

# THE heart



AUGUST 2022 / VOL 23 ISSUE 3

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

One size does not fit all. Duncan's story is a fitting example. Finally, home – his journey is our cover story.

Has a traumatic injury or cancer diagnosis for your dog ever put you in the poor house? Or worse, forced you into a decision you didn't want to make? Pet insurance can be a lifesaver. We take you through the costs, benefits, and things to be aware of on page 6.

Domestic violence is devastating to victims and their pets. Victims are not alone and not helpless. We connect you with proactive steps and vital resources on page 8.

While things are looking a little brighter for international dogs in need, we are amid a crisis here at home. Learn how we plan to balance our efforts on page 9.

And get ready...our 20th Kibble & Bids™ event is fast approaching! Saturday, September 24th we are going country-casual at the beautiful oak tree-lined Gibson Park Ranch House close to Homeward Bound. Get all the details beginning on page 4. Pull on your boots and mosey on over! There is nothing we enjoy more than celebrating our successes with you...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!



## Duncan: Finally Home

BY: Audrey Farrington

Duncan was surrendered in October 2020 at the age of three. The family cited unpredictable behavior including a dislike of strangers and other dogs, barking, and a refusal to come when called for which a shock collar was employed. A DNA test gave us clues to his behaviors and his striking good looks: 29% Catahoula Leopard Dog, 28% Great Pyrenees, 14% Anatolian Shepherd Dog, 13% American English Coonhound, 3% White Shepherd. Every fiber of Duncan was born to guard, herd, alert, and protect.

In our care, he had large outdoor spaces, but hated being confined by fences much less a kennel. He was comfortable with a select group of volunteers, as long as he could choose his own friends. Clearly not adapting well, he would go on regular hunger strikes or simply shed calories from stress.

He had come from a suburban neighborhood and was three-times adopted into similar situations only to be returned for barking and stranger danger. What Duncan needed was not part of our typical playbook.

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## OUR MISSION

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, regardless of their age or health. Homeward Bound secures safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption program, and also provides lifetime sanctuary for 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 2022  
236

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2022  
\$227,558



## A Message From Our President

We are on the cusp of a remarkable moment. In 2018, Jody and Mike Jones announced that Homeward Bound would have the right to purchase the property upon their passing. Under the terms specified in their trust, Homeward Bound could purchase the property for \$100,000 over the mortgage balance when the time came. This generous gift arrived sooner than any of us imagined.

Their dream was that Homeward Bound would forever be here for dogs in need. While legal proceedings have delayed the process, we fully anticipate moving forward to fulfill their wishes. We began working toward the goal several years ago. Through generous bequests, we have made good progress. But to achieve the goal of the purchase and needed improvements, we will need your help. Costs are expected to exceed \$500,000. We ask that you give generously to this year's Kibble & Bids Special Project: The Homeward Bound Forever Fund designated for the purchase of the property.

Many rescues falter at their founder's passing. Since Jody's death in 2020 and Mike's in early 2022, the road has not been easy – but we have proven that Homeward Bound can and will carry on. We owe this to the dedication of our volunteers – and the support of good friends like you.

With shelters overflowing and surrenders up dramatically, the dogs need us more than ever. We are committed to be here for them. With you by our side.

With a grateful heart,

Judy Kent  
President



**HOMeward  
BOUND** Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue



7495 Natomas Rd.  
Elverta, CA 95626  
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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Our adoption guidelines generally require fenced yards and that the dog be inside with the family most of the time. We have seen too many dogs relegated to backyards, and we deal frequently with the aftermath of dogs allowed to roam into traffic. But our ideal home was never going to suit Duncan.

This spring, an applicant appeared specifically requesting Duncan. She had grown up with a Catahoula Leopard Dog in the South and understood his need for space, a job to do, and his guarding nature. She and her partner live off the grid on a huge piece of property in the mountains. There are no fences, but she had experience training dogs to stay on-property. They walk miles of trails daily. She had worked with rescue dogs before; both passed of old age. They specifically wanted a dog that would alert – barking was welcome and there were no neighbors to complain. Their ideal dog would be outside with them all day but come inside at night – a full member of the family and a faithful companion. There were no other dogs, no gardeners or other strangers making unexpected appearances, there was a job to do, and plenty of room to roam – with his people always nearby.

