

THE heart



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HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

WHAT'S INSIDE

There is more to our cover story than tips for welcoming your new dog. Learn how a dog left physically damaged and emotionally traumatized by the side of the road gives hope to his new family by his example.

How do you know which dog is right for you? We have some reality check questions to ask yourself before choosing your next companion. Look for them on page 6.

The rescue of puppy mill dogs has been our key focus this year. Some adjust quickly. Others take time and patience with needs that are very different from other dogs. If you have a heart for these special dogs, read our article on page 8 for key insights – from first greeting to going home.

GDV – commonly referred to as bloat – is a life-threatening condition that comes on rapidly. Learn the signs and the actions needed on page 10.

We have been incredibly busy since we closed on the purchase of the property last March. Read about our project progress and our plans for the future on pages 4 and 5. It's a heavy load and long wish list. Please help if you can!

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



Liam

The Road to Home and Healing

BY: Gail Westrup

The day you adopt a dog from Homeward Bound can be an exciting one, filled with expectations of great adventures with your new four-legged friend. But for such dreams to come to pass, the following days, weeks, and months will require managing those expectations.

Homeward Bound adoption team member Carolyn Unger says one of adopters' major mistakes is underestimating the time, effort, and patience it will take to train their new dog. After having well-behaved dogs, owners can forget that those dogs were trained and bonded with them over time.

Certified dog trainer Kathryn Baines agrees that unrealistic expectations are common when adopting a dog. She urges owners to take it slow and help the dog decompress during those first few weeks. Let them get used to their new family and surroundings; avoid inviting friends or taking the dog to other places. At first, some dogs may not want to eat or drink; some will shut down and hide or even sleep for up to 72 hours as they feel safe. Even though a dog is house trained, it's a good idea to take them outside to

Continued on page 3



OUR MISSION

Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization which rescues and heals displaced, abandoned, and homeless Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes, regardless of their age or health. Homeward Bound secures safe, loving homes through a comprehensive adoption program, and also provides lifetime sanctuary for Goldens that cannot be adopted.

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

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

DOGS RESCUED TO DATE IN 2023
324

VET EXPENSES TO DATE IN 2023
\$291,558



A Message From Our President

Where did the summer go? Time is moving so quickly with so many projects and so many dogs! We are pacing 40% ahead of last year's already high total of 400 – and they keep coming. Our all-volunteer team has met the challenge: transporting, feeding, cleaning, vetting (medically and behaviorally), qualifying adopters, and getting them home! In one recent weekend alone, our amazing adoption team made 13 matches!

While shelters struggle to find families, we are still blessed to have many good people and families interested in adopting and fostering. Adopters and fosters are critical links in the chain. Without them, our capacity fills quickly, and our ability to save more lives comes to a screeching halt. We are very fortunate and very grateful.

In between dogs, we have managed to tackle a multitude of projects that came – expectedly and unexpectedly – with the purchase of the property last spring. We have made some incredible progress and have big plans for the future. Working with our Board, we mapped out a multi-year plan of infrastructure projects that address long-needed improvements for the dogs – keeping our founders' dream alive and ensuring that Homeward Bound will always be a place of refuge, safety, and support to dogs on their journeys home. You can read about our progress and plans within these pages. Please copy and watch the video link. It tells our founders' story and how we can write the next Homeward Bound chapter together.

Thank you all for your continued support. You are the heart of Homeward Bound.

Judy Kent
President



**HOMEWARD
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potty every two hours when they are first learning “the lay of the land.” Give them a space in the house to feel safe and sleep without interruption; a crate or dog bed works well for many dogs. Don’t force your new dog to interact. Let them come to you when they are ready.

Try to feed and walk your dog at the same time each day, taking short walks over the same route at first as they learn the neighborhood. Schedules are essential if your dog is shy or anxious, as a routine helps them relax and know what comes next. In the coming weeks, start positive reinforcement training, and if behavior issues appear, immediately seek the help of a certified trainer and/or reach out to Homeward Bound. The longer a problem continues, the harder it can be to resolve.

