

THE heart



OF
HOMEWARD
BOUND

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HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

What a wonderful evening we enjoyed together at Kibble & Bids™ 2015! Our 15th Anniversary celebration was a truly special occasion. We capture a few of the highlights inside and we thank everyone for their support – attendees, sponsors, vendors and the volunteers whose hard work made it all possible.

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month. Senior dogs bring such joy into our lives and homes. We've listed our top five reasons why senior dogs make great companions on page 6.

Thunder dogs find safety and peace in our Sacramento Valley - and they come from everywhere! Read about our most recent arrivals on page 9.

Looking for extra special holiday ideas? We have something for every person on your list and gifts that fit every budget! Santa Photos, The Homeward Bound Calendar, Commemorative Bricks...and our popular Giving Tree which returns on Thanksgiving weekend. Best of all, since the proceeds benefit the dogs, it's like giving twice! Read the details on pages 10-11.

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

You can help us to expand our reach by sharing our newsletter with friends, family and co-workers! Thank you!



Shadow is a Good Dog

BY: Jen Walton

On March 26, 2011, we adopted #2011-219 - a dog you called "Vic." He was everything we were not looking for: very big, in need of training, and possessing a ton of youthful energy. We thought we were looking for an older dog, one with few training issues, and a quieter, less puppy-like attitude. But "Vic" chose us.

We met several dogs that day and we considered a couple, but none seemed to fit. Then somebody said, "we have one we'd like you to meet, but he's not anything like what you said you wanted." As this dog came bounding towards us, he took my breath away; he was the most beautiful dog I had ever seen. My next thought was, "but he's huge!" His feet were as big as my hands and it was obvious that he had loads of energy and enthusiasm!

Our entire household – all five of us - watched him stop as he approached and then went calmly to each of us in turn without being prompted - gazing up at us with a

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Our Mission

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, regardless of their age or health. Homeward Bound secures safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption program, and also provides lifetime sanctuary for Golden Retrievers that cannot be adopted.

Homeward Bound also provides education on proper animal care and on the benefits of, and need for, rescue and sanctuary. In the event of a disaster, Homeward Bound will provide assistance to other rescue groups and the families of dogs impacted by the disaster.

Homeward Bound will continue to serve as a model rescue organization, addressing animal welfare needs throughout California and neighboring states, and strives to be a national leader in rescue, sanctuary and education.

DOGS RESCUED 2015 TO DATE
236

VET EXPENSES 2015 TO DATE
\$125,657



A Message from our President

We all get a little reflective at this time of year as the leaves turn and another season passes. In rare quiet moments before or after the chaos of the day, I take it all in from one of my favorite spots in the Memorial Garden. As the year draws to a close, I have much to reflect upon.

The year 2015 marked our fifteenth in operation. Our accomplishments were captured beautifully in a video produced and donated by Bob Murphy and Carolyn Belz of Murphy Film Production, Inc. If I hadn't lived it, I wouldn't have believed that so much could be accomplished through an all-volunteer effort.

In fifteen years, we built a nationally-recognized organization and rescued more than 8,000 dogs. In the process, lives have been changed: of the families who adopt them - and of the volunteers who pull them from shelters, transport them, heal them, foster, feed, walk and love them.

We could not do any of this without our volunteers or our generous supporters. You ensure that dogs in need make their way to us, are housed safely and comfortably, and receive the medical attention and care needed to see them on their journeys home. Your generosity saves lives and never ceases to amaze me.

Dogs may not truly talk, but they express their gratitude to us in happy tails, sloppy kisses and unconditional love. I can only say "thank you." I am grateful for all of you.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving and bright holiday season,

~ Jody Jones, President



Cont'd from Page 1

question in his eyes. Suddenly it didn't matter that he was bigger and more exuberant than we thought we wanted. We were unanimous; this was our dog.

We were told that there was almost nothing known about his previous life. He hadn't been with you long and had barely finished his evaluation. It was thought that he had been abandoned because he was very underweight. When we got him he weighed 71 pounds; a year later he was up to 88; he topped out at 91 pounds a year after that. Loud voices made him nervous and the phrase "bad dog" made him cringe.

Once we got him home, he settled in quickly. Re-named "Shadow," he learned what "good dog" meant and was never

called "bad dog" again. He was happiest in our pool and would jump in after a pool toy for hours. We took him to church with us one Sunday and children of all ages climbed all over him as he happily wagged his tail. He would bark occasionally at squirrels, but we never, ever heard him growl. Everyone was his friend. He played well with other dogs, and we were eventually given a laboratory rescue beagle that became his best friend. Shadow was even good with cats, to the point of them curling up between his feet to sleep.