Our trainer, Kathryn Baines, conducted a thorough interview sharing all of Duncan's history before overseeing an introduction. It was a long journey for them to come to Homeward Bound, but they knew their dog when they met him. All they needed was for Duncan to decide - and he did.

Duncan jumped up gently on both and offered kisses, weaving in and out of the man's legs - something we had never witnessed before. Both were pleased with his acceptance. Walking out to

their truck, they lowered the tailgate to reach for something and Duncan leapt in as if to say: "let's go!" He was guided to the back seat and leapt in without hesitation - happy and ready to start a new life.

He did well on the six-hour drive. When he got home, he had a short walk around the property, and was ready for bed, waking up to his new life.

We sent Duncan home as "foster to adopt" to ensure the match. Just two weeks later, his adoption was finalized. After nearly two years of waiting and failed adoptions, this is Duncan's life now:

*"Duncan is living mountain life to its fullest. We start our days at 4:30 AM, seven days a week. Most days we take a three-mile hike up the mountain to the creek for a little swim around 10 AM. Duncan likes walking on the road, but he loves to run through the woods like a wild wolf, jumping over down trees, following bear trails, and chasing the occasional spring bears out eating blackberries. He sleeps on the porch all day and starts patrolling the property line in the evenings, barking at anything and everything he hears in the woods until midnight when he comes inside to sleep like a big, spoiled baby on the couch every night."*

There are inherent risks in his new home for certain. But Duncan was at equal risk due to his behaviors in confinement. Our ideal home was never going to be Duncan's. In the mountains, he has found his people, his freedom, and his happiness. In the mountains, Duncan can be Duncan.





# KIBBLE & BIDS™ 2022 COUNTRY ROUND UP!

Saturday, September 24, 4:30-7PM

**Gibson Park Ranch House**  
8556 Gibson Ranch Park Rd.  
Elverta, CA 95626

We are so excited to be back together in person! Join us for a country-casual event at the beautiful oak tree-lined Gibson Park Ranch House. It's a late afternoon/early evening of great barbeque, drink (wine, and craft beer garden), games, gift-packed raffle, and online auction with offers too tempting to miss! And, of course, our Golden Greeters and their amazing stories of rescue, healing, and home.

Our Golden friends will be waiting with wagging tails and sloppy kisses to thank you for the support you offer to the hundreds of dogs rescued and placed in loving homes each year.

**Deadline for ticket sales:** September 1, 2022. Capacity is limited, and tickets are first-come, first-served so order early!

Parking is by valet due to distant lots. **Carpooling is strongly encouraged and appreciated!**

**Note:** There is no smoking anywhere in Gibson Park.

**Adult humans only.** Thank you!

## HELP THEM ON THEIR JOURNEYS...SPONSOR!

We have sponsorship opportunities to fit every budget. Each sponsor level includes sponsor tickets, entrance to our exclusive Sponsor Reception, preferred seating, recognition in our event program, on our website, and more! For more information on sponsoring, visit our website at [www.hbgrr.org](http://www.hbgrr.org).

For questions about sponsoring, contact Judy Kent at: [hbaccounting@homeward-boundgoldens.org](mailto:hbaccounting@homeward-boundgoldens.org). You'll be in great company!

**PUT ON YOUR  
BOOTS AND  
MOSEY ON  
OVER!**



Saturday,  
September 24th

**SPONSOR HOUR 3:30-4:30PM**  
**GENERAL ADMISSION 4:30-7PM**

online auction • raffle •  
golden greeters • games

**BBQ & BEER GARDEN**

beautiful oak tree lined  
**GIBSON PARK RANCH HOUSE**  
ELVERTA, CALIFORNIA



**ALL TICKETS  
IN ADVANCE**

**\$85**

limited capacity • order early

ticket & sponsor info:

[www.hbgrr.org](http://www.hbgrr.org) | 916-655-1410

Note: No Smoking in Gibson Park



**HOMEWARD BOUND**  
Golden Retriever Rescue

## A SPECIAL EVENING IS PLANNED FOR YOU:

Be close to home, yet transported, in a fun and picturesque setting that feels so much like Homeward Bound!