With many Homeward Bound dogs, the adjustment to a new home is the next step in what has already been a road filled with time, effort, and patience. And new owners will need to continue that work. Liam is a large Doodle who came to Homeward Bound in July 2022 after being hit by a car and left by the side of the road. He had a badly shattered leg and equally shattered self-confidence. His leg required surgery, and when he went to a foster home to recover, his foster mom learned he had separation anxiety and a fear of dogs, people, and cars.

In September, doctors determined Liam’s leg wasn’t healing properly and amputated. As Liam recovered, he had less pain, became more active, and life got less scary. Three different foster homes and uncounted Homeward Bound volunteers patiently helped Liam with his fears and separation anxiety.

In April, Jim and Sharon Ellisor, a retired couple from Grass Valley, came to Homeward Bound looking for a dog they could walk and enjoy on their 2.5-acre property. They were first-time adopters

to Homeward Bound but had previously owned a Golden, Great Pyrenees, Poodle, and mix breed dogs. They were very interested in Liam, so Carolyn and one of Liam’s fosters advised them about Liam’s issues, what he’d overcome, and what he was still dealing with. Jim and Sharon were confident this was their new best friend, and Liam headed home.

In the coming weeks, Liam went on daily walks on the trails around his new home, loving all the sights and smells and even making a neighbor friend. Sharon told Carolyn, “He’s such a special and sweet boy, and we feel blessed to have him in our family.” The fact that they were retired no doubt helped Liam’s adjustment as they didn’t push the separation anxiety issue. They did talk with Carolyn about Liam’s habit of barking at dogs, and she put them in touch with a Homeward Bound trainer.

In mid-May, all the patience and love so many had poured into Liam’s life would be given to others in need. Jim and Sharon’s 17-year-old grandson committed suicide. He wasn’t considered an “at risk” kid, just a busy high school junior, a good student, loved by family and friends. Sharon said, “During the days that followed this devastating news, Liam’s presence was such a great comfort to Jim and me; his antics and love were a badly needed reprieve as we processed the initial shock and grief.” The teenager’s mom, Sharon’s daughter-in-law, had met Liam at a recent family gathering.

At her son’s memorial service, she spoke of seeing Liam happily running around on his three legs, joyfully engaging with everyone. She shared that if Liam could move forward from all he had been through, she could now as well. A year after Liam was left by the side of the road, broken and in pain, he’s helping his new family through their pain and broken hearts.

Coming Soon! New Puppy Palace!

Something exciting is under construction at Homeward Bound! Late last year, for the THIRD time in recent years, our puppy enclosure was infected with Parvo when a litter arrived carrying the deadly disease. Parvo is highly contagious and can quickly be fatal to puppies. Each time this happens, it means the space cannot be used for at least a year. ENOUGH!

We recently demolished our aging and well-chewed Puppy Palace to make way for a new version that is twice the size – and most importantly – COMPLETELY STERILIZABLE.

Puppies will be able to be kept inside and out on seamless and sterilizable surfaces until we know they are in the clear. Then they will be able to fully access a new paver yard that reduces the risk of puppy parasites lurking in the ground.

This is a Puppy Palace built to last! The interior will have a removable whelping station where expectant moms and their newborns can be kept in safety and comfort. The new Puppy Palace will, of course, have all the air-conditioned and heated comforts of home. It includes windows strategically placed high for cross-ventilation and natural light. Lots of storage and room enough to begin the

potty training process. A fan and dimmable lights much preferred by new moms. A built-in refrigerator so puppy teams don't have to get in and out of personal protective equipment (PPE) to enter the main building creating the potential for contamination. And most exciting to our puppy team members...a covered area to put on the PPE instead of doing it in the rain!

Demolition and construction are being provided by our volunteers – but we do need your help to cover the cost of materials and installation of specialized surfaces and HVAC. No gift is too small. Together, they add up to a lot and ensure a

place of safety and comfort for rescued or newborn puppies for years to come. Can we count on you?

Donate securely through the link in the box below, or the old-fashioned way with an envelope and stamp! Thank you for anything you can do!



