



GOLDEN HEARTBEATS

A PUBLICATION OF GOLDHEART GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE, INC. P.O. BOX 522 OWINGS MILLS,
MD 21117 PHONE: 410-877-9697 WEBSITE: WWW.GOLDHEART.ORG

SPRING 2013

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Instead of the usual letter, I am going to put out a plea for foster families. If you know anyone who you think would make a great foster family, please pass this on and maybe it will inspire you to learn about fostering.

We are always looking to add to our “foster family list”. These families provide a soft place for an owner surrendered golden, stray or abandoned, to land for about 2 weeks and sometimes longer depending on what he/she needs coming into rescue. Yes, it is a big commitment. If you or anyone you know would be interested in fostering, check out our application online.

Here are some FAQ's:

What is fostering? - Fostering is the most important aspect of rescue. Agreeing to foster a golden on it's way to rescue, you agree to take care of the dog as if it were your own. Providing love and attention, adequate exercise, food, water and shelter. The duration of foster care varies, it can be from 5 days to a few months or on some occasions, we bring in one that is special needs and requires a permanent foster. (GoldHeart provides the medical care though these goldens are most often at the end of their lives) You provide that love until the end.

What are the requirements to foster? - GoldHeart requires our foster homes to complete a foster application. You can do that online under “fostering”. If you have pets of your own they must be spayed/neutered, up to date on all vaccines and on heartworm year round (unless there is a medical reason). We will then check your vet references and a volunteer will do a home visit.

Once you are approved to foster, your name will go on the foster home list. When a plea goes out for a foster home for a golden coming in, we try to be very thorough about sending along what we know about the dog and if you think he/she is a good fit to foster. Then, you email the intake coordinator.

Once you have your foster dog, a foster packet will be sent to you. Each golden gets a new leash and collar, some toys, a GoldHeart ID tag and a volunteer will contact you about coming to micro-chip your foster if he/she has not already been chipped. Your foster packet will also include an adoption contract and a lot of information. If you do not have a fence in yard, you are required to keep your foster dog on a leash. They may not run loose while in foster care. Pets must be kept indoors while you are away or at work.

Will I have to pay for veterinary expenses? – As a volunteer, you will not be expected to pay for veterinary charges associated with your foster. A foster family is required to use one of our GoldHeart approved vets. If that particular vet will not bill GoldHeart directly, you can have that vet call the president or the treasurer and the bill will be paid right away. If you do pay the vet bill, in your foster packet you will find an expense report. Fill it out and send it along with your receipts to treasurer@goldheart.org or the P.O. Box.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT - CONTINUED

Does a foster get paid? – No. Fostering is strictly voluntary. But, if you're an animal lover, the reward you feel from fostering and assisting in the placement of your foster dog into his/her forever home, is a great joy. You, as the foster family, get to choose where your foster dog goes.

What happens if I fall in love and want to adopt my foster dog? – We find that some rescues discourage foster families from adopting their fosters. Within the GoldHeart family, we have many many what we call FAILED FOSTERS. It is a very elite group of foster homes that have chosen to make their foster dogs part of their family. If you choose to adopt your foster, you fill out his/her paperwork and send in the adoption fee.

If you are interested in welcoming a dog into your home as a foster family, submit an application online today. A member of our foster team will contact you as soon as possible with more information. Website: www.goldheart.org or contact goldheart@goldheart.org

I sure hope this letter inspires some of you or your friends to volunteer to foster a golden in need.

Barbara Schaefer
President
GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday – May 11, 2013

10 AM – 6PM

St. Andrews Society of Mid Maryland Celtic Festival
Mt. Airy Fire Department Carnival Grounds
1003 Twin Arch Rd.
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

August 17, 2013

Goldheart Annual Crab Feast
Columbus Gardens
Perry Hall, MD
(Volunteers needed – Times TBA)

September 29, 2013

Woofstock
Harrisburg Riverfront Park
Harrisburg, PA

Go to www.cpaawoofstock.com for details

Saturday – June 8, 2013

11AM – 3PM

Best Friends Furever – 3rd Annual Petapalooza
Adoption Festival
United Church Center
900 Arlington Ave
Harrisburg, PA (off Union Deposit exit of 83N)

September 21, 2013

GoldHeart Pig Roast
Time and Location TBA

Saturday – October 19, 2013

BARCtoberfest
Patterson Park
Baltimore, MD
Times TBA

WE NEED HELP WITH FOSTER HOMES!!!