**3:30-4:30PM: An exclusive Sponsor Reception** with a selection of wines, beers, and fabulous passed appetizers as you enjoy live music and the company of our Golden Greeters and learn their stories. Meet old friends and new who share your passion for rescue. Sponsorships begin as low as \$500 and enjoy preferred seating. Don't miss this VIP opportunity!

**4:30PM:** All guests are welcomed by our Golden Greeters for a hearty menu of mouth-watering barbeque. Enjoy offerings from local breweries in our craft beer garden, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages as well. The competitive spirit is alive but friendly in gentle games suited to the country setting - so wear comfortable shoes and clothes and let's have some fun! Don't miss our irresistible raffle, and vie for deals in our online auction beginning one week before the event and ending that night at midnight.

**6:30PM:** We close out the festivities with some very special stories of rescue, hope, and home. We'll share highlights of our rescue mission, touching tales of Golden journeys, and share our plans for the future - all part of our special project: **The Homeward Bound Forever Fund**. It's all made possible by you.



## SUPPORT OUR SPECIAL PROJECT! HOMEWARD BOUND FOREVER FUND

Homeward Bound was born from the vision of Jody and Mike Jones. It was their passion, and their home. As they announced in 2018, their trust gives Homeward Bound the right to purchase the property promising safety, security, and care for the dogs on their journeys home. More than 10,700 to date!

Through generous bequests, we began building a fund for the property purchase – an event that came much sooner than any of us imagined. **Estimated costs exceed \$500,000.**

A master plan will be commissioned to guide us in making the remainder of the property functional for the dogs, volunteers, and adopters – including necessary repairs and infrastructure investment.

This year, we ask you to please contribute generously to the **Homeward Bound Forever Fund**, ensuring the resources needed to complete the purchase and tackle the projects ahead - protecting and preserving Jody and Mike's legacy.

### HOW TO PURCHASE KIBBLE & BIDS™ TICKETS

**Kibble & Bids Tickets are only \$85, and all proceeds benefit Homeward Bound.**

- Purchase by phone: 916-655-1410
- Purchase online, or by mail. Click on the Kibble & Bids link on our website at [www.hbgrr.org](http://www.hbgrr.org) to download the form or follow the links to purchase securely online.



### Cherry Creek Veterinary Hospital

7955 Watt Avenue, Antelope, CA 95843  
Phone: 916-349-2755 | [www.cherrycreekvet.com](http://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.



# Pet Insurance: A Life Saver

BY: GAIL WESTRUP

Dog owners know there is a financial price to pay for everything our furry friends bring into our lives: food, training, vet visits, and more. But in the case of a serious accident, injury, or medical diagnosis, could you afford what it costs to save your dog's life? Unfortunately, Homeward Bound knows all too well what happens to many dogs when the answer to that question is "no."



Cali arrived as a two-year-old yellow Labrador who needed complicated hip surgery after being hit by a car. Her owners asked their vet to euthanize her because they couldn't afford the surgery. The vet secured their permission to send her to rescue instead. Homeward Bound's cost for surgery: \$3,800.

Eight-year-old Golden Toby needed expensive bilateral hip surgery; his owner's response was to give him away on Craigslist. A rescue partner spotted him and got him to Homeward Bound. Surgery cost: \$8,000.

As medical care for pets has improved and become more costly, pet insurance has also been evolving. For years, most pet owners felt it wasn't worth the cost. However, that thinking is changing today as companies offer more comprehensive coverage and competitive rates to attract buyers.

Longtime dog owner and Homeward Bound adoption counselor Carolyn Unger is no stranger to vet bills. As this newsletter goes to press, her Golden Retriever, Bear, is undergoing cancer treatment. As a retired insurance broker and executive of underwriting at an insurance company, Carolyn is also familiar with the world of pet insurance. The coverage she secured for Bear is helping pay for treatment to extend his life.

