What’s Inside

Rescue isn’t the purview of rescue organizations alone. Everyone can play a role just by looking around and stepping up. That’s what one Good Samaritan did. The result: one very lucky dog and one incredibly grateful family. Read Winston’s story beginning on this page.

Going from the streets or shelter to a rescue and home is quite a journey. When bringing home a rescue dog, time and patience are critical components of success. We call it the rule of threes. Read about it on page 6.

Fostering is a gift to the dogs. Short term foster is an area we have been working on. It plays a critical role in helping dogs on their journeys home. Learn more on page 8.

May marks our halfway point in the Double the Gold Challenge! Your gifts are matched by a waiting Fund of Love. This year, the Fund of Love bar has been raised to a whopping $80,000. We need your help to capture every matching dollar! All gifts support the medical needs of the hundreds of dogs in our program this year. Read about some of them beginning on page 4. Please help if you can!

A Rescued Dog: Winston

Winston was the purchased puppy of a not-so-nice owner who intended to use him as a stud dog. Ill-equipped or uninterested in teaching him the ways of a house dog, he was left chained in the backyard for the first year of his life. Believers in “alpha” obedience, their treatment was harsh, at best. A Good Samaritan came to Winston’s rescue, offering to pay the owner for him; the cash was eagerly accepted. Our hero did this with the intention of surrendering Winston to Homeward Bound but not before giving him a dog’s ideal day out and a little taste of what human kindness and freedom meant. Winston stuck right by his side; he knew good intentions when he saw them, and he was still young enough to trust.

“I am just happy that organizations like yours exist. I had no doubt that you would find Winston the perfect home. He truly is an extraordinary guy who needs that special one-on-one time to prepare him for his forever home. I felt comfortable leaving him in your care knowing that you would take the time to work with him.” ~ Travis B.

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 2019 103
VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2019 $81,143

A Message From Our President

I was walking through the Homeward Bound Memorial Garden recently as the gardeners were pruning some new lavender. I have garden envy. On the rare occasions that I am not tending to a dog, you will find me tending my own garden which brings me much-needed peace and calm. Lavender is a favorite. I asked, “How do you plant them.” The response: “Plant them like you want them to live and grow.”

With your help, we rescue, heal and place Goldens and their golden-hearted friends in their forever homes. We accept dogs regardless of their age or health and surround them with good food, medical attention, shelter, and care. Often, we know nothing about their background. Through our one-on-one work with them, playgroups, and foster opportunities—as you will read within—we come to understand them better so we can make the best matches possible. We put them on the path. We plant them like we want them to live and grow. But it is you that helps them to thrive.

In your homes and loving care, they are transformed. I cannot tell you how many dogs we have had to take off the Angel Fund list because they long-exceeded medical expectations. We hope to see many of your faces at our upcoming Reunion Picnic (read the details within).

None of this would be possible without your support. We are now halfway through our Double the Gold Challenge with a lofty goal: to raise $80,000. Every dollar donated to the homewardboundgoldens.org page helps us to claim the match and double the gold!

As the lavender blooms in the garden, I offer my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation for all you do to help these extraordinary dogs in need to live, grow - and thrive.

Sincerely,

Jody Jones, President

Continued from page 1

We knew that Winston needed a devoted family willing to bring a one-year-old outside dog up-to-speed on the ways of a beloved house-dog and to fill in all of the missing puppy training he had missed out on. We could not have found a better family than Chris and Betsy M. who had grown up with and trained many large-breed dogs. Their approach: patience, positive reinforcement and love—and an understanding of the “Rule of Threes.”

“...A neighborhood local had seen enough of Winston’s situation and offered his owner money to purchase him. He did this in order to surrender Winston to the trust- ing hands of HBGRR. We are eternally grateful to this individual and wish we could personally thank him!”

Winston is adapting to his new life very well. Since he came with zero training or housebreaking skills, we had to jump right into it. It wasn’t easy potty-training during last winter’s atmospheric river, but Winston took to it like a champ. He loves our walks around the neighborhood, cuddling by the fireplace at night, and chewing on the most durable toys Mom and Dad can find! We’re doing in-home private training which has been a big positive for Winston to learn some baseline skills and to understand that we’re his leaders in his forever home and he doesn’t have to worry about anything anymore.

It’s safe to say Winston is settling into our home. He has gone from being an untrained, outside dog to successfully potty-trained in three days despite non-stop rain and storms. Accustomed to sleeping in the dirt and wet, he now practically demands to sleep on his dog (or sometimes, human!) beds - preferably in front of a fireplace. With a consistent and focused training program, it feels like Winston appreciates having boundaries and the sense of security it brings to his life. He’s long since stopped having inside accidents, counter-surfing, and chewing anything that doesn’t belong to him.