On the morning of July 2nd his nose started bleeding. We thought it could be a foxtail up his nose and starting making plans for a visit to the vet's office once my husband was off of work. By mid-afternoon his nose had stopped bleeding, but we noticed that his breathing sounded off. Not much, but enough to know something

was clearly wrong. We made an emergency vet appointment and a half an hour later we took him in.

Our vet ran tests and told us it was a particularly aggressive cancer - a large tumor in his nose and behind his eyes, pressing against the optic nerve and restricting his breathing. She told us that this type of cancer was fast-moving, and typically caused no symptoms until it was completely untreatable and inoperable.

We were all with him at the end; those who couldn't be in the room were with us on cell phones. There was almost no room for the vet. He went peacefully in our arms, wagging his tail as we said, over and over - "Shadow is a good dog."

Thank you so much for changing our lives.....he was the best dog ever.

~ The Welton Family



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue



7495 Natomas Rd.
Elverta, CA 95626
p. 916-655-1410 f. 916-655-3410
homewardboundgoldens.org

Tax ID No. 68-0442702

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Kibble & Bids™ 2015: It's a Wrap!

On a beautiful September evening, hundreds joined us and our golden companions for a very special Kibble & Bids™ event at the Old Sugar Mill in Clarksburg, CA. This extra special Crystal Celebration of fun, food and drink marked our 15th Anniversary. No surprise to us, you made it a successful event for the dogs as well, thanks to your generosity.

Fine wines flowed and delectable appetizers were sampled in a beautiful setting. Our silent auction was humming as guests plotted and positioned to be the highest bidder on amazing items. And a fabulous dinner culminated in a heartfelt video presentation created and donated by Murphy Film Productions, Inc.

All of this led up to the live auction where the bidding was fierce for valuable treasures. Most importantly, your big-heartedness resulted in us raising critical funds to renovate and enhance our senior yard known affectionately as “Sugar Shack Acres.”

In this sanctuary, dogs that may not be adopted due to age or illness can live out their lives in our care. Your gifts will help us regrade the yard, add a gazebo for raised and covered outdoor lounging, and enhance the interior accommodations



a crystal celebration
15th Annual
**Kibble
& Bids™**



with all the comforts of home. On behalf of our sugar faces, thank you!

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Carvalho Family Winery, in partnership with Rayna’s Gourmet Catering, Merlo Family Winery, Clarksburg Wine Company, Ben Bridge Jewelers and Bronco Wine Co for helping us to put on such a memorable event. Of course, we also thank our auction item donors and generous supporters for helping us to achieve our fundraising goal benefitting the dogs.

As our volunteer, Susan, says in the video – it’s a dog rescue – but the work we do

rescues us as well. Canine and human lives are touched and saved by you by partnering in our mission.

Thank you to all who attended to make Kibble & Bids™ 2015 one of the most successful ever. And a very special thanks to Candy Courtney, our event Chair, along with her organizing committee and the amazing volunteers who work tirelessly to support this event that means so much to our mission and the dogs of Homeward Bound.

Thank you all!



For The Love of Seniors

“My face may be white, but my heart is pure gold. There is no shame in growing old.”

As November is national “Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month,” we thought it appropriate to include a reminder of the reasons why seniors in need of forever homes make perfect companions. Here are our top five reasons for adopting a senior dog:

1. Predictable

A very young dog’s true personality or health needs are revealed over time. With an older dog, what you see is what you get. You know their full-grown size, personality and needs from the start. That makes it easier to pick the perfect dog and forge that instant bond. Because they are lower energy, most senior dogs are also content with their own company for longer periods of time, providing greater flexibility than a dog that requires constant supervision. Just be prepared to be lavished with adoration upon your return.

2. Trainable

Whoever said “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks” never tried! If you have ever tried to train a puppy or young dog, you know that wearing them down is the first order of business before you can even hope to get their attention for lesson time. Senior dogs are generally calmer and more focused on you, making learning the task at hand that much simpler. And most already come equipped with the basics of “sit,” “stay,” “down,” and “come.” Having been around the block, they tend to acclimate more quickly becoming a part of your pack.

3. Loveable

Those of you who adopt dogs in their golden years tell us all the time that you can’t believe how devoted and grateful they are. And the feeling quickly becomes mutual. Older dogs are loyal and experienced companions who are more likely to walk politely on a leash or play a gentle game of catch. Many make friendly playmates for children – particularly if they were once a cherished family dog. Sadly, senior dogs are too often over-looked and at greater risk of euthanasia in shelters. When you give a golden oldie a second chance at the rest of its life, you become the recipient of a love that is both unconditional and enduring.