We started fostering Gizmo in September of 2011. When we first received him, he was extremely overweight, anemic, bad teeth and severe ear infections. With the first visit to the vet, steps were taken to eliminate the ear and teeth issues, and we kept watch on the anemia. He was very lethargic and couldn't take long walks due to his weight. A family adopted him in December, but returned him a day later because of some "accidents" he had in their home. We still believe this was due to the stress of a new home. He had accidents the first day when we got him, but none since.

He does not do stairs. He can manage the ones in and out of the house, but that's about it. With some additional blood tests, we found that he had a thyroid problem, and it's been addressed with medication. He is a changed dog. He's losing weight, taking longer walks, and playing with our two other dogs.

Gizmo is an extremely friendly and affectionate dog. He loves to be petted, NEVER counter surfs, loves our other two dogs and every member of our family. He barks only to say hello. His intake papers say he was born in July, 2003 making him 9 to almost 10.

We believe he would make a wonderful addition to any home, as long as stairs are not involved. If the home was multilevel, he'd stay on the first floor. He gets along with other dogs and loves people of all ages. Outside the thyroid issue, he has no other medical problems that we are aware of. We would be happy to discuss him with anyone that is interested in providing him with a Forever Home.

Deborah Knuth



Bodhi (GH824)

A new addition to GoldHeart.

Currently he is under medical evaluation. We will announce his availability as soon as we can.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO FOSTER, CONTACT: WWW.GOLDHEART.ORG

**Bosley (GH826)**

Hi.....my name is Bosley and I'm currently with my foster family. Just as soon as they think I'm ready, I'll be up for adoption for my forever home. I hope I can join your family soon. Keep me in mind ok?
Thanks.

Happy Endings!!!

Having owned a wonderful, adopted Golden Retriever previously, we knew we wanted to adopt our next Golden as well. Thanks to GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, we are now the owners of not just one, but two delightful Golden Retrievers. Maggie (who is 9 years old) and Max (who is 1 ½ years old) were living together previously, and were immediately placed into our family after their former family could no longer keep them. We are grateful to the former family as well as GoldHeart for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of Maggie and Max's lives; we could not have asked for a better match! - FayeAnn King

Maggie (GH822) Max (GH823)**Barkley (GH818)**

"Ruff" life at the Cunninghams!

Many Thanks.....Stacey C. Cunningham

Having a puppy is like having a new baby. You can't take your eyes off of him, for one thing. Everyone keeps saying what a beautiful puppy he is, and you agree, but you feel very tired and you keep wanting to talk to other new puppy owners because they understand! Even though they are indeed difficult, the minute you think your precious furry baby might be having digestive difficulty, or has escaped through a gate left open, you fly into panic. That's how you know you love your puppy to pieces.

Barnegat is still very much a puppy, but I can see the dog in his face now. The fluffy days are gone and new days of longer walks and playing with now best puppy friends are here. Barnegat's canine neighbors include a senior pit-mix named Bella, a lab-mix named Summer, and English lab named Luna, and a Chow-mix named Benny. Barnegat also loves going to the bus stop to meet Noelle. That is a wonderful part of the afternoon, and he gets so much attention. The kids always say "Barnegat grew even bigger!"

Noelle, our daughter, is turning 8, and Albert, our son is turning 4. They love Barnegat even more than I imagined they would. Barnegat has destroyed a Barbie, and has chewed the cape off a Batman figure. He has unraveled a dozen mittens. But when the kids are sick and home resting on the couch, Barnegat cuddles alongside the box of tissues and they know he is a best friend.