Winston isn’t the only one learning new things; every day we continue to gain a better understanding of this great dog. After only a month, it is clear to us how his previous experiences shaped his behaviors. Training and caring for Winston through this lens — understanding that his new feelings of security, affectation and comfort are valued over everything else — has helped us greatly in establishing a fast bond with our new family member.

We feel extremely lucky to have him join our lives, and are eternally grateful to Homeward Bound for rescuing and caring for our boy!”

The Rule of Threes Applied

In three days, Winston was no longer having accidents in the house, understood the layout of our home and property, and slept soundly in his crate throughout the night.

In three weeks, Winston started understanding and showing us his favorite things: Comfy beds, sitting on our laps (as a 65lb lap dog!), warm fires and stopping for new smells on his walks. He still feels the need to follow us around the house and can get a little anxious or sad when humans aren’t around or aren’t paying enough attention to him. It seems like he has also learned the power of puppy eyes! Very effective!

Continued on page 7

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MAY 2019 3
Opportunity passport. their age, health—or the stamp on their passports. Goldens in loving homes, regardless of their age, health—or the stamp on their passports. Goldens in loving homes, regardless of which the funds are needed and used.

Sometimes the need is so great that we can’t consider saying ‘no,’—no matter how large the undertaking. And so, in February of this year, we took on a new challenge—joining other Golden Rescue groups to rescue 48 Goldens in need from the illegal meat markets in China. While domestic Goldens are always our primary focus, we were proud to participate in this joint humanitarian effort. Why? Because our mission is to rescue, heal, and place Goldens in loving homes, regardless of their age, health—or the stamp on their passport.

In our care, each received all the medical attention it needed. Good food, the love and care of our volunteers, and for the first time in their lives—grass to run and play on. As we write, most are home, while a couple will need our support a little longer. We are delighted that these beautiful, young, friendly, well-socialized dogs now have the same opportunity for happy lives and forever homes that Goldens here have. Two are also among the dogs we are highlighting in this year’s Double the Gold Challenge: Jin and Ping, as you will read below.

Jin came to us with a heart condition, bradycardia, which is an abnormally slow heartbeat. We worried that her prognosis may be poor. But happily, an echocardiogram and evaluation by a canine cardiologist proved otherwise. Jin has a mild version of a genetic condition called Subvalvular Aortic Stenosis (SAS). Her prognosis is good, and we are happy to report that she is now home!

Ping was quite a mess when she arrived with issues typical of neglected care. She had entropion, a genetic condition in which the eyelids fold inward, causing constant irritation to the cornea. Entropion can lead to corneal ulceration or perforation. Her skin was in bad shape, with some troubling lesions that caused us concern. What a difference a few weeks and some loving care makes! Eye surgery corrected her entropion so she now can see clearly and without constant pain. Biopsies on those suspicious-looking lesions yielded more good news. They turned out to be nothing more than secondary chronic infections from allergies. Ping is now enjoying frequent dips in our therapy pool to cool off her itchy skin, and her lesions are clearing up nicely.

At just eight-weeks-old, adorable little Lily came to us from a Central Valley shelter with a broken elbow. She has had surgery to repair it and we packed her off to foster for the remainder of her recovery. Then, because her muscles had atrophied, Lily underwent physical therapy in our doggie therapy pool. By the time you read this, she should be going about the business of being a happy, healthy, playful puppy.

At 6-8 weeks old, Johnny found himself in a Central, California shelter. He was unable to walk; his rear legs did not bend. Initially, the shelter vet thought he had Swimmer’s Syndrome but x-rays and an orthopedic evaluation showed that our little guy had no knee caps. Unfortunately, no surgery will correct his condition. Many hours of dedicated hands-on therapy by our co-founder, Mike Jones, have helped Johnny learn to walk—and run—in his own adorable way! He will probably never walk like most healthy dogs, but with Mike’s dedicated work, Johnny has made tremendous progress. His medical costs are moderate, but he will most likely be cared for at our sanctuary for the rest of his life.

At eighteen months, beautiful Lucy Belle was taken by her owner to the shelter because they were not able to provide care to repair her pataelar luxation. Both her kneecaps were dislocated and the strain of this on her joints caused partial tears in her anterior cruciate ligaments, as well. With such extensive medical needs, her future could have been grim. Fortunately for Lucy Belle, the shelter staff reached out to us to see if we could help. Of course, we said ‘yes.’ Lucy recently underwent her first surgery. She will need eight weeks to recover, then she will have the second surgery. It will be a long recuperation, but her prognosis for a normal life is excellent. We couldn’t be happier for sweet Lucy Belle. We are grateful that, because you care enough to support us, we were able to afford the $4,200 bill.

