

THE heart



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HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

February is the month of love, and our newsletter is packed full of it!

Fostering is a gift from the heart that can change a dog's life forever. There are many ways to help. We describe them in our cover story.

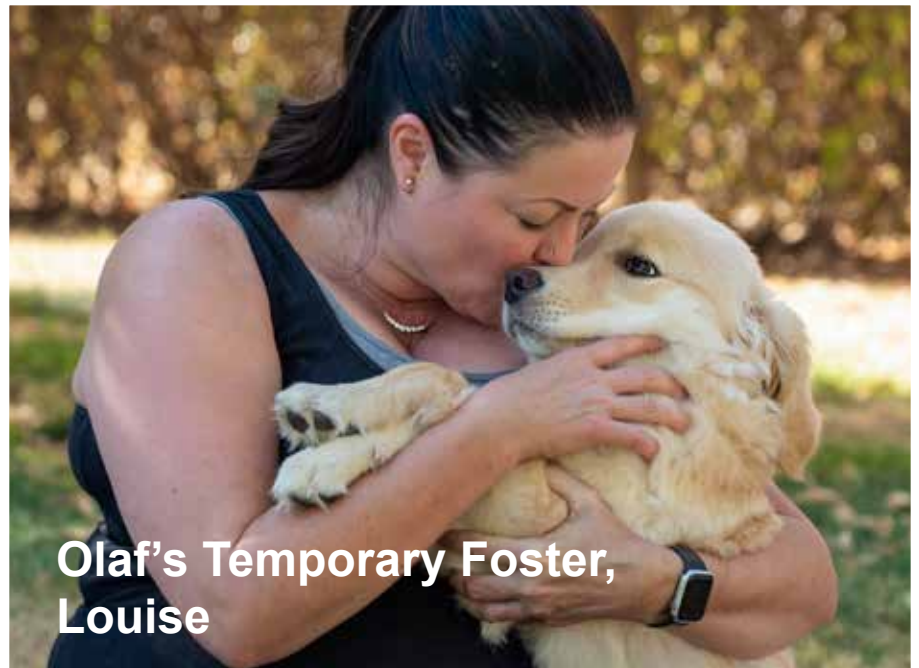
What goes into successful matchmaking? It's easy to fall in love with a dog's look but harder to know its heart and needs. Our adoption counselors are experts in creating successful love connections. Read about the process on page 9.

Yes...it's possible to love your dog too much! Keeping your dog at a healthy weight helps to ensure more time together. Read our tips on page 7.

And our **Fund of Love** kicks off this month! This fund provides the match for our **Double The Gold Challenge** later in the spring. The funds raised through both campaigns are dedicated to meeting the medical needs of the hundreds of dogs we will support this year. This year, we are featuring some of our newest additions and the plight of puppy mill dogs. Read about them beginning on page 4, and please help if you can. Thank you!

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



**Olaf's Temporary Foster,
Louise**

The Gift of Foster

BY: Audrey Farrington

Thinking about a truly special Valentine's gift you can give all year long? You might consider fostering. Homeward Bound's foster program has expanded greatly in the past two years. While we cherish our facility – rare in the rescue world – because it provides immediate support to dogs in need, the gift of being in a home is invaluable. For dogs that have come from shelters to our facility or that have been overlooked for adoption, foster provides an opportunity to decompress. At the same time, what we learn from the foster about the dog's behavior in the home helps us to better prepare them – and future adopters – for their forever home. Fostered dogs also make room for others in crisis, saving more lives.

Medical foster is a priceless gift. Our four-year-old boy Carl is an example. He came to us with a severe case of heartworms from a shelter where he had lingered for three

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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 Golden Retrievers that cannot be adopted.

Homeward Bound also provides education on proper animal care and on the benefits of, and need for, rescue and sanctuary. In the event of a disaster, Homeward Bound will provide assistance to other rescue groups and the families of dogs impacted by the disaster.

Homeward Bound will continue to serve as a model rescue organization, addressing animal welfare needs throughout California and neighboring states, and strives to be a national leader in rescue, sanctuary and education.

DOGS RESCUED IN 2022
400

VET EXPENSES IN 2022
\$418,752



A Message From Our President

What laws can't accomplish – the market sometimes can. The post-pandemic trend of giving up dogs has collided with a market downturn. The result: puppy mills are “shutting down” – or at least waiting out conditions that make puppy sales less lucrative. What used to be a trickle of breeding dogs who were lucky enough to make it to rescue is becoming a tsunami. In years past, individual rescues could accommodate the few. Now, we are teaming together to create second chances for many.

