

Homeward Bound Supporters



It's time to Share the Love with our 2016 "Double the Gold Challenge"

Some dogs come to Homeward Bound needing only basic medical care such as heartworm test, spay/neuter, vaccinations and other minor treatment. Some need much more expensive, complex, and on-going care. Homeward Bound welcomes them all. 2015 was the year of the seizure dog. Many dogs having uncontrolled seizures came into our care.

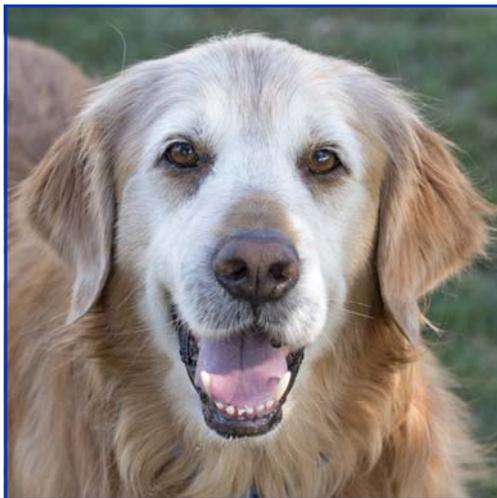


Seizures are symptomatic of abnormal, uncontrolled bursts of electrical activity in the brain. They come in all different types. Some common symptoms are collapsing, convulsing, jerking, stiffening, muscle twitching, drooling, disorientation, foaming at the mouth, and sometimes loss of bladder or bowel control. The seizure may last just a few seconds or several minutes, and they can be frightening and upsetting to watch. Some families find they are unable to deal with the emotionally wrenching seizure episodes. Some may not be able to afford the medication needed to control the seizures. Some don't want their children to see the seizures.

There are many conditions that can cause seizures, including head injury, brain cancer, kidney disease, encephalitis, liver disease, and eating poison. Seizures from unknown causes are called idiopathic epilepsy. In many cases, seizures can be controlled with medication. The causes of seizures can be difficult to identify. Diagnostic tests can be negative and sometimes seizures are far apart.

We are fortunate that Homeward Bound's vet, Dr. Justina Codde, is so experienced in treating dogs with seizures. We willingly accept a seizure dogs, knowing Dr. Codde will know exactly how to best treat them.

Below is the story of Bear a sweet eight-year-old who was surrendered to Homeward Bound because he was having severe seizures. He was adopted by Judy and Tom Kent. Judy shares his story:



There's a dog in there

When Bear, aka Honey Bear, came to Homeward Bound he could barely walk from all the medication he was on. Bear was the recipient of high doses of meds to control seizures. He had suffered nine seizures in 48 hours, a condition known as cluster seizures. Cluster seizures can be life threatening, and the only way to stop them is through medication. Unfortunately, the same medication that was saving his life was making him groggy and unsteady.

Bear would make eye contact, but it was an empty look with no real recognition in his eyes. He didn't respond to pets or hugs and he seemed to be terrified of a leash. With coaxing and treats, he would walk to the park or to a yard. But his preference was to walk, unleashed, to a yard for potty and to come right back in the office and go to sleep.

It didn't seem like a very good life for an eight-year-old Golden. But every now and then we would see evidence that there was a dog in there. He would respond to his name, or he would chase a ball. Or he would look up when the lights came on. But there was no tail wagging or hint of recognition. Here was this big, beautiful boy that seemed more like an empty shell than a Golden.

So of course, he came home with me. Bear is my fifth seizure dog. But he's the first one who seems to be severely impacted by both the seizures and the meds. Usually, dogs adjust to phenobarbital in 30-60 days. They don't need to sleep as much and their personality returns. We are still hoping that will happen for Bear.

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The Seizure Club

Below are some of the seizure dogs that joined us in 2015. Each became homeless through no fault of their own. Some were surrendered to Homeward Bound when their former families felt the only other option was euthanasia. Most came from families who, for a variety of reasons, could not manage or emotionally deal with the seizures. Because of your donations, we were able to help each of them find a happy a new life and bring their seizures under control. Homeward Bound has a lifetime commitment to each of them, and we are happy to provide their medication for the rest of their lives.



Bentley

Gorgeous Bentley was adopted, and then returned to Homeward Bound due to his seizures. He was adopted in April 2015 by Sharon H.

He continues to have occasional seizures, but the medications almost have them under control.

His new mom adores her boy.



Teddy

When we received a call from the folks at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, asking if we would take a seizure dog, of course, we said yes.

His family couldn't deal with the seizures or the cost of the needed medication.

When we picked him up, he was groggy and staggering from the high dose of meds used to stop his seizures. With his sweet personality and beautiful curly red coat, he quickly became one of the volunteers' favorites.

He is now at home with volunteer dog walker Gwen and her other HB Golden, Doug.



