GoldHeart Newsletter Summer 2013



GOLDEN HEARTBEATS

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

A Letter From The President

Hi Everyone,

Hope you are all having a good summer so far. As you can guess the rescue has been busy. We took in 3 dogs on July 5 alone and the phone keeps ringing.

Seems my last letter brought us some good luck with acquiring a few more foster families, but we could always use more. Please think about becoming a foster family.

We have also taken in quite a few seniors. These golden oldies are the absolute best dogs. They are often so confused as to why their people are no longer with them and sit at the door in their foster home just waiting and whining to go home. These golden oldies need lots of love and attention to help them make this transition, so if you have lots of love to give, again please think about fostering. These golden oldies certainly know how to get into your heart and make your day very happy.

Please don't forget to keep an eye on the website for an update on events coming up. We usually put out a plea for volunteers for the events so if you could spare some time that would be great. We sure would love to see some new faces at the events and get to meet some of our new members that have recently adopted from us. In regards to new members, when you adopt you do get a membership for 1 year and when that year is up than we ask that if you would like to continue to be a member that you pay the \$35 per year membership fee. That \$35 will help us to continue to cover the cost of care for a golden coming into the rescue. Please note that any time you make a donation throughout the year to GoldHeart we also automatically extend your membership. So if your not sure that your membership is up to date please just ask. We also have 4 newsletters per year, the annual GoldHeart picnic that your family and four legged family members are invited to attend.

In this newsletter you will find some great events coming up and we sure hope to see everyone there.

One last thing that I feel is very, very important. As you should all know, when you adopt a golden from GoldHeart you sign a contract stating that you will keep that golden up to date on all vaccines, and of all you have agreed to keep that golden on heartworm prevention and have him/her tested yearly. In the past 2 years we have had goldens returned to us for one reason or another and they have not been up to date on vaccines nor are they or have they been on heartworm prevention. We have recently had some folks that adopted from us in the past who are looking to adopt again and when we did a vet check the GoldHeart dog had not been on Heartworm prevention for years. How could we possibly trust those folks with another GoldHeart dog? We do our best to stay in contact with all families that adopt but can't possibly do vet checks on all adopted dogs. When you adopt from us, these precious goldens are up to date on everything and GoldHeart has spent a lot of money on these goldens to send them to you in good health and we trust that you will continue to take good care of these wonderful dogs. GoldHeart has just taken in another Heartworm positive dog. Treatment is hard to get and is very expensive and very, very painful for the dog. Please everyone, take care of your four legged family members like you have agreed to do. We all know in todays economy money gets tight and things get overlooked by a month or so, and we understand that but to overlook it altogether is not acceptable. Thank you for always supporting GoldHeart

Barbara Schaefer - President

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Fundraiser CRAB FEAST!!!

GoldHeart Golden Retriever Rescue 6th Annual Fundraiser

> Saturday, August 17, 2013 7pm – 11pm Columbus Gardens 4301 Klosterman Ave Baltimore, MD 21236

Tickets \$45.00 per person

DJ Raffles, Wheels, Silent Auction

Menu:

Steamed Hard Shell Crabs
MD Crab Soup, Pit Beef
Va. Baked Honey Ham, Beef Barbecue
Hot and Mild Sausage, Barbecue Chicken
Macaroni and Cheese
Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Corn on the Cob
Bread, Rolls, Butter
Assorted Desserts
Soda, Coffee and Tea
Beer and Wine

For tickets please contact Donna Blake (treasurer@goldheart.org)

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS FUNDRAISER WILL GO DIRECTLY TOWARDS THE RESCUE AND REHOMING OF OUR BELOVED GOLDEN RETRIEVERS

GOLDHEART VACATION GIVE-AWAY FUNDRAISER

LESS THAN 200 TICKETS LEFT!!!

Attached is a copy of the raffle ticket for sale - \$10 each - Please contact <u>secretary@goldheart.org</u> to purchase - you can mail a check to GoldHeart, PO Box 522, Owings Mills, MD 21117 - note for Vacation Raffle. Please include name and best contact number for the ticket stubs.

