

HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

Adopters Nancy Darden and Susan Gillespie share touching stories of their companions, Fionn and Kirby. They remind us that it's not the length of the journey we take with our beloved fur friends, but the story we write during the time we have together.

We share exciting news about a grant provided by the Golden Retriever Senior Rescue Sanctuary and Educational Center that will keep our special seniors eating (and treating!) well this year.

And for those who have been treating *too* well, read Mary's story: a butterball who shed an incredible 40 lbs., complete with tips for helping your dog keep its healthful resolutions. Plus – information on how to build that pet emergency kit everyone should have at home or away.

Finally, February marks the launch of our annual *Fund of Love* campaign. This campaign, and it's matching *Double the Gold Challenge* raise the majority of funds needed for veterinary expenses each year. Mark this Valentine's Day with a gift to the dogs. Your generosity is proof that you truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



From Prologue to Epilogue: A Story Called Fionn

BY: Nancy Darden

On the Fourth of July 2015, fireworks lit the summer sky, but a brighter light, one of happiness, ignited in my heart once again.

In the space of nine months, I lost two dogs to cancer and a cat to kidney failure. To say I was devastated is a serious understatement. But eventually, the too-quiet house, without the sound of toenails clicking on the hardwood - and even the lack of massive hairballs floating past me - became reminders that I was missing something important: the unconditional love of a dog.

I had rescued two Golden Retrievers from Homeward Bound and appealed to them to



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 Goldens 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 IN 2016

VET EXPENSES IN 2016 \$247,000





A Message From Our President

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." ~ Jane Goodall

As 2016 drew to a close, we began a new partnership with Shanghai Goldens – a rescue group that has received high praise for their work in saving Goldens from the streets, and notably, putting considerable effort into vetting and rehabilitation efforts before sending them to America to find forever homes. In December, we welcomed Kenny and Oscar – two young and very energetic boys with a much brighter future. They are the first of what we hope will be a long and successful collaboration.

We have supported dogs from Taiwan, Korea, Pakistan and now China, but we never forget that rescue always begins at home. A week before Christmas, long-time Homeward Bound supporters, Roland and Suzy, took notice of two dogs that had been chained together outside without shelter in the cold, rain, and mud. When faced with difficult situations, we have two choices: look away, or take action. Roland and Suzy took action. They secured the dogs' surrender and helped them make their way to Homeward Bound. Golden Retrievers they were not. But sweet 13-year-old Sadie, a German Shepherd, and grateful six-year-old Gage, a Pointer, also have brighter futures because Roland and Suzy did not look away.

Rescue is often difficult work; it is also incredibly rewarding. Each of us can make a life-changing difference for an animal in need – by volunteering, fostering, supporting – or simply advocating for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Despite the long hours, aching muscles, and sometimes trying days, I am constantly reminded of all the good we accomplish together – and how lucky I am to be surrounded by people as committed as all of you.

On behalf of those who cannot speak it themselves – my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued support and dedication.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President



Continued from page 1

find me another to fill the holes that were left in my heart. On that hot Independence Day, we went to see a six-year-old golden with a sad past - he had been surrendered to a distant SPCA because his owner died and he had a mass on his back. Homeward Bound took him in and had the benign mass removed.

When we first saw him, he was dragging a volunteer to a kiddie pool. He was a fat, really curly, hairy (and now wet) mess and, for the first time in my life, I truly believed in love at first sight. Like the Grinch, my heart grew three sizes that day, filling the holes left by the others who died.

I named him Fionn. In Gaelic, it means white, handsome and fair. To me, it also means JOY, because he is endlessly happy. He hasn't met another dog or person he doesn't like and is the poster dog for the term "Velcro dog." But my story of



salvation isn't done. In the past year, he has been the best medicine for a broken heart, but love goes both ways, and now, it is my turn to heal him.

Fionn has bone cancer. He now has three legs and a giant scar. He is in pain and struggling with his new "normal."

I was asked to tell you how a rescue changed my life - like it was all about me - but I think it is really about what we can give THEM that truly defines love and salvation. Watching him struggle, and knowing there is little I can do to help is the hardest thing I have ever done. But to have him look at me with big, dark eyes and a wagging tail, and to have him gently lick my hand as if to say "I'm glad you're here with me and it's okay" - well, that is EVERYTHING. It's what we give each other and how we changed EACH OTHER'S lives that matters.