At eighteen years-old Rio came to us from a shelter in Southern California. He was significantly overweight and had a torn ACL. Surgery has repaired his damaged knee and he is healing nicely. His medical bill ran approximately $4,000. But when he’s finished healing…just watch him go!

These are just a few of the hundreds who will receive our support this year. Every dog that comes to Homeward Bound receives some amount of vet care—whether it be basic vaccinations and spay/neuter, or extraordinary needs like these. In 2018, our vet costs exceeded $267,000 even with deep discounts and donated services.

We are able to do this work because of your unwavering and generous support. Once again, we are asking for your help with this year’s Double the Gold Challenge, which runs through May. In this challenge, the gifts of many are doubled by the waiting Fund of Love match created by a few big-hearted donors. And we cannot do it without you.

Our Fund of Love donors have raised the bar this year, committing $80,000 to double our donations! Please give generously to support Homeward Bound in its mission. Let’s not leave even a dollar in match behind! Every dollar donated through May stands ready to be matched and will be 100% dedicated to veterinary expenses for wonderful dogs who desperately need all of us.

Thank you!
Threes: Three days. Three weeks. Three months.

The Rule of Threes

One minute you are home. The next you are dropped off on a busy highway to dodge cars and fend for yourself, left in a strange place where you are met by dozens of barking dogs and crying cats, or—if you are lucky—surrendered to a rescue.

You may have been out there for days or weeks on your own. You were wrangled with a catch pole and put into a cell for a mug shot, and put into a cell by yourself or maybe with other dogs who give you the “I was here first” look. Maybe you had a squable with a sibling. Or a bad diagnosis from the vet. Or maybe you just got too old to care for (they think). Someone handed a stranger your leash and said “goodbye.”

By three months, we hope Winston shows a new sense of confidence and permanence, equipped with a full understanding that this is his forever home. Our goal is that he knows we’ll always do right by him and he enjoys all of our future adventures to come!

Some Things Are Meant to Be

“Four days after we adopted Winston, we were putting away his file and noticed his birthdate: February 23rd - the date we adopted him. Unbeknownst to us and the team at HBGR, we had adopted Winston on his actual first birthday! An incredible and totally serendipitous coincidence—we were very moved by it. So, we had a little belated birthday party for him featuring his first trail hike (he did great!) and a small birthday treat (don’t worry, he didn’t finish the whole thing)!

Thank you for your help in getting us to Winston. We’re so grateful that you could see we were capable of bringing a dog like Winston into our home. We’re just scratching the surface of our new lives with him, but it’s already been such a blessing to have him join us. And we’re just getting started! We still have parks, trails and beaches to explore and conquer!” ~ Chris and Betsy M.

Note: With permission, Chris and Betsy have been connected to Winston’s rescue so they could thank him personally, and so he could follow Winston’s progress through their updates. All dogs should be so loved.

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

Thank You to GRFRS&SEC

Golden Retriever Senior Rescue Sanctuary and Education Center (GRFRS&SEC) was founded by a group of like-minded Golden Retriever and animal lovers putting their minds and resources together in support of senior Golden. For several years now, they have provided food support to Homeward Bound’s senior and sanctuary dogs in addition to other generous gifts.

In 2019, they suprised us with another gift: they will be providing heartworm, flea and tick preventative treatment for 73 of sanctuary and permanent foster care Golden oldies. These medications are expensive but preventing the diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas is well worth the extra financial cost as the physical cost to these Senior Golden Oldies of having such illnesses can be catastrophic.

This represents a significant gift to our senior dogs and we could not be more grateful. GRFRS&SEC is a lengthy acronym to remember: we just know them as awesome folks with big hearts! Thank you!

Thank you to remember; we just know them as awesome folks with big hearts! Thank you!
We have always been blessed with a large group of individuals willing to take a dog home as a permanent foster. These are senior dogs or dogs with ongoing medical issues that might not otherwise be home. We are so fortunate to count them among our family and grateful for their generosity and kindness. Where we had room for improvement was our short-term foster program. While puppies are typically easy to find fosters for, the dogs that need the most short-term foster support are those that have waited because we either don’t know enough about their home habits or they never had a chance to perfect them.

Dogs like Winston, whose story you can read in this newsletter, had lived outside tied to a post. Winston was lucky that his rescuer took him home briefly and could provide us with valuable information about the in-home habits he observed. It made it easier to match him to the right family; to find short-term fosters for because they need to be the only dog or don’t appreciate cats. Finding only-dog or cat-free homes in our network of dogs and animal lovers can be hard if you or someone you know is interested in being a short-term foster, please complete an application online and we’ll be in touch! You will find it on our website under the “Foster” heading at www.homewardboundgoldens.org.

