

THE heart



FEB 2024 / VOL 25, ISSUE 1

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

Hit by a car and suffering a broken femur, Tyson's people surrendered him to the shelter. That might have been the end of his story, but not on our watch. His is our cover story with the happiest of endings.

Little Archer ended up losing a limb after a failed surgery to repair his broken leg. But losing a limb does not have to be an obstacle to a long and happy life. Read his story and learn about the care of tripods on page 8.

Walking your dog is good bonding, training, and exercise time – but not if you are a distracted dog walker. Get the perspective from the other end of the leash on page 10.

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 feature abandoned dog moms and their pups; there seems to be no end to them these days. 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!



Tyson's Story:

On October 26, 2023 we received a call from the Sutter County Animal Shelter. A giant Golden Retriever had been hit by a car and suffered a broken leg. His owners were contacted but surrendered him to the shelter instead of reclaiming him. Homeward Bound's president, Judy Kent, was off to pick him up within minutes. She whisked him to the VCA Referral Center on Old Winery Place in Sacramento. We are regulars there! The exam and X-rays revealed a broken femur and some other trauma injuries. Despite his obvious pain, this giant lug of a dog displayed the sweetest disposition. The vet techs fell in love due to his good looks and charm. Surgery followed a couple of days later, where Dr. Castenada, DVM, DACVS-SA, pieced together his leg with plenty of hardware.

With proper care, his prognosis was favorable for a full recovery. But first, our \$7,200 dog would have to hang with us in a giant crate planted in the lobby for eight long weeks. That's a long time for a two-year-old dog that wants to run and play. Our plans call for relocating the office and converting the current office space into a medical ward

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 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 2023
573

VET EXPENSES IN 2023
\$507,317



A Message From Our President

What a year 2023 was! We completed the property purchase, undertook the major projects that came with it, built a replacement Puppy Palace, and welcomed 573 dogs – a 43% increase over 2022. Our generous donors' continued support sustains us; for that, we are forever grateful. But I want to take a minute to thank the unsung heroes that make our mission possible: the volunteers.

Homeward Bound is 100% volunteer-powered; this year, we have asked a lot of them. With the influx of dogs, six consecutive puppy litters, and a myriad of facility projects undertaken, there has been no rest for the weary. Our teams arrive at sunrise, and they leave after dark. They travel hundreds of miles to bring dogs to safety. Our intake coordinator is glued to her phone with endless requests from overrun shelters and foster-based rescues. Our placement team members, volunteer and foster coordinators, and adoption counselors juggle huge workloads. And our office support puts the pedal to the metal to try to keep up. When the year began, we wondered how we would ever manage without Dr. Codde, who, after 20 years of dedication to our effort, took a well-earned retirement. In stepped Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM, returning to our ranks and filling the critical void. In all, our volunteers log tens of thousands of hours each year.

Volunteers power our mission. Without them, there would be no Homeward Bound. Their dedication and passion inspire me when the days get long and hard. As we face fresh challenges in 2024 with no relief of surrendered and abandoned dogs in sight, we can push forward knowing they are by our side.

On behalf of myself, the Board, and the dogs – thank you all for your gifts of time and treasure. You truly are the heart of Homeward Bound.

Sincerely,

Judy Kent, President





Continued from page 1

for recovering dogs. Tyson is a perfect example of why. With all the coming and going, Tyson could be pretty vocal about his demands for attention.

Our 24/7 caretaker saw to his meds to ease his post-surgery pain, and ice packs were applied multiple times a day to reduce the bruising and swelling. He soaked up the attention and happily returned the love; there are not enough tummy rubs in the universe for Tyson! Exercise was severely limited to potty trips only in the first weeks. Eventually, the sutures were removed and the cone of shame came off. Walking was very slowly introduced until, after two months, he was finally allowed to walk a good portion of the property. That milestone signaled the day Tyson had been longing for: Adoption day!