These dogs are the focus of this year's **Fund of Love** campaign. The generosity of a small group of individuals and foundations provides a match challenge for the many in our **Double the Gold Challenge** which follows – doubling the impact. With the retirement of our beloved Dr. Codde and the resulting rise in vet expenses, the success of these campaigns will ensure that we can meet the needs of our puppy mill survivors and the hundreds of dogs that will come to us for help this year.

And we have exciting news to share. After a year of legal proceedings, a settlement has finally been reached, which would allow Homeward Bound to move forward with the purchase of the property as stipulated in the Jody and Mike Jones' Family Trust. We await final court approval mid-month. Generous contributions to the Homeward Bound Forever Fund will enable the purchase. We could not be more grateful as it means long-term stability and security for the dogs. If all goes as expected, we will have access to the Jones' portion of the property sometime in March. There is much work ahead!

The continued support of our donors and volunteers who give so generously of their time and treasure sustains us. On behalf of myself, the Board, and the dogs – thank you! You truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

Judy Kent, President



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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months. With shelters overflowing, that's a dangerous situation for any dog, especially for a dog urgently needing heartworm treatment. Kennel environments can be difficult places for some dogs – and particularly so for Carl. Already anxious and excitable around the other dogs in our care, getting him into a home for treatment was truly the difference between life and death for him. If the dog's heart rate is increased by exercise or excitement after heartworm treatment, the worm pieces can be forced into the tiny blood vessels of the lungs, and the impact on the lungs and heart can be life-threatening.

A bit of a blockhead and quite large, our young boy is not a fan of other dogs or cats and has a very high prey drive. For some, these characteristics overshadow an otherwise loving, affectionate and, as it turns out, trainable dog once housed in a quieter environment. Carl was running out of time. If we didn't start treatment, the heartworms would kill him. If we began treatment and continued to house him at

Homeward Bound, his reactions to all the stimuli around him would also likely kill him.

Quite a few answered our plea for help, but ultimately, it was Cheryl Arikawa who provided the perfect fit. She had lost her beloved Boxer a few months back and had always lived with and successfully managed large dogs, including a Siberian Husky and a German Shepherd.

Coming from a shelter, Carl had a past we knew little about. In Cheryl's care, Carl settled in and demonstrated home skills learned in his past. Keeping him calm and quiet, Cheryl redirects his energy to training, teaching him the obedience skills he missed along the way. Not only will Carl find restored health, but Cheryl's work with him will make him much more adoptable when he is well.

Foster-to-adopt is offered in instances where a dog needs to complete medical care before being made official, or, rarely, where we want to ensure a successful match before signing off. Young boy Fletcher is a case in point.

Fletcher arrived from a shelter with a massive abscess on his face, the result of long, untreated ear infections. With too much damage already done, he was scheduled to undergo a Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA) in both ears, leaving him deaf and a bit changed. Once relatively comfortable around dogs, he became much less so – frequently surprised by their sudden movements and unsure how to read their intentions. He went to foster for quite a while, where he learned human sign language as a way of communicating directions and obedience commands. Recently, Fletcher went home as a foster-to-adopt to a family with a good track record of training and a complete understanding of sign language, as they themselves have a daughter who is deaf.

Finally, our puppy foster team provides safe landings for our littlest ones. Puppies cannot be with our general population as their vaccinations are typically not complete, their immune systems are still weak, and they are in a critical formative stage of behavior, needing regular socialization with humans and healthy dogs who act as important role models. Our team of puppy fosters care for those weeks old up to six months of age, providing a safe place to recover medically, socially, or just be loved until they are ready for forever homes.

Is it hard to say 'goodbye' to a foster adult dog or puppy? Of course. But you quickly realize that you can't keep them all, and being their bridge to a forever home is a lifetime gift from the heart. Regular updates from their new homes make it easier and sweeter!

Considering becoming a foster? Complete an application on our website or email us at fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org if you want to discuss it first.

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."

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



916-480-0900 www.nsnorcal.com



Help Us Build A Very Special "Fund of Love"



Each year, beginning on Valentine's Day, a group of family foundations, businesses, and generous individuals come together to build a **Fund of Love**. Their donations stand ready to be matched during our spring fundraiser: **Double the Gold Challenge**.

Fund of Love and **Double the Gold Challenge** donations provide a large percentage of the funds needed to cover our medical expenses each year. They also help us support more than 80 dogs with ongoing care in permanent foster or sanctuary with us at Homeward Bound.