TO SUPPORT THE NEW PUPPY PALACE:

Give Securely Online Through This Link:
<https://homewardboundgoldens.kindful.com/>

Or Mail Checks To:
HBGRR Puppy Palace
7495 Natomas Rd.
Elverta, CA 95626



Facility Update. We've Been Busy!

Since we closed on the Homeward Bound property purchase in March, we have been so dog-gone busy with a very long list of projects! Some were planned. Some came as very big and unwelcome surprises! We have also developed a multi-year facility plan to address long-awaited needs. Here is a glimpse of our pack at work!

Caretaker Residence: Jody and Mike's house was included in the property purchase. It allows us to have a 24/7 on-site caretaker but came with a long list of unaddressed needs and two very large surprises. Jody and Mike gave everything to Homeward Bound and never took a salary. Updates and repairs made to the home were few and often patched together. Our volunteers and a handyman addressed many of the interior and fencing repairs. Still, entirely replacing the drain pipes and septic system was an unanticipated and costly revelation. A generous grant from the John Mohme Foundation grant funding was a godsend in addressing the infrastructure needs. Still, we were left with a gutted yard. An irrigation system was installed, and hydro-seeding was completed to make the yard usable for the caretaker and the foster dogs he supports.

Ducks, Geese, and Alpacas: Jody's beloved ducks, geese, and alpacas were long ago rehomed and now live happy lives with the space and care they deserve. Their departure meant that we inherited an abandoned duck pond and alpaca yard filled with dead trees, overgrown weeds, and decaying sheds. The trees were removed, the sheds demolished by our volunteers, and the duck pond collapsed by a contractor with colossal equipment! Later this month, truckloads of dirt will be brought in to level and grade the former pond and alpaca areas, paving the way for new adoption yards and a dedicated space for agility. Currently, adoptions take place in yards designated for the dogs' exercise and potty breaks, creating bottlenecks on busy adoption days. It also means that dogs not yet vetted can't come out and parade past adopters. The



new adoption yards will be safely out of view of unavailable dogs and relieve the congestion while the agility yard will give our rambunctious pups a place to exercise their bodies and brains!

"Treasure" Removal: Jody and Mike came from humble means, lived frugally, and began Homeward Bound without a dime. For a very long time, the rescue was run hand-to-mouth. Every donated or stored item represented the potential for re-use – including all the heavy equipment stored on-site by Jody's father. We removed three shipping containers, a virtual junkyard of old vehicles, tractors, and boats, and more than a dozen large loads of "treasures" piled up over 20 years clearing the way for future projects.

Puppy Palace: We tore down the parvo-infected and worn Puppy Palace to make way for a new version twice the size and completely sterilizable, ensuring the safety of future litters and expectant moms. Except for some specialized surfaces, this is a volunteer effort. We would like to offset the cost of materials with donor support. Please read more on page 4.

All of this has taken place in the span of a few short months. And we have big plans for the future:

- Building out the new Adoption Yards
- Creation of the dedicated Agility Yard
- Relocating the office to make way for a new Medical Ward in the main building
- Replacement of a decaying Fence mandated by our use permit

- Creation of Walking Paths where adopters and others can get to know prospective family members out of view of unavailable dogs
- Tree Planting to replace numerous trees lost in last winter's storms and ensure shade for pups, adopters, and volunteers!

Check out this link to our video for more! Thank you!
vimeo.com/852191786



Right Dog: Right Fit. How to Choose the Right Dog for You.

The decision to bring home a new dog should never be made on a whim. Shelters and rescues are overflowing with young dogs surrendered because someone didn't take the time to think through the decision to add a fur-family member – and which dog would be the right fit. If you, or someone you know, is considering adoption or purchase, here are some basic considerations you should discuss first.

The Cost of Dog Ownership. From food and treats to grooming, training, and veterinary care, the cost of dog ownership can range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year, depending on the dog's age and needs. Considering a puppy? Remember to calculate pens, supplies, and replacement of chewed things!