Raffle Includes:

- One Week Accommodations in a 2 Bed Room 2 Bath Condo in Costa Rica (1/4 mile from the beach) Max 4 People
- \$1000 cash towards airfare
- Winner to be selected off of the PA Daily Lottery (3 number) on 9/21/13 at 7pm
- · Prize to be used within one year of selection date



More Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!!!

August 17th - Orioles Baseball Game

Game Time: 7:05 Orioles Stadium at Camden Yards – Baltimore, MD

September 14th – Dog Days In The Park

New Freedom, PA

Marge Goodfellow Park

Intersection of Constitution Ave and Main Street, New Freedom, PA 17349

Cost: Free to walk around the park – Donations Welcome!!!

9:00 AM to 10:00AM – The Mutt Strut – A walk for pets 10:00AM to 4:00PM – Event, games, vendors and rescues, catering Vegan and Vegetarian food. Bake sale, demos, Rent-A-Dog and more.....benefits Animal Rescue, Inc.

October 26th - BARCStoberfest & 5K Run

Patterson Park, MD
27 South Patterson Park Ave, Baltimore, MD 21231
11:00AM to 4:00PM – BARCS Annual Fundraiser, 5K Run
Ready, Set, Sniff – 5K Run – People & Dogs Running
Vendors, Food, Fun, Costume Contest, Demos
Benefits BARCS (Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter
Cost: Free to walk around the park – Donations Welcome!!!

November 16th – Holiday Pet Festival

Frederick Fairgrounds
10:00AM to 5:00PM – Great opportunity to get those holiday gifts for your furry AND human friends.
Live demos, education seminars and activities for everyone
Cost: \$5 - \$10 Dollars

(We could use volunteers for Dog Days, BARCStoberfest, and the Holiday Pet Festival)

WE NEED FOSTER HOMES CONTACT GOLDHEART TO VOLUNTEER!

CROSSING OVER THE RAINBOW BRIDGE

Rescuer At The Rainbow Bridge

Unlike most days at the Rainbow Bridge, this day dawned cold and gray. All the recent arrivals at the Bridge did not know what to think, as they had never seen such a day. But the animals who had been waiting longer for their beloved people to accompany them across the Bridge knew what was happening, and they began to gather at the pathway leading to the Bridge. Soon an elderly dog came into view, head hung low and tail dragging. He approached slowly, and though he showed no sign of injury or illness, he was in great emotional pain. Unlike the animals gathered along the pathway, he had not been restored to youth and vigor upon arriving at the Bridge. He felt out of place, and wanted only to cross over and find happiness. But as he approached the Bridge, his way was barred by an angel, who apologized and explained that the tired and broken-spirited old dog could not cross over. Only those animals accompanied by their people were allowed to cross the Bridge. Having nobody, and with nowhere else to turn, the dog trudged into the field in front of the Bridge. There he found others like himself, elderly or infirm, sad and discouraged. Unlike the other animals waiting to cross the Bridge, these animals were not running or playing. They simply were lying in the grass, staring forlornly at the pathway across the Rainbow Bridge. The old dog took his place among them, watching the pathway and waiting, yet not knowing for what he was waiting. One of the newer dogs at the Bridge asked a cat who had been there longer to explain what was happening. The cat replied, "Those poor animals were abandoned, turned away, or left at rescue places, but never found a home on earth. They all passed on with only the love of a rescuer to comfort them. Because they had no people to love them, they have nobody to escort them across the Rainbow Bridge." The dog asked the cat, "So what will happen to those animals?" Before the cat could answer, the clouds began to part and the cold turned to bright sunshine. The cat replied, "Watch, and you will see." In the distance was a single person, and as he approached the Bridge the old, infirm, and sad animals in the field were bathed in a golden light. They were at once made young and healthy, and stood to see what their fate would be. The animals who had previously gathered at the pathway bowed their heads as the person approached. At each bowed head, the person offered a scratch or hug. One by one, the now youthful and healthy animals from the field fell into line behind