I'm not sure that there will be a "happy" ending to this story. Odds are against it, but miracles do happen. If not, cancer will eventually take Fionn from me, and he will join the others at the Rainbow Bridge.

But it isn't about the ending, don't you see? It's about the STORY, in between the prologue and the last page. It's a story simply called "Fionn." And it's the best book I've ever read.

Update: Fionn is living life to its fullest despite the loss of his leg and ongoing chemotherapy. You can follow his adventures through his (and his mom's!) blog: http://fionnsjourney.tripawds.com/



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Share The Love! Help Us Build Our "Fund of Love"

Homeward Bound helps hundreds of dogs on their journeys home each year. Because we are one of the few Golden rescues in the nation with a facility, we can take dogs regardless of their age or health; dogs that might not otherwise be saved.

That commitment is why our veterinary care expenses typically exceed \$175,000 each year. In addition to knee and hip surgeries, cataract surgeries to restore sight, ear ablations to treat chronic and painful infections, and cancer treatments for the curse that afflicts too many of our Golden friends, our 2016 medical costs also included the care of three litters of puppies – including Molly and Harley's golden dozen!

While many of the dogs we support need only basic veterinary care, the ability to say 'yes' to these extraordinary cases can be the difference between life and death for a dog in an overcrowded shelter.

Beautiful Goldens like nine-year-old Portia, who had been struck by a car and suffered two crushed vertebrae. Pulled from a Fresno shelter, we were able to get her the care she needed and celebrate her going home in January. Or tiny Noel, who came to us at only eight weeks old with a broken leg. Our Doc set it and we sent her to recover in a foster home that became her forever home.

Some, are not Golden at all – but golden of heart – like our near hairless Nash, one of our sanctuary dogs, whose skin condition requires special medications, diet, and baths. And two special pups, Faith and Hope (now Sophie) surrendered by a breeder. Both have Megaesophagus – an



expansion of the esophagus that requires that they be fed and propped upright for 30 minutes after each feeding so the food makes its way to their stomachs. It turns out that this was only a symptom of their underlying issue, Centronuclear Myopathy or CNM – an inherited disease in Labrador Retrievers. The dogs' bodies won't develop the muscles of a typical dog – resulting in an inability to walk or play for extended periods of time. Both of these adorable pups live in permanent foster with their very special mom because their



medical needs are met by Homeward Bound. In fact, at any time, approximately 100 dogs are enrolled in our permanent foster program. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide their medical care so they can be in loving homes.

We can help dogs like Portia, Nash, Noel, Faith and Sophie because of your generous donations. These dogs rely on the *Fund of Love*, which we build in February and March, creating matching funds for the *Double the Gold Challenge* held in April and May. The combined campaigns

raise the majority of our medical care costs each year.

We are committed to ensuring that all of our dogs get the medical attention they need. Your donations play a vital role. Will you please join us in our mission to provide outstanding care for deserving dogs like Portia by helping us to build this year's *Fund of Love*? The minimum donation for this fund is \$250. You can choose to donate a greater amount, or you can provide the entire match, as well.

100% of the proceeds of *Fund of Love* and the *Double the Gold Challenge* are dedicated to providing medical care for the hundreds of dogs we rescue each year. In 2016, Homeward Bound spent over \$247,000 in veterinary expenses alone. The *Fund of Love* and *Double the Gold Challenge* allow us to go to the extraordinary lengths we do to save those who might not otherwise have that chance.

To receive a **Fund of Love** packet, or for more information, please contact **Lea Kachler-Leake at lea@homeward-boundgoldens.org**, or visit our website. **And Thank You!**



Kirby: He's A Keeper

BY: Susan Gillespie

"Is he a keeper?" That's the question our kids asked us in the summer of 2002 when we visited a Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue foster home housing a retriever waiting for adoption.

When our family decided to adopt a dog over 14 years ago, we had a tall order. We wanted a Golden Retriever that would be good with kids, cats, adults and strangers. We wanted a dog that was active but not hyperactive, not a barker, somewhat trained, and still young. I figured there was no way we would find a fit. Fortunately, we were directed to Homeward Bound and received an immediate reply that they had the perfect match - except the puppy was not a Goldie, but a Flat-Coated Retriever. His picture showed a sweet face eager for love. We decided to check him out.

In his foster home, Kirby was living with an older German Shepherd, and contending with a kitten that clung to his tail as his primary means of transport. Kirby was happy to be in the mix. It quickly became apparent: yes, he was a keeper.