Last year, Homeward Bound welcomed 400 dogs – a significant increase over previous years as dogs adopted or purchased early in the pandemic continued to be abandoned or surrendered. Many families struggled with inflation or lost their homes and had to make the painful decision to say goodbye to longtime family companions. They were Golden and golden-hearted as we helped wherever we could. Our short-term foster program expanded enormously and became a vital component in our ability to say 'yes' to dogs in need.

Because we are one of the few Golden rescues in the nation with a facility in addition to a foster program, we can



Snickerdoodle & Her Puppies

immediately take dogs regardless of their age or health - dogs that might not otherwise be saved. Many of these dogs had untreated medical conditions. **Veterinary expenses exceeded \$418,000**. These costs will grow significantly in 2023 with the retirement of our beloved Dr. Codde. Her weekly volunteer time, coupled with significant discounts provided at her practice, is simply irreplaceable.

With your support, we could provide each dog the necessary care, including ear surgeries, tumor removals, heartworm disease treatment, hundreds of spays and neuters, numerous orthopedic and miscellaneous surgeries, and countless treatments for various infections and illnesses. Among them were puppy mill survivors – our 2023 **Fund of Love** poster dogs. Thanks to you, we were able to meet all the dogs' needs in 2022. We are asking for your help once again so we can continue our vital rescue efforts.



On December 31, 2022, the 400th dog of the year arrived at Homeward Bound. As dogs adopted or purchased earlier during the pandemic were left at shelters, surrendered, or abandoned, the calls for help never ended. We supported whoever we could, regardless of breed. But most surprising was the number of Golden Retrievers. They came from everywhere. Golden Retrievers

and Golden mixes are always our priority in keeping with our mission.

Still, nothing prepared us for the call we received in mid-December. A puppy mill breeder in Ohio was surrendering 30 dogs and 15 puppies; 12 dogs were heavily pregnant. In 2021, sixteen of the nation's worst puppy mills were in Ohio. These dogs live horrible lives in unspeakable conditions until they are no longer of use. Parvo is rampant; the resulting puppy deaths are considered collateral damage – the cost of doing very big business.

Golden and Lab rescues across the country offered their help, including Homeward Bound. The dogs left Ohio just as an epic Arctic storm set in, traveling across the country by transport in cramped crates along the long southern route to avoid the storms. Our girl, a very expectant four-year-old Doodle, arrived in the wee hours of the morning on December 23rd. We named her Snickerdoodle. Scared and exhausted, we moved her into our isolation unit for her health and safety. Living inside and resting in warmth on blankets was entirely new for her...and a little frightening at first. Finally relaxing a bit, she went into labor 24 hours later. Eighteen hours of labor and delivery produced 13 puppies by Christmas Eve day. Sadly, two were lost, but 11 thrived and have grown strong and adorable under the watchful eyes and care of their

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very experienced mom (with a bit of help from us!).



But Snickerdoodle would only be the first. Of course, there were more. A family tragedy caused this particular puppy mill breeder to release his dogs. But not all at once. Some had weathered that horrible winter storm before their freedom rides. Two arrived, then another two, then another four. In all, 9 dogs and 11 puppies found new lives and second chances in our care.

Thanks to our facility, we were able to welcome dogs that our overloaded foster-based rescue partners could not accommodate. The cost of transport and care has been significant. Add to this the medical expense for another 400 dogs expected this year.

Typically, we highlight one dog as our **Fund of Love** ambassador. This year, we are highlighting all nine of these beautiful dogs and Snickerdoodle's babies, along with the plight of all puppy mill dogs. Through education, advocacy, and opening our doors – we can begin to end these horrible practices here at home.

Throughout this campaign, we will share their stories – and the stories of other dogs with significant medical needs. Dogs that many other rescues would turn away. **We can say 'yes' to dogs because of the generous donations and huge hearts of people like you. We can't do it without you.**

The minimum donation for this fund is \$250. You can choose to donate a greater amount, or you can endow the



entire fund. **Fund of Love**, which runs through February and March, provides the important matching funds for our **Double the Gold Challenge**, held in April and May. 100% of the proceeds of **Fund of Love** and **Double the Gold Challenge** are dedicated to providing medical care for the hundreds of dogs we rescue each year. Support like yours makes our mission possible.

To receive a **Fund of Love** packet, or for more information, please contact Audrey Farrington at audrey@homewardbound-goldens.org, or visit our website at www.hbgr.org. Thank You!



