trusty Expedition, Duane Borho, Peter and Carolyn Brown, Adam Cardinal, Patrick Doyle, Connie McCabe, and Deb and Larry Orwig.

Sunday's set-up was completed by Duane Borho, Peter and Carolyn Brown, Adam Cardinal, April Crow, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Connie McCabe, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig and Liz Tataseo. *Duffy*, *Mufasa* and *Vin Orwig* gave us all their opinions, too.

The volunteers during the event who manned the merchandise sale tables and sold raffle tickets included: Debbie Ball and *Shelby*, Peter and Carolyn Brown, April Crow, Patrick Doyle, Trishia Murphy, Deb Orwig, Josephine Sala, Cindy Tigges and *Natasha*, Mike Wilson with *Takoda*, and Kathi Youhas.



Joni Cipollone bought one of Connie Wozniak's door hanger Christmas trees

Break-down was handled by Debbie Ball and *Shelby*, Peter and Carolyn Brown, Adam Cardinal, Nick Dodson, Patrick Doyle, Donna and Jeff Koziel, Connie McCabe and Deb Orwig with *Duffy*, *Mufasa*, and *Vin*, who were mainly handled by Donna Koziel and Liz Tataseo with *McKayla*.



Eric Alt with Lucy, one of Duffy Orwig's siblings, whom we had not seen in six years

It was a great turn-out of *AGR* members including: Donna and Eric Alt with *Lucy*; Cindy and Jim Angarella with *Chloe* and *Cooper*; Stephanie Beard with *Ruby*; Carolyn Blean; Betsy and Fred Brown with *Orla*; Adam Cardinal, Duane Borho and Marion and Robert Cardinal; Beth Chaffee with *Torch* and dog trainer, Kammie Wallace; Joni Cipollone; Sunny Conaghan; Barbara Connoyer and her friend Connie Eckhardt; Mary and Bert Engstrom; Sharon Flores with *Cassie* and *Riley*; Jill Imler and Michael Feight; and Sheila Joyce with *KiKi*. Others included Jean Klink; Sarah Martin with *Bunny*; Dean and Marlene Mortimore with *Mary Kate* and *Lola*; Larry Orwig; Denise Padavano and her friend, Jeanne Wegener; Jocelyn and Tia Raught with *Mimi*; Bill



Jim and Cindy Angarella with Cooper and AGR Chloe



Kammie Wallace, a dog trainer from Colorado, came with Beth Chaffee and her Irish Setter Torch



Jackson McCabe/Dodson photobombing picture of Chris, Patty, Deanna, Dee Dee, and Tim



Jocelyn and Tia Raught brought Mimi



Two adopters of dogs we brought over from China joined us: Sheila Joyce with Kiki and Beverly and Perry Ruth with Abbey



Peter and Carolyn Brown, who were there all day, took a break for a meal



Mark Hill and Michele Wehry with Cassie and Callan



Several AGR members just got take-out: Cynthia Wenström brought Hannah from north Scottsdale; Mary and Bert Engstrom came from Litchfield Park



Richardson; Beverly and Perry Ruth with **Abbey**; Dee Dee Smith with **Dash** and **Dolly** and her sister Deanna Green; Fran Strock; Chris Spiel and friend Tim; Jane Triplett and friend Kari Carlisle; Michele Wehry and Mark Hill with **Callan** and **Cassie**; Cynthia Wenström with **Hannah**; and Dave Williams with **Bella**. Whew... hopefully I didn't miss anyone and that everyone had a great time.

The new owner of *Paulie's Little Bite of Italy* said he was very impressed with **AGR** and cannot wait to have us back again in October 2021.



T-Shirt Fundraiser

By Carolyn Brown, Director of Activities



In November 2020, we did a "Virtual "FUN-draiser" offering Christmas Sweatshirts, T-shirts and baseball shirts for adults, kids and even our Golden. There were three designs: *May Your Christmas Be Golden*, *JOY*, and *I Bake the Best Christmas Cookies with Warning: May Contain Fur*. So, there was something for everyone. The shirts were available in several back-



ground colors (black, red, green, royal blue and grey) and in sizes up to 3X. Our thanks to Beth Patterson of *Beth*



Patterson Designs in Indianapolis for creating the designs, which were patterned after her Golden, **Riley**, and hosting them on her **Bonfire** store. Orders of shirts through **Bonfire** were shipped directly to people, so **AGR** did not have to carry any inventory or do deliveries. In addition to bringing some Christmas spirit and cheer to our members and their friends, **AGR**

received a check for \$1,084 as our profits from the sales! Thanks to all of you who ordered! There are a limited number of some of the shirts still available on Beth's website: <https://www.bonfire.com/results/beth+patterson>.

