What's Inside

The “Double the Gold Challenge” is now underway! Generous donors have committed a $65,000 “Fund of Love” that stands ready to match every dollar we raise during this Challenge. We rely on the combined campaigns to cover the majority of our medical costs for the dogs this year. Your support makes this possible, so please give generously!

Play is an important part of a dog's life contributing to its socialization as well as its physical and mental health. Read about ways to safely introduce more play in your dog’s life on page 6.

A little bit of planning makes for a successful transition to “home” when introducing a new canine family member. Read and share our tips on page 8.

And mark your calendars with some important dates! Join us May 21st for the Reunion and Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. Then, save Saturday, September 16th for Annual Kibble & Bids™ as we return to one of your favorite venues on the Sacramento River. Details on page 10. There is nothing we enjoy more than celebrating our successes with you. You truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

A Gift Beyond Words

BY: Christoper Doran

About 10 years ago, my family and I came to Homeward Bound in search of a dog. My girls had been bugging me for a dog for some time. It came to a head when I asked my eldest for her Christmas list for Santa and she said, “No need for one, Dad. Santa can’t bring me what I really want, which is a dog and a true friend.” Shortly thereafter, we visited you and came home with Bailey.

Bailey had arrived to you along with his sister due to their previous owner struggling with cancer; she could no longer take care of them. Your team thought Bailey would be better off on his own. For the past 10 years, Bailey has been a member of our family. He has brought so much happiness and joy to us.

At 15, Bailey was much slower than when he was young, but his days were good. Recently, I came downstairs and knew something had changed. He clearly did not look right. He could not walk or stand; he would not eat; he was vomiting and lost bodily functions; then he started digging in a corner.

Continued on page 3
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 TO DATE IN 2017
72

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2017
$41,608

A Message From Our President

The year may have started quietly, but we’re in full swing now. So many projects; so little time! Our work on Sugar Shack Acres will finally be underway this May. It’s been a long journey – longer than we expected. But we have solid engineering and design plans in place that will help with our structural and grading needs as well as overall enhancements to the yard for our sanctuary guests.

We have been looking at ways we can enhance our program for our temporary residents, as well. The volunteers and our certified trainer have researched and begun work with play groups to enrich the dogs’ experience while they are with us and allow us to make more complete assessments leading to better placements. We also think it will lead to happier volunteers and increased morale. By the time you read this, we will have brought in a group called “Dogs Playing For Life.” DPFL is an innovative training program that was founded by professional trainer Aimee Sadler. The program demonstrates both the practical efficiencies of play groups for the rescue organization, as well as the emotional and behavioral benefits for the dogs. DPFL has completed more than 150 trainings in shelters – including some in our area. We’re excited to see and share the results.

Finally, we will be installing a new generator – our lifeline when we lose power for an extended period as our well water, heating and air conditioning, and communications depend on electricity.

None of this would be possible without your help. This spring, a small group of dedicated donors came together once again to build a generous “Fund of Love.” They raised more than $65,000, which stands ready to match the donations of many during our “Double the Gold Challenge,” now underway. Please help in whatever way you can, as these funds support a large portion of the dogs’ medical costs each year.

You have my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your continued support. I hope to see you all at the combined Reunion and Volunteer Picnic this month where I can express it in person.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President
Planned Giving:
A Gift to Our Golden Friends

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 Home-ward 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.

Download our website Guide to Giving under “How to Help” to determine the right approach for you - providing current or future benefits to yourself, your heirs, and to the Goldens in our care.

Continued from page 1

I had to do what I dreaded from the day he joined our family. Bailey passed peacefully and happy.

He loved his ride in the back of a pickup truck on a warm spring evening. He liked all the attention he got at the clinic. The staff gave him baby food and I had brought his treats. I had time to spend with him, and I reminded him of the many adventures and good times he had had. I told him that when we got him, he needed us; but it turned out we needed him more. I thanked him for making our family whole. I held him and petted him while he gently went to sleep. I held it together while he was here, but I lost it after he passed.

His ashes will be scattered in Napa - which is perfect. My daughters and wife are devastated. They loved their kind, happy, gentle little brother very much. As I work from home, Bailey has been my constant companion for 10 years. He and I were together unless I was on a business trip. While he loved and adored the girls, he knew to come get me if he wanted to go outside, get a drink, or eat.