the person. Together, they walked across the Rainbow Bridge to a future of happiness and unquestioned love. The dog asked the cat, "What just happened?" The cat responded, "That was a rescuer. The animals gathered along the pathway bowing in respect were those who had found their forever homes because of rescuers. They will cross over when their people arrive at the Bridge. The arrival here of a rescuer is a great and solemn event, and as a tribute they are permitted to perform one final act of rescue. They are allowed to escort all those poor animals they couldn't place on earth across the Rainbow Bridge." The dog thought for a moment, then said, "I like rescuers." The cat smiled and replied, "So does heaven, my friend. So does heaven."



Shadow GH 284

Hi Mark, we notified GoldHeart that our precious boy, Shadow,died last week. Shadow was GH # 284. We adopted Shadow 8 year ago - when he was 5 years old. We were so lucky to have had Shadow in our lives - he was truly loved by so many people. We miss him every day. He hated to get his picture taken - this is one of the rare pictures we were able to take of him. Thanks so much to Goldheart for bringing this wonderful pet into our lives - we were truly blessed to have such an amazing member of our family for so many years.

Sincerely, Lori and Paul Clark



In 2006, when we filled out our application and applied for adoption, we said "We don't want a "couch potato"!" On a late Friday afternoon some time later we got the call: "A Golden we think would be just right for you just came back – rejected by the prospective adoptees as being too active. Can you check him put and pick him up today before we close – there is no room for another dog here right now."

We couldn't – but we did come in the next morning. "Chipper" was racing around in the outdoor enclosure ... racing, racing, racing! He was energetic and immediately inquisitive. We were told to watch out – that he could jump a four-foot fence. We fell in love with him at once

A few weeks the woods we Chipper GH409 later we began our usual long vacation at Cape Cod. After a long walk through came upon a beautiful pond. Chipper advanced to the water's edge, examined it is puzzled fashion, dipped in a forefoot once or twice – then launched himself into the water. We believe that at age one and one-half this was his first experience with bodies of water. But he swam like he had been swimming his whole life.

We have many remembrances of Chipper – almost all of them related to his love of the outdoors. He swam like a champion, ran like a sprinter, pursued rabbits and deer like a bounty hunter ... yet came back promptly when called.

He walked and ran in the woods one day last week -- and died, apparently without pain and from a heart attack, at home that same night. We'll never forget his love for life, water, fields and forests, the neighborhood dogs and our many rides together in our station wagon – or, as we call it, our "dogmobile". His most loved command always was "*To the car*!"

Here is Chipper in his element......Lorraine & Dick Fleming, 6/30/2013

We welcomed Tigger into our family in Nov 2001, adopting him through Goldheart. Tigger was thought to be around 5 years old, although we believed he might have been younger, given his energy level (and no sign of any white on his face). His owner had given him up, telling Animal Rescue that he liked his other dog better. His loss was certainly our gain! While Tigger was not emaciated, his coat was thin,he was a bit underweight, and he didn't bark for the first few months that we had him.

It's amazing what good food and plenty of love can do for a pet... Tigger's coat became more

lustrous, he put on some weight, and he became our constant companion for

the next 10+ years. His health began to fail in late 2011/2012 - and in

March of 2012, with heavy hearts we had to put him down. We know he was

thrilled that we rescued him; our extended family and friends came to love

him dearly.

Lee Ann Graul

Tigger GH095





Ovie GH470

It was Spring 2008. We had buried our golden the previous Christmas and the family felt they were ready to welcome a new joy into our lives. I contacted several local Golden Retriever rescue operations and inquired about available dogs. We reviewed lots of great dogs, but none really just grabbed us until I got the e-mail about a 9 month old male. His previous family gave him up because he was too big, but he was said to be very friendly and housebroken (a definite plus). We liked the pictures and I agreed to meet him.