Winston

Seven-year-old Winston was adopted from Homeward Bound and later began having seizures. When his family had to move for health reasons, they returned him to Homeward Bound,

Now at 10 years old the seizures happen only occasionally and this charming fellow is a favorite of the volunteers



Paris

This one-year-old beauty was surrendered to Homeward Bound because her family had three young children who were frightened by the seizures. In April 2015, she was adopted by volunteer Sandy W and her husband Dave. Sandy fell in love with Paris while volunteering as a dog walker.

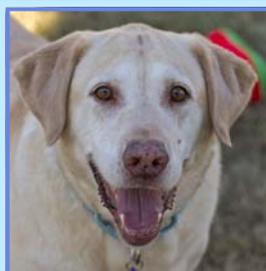
Paris says, "Life is tres jolie."



Gigi

This lovely eight-year-old girl was surrendered due to seizures.

She was adopted in February 2015 by Chris & Stacey S. and is doing well. She now only has an occasional seizure.



Duke

At nine years old, Duke was surrendered by his family because he started having seizures.

At Homeward Bound he was placed on meds and monitored to get his seizures under control.

He was adopted by Linda H., is doing great and losing some weight. Life is good!



Henry

At age four, Henry was surrendered to a small rescue group in San Diego. They didn't have an available foster, so they asked if Homeward Bound could take him.

He came to us almost comatose due to the drugs he was given to stop the seizures. It took him a few weeks to come around and show us his happy golden personality.

He is now living happily with Lee B. and doing great!

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Every now and then we get a glimpse of the dog that he once was and can be again. When I come home in the evening, he runs to greet me at the door. That's proof positive that there's a dog in there. And when I rub his ears and he leans in for more, I'm sure that there's a dog in there. We were very excited the other day that he wagged his tail—the first time since he's come home. There must be a dog in there.



And surrounded by other dogs, he follows them when it's feeding time. As is typical with Golden Retrievers, he never forgot how much he enjoys food. Clearly, there's a dog in there.

In some ways, Bear is the easiest dog we've ever had. He doesn't like to take a walk - in fact; he still refuses to walk past the driveway. He doesn't care if you brush him and as long as he has food and a place to potty, he seems okay. He's not happy or content, just okay. He's comfortable with the other dogs and they have accepted him as part of the pack. But we're pretty sure that there's a dog in there just waiting to join the family. We look for signs and we celebrate each milestone.

Who chewed up that roll of toilet paper? Bear? **There's a dog in there!**

There are three commonly used seizure meds. The average cost per dog on all three of those is over \$2,000 per year. Some require additional medications. All seizure dogs must be monitored closely to ensure their medications are at the proper level. They need annual blood testing, which can cost over \$600 per year per dog. Homeward Bound is committed to covering all these costs for the seizure dogs.

Dogs like Bear, and all the others shown here, got their second chances at life because we had the resources needed to get their seizures stabilized. In some cases, the only other option was euthanasia, but because you care enough to support us in our mission, we didn't give up on them. And now they are happy and well loved in their forever homes. Many of them are in permanent foster homes, meaning Homeward Bound will continue to pay for all their medical needs for the rest of their lives. Your donations make it possible.



The dogs shown here are just a few of the many who have received medical care in the past year at Homeward Bound. In 2015, in addition to treating the seizure dogs, we provided vet care for hundreds of other dogs. This included 116 spay or neuter surgeries, four hip surgeries, one entropion surgery, and multiple cyst removals. We treated two dogs for heartworm disease and one for Lyme disease. We provided two knee surgeries and a C-section on a pregnant dog in distress.

More than half the dogs that came to Homeward Bound in 2015 needed medical intervention, be it surgery or some other treatment. There are approximately 100 dogs in our Senior Touch program for which we have committed to providing needed medical care for the rest of their lives.

Our vet expenses in 2015 exceeded \$175,000. Although the number of dogs rescued is trending downward, we are still taking in more dogs that have costly chronic untreated illnesses and injuries. We are committed to giving every one the care they need. And no matter how severe the

illness or injury, Homeward Bound does not give up on a dog, as long as there's a ray of hope that he or she can be saved and recover.

We invite you to join us in our mission to give these wonderful dogs a chance at a healthy new life. Please donate today and take the opportunity to double your gold! Every dollar helps. Your donation will be matched by our **Fund of Love** donations, so each dollar you donate becomes two!

To donate by check, send it in the enclosed envelope. To pay by credit card, complete the authorization on the enclosed envelope. To donate securely online by credit card or PayPal, visit our website, www.homewardboundgoldens.org and click on **Double the Gold Challenge**. Homeward Bound is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Does your employer offer matching funds? If so, your donation could be doubled and re-doubled!

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Visit our website at www.homewardboundgoldens.org

Save the Dates

Golf Fore Goldens—May 2

May 22—HBGRR Reunion Picnic/Volunteer Picnic

September 10—Kibble & Bids

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