I just wanted to thank you for the gift you provided to our family. I cannot imagine our lives and the impact Bailey made on them without him. My girls were 11 and six when we got Bailey. One is now across the country in college; the other driving and in high school. Their lives are forever changed for the better because of Bailey.

I really want to thank you for a gift beyond words - and to let you know what your work does - not only for dogs, but for people.

~ Christopher Doran
Each year, in early spring, a small group of donors step up to build a fund for the medical care of the dogs. Then we turn to you – because every dollar raised through the “Double the Gold Challenge” is matched by their “Fund of Love” – doubling the impact of each gift.

Our intake in 2016 was 25% higher than 2015 – and our vet expenses grew with our intakes, exceeding $250,000 – even with the countless donated services and hours of our devoted primary veterinarian, Dr. Justina Codde.

Homeward Bound accepts dogs regardless of their age or health, which makes us unique. We also accept dogs that are gold-of-heart if not of Golden pedigree as capacity allows. Here are just a few surrendered to, or rescued by, Homeward Bound – helped on their journeys home thanks to the generosity of people like you.

The Heartthrob Pups
Cici, Timmy and Wyatt came to us from a breeder. All three had varying degrees of subaortic stenosis - a narrowing of the area underneath the aortic valve that causes some degree of obstruction or blockage of the blood flow through the heart. The narrowing can be mild, moderate, or severe. Homeward Bound was able to have their conditions assessed, determining that one puppy was more affected than the others, but that each may live a full and normal life. All three have been adopted with a complete understanding of their conditions and signs to watch for thanks to the medical reviews they received.

Gunner & Lindsey
Don’t tell them they are not well; they don’t know it. Both Gunner and Lindsey have serious health concerns. Four-month old Gunner has a liver shunt; a congenital condition in which the blood flow bypasses the liver instead of flowing through it. Because Gunner is missing some critical blood vessels, he is not a candidate for surgery to repair the defect. He requires close supervision and a special diet with frequent feedings to sustain him.

Lindsey is the tiniest of little girls. Born with a severe case of diabetes, she requires two insulin injections each day. While she eats with gusto, she is not gaining much weight. Our hope is to get her insulin levels stabilized enough to help her thrive although she will always be a tiny tot.

How to Help Us “Double The Gold!”

To donate by check:
Please mail it today in the enclosed envelope.

To pay by credit card:
Complete the authorization on the envelope, or...

Donate securely online by credit card or PayPal:
Visit our website at: www.homewardboundgoldens.org and click on “Double the Gold Challenge.”
Both pups will be permanent residents of Homeward Bound where their care is assured. And while their futures are unsure – the love that surrounds them is guaranteed.

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Because you donate and “Double The Gold,” we are able to double our rescues.

Many bonded pairs come into our care and we do our very best to keep them together unless separating them is in their best interest. Shelters and other rescues have difficulty placing bonded pairs due to lack of capacity.

It generally takes more time to find a home for two, which means more space, time, and resources. Your donations help us to assist the pairs of “double gold” – whether or not they are Golden – either through adoption or permanent foster with Homeward Bound continuing to provide their medical care for life. Here are just a few of the “odd couples” helped by your contributions:

Chini and Alfie
As in Fettucini and Alfredo! A lovable pair of 12-year-old sweethearts with excellent house manners who lost their home when their people moved half way around the world. Their wish for the dogs: “that they be some place where they are loved.”

Layla & Beckett
Two very bonded and very big bundles of love, one with seizures. Their new humans took one look at them and fell in love! Both are now home and learning all about proper diet and exercise while making friends with the entire neighborhood.

Cody & Rusty
What are the odds of someone coming in looking for a Golden and a lap dog? The planets aligned and a special couple took Cody…and Rusty (aka “Toto”) too! This bonded pair is happily home together where they are very much loved.

You Can Help!

In 2016, our medical expenses exceeded $247,000 and our intake was 25% higher than 2015. We are committed to providing each and every dog with the care it requires to complete its journey home.

Making a donation to Homeward Bound during our “Double the Gold Challenge” will help provide hundreds of dogs rescued this year with the best care we can give them on their journey to a wonderful forever home and a life filled with good health and love.

Please give generously to support Homeward Bound in its mission. Every dollar donated during the months of April and May will be matched by our “Fund of Love” and will be 100% dedicated to veterinary expenses for wonderful dogs who desperately need all of us.