Breed and Lifestyle Fit: This is one of the most important considerations and a key starting point. Are you active, travel frequently, or are you a homebody? Are you willing and able to take your dog with you on life's adventures, or do you have a pet-sitting resource lined up? What adjustments are you ready to make for the dog? When making your decision, consider the health and safety of other pets, children, and older relatives. Are you willing to vacuum more often, or do you need a dog that sheds less? Do you want a Velcro buddy – or are you happiest with a more independent dog? Have you researched breed-specific health risks? Dogs of mixed breeds tend to have fewer genetic disorders that arise from inbreeding and should not be overlooked.

Size and Age: Lifestyle and your own physical limitations can help determine what size and age dog you can manage. Be realistic. A dog should be a lifetime commitment. Depending on the dog's age, that could be anywhere from a few to 15 years. Older people need dog companionship too, but be sure you have a plan for the dog should you no longer be able to care for it. If you can no longer safely manage a large dog breed, look for a small dog breed with similar characteristics.

Puppies require an enormous amount of training, attention, and the physical ability to keep up with them - especially in the first six to nine months. Raising a puppy in our 30's is not the same in our 60's. Our bodies change, and so does our physical stamina. What you put into a puppy in its first eight to nine months of life is what you will get out of it in the long run.



With **adult dogs**, you know better what you're getting regarding activity level, training, and temperament. But remember, any new dog in your home will need time and training to learn your routines and how they fit into them.

Senior dogs can be an excellent choice for those in search of lower energy dogs. While they may have greater medical needs as they age, they tend to fit into households more easily and are generally very grateful for simple companionship. For those that understand age is just a number, the rewards of welcoming a senior dog are many.

Activity Level: All dogs, except those with certain conditions or behavioral traits, need daily exercise and socialization. Be realistic about the time and space required to devote to this. Dogs with excess energy that aren't satisfied can develop behavioral problems. Too many dogs end up in shelters for this reason. If you can't commit to the time needed to keep your dog fit and mentally stimulated with exercise and training, consider a breed and age with lower energy levels.

Grooming: All dogs need basic grooming, but some need much more based on the coat type. Poodles and Doodles, for example, need hair regularly clipped to avoid mats and to ensure they can see correctly. Some even need hair plucked from their ears. Nails should be trimmed for proper mobility. Dogs with long, floppy ears are prone to ear infections and may require frequent cleaning. All dogs are prone to dental disease, which requires a commitment to brushing at home to avoid costly dental cleanings that get riskier as the dog ages.

More than half of our applications are from people who say they will only consider a purebred Golden Retriever, typically a girl from puppy to three years of age. What do we say? Keep an open mind and give much thought to the questions highlighted here. You are much more likely to find a dog that fits you perfectly.

For the Love of Joey

BY: JOAN MERRIAM

He came to Homeward Bound in May of 2015 as George, a fifty-pound, white Golden Retriever mix from Los Angeles. I learned that when he arrived, the pads of his paws were burned, proving he'd been left outside on the hot asphalt. Unbeknownst to any of us, he also had bullet fragments in his hip.

After his owner died, a friend kept George for a month and surrendered him, ostensibly because he "didn't like cats." My adoption counselor and dear friend Jody Mazur wanted me to meet him, so off we went to Elverta, CA

When I first interacted with George, I wasn't at all sure—after all, I really wanted a Golden that was golden, not white. Then someone suggested I take him for a walk. I picked up his leash, and my heart melted seconds after we started walking. I was hooked. Unequivocally. I took him home and renamed him Joey, and we began our eight-year-long journey together. Turns out he was fine with felines, attested to by my cat Indy who fell head-over-paws in love with him. Joey patiently withstood the attention.

He was also fine with other dogs but never learned to play until Jody adopted Chloe. Joey resisted her pleas to interact for months until one day, he suddenly consented to the chase, and they began looping through the giant pines and cedars, standing silent witness to their silly play, the two of them kicking up dust and tumbling over one another until they were exhausted. Inexplicably, when Jody and Chloe moved away, he never played with another dog.

One of his greatest loves was going for walks. He could stroll the same forest trail a hundred times and find singular joy every time as if he'd never been there before. He especially loved summertime hikes in the high Sierra, where the air was cooler, and he could escape the heat that was magnified by his soft, double-thick coat.