With more pet insurance options available, Carolyn knows that finding the right policy can be overwhelming. Here are some pointers:

## PLAN TYPES

- **Accident and Illness Coverage:** These are the most common plans and cover vet bills for accidents such as ACL rupture and broken bones. They also cover illnesses from hereditary conditions to cancer.
- **Accident-only Coverage:** This type of plan covers vet bills only when your pet is injured in an accident.

- **Pet Wellness Coverage:** This plan covers routine care such as vaccinations and checkups and is usually available as an add-on to an accident and illness plan.

## PICKING YOUR COVERAGE

As with medical insurance for people, pet health insurance offers deductible options from \$100 to \$1,000. Pay attention to annual deductibles versus per-incident deductibles.

- You also choose a reimbursement level - the most common being 70%, 80%, or 90%.
- Pet insurance has no network restrictions; most insurers cover any licensed vet.

You pay the vet bills, and insurance reimburses you. Most pay electronically with funds deposited into your bank account within seven days of submitting your claim.

Here is an example: say you pick a \$250 deductible and 80% coverage. You submit your pet's bills, and after you pay the initial \$250 deductible, insurance will reimburse 80% of the rest of the bills. Opting for a higher deductible and lower co-insurance option can lower your monthly premium while still providing catastrophic coverage for serious accidents or costly medical diagnoses.

## COVERAGE OPTIONS TO UNDERSTAND

Many policies limit your claims, such as reimbursing a certain amount per year or for the dog's lifetime. Other policies place no such limit. Most give you a choice.

All plans have waiting periods. For example, there may be a two-week waiting period before it covers accident-related vet costs. Be careful about special waiting periods for specific conditions.

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# Jumping and Pulling: Back to Basics

BY: GAIL WESTRUP

When a large dog runs to you and jumps up, your biggest concern is likely the body and paws flying at your face and chest. The same holds true for a “walk” that feels more like a dog sled race; the dog is strong, pulling, and you’re hoping your morning outing doesn’t land you in the emergency room.

Step one to changing these scenarios: get past the dog’s body and into the dog’s head. Think like a dog! Step two: Use *your* head by getting better training and tools.

That’s the advice from Kathryn Baines of Golden Rule Dog Training. Jumping and pulling are some of the most common owner complaints. Homeward Bound has no shortage of large, energetic dogs surrendered due to these behaviors – many of them young. The dogs haven’t had much training or socialization, and exhausted owners have given up.

Jumping up to greet is a natural dog behavior; dogs are excited and want to meet you. These are signs of a confident and happy dog, so anger is not the appropriate response and yelling may be interpreted as attention. Instead, give the dog an alternative behavior to get the attention it’s seeking.

When the dog jumps up, don’t make eye contact; ignore it by turning around and saying nothing. Then turn back around and ask for a “sit.” Give the dog a treat and praise only when it’s calm. Kathryn suggests having the dog leashed when guests arrive for added control; have it sit and reward for good behavior. Then the guest can give the dog attention by coming alongside it and scratching under the chin or the side of the head. Back off if it tries to jump.



Being greeted by a jumping dog when you get home may also be a sign that your four-legged friend needs a walk. When pulling on the leash is the next challenge you face, consider expending some of the dog’s energy *before* your walk. Toss a ball or do some other form of exercise first. Most dogs get excited at the idea of going outside with their owner. Remain calm to help the dog remain calm. And practice the “wait” cue before opening the door so you can leave the house in a calm, organized manner.

The proper equipment makes all the difference. Martingale collars protect the dog’s neck from damage due to excessive pulling. They don’t have a buckle or a snap, so the dog can’t back out and get loose.

Easy Walk harnesses by PetSafe are used at Homeward Bound to allow better control over a pulling dog. Make sure the leash clip is on the front and the different color strap is going under the dog’s body. You should only have enough room to slip your flat hand between the dog and harness if it is fitted correctly. The Freedom No-Pull Harness is another good option for strong dogs.

As you start loose leash training, treats can be helpful to keep the dog focused and walking next to you. As you say the dog’s name and it looks at you, reward with a treat. The dog will learn that this is the behavior you want and to stay near you.