Albert throws the ball for him, Noelle give him special treats and nicknames. Even our cat, Rainy Days, tolerates Barnegat. She's a long way from curling up next to him, but perhaps one day....Of course, Barnegat greets Tom and I with the kind of dog greeting that you just will never get from anyone else. It's better than a mug of hot chocolate after a chilly hike. It's the best! It's true what people say about dogs....that you can't imagine your life without them once they are home.

Thank you Barb, and GoldHeart Rescue.....Catherine, Tom, Noelle and Albert. **Barnegat (GH813)**



Bo (GH816)

We adopted our dog Bo from GoldHeart back in early December. It was our first experience with a rescue and the experience was awesome!!! From the time we filled out our application to when we were approved, it took less than a month. 3 days after our approval, we were notified by Barb (GoldHeart's President) that she had a litter of pups – did we want one? Barb's email was on Wednesday. By Sunday we had our new pup – "Bo".

Currently, Bo is a lean approximately 30 lb pup. He is very much a puppy, we have to keep a constant eye on our little brother. He lives with 4 human sisters and his mom and dad.

He is never bored or alone too often. Plus, he has many neighborhood dog friends he loves to play with all of them. His favorite activity is to go to the bus stop every morning with all the kids and dogs. He has a blast!!!

You can tell he is a southern dog, because he loves to lay in the sunshine all day long.....Mary Bornyek

Buddy (GH815)

Buddy was the last of the Tennessee 5 to be adopted and boy did he get lucky. He lives in Maryland with his new mom and dad and his big brother Happy. They get to go to the beach and run and play.





Maxx (GH817)

Maxx, once known as Tucker, is one of the Tennessee boys. He was the runt of the litter, but as you can now see, he's HUGE. He's in his forever home and loving life....and we love him...Jackie Heiser



**Take me out to
the ballgame...
Take me out to
The crowd!**



MAY 22 – ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS, BALTIMORE, MD
AUGUST 17 – ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS, BALTIMORE, MD
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE TO SUPPORT THESE EVENTS.

JUST A DOG

From time to time people will tell me, "lighten up, it's Just a dog", or "that's a lot of money for "Just a Dog". They don't understand the distance traveled, time spent, or costs involved for "Just a Dog". Some of my proudest moments have come about with "Just a Dog".

Many hours have passed with my only company being "Just a Dog", and not once have I ever felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about by "Just a Dog", in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "Just a Dog" provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day.

If you too think it's "Just a Dog", you will probably understand phrases like "Just a Friend", or "Just a Sunrise", or "Just a Promise". "Just a Dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy. "Just a Dog" brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of "Just a Dog", I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. For me and people like me, it's not "Just a Dog". It's the embodiment of all hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a Dog" brings out what is good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday people can understand it's not "Just a Dog". It's the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "Just a Man" or "Just a Woman". So the next time you hear the phrase "Just a Dog", smile, because they just don't understand.

Author Unknown



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CROSSING OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

I AM THE WIND BLOWING THROUGH YOUR HAIR
I AM THE WARMTH YOU FEEL IN THE AIR
WHEN THAT SMILE CREEPS ON YOUR FACE
REMEMBER THAT I AM IN A GOOD PLACE
AND WHEN YOUR FEELING SAD AND DOWN
RECALL MEMORIES OF ME RUNNING AROUND
YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK HIGH AND LOW
JUST SEARCH WAY DEEP INSIDE AND KNOW
THAT WE'LL NEVER BE APART
FOR I HAVE LEFT MY PAWPRINTS ON YOUR HEART



Abby (GH317)

This sweet little girl had a cyst removed from her head. However, further tests revealed more problems. The vet noticed a very large hard fibrous mass on her left shoulder. We decided that the mass needed to be tested for presence of cancerous cells. The test came back positive for a very aggressive tumor that gave her an estimated 6 months to live. **Georgia** was the sweetest, most loving dog that we've ever met. Her condition was slowly getting worse but you would not know it by her actions. It did not stop her one little bit. She was such a breath of fresh air. She infused a lively energy and happiness into our home. She was just so happy to see us each time we came in the door. She would wag her tail and make the cutest little noise. She had a zest for life and it definitely inspired us to cherish each day. We will always love you.