It was that typical love at first sight. Toby (his name at the time) rushed over to me and jumped up into my arms when I called him. He was big alright, his head right at my neck level. He kissed my face a bunch of times and I was sold. I signed some papers and put him in the back of my SUV. He had his face out the window the whole way home. When I got there, he jumped out, ran to the kids who were waiting for him, and all of a sudden, we had a new family member. Of course, all my wife could say was 'Wow, that's a big dog.'

He adjusted quickly and got along really well with the kids and our other dog. Of course, one day he ate the bottom half of our bay window sill and molding – I thought my wife was going to kill him – but was generally very well behaved. He had no problem with my 3 year old climbing all over him, loved to sit with my 11 year old daughter, and rough-housed with my 13 year old son and his friends. He was very loveable and enjoyed playing as much as possible.

And so it went. One summer, we went to the outer banks and he ran on the beach every night. One evening, he was chasing a group of seagulls near the water. He'd run really fast at them and they would fly away about 30 yards or so. He'd trot back after them, get close, they'd fly back, and the process continued. It got to the point where there were about 15 or so folks watching him and laughing. He loved it as he always loved anyone who showed him even a little attention. When we got snow, he would follow the kids to the local sledding hill and run up and back with them, chasing any snowballs thrown near him. One mom even brought her son who was scared of dogs over to see him. Ovie just rolled onto his back in the snow and let her son scratch his chest. The kid even laughed when Ovie licked him. He was just that kind of fun loving dog that kids enjoyed being around.

When my older daughter had her wisdom teeth taken out, Ovie just laid at her feet the entire weekend as she suffered through the post-op process. He would only get up to eat and go outside for a couple minutes, then right back to her. If we approached as she slept, he gave us the look that said "Go away, we are OK.", so we did.

I'd take him to some of my son's lacrosse games and the kids would wrestle with him after the game and play 'fetch' until he decided it was time to just lay down. His friends would come over just to play with Ovie and he was always up for whatever they wanted to do.

The one thing he loved the most was to go for walks. I would put him on the retractable leash, but he loved to carry his 5' nylon leash in his mouth with him. People would laugh as we went down the street, Ovie basically giving himself a walk. He listened pretty well and would stay with me, even if he saw a squirrel or rabbit. He would want to play with any dog that walked near him, but he'd roll right over for the little ones (all 100 lbs of him).

In the evenings, he would usually lay at the foot of the sofa, right under my wife. She would pretend to complain, but I knew she loved it. If you put your foot on the ground, he would always want to put his paw on top of it. Even if you moved your foot 10 times, he'd put his paw up there 11 times. I have no idea why, but it was really funny. He was just such a great part of the family and everyone had their fun times with him. Whenever I saw a sticker or sign with a dog on it and the slogan "Who rescued Who", I would immediately think of Ovie. Technically, we 'rescued' him from going to the pound.

In early May, Ovie started getting sick. He'd throw up a couple times a day. After 3 days of this, I took him to the vet. They ran tests, took x-rays, but couldn't find anything wrong. She said it could be a type of worm in the intestine and gave him more medicine. She also mentioned that it could be cancer. He had good days and bad days over the next few weeks. Saturday June 1, during the day, he didn't move much and was drooling more than usual. We kept an eye on him, and he again ate a little food. That evening, I went out to get my daughter. When I came home somewhat later, my wife was at the door and I knew something was up. He had stopped breathing that evening and my son found him. It was horrible. We put him outside under a blanket for the night. We took him to my in-laws (they have multiple acres of land) and we buried him next to their previous dog. My son helped me dig the grave and we buried him with a fine Irish wake. We told our favorite stories about Ovie and I buried a raw-hide chew (he loved those things) with him. It still hurts so badly when I think of him and I feel the burn of fresh tears down my cheeks right now.

God Bless you Big Man, you will be missed. Until we meet again......