Little did we know he would become the heart and soul of our family and the entire neighborhood. It took a short time for him to realize we were his forever home. His fear of the newspaper suggested he may have been abused, but once he realized we were family, and we loved him, he settled into deep happiness.

One of Kirby's favorite times was to sit on our front patio watching everyone pass by. He greeted all the neighbors, neighborhood dogs, kids, and even the UPS man. All became his friends and earned him the nickname: "mayor." Everyone looked for him to say 'hello.' Halloween was his



favorite. Forget the costumes or candy. Kirby was convinced the holiday was his: created just for him so everyone would



come by to pet him and say hello. He was never afraid of the costumes; never cared about candy. Kirby just wanted to be front and center for petting and love. Even the tiniest children (not too sure about the holiday themselves) were happy to pet the big black dog who looked like a scary bear, yet was gentle and calm.

Kirby went everywhere with us: walking through the neighborhood, swimming in Monterey Bay, camping all over California, being the #1 BBQ buddy in the backyard, taking kids to school, taking kids to college, and visiting those same grown

kids in their own homes. Kirby was part of it all. As he grew grayer around the face and moved slower in his senior years, he never stopped being part of the action.

We were incredibly fortunate to have Kirby with us for more than $14 \frac{1}{2}$ years – far longer than we could have ever hoped for a dog his size. He crossed the Rainbow Bridge this past June but will remain in our hearts forever. He was truly the best of the best and a definite "keeper."

We are firm believers in adopting dogs and always steer friends and family to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue. Thanks, HBGRR, for helping us start this wonderful journey with Kirby.



GRSRS&EC Grant to Support Our Seniors

BY: Audrey Farrington

The mission of the Golden Retriever Senior Rescue Sanctuary and Educational Center (GRSRS&EC) in Reading MA, is closely aligned with Homeward Bound's. GRSRS&EC provides lifelong care for senior, special needs, and hospice rescue Golden Retrievers living at The Lynne Glennon Sanctuary for Senior Goldens and Puppy Mill Survivors located at Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue in Reinholds, PA. Many of the dogs GRSRS&EC supports have been rescued from puppy mills and over-crowded shelters where seniors are always at risk. The dogs live in a communal, home-like setting where their emotional, social and medical needs are met through a collaboration with Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue.

GRSRS&EC – a 501(c)(3), all-volunteer run organization - also provides training, education, and support to other rescue and sanctuary programs across the United States.

In January 2017, GRSRS&EC made a generous \$8,500 grant to Homeward Bound to supply food, prescription food, weight reduction canned food, and treats



for our Senior Sanctuary residents and those of our two home-based programs: Permanent Foster, and our Golden Touch Program.



For those who are unfamiliar, Homeward Bound's Permanent Foster program allows dogs with extraordinary needs to be home, as their medical care and special diet needs are met by Homeward Bound. At any time, approximately 100 dogs may be enrolled in this program. Our Golden Touch Program helps people of a certain age and limited income make a senior-to-

senior connection with Homeward Bound, again, providing for the dog's medical and exceptional needs. For seniors whose medical, emotional, or behavioral needs make them unlikely to be adopted, Homeward Bound provides lifetime sanctuary in a dedicated kennel-free house and yard where the dogs can come and go as they please, doted upon by our volunteers. There's even a heated swimming pool complete with lifeguard/coach for those with mobility issues or weight-loss needs.

The grant from GRSRS&EC will play a vital role in supporting Homeward Bound's senior programs in 2017. We may be 3,000 miles from their Massachusetts base, but we share the same passion for ensuring that Goldens in their senior years can live in peace, comfort, and joy. Thank you, GRSRS&EC!



More to Love, But Less is Better

BY: Audrey Farrington

"All we ever get are the old and fat ones," said Steve. Peggy knew that her husband's curmudgeonly remarks were just pretend protests (and true!)

Peggy and Steve are long-time members of our rescue family. Peggy also has a well-earned reputation for working miracles with senior dogs that have either been loved or neglected into obesity. She has an eye for our butterballs like our dogs have sniffers for cookies!

In August 2015, Mary - a giant Golden girl - was waddling through the Homeward Bound Memorial Garden. From across the next yard where Peggy was pruning roses we heard: "Hey, who's that?" Peggy had found her new foster.