Our Other Puppy Mill Survivors

INGRID AND ASTRID

Ingrid and Astrid, both two years old, arrived on December 29th, 2022. They had been picked up during the 2022 record cold "bomb cyclone" and transported by the southern route. They were scared and timid, afraid of floors and never before on a leash. They earned the coveted president's office space and gradually, painstakingly, grew to trust us over the course of a couple weeks. Interestingly, they reversed roles. Ingrid was originally more brave than her companion, then grew shy. Initially, Astrid would not go anywhere without Ingrid, but adapted quickly and let her true personality shine through.



Puppy mill survivors typically need time, patience, and understanding. You cannot rush or push them into our world. They learn to trust us in their own time and way.

WILMA AND FRED

Wilma and Fred arrived in early January. They had already endured the Midwest cold storm. At only one year of age, Wilma already had at least one litter. A puppy herself, she is less scarred by her experience and excited to take on a new life. We assume that Fred was kept very busy – and handled more roughly. He is wary but sizes up his humans quickly. Let him come to you, and he will quickly find his way into your heart.



TRIXIE AND ZINNIA

Believed to be sisters from different litters, Trixie is the younger of the two and, therefore, less affected. A little shy at first, she is sweet and craves attention once she feels safe. Zinnia is three years old and very scared. She hides in the back of her enclosure, trying to make herself invisible. She will need lots of patience and tender loving care to undo the emotional damage done.

ANGIE AND PERRY

Already three years old, our red beauty, Angie, clearly had several litters – one very recently before her transport to us. The longer a dog spends in a puppy mill, the more traumatized they become. Angie



will need time to feel safe, come out of her shell, and find the smile we know is inside her. Perry is an active 10-month-old Doodle boy who is lucky to have escaped at such a young age. He is full of youthful energy and sweetness but also uncertain that he can trust us yet. The boys also live confined, isolated lives – put out only for breeding. The best medicine for all puppy mill dogs is time, TLC, and patience. Read on.

WHAT PUPPY MILL DOGS NEED

Puppy mill dogs have lived very different lives. They are typically kept in small cages, or housed with other dogs in cramped quarters, often living in their own waste. They have had little contact with humans except for forced breeding and may have been handled roughly – sometimes, cruelly. As a result, they do not know how to trust humans or how to form healthy relationships with them. They are not accustomed to the sensory

experiences of a home. Things like steps, doorways, flooring, unfamiliar sounds, and sudden movements are frightening to them.

Typical challenges include being timid around people, particularly men. They may not be comfortable with human touch and often find a safe corner to hide. They shy away from treats provided by hand and may not eat while others are present.

But puppy mill dogs can, and do recover with time, patience, and care. The recovery rate depends on the dog and how long or how traumatic its time in the puppy mill was. They need a calm, quiet home and a secure yard. They do best with a “mentor” dog in the home to show them the way. They need people willing to go slow and wait for the dog to trust them; it can’t be forced. If children are in the home, they should be old enough to be taught how not to overwhelm and frighten the dog, as well as dog body language so they can read the signs of stress (lowering of the head, sideways look, closed mouth, whale eyes). Visitors to the home should have the same sensitivities. A sense of humor helps enormously! Puppy mill dogs need to learn about housetraining and manners.

So why adopt a puppy mill dog? The rewards are many if you have a heart for their plight and the patience required. To see a dog from this background wag its tail, bark for the first time in happiness, or learn how to play with a toy, you know that you have made a life-changing difference for the dog – and, likely, yours too.



Dogs and Weight Loss

BY: Gail Westrup

Many of us start a new year with a resolution to lose weight or exercise. This year, consider a similar Valentine's Day gift to your dog: Love them enough to help them shed their extra pounds. It's a gift from the heart involving the entire family that will likely lead to more years with your beloved companion.