Abby GH317

Our precious little girl Abby is now waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge. She is reunited with Kayla and Luke, and she has finally met Mitzi, whose passing brought us to GoldHeart. She had thyroid cancer that had invaded her larynx and was spreading to the blood vessels. It would have soon invaded her lungs. She is peaceful now, breathing easy and swimming whenever she wants. She was responsible for us meeting so many good friends at GoldHeart, and for that we will always be grateful.

Luke GH538

Lukey-Man, you gave us a lifetime's worth of love and joy in the 2+ years that we were privileged to share our home with you. We will always remember your sweet nature, your curly locks, and especially your "Butt-Scratch Dance", which gave us so many smiles and giggles. You were the most gentle of giants, and we will carry you in our hearts forever. Have a safe passage to the "Rainbow Bridge", and know that we will be looking for you when we, too, arrive at its entrance.



A FOSTER & ADOPTION STORY



Sophie GH755

My First Rescue, Foster and Adoption Experience

I once watched a television show called "Sonya the pet psychic" and she indicated that pets have a way of finding you. I believe that is true. Sophie came from CO, to MD, and then to Barb Schaefer's (Gold heart president) for a couple of hours until I picked her up to be her foster/permanent Mom. I hadn't had a dog in over 20 years and then that was a family affair. I was a bit naïve about how things have changed with raising a dog, especially on my own. The expense, the challenges and the time that is required to bring a dog (especially a puppy mill dog) up to speed was way more intense than I expected. Sophie came with a name she didn't even recognize. In addition to that, Sophie did not have a good beginning and she was scared, terribly afraid to express herself and didn't know what was expected of her. She was 8 months old but socially and skill wise she was just a baby. With the help of Barb and Barb's dog Sadie; Mike, the trainer; my mother and others she slowly started to learn the things that she had not been exposed to. A lot of things were new to her such as grass, carpet, a dog bed, not having to use a crate, affection, belly rubs, getting consistent feeding, playing with toys, a ball, chewing a bone, going up and down steps, getting in and out of a car -- and the list goes on.

Her health became more problematic and after taking her to a couple of different vets to find out what was wrong with her - I heard of an animal communicator that had helped uncover a health issue for a friend's cat. It turned out that this communicator was right on the money and we started the long process to correct and heal what we could. And of course, as a relatively new mother, I was feeling the weight of responsibility and the worry about Sophie. I had even called Barb and said that I may not be able to keep her and provide what was necessary as it required a lot of time and money. I gave Sophie all the available time I could; but I worked. I was never so exhausted in my life.

I had a serendipitous encounter with a lady on a business trip who said she was having excellent success with her dog due to an acupuncturist/animal nutritionist. This was the catalyst needed to take the next step for Sophie. As her physical discomfort escalated, so did her fears and anxiety. We had to try different approaches until we found what worked for her. I prefer a holistic approach when possible to treat the cause, not just the symptoms.

So when Prozac was recommended I was a bit resistant; although I did try it for a while until her behavior started to erode again. Melatonin then replaced Prozac and it was more natural. It seems to have created balance and regulate her body rhythms – allowing her to be Sophie; wonderful, loving, kind, playful and brave Sophie.

It truly took a village to move Sophie towards recovery and I am thankful to all who assisted and cared. Sophie has gotten through training classes (Sophie loved the instructor) and is insistent to interact with everyone she can. She does wear a thundershirt (not for thunder or storms which she loves) in new or anxiety filled situations. She has a great sense of humor. And it shows the wonderful capacity of animals to trust and take a chance on people despite what went before. She still has some issues and I remind her not to sweat the small stuff and she is very proud of herself for embracing the adventure of BECOMING the DOG she is meant to be.....Jamie Fisher

ANOTHER FOSTER TO ADOPT STORY...