4. Foreseeable

With luck, adopting a puppy or very young dog can be anywhere from an 8 to 15 year commitment – or more! People who can anticipate big changes in their future are wise to resist the urge. Providing a loving home to a dog in its golden years is no less serious a commitment – but it might be a shorter one. At Homeward Bound, that could mean adoption or providing permanent foster to an eligible dog. You may also qualify for our Golden Touch program – where we make senior-to-senior connections, waiving adoption fees for eligible candidates. Find more information on our website at www.homewardboundgoldens.org.

5. Adorable

You’ve heard the saying “you’re as old as you feel.” Sugar faces have their puppy moments too – without all the mess and household destruction! And boy do they know how to work it. When they roll over in the grass for a belly rub, come galloping in slow motion with paws waving, or cuddle up and stare at you lovingly with those big eyes, your heart is sure to melt. At Homeward Bound, you’ll frequently find our volunteers recharging in our senior yard, surrounded by white faces. After a hard day of walking, feeding, cleaning and wearing down the energy of our “dorm” dogs – there’s nothing like some adorable loving in Sugar Shack Acres!



Gracie and Cooper

“We had her tested for food and skin allergies, worked with a pet allergist, gave her special food and some meds, and she is now a happy dog who no longer itches. Good grooming also brought her coat back, and it is beautiful. Her face is nearly all white now, but given her background, that is not surprising.

Gracie and our five-year old male, Cooper, are best buddies. They play together, swim together, and sleep together. Gracie was petrified of water at first, but with loving work, she now is a great swimmer, who loves to fetch a tennis ball from the pool. She has also developed a little bit of a devilish side! She will take Cooper’s favorite toy and taunt him! She loves walks and meal-time. She is in her forever home.”



Three Names: One Forever Home

Betsy Haehl and John Kriewall’s beloved rescued Golden Retriever struggled with horrible allergies. They lost her too soon. When they decided to rescue again, they were determined not to undertake such a big challenge – until they met Bonnie.

Bonnie was rescued by Homeward Bound twice. First, as “Sandy” from a shelter in 2010. Little was known about her except that she obviously suffered from poor nutrition and allergies. Sadly, her adoptive family returned her to

another shelter in 2011. (Homeward Bound requires that all adopting families contractually commit to return a dog to us if they must give it up for any reason.) Thankfully, we found her again. This time, under the name “Bonnie.”

“After we were interviewed, we received a call from Homeward Bound about a female who was five years old. We drove several hours from our home to meet her,” says Betsy.

“When we saw her, we could tell she had allergies and lots of fears. She was underweight, her coat was flaky, and she was afraid of everything,” Betsy relays. “We brought her home anyway, knowing she’d need some special attention. We couldn’t bear to leave her there.” They named her Gracie.

Turn KIBBLE INTO CASH for the pups at Homeward Bound. For every large bag of Nature’s Select Premium Pet Food purchased, Nature’s Select will donate \$3.00 back to Homeward Bound. Nature’s Select provides FREE HOME DELIVERY in the greater Northern California area. It’s all-natural, holistic pet food from a local, family-owned and operated company.

“The Homeward Bound dogs are doing great since we started feeding them Nature’s Select. We love the convenience of having the food delivered to us, as well as the generous donations the “Kibble Into Cash” program provides.”

- Jody Jones, President, Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary

916-480-0900 www.nsnorcal.com



A Dog’s Instructions for Living with Gratitude

This is the time of year for reflection and thankfulness. Some keep a gratitude journal, others seek a self-help guru. We just follow our dog’s lead. Pay close attention. Your dog can show you how to live a simpler and more grateful life. Here’s how:

Acceptance

Dogs don’t have long lists of worries and they don’t sweat the small stuff. For the most part, when something stinky happens, they just kick a few blades of grass over it and move on.

Appreciate the Simple Things

A ball, a bed, a meal, even a bath. A hug, a walk, a pet, and a smile. Dogs don’t need expensive toys, outfits or fancy houses and big cars. The simplest things bring them the greatest joy, and they always make time to stop and smell the roses. Thankfulness is expressed in a simple tail wag or sloppy kiss. What a great way to live.

Invite Happiness

Dogs are social by nature. Living with humans can change their instincts, so we have to ensure that socialization blooms.



But dogs look for and expect the best unless given a reason to fear otherwise.