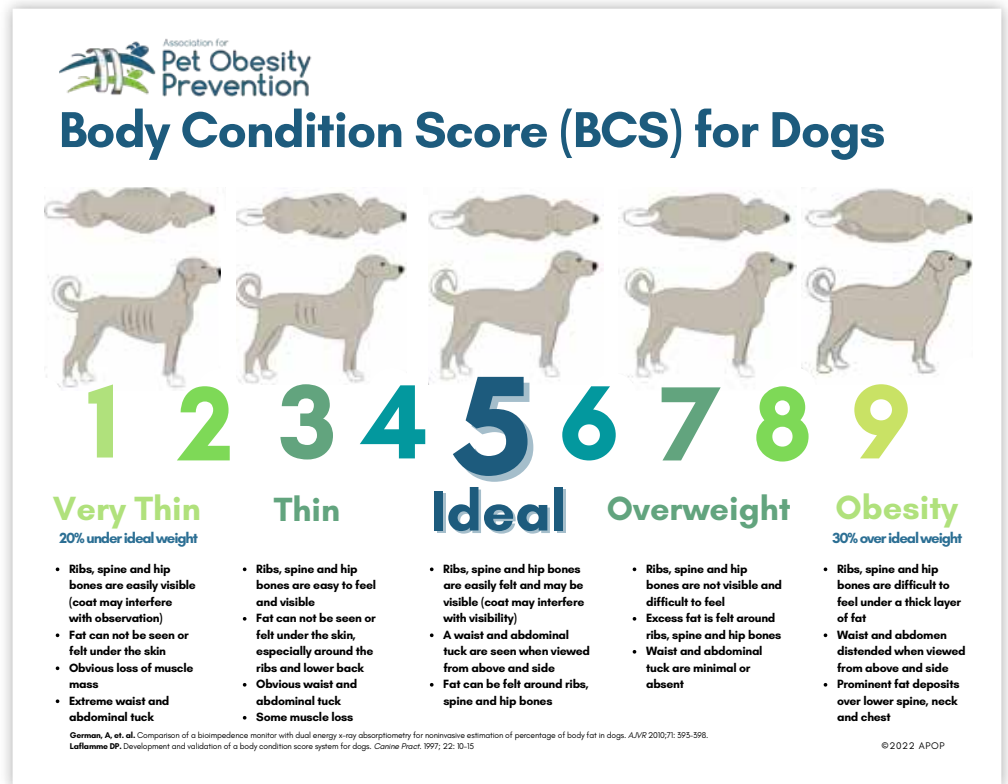
Studies show that obesity in dogs is a growing problem affecting 25-30% of the general canine population. Being even moderately overweight can reduce a dog's life expectancy by up to two years. Overweight dogs also develop an increased risk of cancer, diabetes, osteoarthritis, heart disease, and hypertension.

As with humans, weight loss in dogs involves cutting calories and increasing exercise. Since your vet is undoubtedly aware of your dog's missing waistline, talk with them about how to get it back. They'll consider your dog's age, overall health, and other factors when formulating a plan.

To assess a dog's weight problem, your vet may use a Body Conditioning Score on a scale of either 1 to 5 (3 is normal) or 1 to 9 (5 is normal). The goal is for your dog's waist to be visible when viewed from above and for its ribs to be felt without excess fat.

When it comes to cutting calories, simply reducing the volume of your dog's current food may affect their nutritional balance and sense of fullness. For that reason, some vets choose to feed a special low-calorie diet designed for weight loss.

Treats provide a pet with positive feedback and should be included in a weight loss plan. However, most vets limit treats to no more than 10% of a pet's daily caloric intake. Hence, it's important to

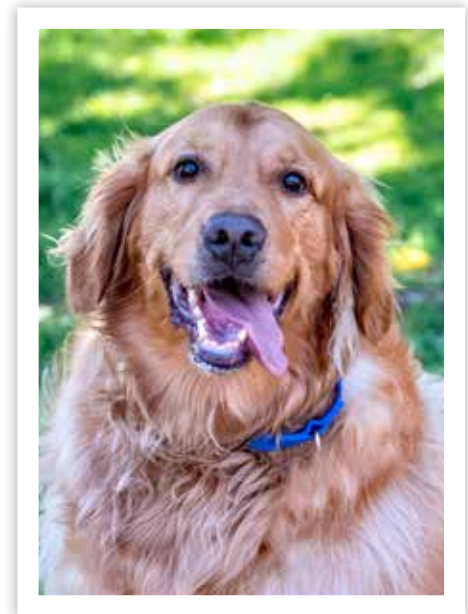


Graphic Courtesy of Association for Pet Obesity Prevention

understand the caloric content of treats. For example, one tablespoon of peanut butter has the same number of calories as three cups of air-popped popcorn (NO butter!). You may be pleasantly surprised to learn your dog will enjoy lower-calorie treats. And if candy is your own Valentine's Day treat, keep it out of your dog's reach. Chocolate is toxic to dogs, and the sugar in any candy can harm their health. In addition, many sugar-free candies contain the artificial sweetener Xylitol which is also toxic to dogs and causes their blood sugar to drop.