It's hard now for me to remember that this was the dog who was terrified of men yet became best friends with my neighbors Peter and Rick and that spent hours in the hospital next to the bed of my dying brother. This was the dog who was terrified of children but ended up in our local library's PAWS to Read program, happily being read to and petted and hugged by all manner of children. Joey, a certified therapy dog, visited our acute care hospital, where the nurses and doctors were the first ones begging to pet him. At the adult day care center and skilled nursing facility, the same was true. At our local hardware store, he was greeted by cries of, "Oh, it's Joey!" - followed by copious amounts of petting



and treats. In fact, he loved everyone, and everyone loved him. All dogs are special, but somehow Joey was beyond special, and every person who approached him felt it. He was like a blonde magnet, drawing in everyone. People would spontaneously remark about his sweetness and the extraordinary kindness in his liquid chocolate eyes, even as he aged and those eyes dimmed.

They closed for the last time on June 29, after months of struggling with failing back legs and severe arthritis that could only partly be relieved by medication. Letting him go was the hardest decision I've ever made, and my grief over his loss will be with me forever.

I'm comforted, however, by remembering the abundant joy he brought to me and so many others before he crossed the Bridge, where I know he stands silently waiting for me.



Puppy Mill Dogs: Lives Transformed

Puppy Mills – also known as large-volume commercial breeding operations – exist for one purpose: to make and sell puppies. The health and happiness of the dogs are ignored to maximize profits. Regulations – if followed – provide the bare minimum. The dogs are typically housed in tiny, unsanitary enclosures, are denied medical care, and have little if any, positive human social contact. When they are no longer useful (typically four to five years of age), they are disposed of. Sometimes, through rescue. More often, by killing or dumping.

Last year, Homeward Bound partnered with Golden Retrievers in Need (GRIN) rescue to help Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes get to safety and begin new chapters. Based in Ohio, they are in the heart of puppy mill country, where there are more than 600 large-volume breeders. The Humane Society ranks the State second in the nation for puppy mill problems, trailing only Missouri.

When the call does come from a breeder, there is no time to delay. Either they get out immediately, or they perish. That is why GRIN and other breed rescues have developed nationwide rescue networks. It would be impossible for GRIN to manage alone. We are proud to be a part of the effort, covering the cost of emergency transportation and welcoming more than 50 puppy mill dogs this year.

Getting them to safety and providing for their long-neglected medical care is only step one. The most important, and sometimes the most challenging path is their transition to home. This is where patient, loving adopters make all the difference in a dog's life.

Puppy mill dogs are born and raised in impoverished environments and are subject to stress throughout their lives.



As a result, their responses are not like those of dogs typically raised in caring homes. This shows in their interactions with people, fear, shyness, interest in play, learning pace, and social skills with other dogs. Fortunately, many dogs are remarkably resilient, but each is individual – we never know the time or care needed to recover emotionally. Interested adopters must take on these dogs with unconditional acceptance, faith, patience, and willingness to do the work required to introduce them to a new way of life.

Rehabilitation of puppy mill dogs can be difficult and frustrating – taking weeks, months, or even years to recover from their past. They need calm households, secure fencing, and, ideally, another dog to serve as a mentor. We could write an entire volume on how to transition a puppy mill survivor, but our friends at Best Friends and Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue have done an excellent job for us. It is essential reading. You will find the links below.

To ensure that your first introduction to a puppy mill dog is positive, we offer tips about what NOT to do when you first meet. These are the same guidelines we provide to all adopters, but they are even more critical with puppy mill dogs.

Don't: Force yourself on the dog in any way, insist that it accept contact, or try to make it feel better by hugging and “loving on” it.

Don't: Celebrate when the dog does make first physical contact with you. Remain calm and silent. Any sound or movement could erase the big step the dog has just made.

Don't: Place your face next to the dog's face, as this may frighten it, and it could bite to defend itself.

Don't: Make direct eye contact at first. Point your head slightly to the side and keep visual contact out of the corner of your eye. Direct eye contact is often very threatening to puppy mill or fearful dogs since they've never learned to associate it with anything positive.