Buddy GH838



The Joy of Fostering

We have had a Golden in our home for 22 out of the past 23 years. When our Hemi left us last year unexpectedly we thought that was it. Our dog raising years were over. We just wouldn't be able to go through that again. But as time went on we realized that there was something missing in our lives. When we talked about it we realized what it was. It was a Golden. We missed all the joys and woes of having one. That's when I contacted GHGRR and picked a dog to adopt and started the paperwork. We decided we wanted an older dog at this point in our lives. Turns out the dog we wanted to adopt just wasn't able to learn to like cats. Ugh, we have 2! GH said to be patient, there are lots of older Goldens coming in all the time. Then we got the call. There was an older Golden that was in brought into a local shelter that needed a foster home. They asked us if we would consider fostering to adopt and sent us a picture of Buddy. He was very sad looking and beautiful all at the same time. We fell in love with the picture and the story. When I picked Buddy up and looked into his eyes I knew that this would be a "failed foster". Because Buddy had found his forever home with his forever Mom and Dad. He's been with us for almost 3 weeks now and all I can say is wow! There are obstacles and health issues (sometimes) but GH works with you through them and gives you the support you need. Most of all they help you make sure that the Golden is right for you and you for them. The goal is for everyone to be happy and healthy. If you've ever thought about fostering, fostering to adopt, or just adopting, I strongly recommend it. It will bring you much joy and happiness and what you bring to the Golden is priceless.

Buddy's forever Mom and Dad...Robb and Susan

More Adoption Stories...



Slider is 7 – Homer is 5

How does someone get started fostering?

Well, it started for us with getting two Golden Retrievers of our own. We have enjoyed them so much and have come to love the breed so much that we felt compelled to give back to it. We decided to look for an organization to volunteer with. Thankfully we found Goldheart. They said the biggest need they have is for fosters so we thought we'd give it a try. We figured we'd be doing a really good thing for dogs in need. We figured that it would be a rewarding and learning experience. What we didn't realize is how it would change our lives for the better.

Our first foster was a beautiful Golden girl named Sophie. Once vetted and ready to adopt, there was a TON of interest in her. You will be given lots of information about the potential adopters that are interested. You will be able to review each for their merits and for the ability to match with the dog. This part of the process has been something that we really like. We have been very confident about the adopters of the dogs that we have fostered thus far because of this.

Here is a picture of gorgeous Sophie # 1 and the happy family that adopted Sophie # 2.

The two dogs above were easy to work with and marrying them with great adopters was really gratifying. We thought we would only like to work with the easy ones but found that was wrong. Some of these dogs will challenge you in every imaginable way.

Georgia – She came along with Sophie # 2 and had some physical problems. We had a cyst removed from her head and found at this time that she had untreatable cancer. She was given 6 months to live. We were devastated. The thing we weren't prepared for is the amazing will to live that this dog displayed. She was such a breath of fresh air. She brought an energy and zest for living into our house that made us cherish each day with her. One of the toughest things we have ever had to do was put her down, but we were lucky to have 8 months with her as a long-term foster. We keep this picture on our wall

Bodhi – We took him in knowing that he had some problems with seizures. This didn't scare us because our own boy Homer had them also. We thought we could help to get him on the right medication and get them under control. What we didn't find out until later was that his history of seizures had caused some damage that was irreversible. It was later determined that the best thing for him, was to put him down.



Bodhi



Sophie #1



Sophie #2



Sweet Georgia

As you can see by our story, each dog is different. Each will bring a new energy/love/need into your home and each will teach you something different about the breed, and most importantly yourselves. You will find out that you have a lot more love and compassion then you may have realized and even in the toughest of times, they are enriching you more than you know. People who know what we've been through always ask us, "How can you do that?" Easy......even the abused, neglected, and strayed deserve a good home.

Beth and Eric Kearne - Foster Parents

FRIENDS OF GOLDHEART

Shopping - Pets

You Lucky Dog

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

Big Fish Entertainment 717-979-7278

www.bigfishkaraokedj@comcast.net

Services

ScooperHero

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

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www.canaltownelabs.com Kristin Wade

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Healing Hands Animal Hospital

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



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