Playing and walking provide exercise that's an essential part of a dog's weight loss, burning calories and increasing muscle mass. Discuss exercise options with your vet. Walking for weight loss is different than walking for pleasure. Try to walk briskly from the beginning of the walk by drawing the leash close and keeping a pace you feel comfortable sustaining. Don't look down when your dog inevitably wants to stop and sniff. Instead, continue moving straight ahead, tighten the leash and give a command such as No, Come, or Heel. You may get resistance to the faster pace at first, but most dogs eventually take to their new form of exercise.

If your dieting dog keeps begging for food at dinnertime and you find it hard to resist sharing "a bite" of your meal, consider adding a few pieces of kibble to their bowl or some low-calorie treats like baby carrots, celery, or frozen blueberries. Sharing even small amounts of your food can sabotage weight loss efforts and result in weight gain. Remind yourself that more food does not equal more love; instead, it could mean more health problems for your pup and less time with you.



What's In That Food?

We want the best for our dogs, including the food we give them. So we read and compare labels. We pay attention to recalls. But did you know that there is absolutely no regulation by any government organization to test the safety or monitor the truthfulness of dog food labels? Not even the FDA.

The FDA only requires that pet foods “be safe to eat...contain no harmful substances, and be truthfully labeled.” How any brand – large or small – achieves this goal is left up to the company itself. In other words: the honor system.

Increasingly, retail and online stores offer a host of boutique dry, canned, and fresh dog food offerings boasting more wholesome ingredients and nutritional value.

A few years ago, the folks at Dog Food Advisor looked at the recall data they had collected over a recent five-year period. At the time of the study, 93% of all pet food sold in the U.S. was produced by just three companies: Mars, Big Heart, and Purina. But surprisingly, 73 of the 88 recalls recorded were not linked to these companies but to smaller brands. In other words, although smaller companies produced just 7% of the pet food and treats sold, they were responsible for 83% of the recalls.

Does this mean that small dog food companies are bad? Not necessarily. But the smaller the company, the less likely the company is to:

- Have the budget to perform all the testing needed to ensure the safety and quality of its products
- Employ qualified food scientists, animal nutritionists, and other veterinary professionals to design their products.



- Own and operate their manufacturing facilities.
- Check raw materials for contaminants when they arrive at the plant.
- Test and hold finished goods for disease-causing bacteria before they are shipped to consumers.

While the FDA and some state laws regulate how ingredients are listed on product labels, remember that no government agency checks the veracity of the claims.

What's a human to do?

- Speak with your vet about their recommendations.
- Check out the company (and the company behind the company).
- Check the company's history of recalls. (You can sign up for free recall notices and check past histories at www.dogfoodadvisor.com/)
- Consider moving to or supplementing your dog's diet with foods you prepare yourself following your vet's guidelines based on your dog's breed, age, and health.

Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

You know that sharing your life with any dog is a blessing. Sharing your life with a rescued dog is doubly so. Our mission of rescue, adoption and sanctuary changes Golden *and* human lives.

By including Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary in your estate or planned giving, you create a legacy ensuring that more Golden lives are saved. And don't forget your own pets. Providing for them in your estate plan is an important consideration for all of us.

Naming us in your will or trust, for example, is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Golden in need will find a second chance at life. You can download our **Guide to Giving** to help you determine the right approach for you—providing current or future benefits to yourself, your heirs, and to the Golden in our care. You can also download our **Pet Guardianship** form, entrusting your dogs' care to Homeward Bound in the event that you or your family members can no longer be there for them. You will find both on our website under “How to Help.” Visit: www.hbgrr.org.

Matchmaking: Pairing Humans and Dogs

In February, human thoughts turn to matchmaking and love. In rescue, it's an everyday event. Hundreds of dogs come through our doors each year looking for love and a forever home. Compared to shelters that take in thousands of dogs each year, the effort might seem to pale until you consider the thought and process that goes into our matches. In shelters, pretty much anyone can walk in the door, pick out a dog, and take it home. You may get a little counseling, but not much has gone into understanding your home, lifestyle, other pets, or family dynamic. Not surprisingly, most shelters don't track returns – only releases. A dog that is adopted one day might be returned the next.

Based on a 2020 study, the number of companion animals returned to animal shelters within the first six months of adoption is estimated to be anywhere from 7% to 20%. The actual number may be far greater. Some may be rehomed – passing from one family to the next – or abandoned. Behavioral issues are cited as the primary reason for dog returns. While some shelters offer adopters behavioral resources, little is typically done to support dogs in their care, given the large number of animals and limited resources. At Homeward Bound, much more goes into understanding the dog's and the family's needs – and preparing both for successful pairings.