Don't: Ever startle a puppy mill dog by touching it from behind. These dogs' heightened sensitivity to touch is sometimes more pronounced when the touch comes from behind them, especially without warning or notice.

That's a lot of “don'ts.” So why adopt one of these special needs dogs? For adopters with a heart for these survivors, the rewards are immense. To see these dogs come out of their shells, accept, and trust human kindness, and learn the simple pleasures of play is transformational for the dogs and their people.

Links:
<https://tinyurl.com/mnncs2wpr>
<https://tinyurl.com/5yy3nz4f>

Bringing a Dog Into Your Cat Home

Everyone knows: cats rule. If your home is currently led by a feline and you are considering adopting a dog, consider whether you are willing to rock the cat's world to welcome the dog. If you're unwilling to modify your cat's life, adding a dog is not a good idea. Some dogs tolerate cats well and develop loving relationships. Still, others have high prey drives, are too rambunctious, or might be OK with one cat but not another. You could create an uncomfortable – or even unsafe – environment for your kitty.

Most dogs that come to Homeward Bound arrive without cat credentials. While we do our best to expose them to the feral kitties on the property, that's not always a good predictor. Even for dogs with a history of living with cats, these are important safety precautions and recommended approaches for safe introductions.

Matching Dogs to Cats:

Consider both animals' personalities. Generally, calm, confident cats make the best matches. Shy and fearful cats may trigger a dog to chase. Overly energetic cats that pounce could create the same result. If a dog's playstyle is rowdy, avoid kittens or elderly cats who might be easily injured.

Introductions:

Create a sanctuary space. This is a refuge for your cat with a door that can be closed. The area should have everything a cat needs to live happily: a litter box, food, water, beds, scratching posts, and toys, and it should be accessible only to you and your cat.

Refrain from allowing direct contact initially. Your cat should be in the sanctuary space while your new dog gets acquainted with you and your home. Crate or remove the dog



occasionally to give the cat time to roam naturally. They will smell each other and be aware of the other's presence, but they shouldn't see each other face-to-face yet.

Introduce your cat and dog slowly and safely. Place your dog on a leash and ensure complete control at all times. Some cat owners may put their cat in a hardcover carrier when letting the pets meet for the first few times so the cat feels safe. Securing the cat in a harness with a leash for the introduction is also a good idea if the cat is comfortable wearing a harness. If you choose to let your cat explore freely for this introduction, maintain control over your dog and curb his instinct to chase. Know your physical limitations. Dogs in pursuit can exhibit extraordinary strength.

Observe. Curiosity is natural, but if interest turns to obsession, lunging, or chasing, get the dog's attention and redirect it. If it continues, stop the visit and try again later. Try to end each session positively or before anyone shows aggression.

Repeat. Repeat this safe interaction as often as it takes for your dog and cat to get used to one another and eventually become disinterested in one another.

Drop the leash but stay close. Once both pets are more accustomed to one another, you may allow them to interact but keep the leash on your dog and

stay close by. If you see that your dog is behaving obsessively, tracking, or chasing the cat, immediately stop it – grab or step on the leash and create distance between the cat and dog.

It's OK if your cat takes a swipe at your dog. It's the cat's way of correcting your dog. But be watchful that the dog takes the correction and doesn't see that as a challenge, leading to a chase or violence.

Your dog and cat should never be left alone without your supervision during this process. Note: it can take a month or more. When you get to the point where your dog and cat can be loose together in the house, always ensure that your cat has safe and easy access to high-perching areas and their sanctuary space.

**Sources: American Humane Society; Canine Companions for Independence*



GDV (Bloat): A Life-Threatening Condition

Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) is a serious condition that is fatal if left untreated. Commonly referred to as “bloat,” GDV occurs when a dog’s stomach fills with gas, food, or fluid and subsequently twists. GDV develops without warning and can progress quickly. It is always an emergency.

GDV is most commonly seen in large, deep-chested dogs, although any dog may be affected. In its early stage, the stomach fills with gas, causing a simple gastric dilatation or “bloat.” Sometimes, the condition progresses no further.