A Lasting Legacy

Last year, we featured Leo and Oggie—a the orphaned and then adopted dogs of Melissa Hirt who sadly lost her battle with cancer. Both dogs had originally been adopted by Melissa through Homeward Bound. They were both matched to their needs. For those dogs that cannot be adopted due to special needs, we provide sanctuary. Our promise does not end when a dog goes home; it is for the dog’s life. If for any reason, the dog cannot remain in its adoptive home, we require that it be returned to Homeward Bound. None of our dogs should be passed around or, heaven forbid, left in a shelter.

And so it was that Bodie rejoined us at the age of 15. He had been adopted 14 years ago as Shadow. His human dad is also in his golden years and now needs as much help as Bodie who was unable to walk when we met him again. Dad was headed to assisted living, so Bodie was welcomed back by us.

Bodie was unsure of how he got to this place again, and not very happy about it, at first. He was either unable or unwilling to stand and went to great pains to even prop himself in a sitting position. But what a smile this boy gave us!

A trip to the vet and a week later, Bodie was a different dog. He scored the coveted “office dog” spot where he was surrounded by company all day. By the end of the week, this dog that would not move was going for walks. And he perfected the “please take me out” look. While most dogs get one or two walks between feedings, Bodie could be spotted out and about four times a day, each time with a different walker. Wet played, boy!

He has some lumps and bumps that we will keep an eye on. At age 15, however, our main focus is finding Bodie the perfect home where a retired boy can rest his head and be spoiled rotten. We hope that our wish for him has come true by the time you read this. We made Bodie eligible for permanent foster—a program unique to Homeward Bound that helps dogs in their very senior years or with ongoing medical needs to be home. To our permanent foster families, it is as if they adopted. The only difference is that Homeward Bound sees to the dog’s medical needs for all the days of its life. A promise for life. Made possible by your generous supporters and something we believe all dogs deserve.
Save the Date!
An Exciting New Kibble & Bids™ 2019!

Sunday, September 15, 2019
The Pavilion at Haggin Oaks
Sacramento, CA
4-7PM | Sponsor Reception 3-4PM

Kibble & Bids is all new and exciting this year! We are headed to the Pavilion at Haggin Oaks. It’s a beautiful venue in Sacramento with shaded lawns, gorgeous greens, ample seating – and the dogs, of course!

Our theme: Golden Journeys. We can’t wait to share the stories (and faces) of some of our most memorable rescue tails.

Join us for a late afternoon and early evening event with fine food and drink, live and silent auctions, wine wall, raffle, and new and fun activities for all including food, wine & beer, special presentations, and the dogs, of course!

Find details on our website shortly! We hope to see you there!

Kibble&Bids
Golden Journeys
Sunday, September 15
Pavilion at Haggin Oaks
Sacramento, CA
3pm Sponsor Hour
4pm General Admission
Tickets $100
Advance

Feedback About the China Dogs

While we have been welcoming China dogs for some time now without issue, our recent trip led to some questions and concerns. We want to address them here so you are all informed about the precautions we take when bringing these dogs into our program.

The dogs were boarded in China as they underwent testing for diseases and received vaccinations. All of the dogs received two rounds of DHLPP, rabies, flea, tick and heartworm before coming to us, with bloodwork and a DHPP booster upon arrival. Because we have a facility, the dogs remain with us until we are confident of their ability to be adopted.

No special fees were charged for their adoption. The medical needs of these dogs were no different than the kinds of needs we routinely see and treat. And while there is always a risk of a dog entering our program with a transmittable disease, we face that risk each and every day with dogs that come to us from shelters, as strays, and even as surrenders.

We know there are strong feelings on both sides of this issue. Some say these dogs are not worth saving. As long as it is done responsibly, we disagree.

Disagreement is welcome. Debate is welcome. What shocked us were the harsh and hurtful comments of people from well outside our network that know nothing about our work. We hope we have helped provide more detail here. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know. On behalf of the ten smiling faces below - thank you.

Shop & Donate At No Cost With AmazonSmile

Don’t forget - designate Homeward Bound as your charity and do all your shopping on AmazonSmile! to turn your shopping into thousands of dollars for the dogs!
Dates To Remember

The Double the Gold Challenge runs through May
Homeward Bound Memorial Garden Service, May 4
Reunion Picnic, May 19th
Kibble & Bids, Sunday, September 15th

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand:
• **Feeders:** A dog’s best friend and so rewarding!
• **Walkers:** Build bonds of trust through walking, playing, training, and grooming. Help prepare the dogs for their forever homes.
• **Youth Coordinator:** Help lead the next generation of rescue.

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
- 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

Printing of the Homeward Bound Newsletter is generously underwritten by Paul Baker Printing.