Assessment: Dogs

When a dog comes to us, it is vetted medically and behaviorally. Sometimes behavioral concerns can be simply attributed to untreated pain. Fix that – and the dog's true personality begins to shine. Feeders and walkers spend time with the dogs daily, sharing their observations. Playgroups help to determine how a



dog interacts with other canine friends. After time to decompress and adjust, a one-on-one assessment is conducted and recorded to aid our adoption counselors and future adopters in understanding the dogs' needs and likes. Those with more pronounced behavioral needs are referred to the Behavior Team, which develops an individualized plan to help prepare the dog for home. Some dogs are ready to go home quickly; others will stay with us longer as we work to ensure successful placements.

Assessment: Humans

Just as we evaluate the dogs' needs, our placement team and adoption counselors work to learn as much as possible about potential adopters. A home visit is conducted for each applicant. This visit is our opportunity to learn about the family dynamic, their lifestyle, and how their home is equipped (or not!) for a new fur family member. Our team will not simply listen but gently guide, providing their feedback to the family and adoption counselors about what they feel would be an ideal match.

This is where we ask adopters to trust us. It's easy to fall in love with a face or the idea of a particular dog, but we have years of experience to help us understand what a good match will be. Of course, we absolutely value our adopters; we

could not do what we do without them. But at the end of the day, it is the dog that has previously been displaced and seeks security and permanency, and they remain our number one priority.

Why You Won't Find Us at Adoption Events

Grantmakers love adoption events at pet stores and public markets. Sadly, we'll never qualify for those grants. These types of events inspire impulse decisions and provide little opportunity to ensure the right match. By having potential adopters and their entire human and canine family meet a dog at Homeward Bound, we can take as much time as needed to see how they interact together and ask and answer questions that can be very revealing. Though disappointing, there is never any judgment about leaving the appointment without a dog. It must be right – for everyone. We will try again another day until the right match is made.

We're not perfect, but the care that we put into our matchmaking typically makes for lasting canine and human connections. In the few instances where that is not the case, we remain committed to the dog for its life. At Homeward Bound, "It's all about the dogs."

Parvo's Legacy

Recently, we shared information about a litter of puppies delivered to us with parvovirus. Canine parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that can affect all dogs, but young, old, immune-compromised, and unvaccinated dogs and puppies are the most at risk.

The virus affects dogs' gastrointestinal tracts and is spread by direct dog-to-dog contact and contact with contaminated feces, environments, or people. Signs of parvovirus include lethargy; loss of appetite; abdominal pain and bloating; fever or low body temperature (hypothermia); vomiting; and severe, often bloody, diarrhea. Persistent vomiting and diarrhea can cause rapid dehydration, and damage to the intestines and immune system can cause septic shock. The mortality rate among puppies is a shocking 80%, with most deaths occurring within 48 to 72 hours following the onset of clinical signs. There is no cure for parvovirus. The symptoms must be treated immediately to be lifesaving.

Many people expressed surprise about the hardiness of the virus and how long-lived it was in an infected environment. So here is some information you should know.

The virus lurks in virtually every public place where dogs are found. It can also contaminate kennel surfaces, floors, furniture, food and water bowls, collars and leashes, and the hands and clothing of people who handle infected dogs. It is resistant to heat, cold, humidity, and drying and can survive in the environment for up to a year. Even trace amounts of feces from an infected dog may harbor the virus and infect other dogs that come into the infected environment, repeating the cycle. The virus is also readily transmitted from place to place on the hair or feet of dogs or via contaminated cages, shoes, or other objects.

Because of its ubiquitous presence and ease of transmission, we always recom-



mend that puppies and young dogs remain in your home and yard until they are fully vaccinated. But what happens if your home is unintentionally infected?

Sadly, unsuspecting people purchase puppies from irresponsible breeders who have not taken precautions against parvovirus – and may even have had a series of litters in an infected environment. So along with the heartbreak of rushing your new puppy to the vet for lifesaving care comes the reality that your home and yard are now infected. What to do?

Before disinfecting, you must clean up any organic material (feces, dried vomit, and urine) from the yard and house. Discard anything that cannot be reliably disinfected. Organic materials, including bedding, towels, sheets, toys, etc., should be bagged and thrown out. Bathe any dogs using regular dog shampoo who were exposed or infected and recovered, as well as other dogs who had contact with the infected dog or area, to decrease the risk of transmission from their fur.