If there is enough interest, we may run the promotion again this year. By the time the holiday season rolls around, we hope it will be safe to do gift wrapping somewhere, and these shirts would be ideal to wear for that activity! And by that time, maybe Beth will have produced some additional designs.



Meet-and-Greets at Petco and PetSmart



Due to coronavirus restrictions and too-hot weather, we have had no Meet-and-Greets at either **Petco** (9980 W Northern Ave, Glendale) or **PetSmart** (9960 N 91st Ave, Peoria) for a year. When we are allowed to do such activities again, dates and times will be announced on our Facebook page and put on our website calendar.



Golden Hearts



We are so grateful to everyone who has given us their support. You all truly have hearts of gold! All donations to *AGR* are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The donations shown below were made between October 1 and December 31, 2020. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted. PLEASE NOTE: All donors who make donations during 2021 will receive an acknowledgment letter in January 2022 unless an acknowledgment for tax purposes is requested sooner.

General Fund Donations

Alysia Berdan	Marsha and Steve Kleinz
Rosemary Bochna	Donna and Jeffrey Kozel
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Patricia Brown	Karyn and Richard Marchant
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Adam Cardinal	Laura and Greg Mehall
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Susan Kemper	Deborah and Thomas Vinopal
Nancy and Ralph Klein	Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane

Thanks

To Gayle Starr for fostering Lucas when I had to leave town for two weeks – Judy Abell

*To Alan and Susan Pratt for donating a treadmill to us
Beth and Jon Chaffee*

*To Connie McCabe for a photo session
Joni Cipollone Teri and Jeff Guilbault
April Crow and Rick Reid*

To Fred and Jill Prose for absorbing transport costs to bring 20-033 Danny Boy and 20-034 Keeley from CA to AZ, and to Carolyn and Peter Brown for trip costs to pick up 20-035 Sadie from NM

To Marilyn Thompson of Tucson for donating a car through CARS

Debbe Begley Memorial Fund

Stephanie Beard
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Debbie and Rick Ball	Terry and Randy Oline
Sharon Flores	Deb and Larry Orwig
Jude Fulghum	Denise Padavano
Dean and Marlene Mortimore	Fran and Jan Strock
Valerie and Gene Mylowe	Cindy and Gary Tigges

In Loving Memory of our sweet boys, 11-046 Shanley and Winslow Oline – missing you every day!

Randy, Terry, Sedona, Kona and Grandma Patty

In Loving Memory of 12-056 Buddy

From his life-long partner 12-057 Elsie and the Fischer family

In Loving Memory of 18-013 Teddy

Karen Johnson

In Loving Memory of 19-019 Sierra McCabe / Dodson

Debbie and Rick Ball	Deb and Larry Orwig
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Greg Korycki and Carrie Foust

In Loving Memory of Martha Anderson, Debbie's sister

Debbie and Rick Ball

In Loving Memory of Jerry Overton

Bonnie Kreger

In Loving Memory of Patty

Neva Shumaker

In Loving Memory of all Fourth-quarter Bridge Dogs and People:

09-039 Maggie Hill	20-002 Doug Amaral
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11-056 Mufasa Orwig	Flora Carson
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16-022 Max Erickson	Lenora Sue Franklin
16-070 Simba Pasiecznik	Candy Millsop
19-019 Sierra McCabe/Dodson	June Newton
19-044 Dallas Orwig	
Teri and Jeff Guilbault	Deb and Larry Orwig
Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson	Liz Tataseo

Golden Retriever Foundation

To help with medical expenses of 20-028 Abby and 20-032 Rosie

The ACES –

Francie Austin and Melissa Button Austin, Exec. Directors

The Mellen Foundation – Diane Mellen, Exec. Director

*The Petco Foundation**Honorary Donations*

In Honor of Joni Cipollone's Birthday – Leslie Dornfeld and numerous Facebook donors

In Honor of Patrick Doyle's Birthday –

Dean and Marlene Mortimore and numerous Facebook donors

In Honor of fabulous 14-044 Finn – Barbara and James Renshaw

In Honor of all Board Members and Team Managers for their exemplary work during 2020 – Deb Orwig

In Honor of Emma Gutekunst, "daughter" of Anne and Rick Gutekunst – Susan Skinner

In Honor of Deb Orwig for her leadership, friendship and dedication to AGR – Debbie and Rick Ball

*Memberships - New Advanced-Level Supporters***COPPER (\$50)**

Isabel Fastiggi and Cathy Gorman
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Diane and Tom Ghezzi
Candace and Neal Greff
Janis and Randy Moore
Sylina and David Slider
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AGR sincerely thanks those members who have set up automatic monthly donations through PayPal or their bank

Teddi and Delwin Axne
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Coralyn Collins
Patrick Doyle

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