On behalf of Cici, Timmy, Wyatt, Gunner, Lindsey, and our adorable pairs - Thank You!
The Importance of Play

BY: Kathryn Baines & Audrey Farrington

Rest assured, dogs without appropriate outlets for play and exercise will find their own! When mental and physical energy builds up, bad behaviors like chewing, digging, stealing, and anxiety can result. Play and exercise make for happier and more emotionally stable dogs.

Play keeps your dog’s heart healthy, joints lubricated and improves overall balance, coordination, and physical health. Games with rules require your dog to use its brain to keep its mind sharp and focused - improving its mental health. Play with other dogs and people helps your dog improve its overall social skills. Playing with your dog helps strengthen the bond between you. And play doesn't just reduce your dog's stress: a bit of play and exercise after a tough day is good for both of you!

There are two kinds of play, both equally important – your play with your dog, and your dog’s play with other dogs. We’re doing more work with the latter at Homeward Bound to help us make better assessments, placements, and to help the dog’s mental health during their stays with us.

Play with other dogs helps with socialization. Dogs that have not learned to play with other dogs don’t have the opportunity to learn successful communication with their own species. Dogs that are socialized and regularly play with other dogs display fewer behavior problems related to fear and/or reactivity directed toward other canines. Clearly, dogs that already display reactivity, fear or anxiety should be seen by a qualified behavior and training professional before engaging in play activities with other dogs.

Dogs have different play styles; matching these styles is important to a successful play date. Putting a gentle and delicate dog with rough and tumble dogs can tip the balance from play to conflict. That’s why dog parks with inattentive humans can sometimes lead to trouble. Negative dog encounters in a dog park can be frightening for both of you - and those encounters are difficult for most dogs to recover from and continue healthy canine relationships.

When correctly matched, by and large, dogs will move through their communications and work out their own issues without your assistance. Whenever possible, allow them to teach each other these skills, rather than becoming dependent on you, the human, to tell them how to interact in a healthy way as a dog.

However, there are times when the dogs need you to intervene to keep things running smoothly and safely:

- When their play is not mutual; one dog is giving clear signals and the other is not respecting them
- When one dog is having fun at the expense of the other; pinning, bullying, dominate behavior
- When the response is disproportionate to the feedback from the other dog
- When they have difficulty completing a greeting ritual due to over-arousal, immaturity, fear or a dominant stance, etc.
- When an interaction escalates, and an actual fight breaks out.

Your own level of confidence and ability to remain calm is a critical component to successful play dates. Unsure of yourself or how to begin? Attend a monitored play class or meet with a certified trainer. Although interactive play with other dogs is important, it should never take the place of interactive play with a dog’s human(s). Play with your dog helps establish boundaries and can be used...
as positive reinforcement for obedience behaviors learned in a fun setting. While you have your dog’s undivided attention, you can build on quicker and more accurate responses to commands such as come, sit, down, stay, and heel. As your dog progresses, use the time to teach more advanced skills such as retrieving, playing “hide-and-seek” or “find it” games, agility and tricks. Interactive games provide the opportunity to release physical energy as well as time to build a better communication bond between you and your dog.

You’ll find plenty of ideas in our website library under “training and resources.” Balance the use of problem-solving games and interactive activities along with the appropriate exercise to provide your dog the mental and physical stimulation it craves and needs. Remember, an exercised dog is a calmer, happier dog with a happier human.

Certified Professional Dog Trainer, Kathryn Baines can help with individual sessions or classes at Homeward Bound. Contact her at: grdogtraining@gmail.com

Remembering Scrubs
BY: Jen Abrahamson

Scrubbs was a puppy trapped in a seven-year-old’s body. It took us a bit to work on that. It took a bit longer for someone like Jen to see through to who he really was. But they found each other. No matter how “special” a dog is, there is an equally special person out there for it. Sometimes, it just takes a little longer for them to find each other.

My name is Jen Abrahamson and I wanted to let you know that I lost Rusty, also known as Scrubbs when he was at the shelter, to cancer yesterday. Rusty battled fibrosarcoma for 10 months. He had surgery to remove the tumor last July, but sadly when the pathology report came back, it showed that the cancer had already spread in his body. There was nothing more that we could do.