Hard, sealed surfaces like floors, concrete runs, pavement, outdoor furniture, and metal crates can be disinfected by combining one part bleach with 30 parts water and applying it to any hard, even surfaces in which color changes aren't important. Allow 10 to 15 minutes of contact time before rinsing thoroughly with water.

Heat and sun are your friends in the yard – but you need more than that. Products

like Rescue, Sniper Hospital Disinfectant, and Virkon-S Broad Spectrum Disinfectant can be used on lawns. Viruses thrive in dark and moist areas and tiny nooks and crannies. Before spraying Rescue, Sniper, or Virkon-S on your yard, remove any furniture or objects that cast large shadows on the grass, such as umbrellas, overgrown bushes, picnic tables, and arbors.

Disinfect on dry grass and when there's no rain in the forecast. Turn off your sprinkler system to ensure your yard is hot and dry. Apply your chosen solution according to directions, then rake or turn over mulch and rocks before applying two or three more times. If you're covering a large area, you may have to break it up into sections and disinfect them one at a time to be as thorough as possible.

Steam cleaning carpets and furniture is your best bet, but not 100% foolproof. Because you cannot guarantee the total elimination of the virus from your home's organic surfaces and yard, your home should be off-limits to any unvaccinated dogs or puppies or those that are immune-compromised for up to a year.

This is the legacy of parvovirus – and why it is so important to vaccinate, protect, and only purchase from responsible breeders who understand and guard their litters - and you - from heartbreak.

Source: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

You Filled The Homeward Bound Giving Tree with Love!

Every Thanksgiving, we launch our bare, virtual Giving Tree and ask for your help to light and decorate it. As one of our three major fundraising efforts of the year, its success is vital to our mission.

You filled our tree with love! Your gifts brought our tree to twinkling, sparkling life, helping us to achieve our goals in this challenging year. Your gifts raised over \$185,000 - far exceeding our goal and ensuring support for the hundreds of dogs that will come through our doors in 2023.

Thanks to your generosity, we know that we can help hundreds more dogs on their journeys home next year, including the very special puppy mill survivors highlighted in this year's **Fund of Love** campaign. Thanks to you, when we get the call requesting support for dogs with extraordinary needs, we can continue to say 'yes.' You make this possible. Homeward Bound supporters are the very best! Thank You!!



Heimlich Maneuver for Dogs

Some dogs—especially puppies—will chew on nearly anything in sight. Of course, prevention is a priority by keeping tempting objects up and away. But it's not always possible to remove every single temptation, which can include sticks, furniture, and even food. If your dog is a chewer or a fast eater, it's essential to

know the signs of a choking dog and how to perform the Heimlich maneuver on our four-legged family member.

Choking signs include:

- Distress
- Pawing at the mouth
- Rubbing their face against the ground
- Gagging or retching
- Salivation
- Coughing
- Cyanosis: skin and gums turn a blueish color

If a dog is suffocating, it may start to panic. Approach the dog and carefully restrain it. If you can see the object but cannot remove it with your fingers, **and your dog is cooperative**, you may want to try the Heimlich maneuver. If your dog is uncooperative, rush it to the vet.

Performing the Heimlich maneuver:

- If your large dog is standing, place your arms around its belly and make a fist with your hands. Push up and forward just behind the rib cage.
- If the dog is lying down, place one hand on its back and use the other hand to squeeze the abdomen upward. Apply five times or until the obstruction is dislodged.
- Be sure to check and remove any loose objects in or around the dog's mouth that has become dislodged.

To ensure the object did not damage the animal's throat or cause any other injury, take your pet to the veterinarian immediately after the incident.

Sometimes serious choking and lack of oxygen require your pet to receive CPR which is a combination of chest compressions and artificial respiration. CPR should be used when you cannot feel or hear the animal's heartbeat and when the animal is unconscious.

How to Reach Us

Your help and ideas are always welcome! Contact team leaders below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

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

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Foster Families
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Placement Team
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Golden Taxi (Transport)
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Volunteering
volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Newsletter & Marketing
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Training
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Kibble & Bids™ Fundraising
kibbleandbids@homewardboundgoldens.org



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Dates To Remember

The Fund of Love Campaign launches this month!
Reunion Picnic: Saturday, June 10th
New Location: Gibson Park Ranch House

Help Wanted

Volunteer Positions Currently in High Demand. We'll Train!

- **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.
- **Fosters:** From puppies to seniors and those recovering - the gift of fostering comes from the heart and the rewards are rich.
- **Adoption Counselors:** Connect dogs to their forever homes!

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)
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