A six-foot leash with double handles offers a couple of benefits. It’s long enough for the owner to wrap around his or her hips and provide strength from the legs if the dog pulls. The second handle closer to the dog makes it easier to shorten the leash and keep it by your side if necessary. Holding the leash correctly is key. Place it in your hand with your thumb outside the loop of the leash and your four fingers in the loop, then make a fist around the loop. DON’T wind the leash around your hand; if the dog tries to chase something you could be headed for a face plant.

The six-foot leash also gives the dog a bit more movement on walks. Thinking like a dog, remember that sniffing is part of a dog’s natural behavior and exercises its brain. Their time walking, sniffing, and being with you may be the best part of their day. Make the walk about them, correct the undesired behavior, and reward them when they get it right. You’ll not only avoid the ER, but walks will become the pleasurable time you and your dog want them to be.



## Pets and Domestic Violence

A dog recently came into our care. The beautiful pup was well-raised and socialized, clearly loved, and extremely underweight. The reason: the woman surrendering the dog was trying to leave a violent relationship and was unable to get to the house to feed the dog when the abuser was there. He refused to step in to help. Her love for the dog was obvious, demonstrated further by her selfless sacrifice of ensuring her beloved companion got to safety – even if it meant parting ways.

Batterers frequently use pets as leverage over their victims threatening to injure, maim, or kill their partners' or children's pets in conjunction with domestic or sexual violence. Victims, understanding the potential for harm, are often reluctant to leave violent relationships or speak out, concerned for the safety of their pets.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports that 71% of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters share that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets. Sadly, there is a clear link between pet abuse and domestic violence. Many abusers have a history of animal abuse that precedes domestic violence toward their partner. Abusers demonstrate power and control over the family by threatening, harming, or killing animals, including threatening to harm or kill their children's pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse.

Abusers harm pets to punish the victim for leaving, or in attempts to coerce them to return. NCADV statistics show that up to 40% of domestic violence victims are unable to escape their abusers because they are concerned about what will happen to their pets when they leave. With few domestic violence shelters able to accommodate pets at risk, many victims end up living in their cars, becoming homeless, or remaining in their relationships.

If you know someone in an abusive relationship, you can help by sharing these tips.

- If it is not possible to keep the animals with the leaving victim, try to help the victim arrange temporary shelter for the pets with a veterinarian, trusted friend or family member, boarding facility, or local rescue.
- When microchipping pets, vaccinating them against rabies, and licensing them with the city or county, be sure to register them in the victim's name. This will serve as proof that the victim owns the pets which are considered property by animal control, law enforcement, and the courts.

- Prepare the pets for a quick departure: collect vaccination records, pet licenses, medical records, and other documents. Vaccination records will be essential if the pet must be housed with a veterinarian or boarding facility.
- Ask for help from animal care and control officers or law enforcement if pets need to be retrieved from the abuser. Never reclaim animals alone.

Fortunately, this story ended well for the woman and the dog. If you know someone in need, please share our tips above and these resources:

- National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.
- National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.
- National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE.

## Shop & Donate at No Cost with AmazonSmile

Don't forget that you can support Homeward Bound every time you shop on Amazon – at no cost to you! When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. It adds up to thousands of dollars in support of the dogs each year.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). On your first visit to AmazonSmile, select Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue as your charitable organization before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation!

What a great and simple way to support the dogs – at no cost to you!







## Crisis at Home

As many of you are aware, the importation of rescue dogs from high-risk rabies countries (including China) was suspended in 2021 by the CDC. The action was triggered by commercial importers operating outside the permitting guidelines. Unfortunately, legitimate rescues were caught up in the decision.

In June, the CDC posted an unpublished draft continuing its suspension through January 31, 2023. However, they made significant changes, allowing for importation under precise guidelines. Dogs can only enter the country via cargo through four ports (Miami, JFK, LAX, or Atlanta). They will be transported to and tested at a USDA facility to verify that they have been vaccinated (have titers) for rabies upon arrival. If the test is negative, they are moved to another facility, vaccinated, and quarantined for 28 days before release. As always, all dogs must be over six months of age, must have all vaccines required by USDA, must be in good health, and now must also be microchipped. The rescues are responsible for all transportation, facility, and veterinary expenses – significantly increasing costs. While we finally see some hope for these dogs from abroad, we are in the midst of a growing crisis at home.