Rusty remained a sweetheart to the end. He was a wonderful boy who brought joy and happiness to our family. I was very proud of him, and loved him very much. I wanted to thank you for taking care of and keeping him at the rescue as I know he had a longer stay there than most. He was a wonderful companion and we will miss him dearly forever.

~ Thank you, Jen Abrahamson
Bringing Home Your Rescue Dog

BY: Audrey Farrington

Bringing home a new dog is always exciting, but planning is important. Whether a dog has been with us a short or long while, surrendered, stray, or rescued from a shelter - that dog’s world has been turned upside down. Sometimes we get good information about its past; other times, they arrive as a blank slate. While we do our best to assess each of our dogs, we are seeing them in our environment – not yours. Setting your dog up for success in your home will make all the difference in how quickly and effectively it makes the leap to its new life with you. Here are some tips to help with the transition:

Before Going Home:
Prepare and secure a place that your dog can stay initially. Because it will be under stress with the change of environment, anticipate some housebreaking accidents at the beginning. Often a kitchen will work best for easy clean-up but be sure to dog-proof the space first. Set up a gate so the dog can see you and know it is safe.

If you plan on crate training your dog, try to have a crate set-up and ready to go for when you bring your new dog home. Leave the door open so your dog can enter whenever it feels stressed.

Training your dog starts the first moment you have it. Make sure the entire family will use the same words for your dog’s instructions. Consistency is key.

Arrange to be home as much as possible with your dog for the first few days.

Arriving Home (Only Dog Households)
Take your dog immediately to the place you want it to eliminate. Praise enthusiastically when its bed and chew-safe toys. Wait for an hour on food or water. Excited dogs often gulp and may vomit.

Take it slow. Don’t overwhelm with attention or play. Give your dog time to calmly transition to its new home.

Make frequent potty trips until they get into the routine. Even if your dog is housebroken, there may be a few lapses in these first days. Do not scold; just take the dog outside and cue them to go potty there; praise; and reward. They’ll have it soon!

Arriving Home (Multiple Dog Households)
Dogs that live in groups establish a social structure called a dominance hierarchy. This serves to maintain order, reduce conflict, and promote cooperation among pack members. Dogs also establish territories which they may defend against intruders or rivals. This social and territorial nature affects their behavior when a new dog is introduced to the household.

Before you adopt, we will help you conduct a safe meet-and-greet at the rescue. Remove all toys in advance. Avoid competition for high value items (including you!) until you have more experience with your dogs together. Feed separately.

When you get home take the dogs immediately to the place you want them to eliminate. Praise enthusiastically when your new dog potties in the designated spot.

Take it slow and keep things calm. Don’t overwhelm with attention or play. Praise good behavior, and pay equal attention. Give them time to get accustomed to each other and their new roles in the home.

Be aware of body postures. “Playbows” are invitations to play; hair standing on a dog’s back, teeth baring, deep growls, stiff-legged gait or prolonged stares are indication of aggressive responses. Before these postures escalate, interrupt the interaction immediately by calmly and positively getting each dog interested in something else like a training command with praise or rewards. After a bit, reintroduce them for a shorter time and/or at a greater distance.

If the introduction of a new dog to the household is not going smoothly, contact a professional animal behaviorist immediately. The longer a problem continues, the harder it can be to resolve. Conflicts between dogs in the same family can often be resolved with professional help.

The First Week
Get into a routine of feeding, toileting and play/exercise. Don’t overwhelm. Give your dog family time and periods of quiet,
solitary time. Provide attention for good behavior, and don’t be surprised if sudden movements or forceful commands illicit unexpected reactions from their past. This is not a time for dog parks, big parties, or off-leash outings in the wild. Take this time to calmly and gradually integrate your dog into your family and routine. Patience is what your dog needs most right now.

**Following Weeks:**
This is when a dog’s true personality comes into view. Be patient and understanding while also keeping to your schedule for feeding, walks, etc. This schedule will show your dog what is expected of it as well as what it can expect from you. Dogs understand structure. Access our training library, select a trainer, or attend classes to deal with any unwanted behaviors in a positive and trusting way as soon as any may appear. This is what your rescue dog needs most from you: to know that you are committed to them, strengthening your bond - not just through hugs and play - but through the training, understanding, consistency, and structure they may not have received before.

Follow these tips and you’ll be on your way to having a well-adjusted canine family member. And remember, we are always here and happy to help.