Forgiveness

Even when hurt, neglected or abandoned, dogs demonstrate grace and amazing resilience. While big things can leave scars, rarely do dogs give up on us.

Spend Time with Loved Ones

Dogs value friendships and family – you are part of their pack. Spending time together is a gift they look forward to each and every day.

Enjoy the Ride

Life is a journey that can take many turns. Dogs don’t fret about the future; they are present-minded. As long as their needs are met, they live fully and happily in the moment, looking for every opportunity to have some fun.

Live by the Golden Rule

Show a dog some love and it will be returned ten-fold. Dogs trust; they keep their simple promises: you love me and I’ll love you. Dogs treat others as they would like to be treated.

Never Waste an Opportunity to Tell Someone to You Love Them

For adventures large and small; for a game of catch, or the opening of the cookie jar; for every time the latch is turned and the door is opened – dogs show their appreciation, affection and gratitude.



Thunder Dogs Find Safety

BY: Judy Kent

Marley, Stella, Howie and Penelope all came to Homeward Bound for the same reason; they were so afraid of thunderstorms that they would harm themselves if left alone during a storm. And they lived in thunderstorm territory.

Why are some dogs so afraid of thunder (fireworks, loud noises) while others are not? Veterinarians don’t know the answer. But they do know that for some dogs this fear can turn into a serious problem - serious enough that dogs will injure themselves to get away from the noise.

For many dogs, a loud noise is all it takes to set them off. It can be thunder, fireworks or a metal pan falling to the floor in the kitchen. This fear can be mitigated through behavior modification.

For others, it is much more than noise. My first dog was an 85-pound golden/shepherd mix and she was not afraid of anything - not sharp noises, not fireworks and not thunder. But she knew, long before I did, when a tornado was headed toward our town in Illinois. She paced, she cried and she tried to climb into my

lap. By the time the sirens went off and we had to take cover, she was glued to my side, under my sweatshirt. If she could have crawled under my skin, she would have. What did she know (or feel, or smell, or hear) that I didn’t?

The triggers for dogs with “thunder-phobia” can be a combination of wind, thunder, lightning, barometric pressure changes, static electricity and low



frequency rumbles preceding a storm. Humans just aren’t as sensitive to these weather changes as dogs.

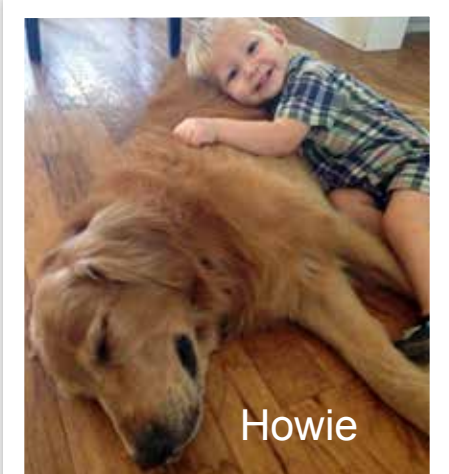
According to one theory, dogs experience painful shocks from static buildup before a storm and will instinctively try to find a grounding device and will lean against the bathroom sink or bathtub for relief. And although there are tranquilizers or homeopathic remedies that offer some help, if left alone, these are the dogs that will jump the fence or dig a hole in the carpet

to get away. Some dogs are so frightened that they will jump through a closed window and do physical harm to themselves in an effort to escape a storm.

Marley was one of these dogs and he came to us last year. He couldn’t fly because his fear went beyond storms to loud noises, and even with mild sedation, a four-hour flight was not possible. He was chauffeured from Illinois to California by three families, and we followed his adventure on Facebook. Stella and Howie also arrived by car, leaving behind storms in Indiana and Texas. Penelope was able to fly from Florida.



These dogs are all safe, happy and living the (nearly thunderstorm-free) California good life because Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue is always willing to take Goldens in need. For Marley, Stella, Howie and Penelope, it doesn’t get any better than this.



Cherry Creek Veterinary Hospital

7955 Watt Avenue, Antelope, CA 95843
Phone: 916-349-2755 | www.cherrycreekvet.com
Justina Codde, DVM, MS

A full-service veterinary medical facility, providing excellent medical, surgical and dental care to our patients while promoting responsible pet ownership, preventative health care and health-related educational opportunities for our clients.



Holiday Gift Ideas • For Every Human, Dog & Budget!



Light up the 2015 Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

The 5th Annual Homeward Bound Giving Tree will be ready to decorate online beginning Thanksgiving weekend!