While increasing awareness of puppy mills and irresponsible breeder practices slowed the growth of the \$2B per year Dog and Pet Breeders Industry (*IBISWORLD 2021 Industry Report*), the pandemic brought a huge uptick in 2020 production as demand shot up for COVID companions. Now, we have seen the other side of these impulse buys: shelters overwhelmed with young dogs given up or abandoned as people return to their post-pandemic lives.

This trend, and the economic downturn, have led to an emergency at home with shelters and rescues overflowing, unable to keep up. As a result, dogs in shelters are euthanized at rates not seen in over a decade when focused efforts on behavioral health, adoption, and rescue partnerships led to dramatic declines. And it is about to get worse.

Here at home, we are already seeing commercial breeders surrendering pups they cannot sell, ages seven months and younger. Meanwhile, our rescue partners in puppy mill territory (Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and more) are seeing a declining demand for puppies sold to pet stores and a rising trend of breeding dogs being destroyed as a result. The lucky ones get to rescue, and our inundated Midwest partners are pleading for help.

Like dogs from the Asian meat markets, puppy mill breeding dogs have unique needs – further engrained by their prolonged captivity. Living in cages or small runs their entire

lives, their human interaction is rare and frequently unkind. They are unsocialized, traumatized, and frightened of the world beyond. With loving care, patience, and understanding, this can be reversed, but it takes time, commitment, and, frequently, the support of a mentor dog.

While our hearts remain with Golden Retrievers coming from abroad, we cannot ignore the crisis at home. As a result, we are pursuing two avenues.

First, there are several Golden Retriever rescues who limit themselves to the breed and have long been involved with the rescue of Golden Retrievers from abroad. We will let them take the lead in this area while we offer our support for their overflow. As many of them are foster-based, Homeward Bond can provide vital capacity once the dogs have been through the CDC vetting process.

At the same time, we have offered our support to dogs coming out of puppy mills and commercial breeding operations. This will include helping arrange linked transport – sometimes cross-country – to get them to safety. Again, as most rescues are foster-based, our capacity provides a life-saving resource.

As always, when we have the capacity, we will continue to welcome dogs from shelters that don't have golden credentials. Because every life matters.

We believe this strategy will provide a balance of resources, capacity, and saving lives that our supporters and volunteers can feel good about. We hope you agree.



Continued from Page 6

Many online sources compare policies and provide free quotes. Carolyn suggests [www.forbes.com/advisor/pet-insurance/best-pet-insurance/](http://www.forbes.com/advisor/pet-insurance/best-pet-insurance/) and [www.consumersadvocate.org/pet-insurance](http://www.consumersadvocate.org/pet-insurance).

A recent Forbes Advisor analysis of pet insurance rates reports an average cost of \$420 per year for a dog with \$5,000 per year coverage; unlimited coverage is \$636 per year. It also lists the following national averages for these common veterinary issues that dog owners face:

- Stomach pump after swallowing something: \$2,700
- Hospitalization for liver disease \$3,000
- Joint issues needing corrective surgery \$7,500
- Cancer \$10,000 and up. Tumor surgery can start at \$1,500; Chemotherapy can go up to \$5,000; Radiation can exceed \$6,000.

Where you live, your dog's breed and its age will affect your rate. Also, no insurer will cover a pre-existing medical condition. Medical expenses tend to be highest for puppies and older dogs, so the cost of your dog's coverage will increase as it ages. But in those golden years, being able to afford vet bills can make all the difference in how much time you get with your four-legged family member. We all know there's a day when we have to say goodbye to our pets, but having medical coverage for them could help ensure that cost won't be the deciding factor in when that day comes.