It can, however, progress to the point where the stomach twists and flips upon itself blocking the stomach entrance and exit and creating a life-threatening condition that is only resolved by emergency surgery.

When the stomach becomes severely distended with gas, fluid, or food, it puts pressure on the surrounding organs, arteries, and veins, and decreases blood flow to and from these organs. The twisted stomach is more severe, as this completely obstructs blood supply to major organs and can impact blood flow throughout the whole body resulting in shock. Toxic products quickly build up and tissues begin to die.

The exact cause of GDV is still unknown. The condition is seen more commonly in large, deep-chested male dogs with Great Danes, St. Bernards, and Weimaraners most at risk. Eating too quickly, exercising after eating, overeating, or drinking large amounts of water in a short period may increase risk. Stress and anxiety may also be contributing factors.



SIGNS OF BLOAT

Because GDV develops without warning and can progress very quickly, recognizing the early signs is essential to increasing the chances your dog will survive. Signs in the early stages of bloat can include:

- Restlessness
- Pacing
- Swollen or distended abdomen
- Painful abdomen
- Overall look of distress
- Retching or attempts to vomit with no success
- Excessive drooling
- Panting or rapid breathing
- Collapsing/inability to stand

Treatment for GDV should be sought out as soon as possible to increase the dog’s chance of survival. If the bloat has progressed to GDV, surgery is required to untwist the stomach and return it to its appropriate position. Generally, gastropexy is also performed during the surgical procedure. During a gastropexy, the stomach is sutured to the abdominal wall. This is designed to keep the stomach in place and prevent twisting of the stomach if bloat occurs again. If your large breed dog is big chested, you may want to discuss preventive gastropexy with your vet.

**Sources: VCA Hospitals; Veterinary Medical Center of Central New York*

Our Wishlists

You have probably noticed by now that AmazonSmile was discontinued. It made us frown, as your purchases resulted in thousands of dollars in support to Homeward Bound at no cost to you.

But you can still help. We maintain two wishlists - one at Amazon and the other at Chewy. There, we maintain frequently used (and sometimes abused...as in toys!) items that are always in demand. Both links are on our website. Just click on Donate on the navigation menu and scroll down. And don’t forget to include a gift card so we know who to thank!



Planning for The Future

Earlier this year, our team member of 23 years became gravely ill. Sadly, she departed us. Fortunately for her two beloved dogs, she planned for them and arranged for Homeward Bound to ensure future homes.

Annie is 13 years of age. She doesn't appreciate the company of other dogs, has typical old dog aches and pains, and is carrying an unwelcome guest: cancer. Annie was matched as a hospice foster with a volunteer who had recently lost her beloved old dog companion. Homeward Bound will ensure that Annie receives all the medical and comfort care she needs while her hospice foster fills Annie's days with spoiling and love.



The other dog, eight-year-old Kitt, is one of those canine vacuums who needed a tidy home and supervision. Otherwise perfectly well-mannered, he found the perfect match with a family that included young adult "kids" – old enough to pick up their things and young enough to provide him all the love and attention he craved after his mom's long illness.

Annie and Kitt's future happiness was ensured because their human mom planned

for them. We encourage everyone to do the same. We make a lifelong commitment to dogs that come into our program and welcome back dogs who can no longer be kept in their adoptive homes for any reason, including the adopter's medical condition or death. You never know when tragedy will strike, so be sure to download our Pet Guardianship information on our website and make your wishes known. You'll find it on our website.

This same team member left a generous bequest to ensure that other dogs receive the same care and protection as her dogs and those she supported as a volunteer for over 20 years. Legacy gifts helped us to purchase the property this year and secure Homeward Bound's future. There are many ways to help. You'll find more information on Pet Guardianship and Planned Giving on our website under Donate. Here is the link: homewardboundgoldens.org/how-to-help/donate/



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

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Placement Team

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Volunteering

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Newsletter & Marketing

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Santa Photos, November 17-19
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.

Fosters: Be the bridge to a dog's forever home. A gift that lasts a lifetime!

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