It's the perfect gift for a dog lover, a last-minute shopper, or the special people in our lives who don't care about receiving another "thing." When you donate to the Giving Tree – in honor or in memory of your special someone – you're giving a gift from the heart that benefits all the dogs who need our help on their journeys home.

For donations of \$10 or more you can help us decorate our Giving Tree. Place a virtual light, ornament, or package under our tree in honor of, or in memory of, friends, family, or pets. The honoree will receive a beautiful certificate from Homeward Bound telling them of your gift and where to view the online tree with your recognition of them. You will warm the heart of the honoree while helping Homeward Bound continue to take in, provide medical care, and place hundreds of dogs each year.

Our Giving Tree will be ready to light and decorate on Thanksgiving weekend. Look for it on our website at www.homewardbound-goldens.org. It's incredible to watch your gifts turn our tree into a bright light each year during the holiday season. Just look at last year's tree below!

Please join us in making this the most memorable year ever!



Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Photos are Back!

Santa Photographer Eric Schuman is back for photos - just in time for holiday mailings!

Dates: Friday-Sunday, November 20, 21 & 22
Location: Homeward Bound, 7495 Natomas Rd., Elverta, CA
Time: 10A-2PM each day

(Except between 12N-12:30P when Santa and his elves load up on cookies.)

For \$20, we provide Santa, the photographer, a winter backdrop, doggie scarves and holiday gear, hot apple cider and hot chocolate, plus homemade cookies for dogs and humans! You provide the dog(s)! Your Santa Photos will be available online for download - with super speedy turnaround.

E-mail us to schedule your Santa Photos today! Slots go quickly.
 E-mail: goldentraining@homewardbound-goldens.org

The Homeward Bound Calendar

The 2016 Homeward Bound Calendar makes a great gift for any dog lover. Hot off the presses and full of beautiful Goldens! Every purchase benefits the dogs of Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary.

Look for the link on our website at: www.homewardboundgoldens.org

Commemorative Bricks in our Memorial Garden Path

A commemorative brick in our Memorial Garden Path is a unique way to memorialize a special companion while supporting resident Goldens in our care. Your personalized brick will be placed in the pathway as a thoughtful gift or loving tribute.

Look for details on our website under "How To Help"

How to Reach Us

Your help and ideas are always welcome! Contact team leaders below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

Adoptions and Surrenders & Sanctuary Development
 Mike and Jody Jones
 7495 Natomas Road
 Elverta, CA 95626
 916-655-1410
 Fax: 916-655-3410

jjsgoldens@homewardboundgoldens.org

Foster Families
 Judy Ortiz
fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Placement Team
 Lynn Pihera, 916-428-2718
homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org

Golden Taxi (Transport)
 Lea Kachler-Leake
goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org

Events Planning
 Jana Hook, 530-346-9913
events@homewardboundgoldens.org

Volunteering
 Pat Heise
volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Newsletter & Marketing
 Audrey Farrington
audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org

Training
 Kathryn Baines, 916-300-9415
grdogtraining@gmail.com

Kibble & Bids™ Fundraising
 Candy Courtney, Chair
kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org



Homeward Bound Golden Retriever
Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.
7495 Natomas Road
Elverta, CA 95626

phone: 916-655-1410 | Fax: 916-655-3410
email: jjsgoldens@homewardboundgoldens.org
www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:

- **Taxi Drivers:** Start a dog on their journey home!
- **Feeders:** A dog's best friend! Physically demanding, but so rewarding!
- **Walkers:** Build bonds of trust through walking, playing, training, and grooming. Help prepare the dogs for their forever homes
- **Adoption Counselors:** Make perfect matches to help us get dogs home! We'll teach you!

Dates To Remember

- **Santa Photos - Friday-Sunday, November 20-22**
- **The Giving Tree - Available Thanksgiving Weekend**
on our website at: www.homewardboundgoldens.org

Our Golden Wish List

You can also shop our **Amazon Wish List** and **Amazon Smile!** You'll find the link on our website!

For Our Goldens:

Nature's Select Dog Food (donate with your online purchase)
Large Pill Pockets
Dog Cookies
Rubber-backed Rugs
Petco & PetSmart Gift Cards

Office Supplies

Postage Stamps
8 1/2 x 11 Copy Paper
Professional Printing Services

General Maintenance & Laundry

Paper Towels
Garbage Bags (heavy duty & extra heavy duty)

Facilities Supplies

Lowes or Home Depot Gift Cards

For Landscaping & Our Memorial Garden

Green Acres Nursery Gift Certificates
Donations of Dirt and Gravel
Shredded Cedar Bark/Mulch