## Remembering Nikki

BY: BRIAN HARTMAN

*Some of our best volunteers come through our adoption process. They understand all the effort that goes into rescuing and preparing the dogs for home and seek a way to pay it forward. Here is a testimony and a tribute from Brian and Lisa Hartman.*

Our incredible Golden Lab Nikki passed through the Rainbow Bridge in May and while our hearts are still heavy, we think of the wonderful memories and incredible journey together. It began when we had lost our Golden, Amber, abandoned from the hot streets of Phoenix. She ultimately succumbed to seizures. Soon after, my wife and I were walking on the trail in our neighborhood, when, serendipitously, we came upon a lovely Golden and its owner. After exchanging pleasantries, we learned about Homeward Bound, the great work there, and its rescue mission. We signed up for the adoption process and started our search for the perfect companion.

When we first saw Nikki, she was in the senior yard. She was extremely lean and a bit lethargic. We learned that she had come over with the many of dogs rescued from Taiwan. At the time, her name was Simone. We also discovered that while only two, she had a litter of puppies that were adopted out quickly. We were concerned about her health and viability. Truth be told our kids had their eye on a brother-sister Golden pair. After another visit and realizing that two dogs were not in the cards, we checked in with Simone again. While not apparent at the time, it turned out we were the perfect match.

Nikki was the most loving companion. She never met a stranger she didn't like, especially small children. While fearful of small dogs, she tolerated all animals. She quickly learned that our cat Snicker would dominate the relationship and ruled supreme in the home. All the memories keep flooding back but particularly the hikes, snowshoe trips, and daily walks in the neighborhood. Ever the dainty lady, she would often lie with her legs crossed. Out in the snow, she would gain a super-dog power and come alive with endless energy - even as she aged.

Over the years, our love of Homeward Bound quickly morphed into regular visits as volunteer dog walkers. There were countless dogs that became part of our daily conversations. We are most grateful to Homeward Bound for shepherding the adoption process, bringing such joy, and lasting memories to our family.

# A Lasting Legacy: For the Love of Dogs

If you have shared your life with a rescued dog, you know how blessed you have been – not only for the love and companionship you shared, but to know that you helped to save a life.

Including Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary in your final giving plans is one of the most powerful statements you can make about your love and concern for animals.

Naming us in your will or trust, for example, is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Golden Retrievers in need will find a second chance at life. Planned giving is an option for donors of all incomes and may allow you to make a larger gift in the future than you otherwise could from current assets. A planned gift can also help you reduce capital gains or estate taxes on your heirs.

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. You can also provide for the care of your pets in your estate plan – an important consideration for all of us.

We always recommend that you speak with your accountant or financial advisor to determine the most beneficial means of giving for you and your family. If you need a starting point, you can download our Guide to Giving from our website. You'll find it here: <https://homewardboundgoldens.org/how-to-help/planned-giving.html>.

You will also find information there on securing your Golden's future by entrusting its care to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue in the event that you or your family members can no longer be there for them.



## 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 on 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."*

- Judy Kent, President, Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.

**916-480-0900** [www.nsnorcal.com](http://www.nsnorcal.com)



## HOW TO REACH US

Your help and ideas are always welcome!

Reach out to team leaders through the contact information below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

Adoptions and Surrenders &  
Sanctuary Development  
Judy Kent, President  
7495 Natomas Road  
Elverta, CA 95626  
916-655-1410

[judy@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:judy@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Foster Families  
[fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Placement Team  
Lynn Pihera, 916-428-2718  
[homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Golden Taxi (Transport)  
[goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Events Planning  
[events@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:events@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Volunteering  
[volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Newsletter & Marketing  
Audrey Farrington  
[audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Training  
Kathryn Baines, 916-300-9415  
[grdogtraining@gmail.com](mailto:grdogtraining@gmail.com)

Kibble & Bids™ Fundraising  
[kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org)





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

phone: 916-655-1410  
email: [admin@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:admin@homewardboundgoldens.org)  
[www.homewardboundgoldens.org](http://www.homewardboundgoldens.org)

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Kibble & Bids, Saturday, September 24th**  
**Giving Tree, Starts Thanksgiving Day**

## 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.
- **Event Support:** Having fun while helping the dogs!
- **Youth Leaders:** Train 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