Hugs and kisses.....

Foster Parents – Eric and Beth Kearney



Georgia (GH775)



The first thing that you noticed about **Sophie** was her smile. We'd look across the room at Sophie, her tail would begin tapping, and a broad grin would spread across her face. She was a joyful dog. Sophie also loved to sing. Before she began her concert, she'd take a doggie toy in her mouth. Then, walking in circles around us, she began her song.....helloooooo-a-loooo-a-loooo.

We miss her song, and her sister Grace miss her faithful companion. But, we will never forget her spirit and her song.

Mike and Carol Silvestri

(Although Sophie was not adopted from GoldHeart, Mike and Carol are very big supporters of the rescue)

THERE REALLY ARE PET-LOSS SUPPORT GROUPS

On May 10, 2012 we had to help our precious 10 year old boy Ben to the Rainbow Bridge. It was very unexpected and needless to say very very hard. I have lost pets before but Ben has been the hardest.

I find myself still not being able to let go of the fact that I did not know he was so sick and ask myself alot "Why didn't I know he was so sick" He showed no signs. I am usually the type of person that can start thinking very quickly about another furry family member but this time, my heart just will not heal. For me, another pet tends to mend my broken heart, taking my mind off the pet I lost and focusing on the new furry family member, maybe I don't want my heart to heal, maybe I am punishing myself for not knowing Ben was sick. I knew I needed someone to talk to.

To Google I go, typing in Pet Loss support groups and to my surprise many groups came up. I checked for Pa. Del and Maryland, since this is where all of our members tend to be. There are support groups in every state and not just for the loss of your pet. Groups for pets with seizures, cancer, anything you can think of. Some groups actually meet 1 or 2 times a month if you feel the need to sit in a meeting face to face with people who are going through what you are, these are people that get what you're going through. Friends, co-workers and yes sometimes even family don't understand what your pet meant to you.

There are also chat-lines and hot-lines such as: (all free of charge)

Iams Pet Loss Center—888-332-7738

ASPCA Pet Loss-----877-474-3310

Cornell University-----607-253-3932

Tufts University-----508-839-7966

Because these hotlines are manned by trained veterinary students and volunteer counselors you may have to wait for a return call.

In Pa. a group known as "Wings" a pet grief support group in the Lehigh Valley founded by veterinarian Dr. Phil Zeltzman offers free group counseling to bereaved owners twice a month at two locations from 6:30PM to 8PM. The West Allentown session is conducted by licensed professional counselor Maureen Beilman at the Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church. Phone 610-437-6660. Psychologist Joanne Krug runs the Bethlehem session at her office. Phone is 610-865-0110. Please call for specific dates.

In both of these groups you get to share stories and photos, there is lots of tears, hugging and hand holding. These folks understand the overwhelming guilt and pain of losing that furry family member.

Finally, there are 2 books that I would recommend. "The Loss of a Pet--A Guide to Coping With the Grieving Process When A Pet Dies" by Wallace Sife Ph.D. and "Losing Your Dog" by Mickie Gustafson.

I hope if you have lost a furry four-legged family member and are having trouble dealing with it and need someone to talk to that you will call these folks and let them help you through the pain and guilt you may be feeling. It is nice to be assured that grieving is necessary to begin healing. I would again attend a group meeting if the death of a pet became too distressing.

God Bless you all who have helped a pet to the Rainbow Bridge

Barbara Schaefer

President

GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue

FRIENDS OF GOLDHEART

You Lucky Dog
1213 Liberty Rd, Suite E
(Behind Bob Evans)
Eldersburg, MD 21784
410-795-1033

ScooperHero
3114 Royston Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214
410-319-6630 or 1-877-319-
6630
contact@scooperhero.com

You Lucky Dog
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Eldersburg, MD 21784
410-795-1033

Tail End Kennel
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Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-833-6767

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Everyone at GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc. would like to wish you a wonderful Spring. Thank you for your continuing support and generous contributions to our organization. We could not survive without them.