**Saying Goodbye To Sunny**

**BY: David Chain**

Eight years ago we visited Homeward Bound looking for a dog for our, then, seven-year-old daughter, Laura. We quickly fell in love with every Golden there: sadly, we knew we could only adopt one. That one was Sunny a three-year-old Golden boy that had been rescued from the Berkeley/Oakland area.

Sunny and Laura hit it off immediately. Sunny was still very much a pup - full of energy and curiosity. He adjusted well to our way of life. He got so excited as we pulled up to our house as if to say "I know where we are, where I was always meant to be!" and began the journey of adopting us more than we did him. He taught us valuable lessons in the first year like: "I can jump to the top of the fridge because I love peanut butter; if you throw the ball I will retrieve it, but no way I am not going to let it out of my mouth; and my first loyalty is to the children and the protection of this house unless there are fireworks, and then I'll need you to let me up on the bed and have you protect me, but I'll give you a look that says: 'we won't ever talk about this.'"

Sunny had a bark that was so loud it would echo at least three houses down the street. Everyone knew who Sunny was and that the Chain house wasn’t to be bothered. Little did they know that all that stood behind that bark was a wagging tail and happy face.

There’s something about a Golden - perhaps more than even Santa Claus - that draws kids and adults alike to them. I can’t tell you how many times I have been asked “Can we pet your dog?” in a sea of other dogs at the park. Never let anyone tell you that a dog doesn’t worm his way into your heart and then steal it at the toughest part of your relationship.

Sunny will be loved and missed, remembered and never forgotten as the Golden Ray of Sunshine in our house.

~ David Chain
Save the Date!
And Get Ready for Kibble & Bids™ 2017

This year, we are returning to one of your favorite venues: Riverwood Estate on the Sacramento River - with a Concours d’Elegance theme!

Join us for a late afternoon and early evening event full of classic cars, fine food, and wine and beer tasting. There will be amazing live and silent auction offerings, a raffle, and fun activities for all - not to mention our gorgeous Golden Greeters!

Look for all the details on our website soon at: www.homewardboundgoldens.org.

We hope to see you there!

The Reunion & Volunteer Appreciation Picnics - Combined!

Meet old friends - and new!
Sunday, May 21st beginning at 11AM.

What a great opportunity to gather our Homeward Bound Alum with all of the volunteers who make those “going homes” possible!

Join us at Tahoe Park in Sacramento for a casual day of fun and golden companionship.

All well-behaved HBGRR alumni (and well-behaved humans!) are welcome!

For more information, please email us at events@homewardboundgoldens.org.
Youth Leaders Needed!

Through Homeward Bound’s Youth Program, we hope to encourage today’s youth to become the next generation of rescue. High School youth, 15-18 years of age, get the opportunity to learn new things while making a difference in a dog’s life by sharing a bit of themselves. Youths earn community service hours while working with an adult lead, learning all aspects of our operation and caring for the dogs.

This can only happen with committed adult leads to teach and mentor the students at the sanctuary. And right now we have a shortage of adult leads. If you like working with teens and dogs, this may be a great opportunity for you. And don’t worry—we will train you!

Youth leaders will work with a team of 4-5 students, once a month. The leader will have a checklist of tasks to be completed and there may be special projects assigned as well. Tasks include walking dogs, cleaning yards, doing laundry and dishes, filling food bowls and cleaning kennels. Sometimes our gardeners are looking for help and there is always time to play with the dogs.

Students will learn the importance of rescue and the satisfaction of volunteering. Leaders will teach them to take direction and to try new things. They will learn about dogs including walking, feeding, grooming and adoptions.

The future of rescue relies on the youth of today. Please help us keep our youth program alive and growing by becoming a Youth Leader. Complete the volunteer application on our website and we’ll get you started!

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

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:

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Placement Team
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Golden Taxi (Transport)
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Newsletter & Marketing
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Training
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grodogtraining@gmail.com

Kibble & Bids™ Fundraising
kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org
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

Dates To Remember
Double The Gold Challenge - Now Underway!
Reunion & Volunteer Appreciation Picnic - May 21, 2017
Kibble & Bids™ - September 16, 2017

Help Wanted
Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:
• Taxi Drivers: Start a dog on its 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.
• Youth Leaders: Inspire a love of rescue in the next generation.

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