When Mary went home with Peggy and Steve, she could barely walk – her legs straining against 108 pounds of weight on a small frame. Part of the issue was an unchecked thyroid, but too much food and lack of exercise compounded the problem.

When she visited with us this November for Santa photos, Mary was an entirely different dog! Having shed 40 pounds through diet and gradually increasing exercise, she is sporting a lovely waist-line and now has the unfortunate energy and ability to chase down birds – much to Peggy's disgust.

Maintaining a proper weight can be life-extending for any dog. Just look at Mary's canine sibling Ginger at an unbelievable 14. The American Veterinary Medical Foundation stresses that a healthy weight lowers a dog's risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, respiratory disease, kidney disease, and some forms



of cancer. It can also reduce the risk of injury to bones, joints, and muscles that are associated with excess weight. If your pet has arthritis, keeping him/her at a healthy weight makes it easier to manage the discomfort associated with joint pain. Because excess weight can reduce your pet's life expectancy by more than two years, keeping your pet trim gives them the best chance of a longer, healthier, and pain-free life.



So keep those New Year's resolutions – for yourself and your dog – and shed those holiday pounds. Because when it comes to ensuring your dog's long life – less (weight!) is definitely better.

Tips for reducing your pet's weight

Weight loss involves reducing your pet's caloric intake and increasing their activity

level to burn more calories. Talk to your vet about an appropriate weight goal and exercise level, and investigate medical issues as an underlying cause.

Make it a family commitment: Watch for family members who sneak treats to fido. There are better ways than food to demonstrate and express love for the family pet.

Feed a nutritious and healthy diet:

Feed your dog a balanced, nutritious food. Smaller, more frequent feedings may also benefit your pet's health. Keep food treats to a minimum and don't give into the sad, begging eyes.

Make it fun: Being more active and living a healthier lifestyle benefits the entire family - two and four-legged! Find activities you enjoy that can include your pet and the journey will be more enjoyable for everyone.

Monitor and record progress: By doing so, you can determine what's working and what's not effective. Make adjustments as needed to the program.

Be patient: It often takes longer to lose weight than it did for your pet to gain it.

Pet Emergencies At Home And Away: Are You Prepared?

Pet emergencies can happen at home or traveling. Having supplies on hand can buy your pet critical time until veterinary care can be sought. You can purchase kits, but the supplies are readily available and will also be handy for human needs, as well. Storing supplies in a book bag makes it easy to grab for the car when your pet travels with you. And be sure to check expiration dates every three months to ensure that your supplies are current and effective.

IMPORTANT NOTE: emergency first aid can be life-saving, but is not a substitute for veterinary care. After first aid is administered, it should be followed immediately with veterinary care.

•IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(veterinarian, emergency clinic, poison control, animal control)

YOUR PET'S MEDICAL RECORD

DIGITAL RECTAL FEVER THERMOM-

ETER (fever thermometers register high enough for pets. Your pet's temperature should not rise above 103°F or fall below 100°F)

SCIZZORS and TWEEZERS



MUZZLE to prevent bites (DO NOT muzzle your pet if it is vomiting)

SPARE LEASH AND COLLAR

GAUZE ROLL for wrapping wounds

CLEAN TOWELS for restraining small dogs or cats, cleaning or padding

NONSTICK BANDAGES OR STRIPS
OF CLEAN CLOTH to control bleeding or protect wounds

SELF-ADHERING, NONSTICK TAPE for bandages & ADHESIVE TAPE for securing bandages

EYE DROPPER (or large syringe without needle) to give oral treatments or flush wounds

K-Y JELLY (or generic version) to protect

wounds, eyes

MILK OF MAGNESIA OR ACTIVATED CHARCOAL to absorb poison (use only if instructed to do so by your veterinarian or a poison control center)

3% HYDROGEN PEROXIDE to induce vomiting (always contact your veterinarian or poison control center before inducing vomiting; do not use hydrogen peroxide on wounds.)

SALINE SOLUTION for cleansing wounds (Saline sold for use with contact lenses works well for most purposes.)

SELF-ACTIVATING ICE PACK & EMER-GENCY THERMAL BLANKET

PET CARRIER for small dogs or cats; for large pets, a stretcher or one created from a door, board, blanket or large floor mat.

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.

"We love the convenience of having this quality 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

Best Week of My Life



It started out as a normal summer day. I had no idea what the day had in store for me. I was just eating my creamy mac and cheese then mom said we were going to the animal shelter. I was pretty excited! Once we got there we went out to the lawn and saw a slightly chubby chocolate Lab come out. I felt her soft fur and smelled her stinky dog breath.

Once we got to the office, we decided to adopt her, but we couldn't take her home that day because we had to prepare for her. Two days later we went into the kennel and there was a dog standing at the door in her cell. That dog was our dog (Cinnamon).

One week later, we went on a trip and put Cinnamon back in the kennel. When we got back, she was so excited she was jumping on the gate! I was in charge of taking care of her.

A month later, I hear the cleaners enter the house, then I hear a small low bark from Cinnamon. She knew we were her family. The end.

~ Alex Zinn



Of The Water



Hi everyone! I couldn't help but send a message to thank you all again for helping us to find our new family member, Diesel. We have decided to call him Murphy. It means "of the water" which he loves and has had a blast splashing in our mini pond and relaxing with family. Here are some photos of how well he has settled in. ~ All our love, The Bass Family



The Lucky Ones

I just wanted to give you an update on Bo. We really are the lucky ones in this whole adoption process! He is such an amazing boy, and he's so very smart! Scott has been more than impressed with how quickly he's learning! We've taken him on a couple of walks and he's already mostly figured out "heel." He also knows which parts of the house are for him to explore and which are not. He's so sweet and we love him SO much!! He's a perfect fit for our family! ~ Bo's Family



It's A Wrap!

You Lit Up The Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

Each year during the holidays, we ask for your help to light and decorate our virtual Giving Tree. As one of our three major fundraising efforts of the year, its success is vital to our mission.

Every year you exceed our wildest hopes – and this year was no exception! With your gifts – made in honor or in memory of your special someone - a record \$78,600 was raised to support the Goldens.

We launch our bare tree on Thanksgiving weekend with hope and a leap of faith. By Christmas, you have brought it to twinkling, sparkling life, making our holiday dreams come true.

Thanks to your generosity, hundreds of dogs will be helped on their journeys home this year, while those in need of sanctuary will find a place of comfort and care with us.

Homeward Bound supporters are the very best! Our sincere thanks to all. Your gifts have decked our kennels with love.



Planned Giving: Protecting Our Golden Friends

If you are reading this, chances are that you already understand the impact that our mission of rescue and adoption has on Golden lives and families. Estate or planned gifts to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue are excellent opportunities to create a legacy ensuring that more Golden lives are saved. You can also provide for the care of your pets in your estate plan – an important consideration for all of us.

Examples of estate and planned giving instruments include wills and living trusts, life insurance or retirement beneficiary

designations, or gifts of appreciated stock. There are many options from which to choose. Naming us in your will or trust, for example, is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Goldens in need will find a second chance at life.

You can download our Guide to Giving to help you determine the right approach for you - providing current or future benefits to yourself, your heirs, and to the Goldens in our care. You will find it on our website under "How To Help."



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.





Save The Date!

Each fall, we gather together for an evening of fine foods, wine and beer tastings, exciting auctions, and Goldens - of course! Kibble and Bids™ is Homeward Bound's premiere event bringing together old friends and new to share the special stories of Goldens we have supported while we raise our paddles for those who will be counting on us in the coming year.

This year, we will be returning to one of our favorite venues: the Riverwood Estate on the Sacramento River.

This is a beautiful private estate with large, shady grounds, classic cars showcasing our Concours d'Elegance theme, and golden sunsets to match our Golden fur friends.

We are just beginning our planning, but we hope that you will save the date and join us for this very special evening!

Please join us! Saturday, September 16, 2017

Don't Forget: Shop & Donate At No Cost With AmazonSmile

Designate Homeward Bound as your charity and do all your shopping on AmazonSmile.

You get the same great Amazon experience and prices - and the doggies earn 0.5% on each purchase! What a simple way to give at no cost to you! You will find all the 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
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Golden Taxi (Transport)

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Dates To Remember

The Fund of Love Campaign Launches in February Save the Date for Kibble & Bids: Sept. 16, 2017

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:

- 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:** Match great dogs to good families to help them get home!

Our Golden Wish List

You can also shop our Amazon Wish List. 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)

Pooper Scoopers

Facilities Supplies

Lowes or Home Depot Gift Cards

For Landscaping & Our Memorial Garden

Green Acres Nursery Gift Certificates

Shredded Cedar Bark/Mulch