We matched Tyson to a family that had previously owned a Golden. They were looking for a family companion dog who

enjoyed being at home and going on adventures. They had a fully fenced yard, ensuring no more wandering and car encounters, and they understood the importance of strictly adhering to our rehabilitation regime and training. Most importantly, the family specifically requested a dog that liked to cuddle. With two adults and two kids, Tyson would have many hands for petting and snuggling.

Tyson's new life began with the new year. He got a new name to go with his fresh start, and his family could not be more delighted with him. "Toby is seriously the best dog. We couldn't have created a better fit. We have been doing his PT 2-3 times a day and taking him on 15-minute leashed walks four times a day. His strength has doubled. My whole family is totally in love with him. My daughter jumped out of bed this morning so she could walk with us before school, and she

takes her water and food responsibility so seriously. He is going to be the most spoiled dog ever!"

For Tyson/Toby to have found this level of love and commitment means that our \$7,200 dog was worth every penny.

Thank You, Fosters!

Thank you to all the fosters who opened their hearts and homes to over 140 Homeward Bound dogs in 2023. The dogs may have been with you for a day, a month, or ended up as permanent members of your pack. They might have spent their time hiding in the corner, snuggling in your bed, or redecorating your house. But without you they may not have found their forever homes, and we are so very grateful. A huge thank you from all of us and all of them.



**HOMEWARD
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

7495 Natomas Rd.
Elverta, CA 95626
p. 916-655-1410 f. 916-655-3410
homewardboundgoldens.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Audrey Farrington, Chair
Eva Kwong, Secretary
Scott Wolcott, Treasurer
Jim Bakker
Deb Haggerty

Judy Kent, President
Jaclyn Powell
Anna Schweissinger
Dr. Tatia Taylor
Carolyn Unger



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 nearly 80 dogs with ongoing care in permanent foster or sanctuary with us at Homeward Bound.

Last year, Homeward Bound welcomed 573 dogs – a 43% increase over the prior year as young dogs adopted or purchased in the pandemic continued to be abandoned or surrendered. A soft puppy market also meant that breeders not only surrendered their unsold puppy “inventory” – they abandoned heavily pregnant dogs. Six litters were born at Homeward Bound and 37% of all intakes were under the age of one.

Because we are one of the few Golden rescues in the nation with a facility in addition to a robust foster program, we can immediately take dogs regardless of their age, health - or expectant status - dogs that might not otherwise be saved.



Raising litters of puppies is extremely expensive in time and treasure as you will read below. As well, many of our normal intakes arrive with untreated medical conditions. **Veterinary expenses totaled \$507,317- a 20.6% increase over the prior year.**

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, obstruction, and miscellaneous surgeries, and countless treatments for various infections and illnesses. Among them were our mom dogs and their babes – our 2024 **Fund of Love** poster dogs. Thanks to you, we were able to meet all the dogs' needs in 2023. We are asking for your help once again so we can continue our vital rescue efforts.



On New Year's Day, January 1, 2024, the sixth litter of 2023's expectant moms was born. The stunning Eve gave birth to seven beautiful Golden puppies in our quarantine building. A week later, Joy, our last intake of 2023, gave birth to nine more in our Puppy Palace. Add to these 15 six-week-old Golden puppies from two litters that have taken over our conference room, growing bigger and preparing for their forever homes. That's right...four

simultaneous litters in our care! Never have we experienced such a tsunami of expectant moms and puppies born at Homeward Bound.

In 2022, we saw the surrender or abandonment of young pandemic dogs as people moved on with their lives and left their untrained fur kids behind. Beginning in 2023, as the market for puppies dramatically softened, we saw a growing wave of surrendered or abandoned puppy mill and backyard breeding dogs. Only now, instead of coming to us before being bred, they were being abandoned heavily pregnant.

Sixty-seven puppies born at Homeward Bound in 2023? Sixteen born in the first week of 2024? And seven puppies surrendered by January 18th? To say we have been taxed is an understatement - with no sign of it letting up.

Each expectant or delivering mom receives a physical exam, any needed treatments, ultrasounds, a special diet, and care for a minimum of nine weeks before going to foster to await spay and a forever home. Each puppy receives at least two rounds of deworming, four sets of vaccinations, special high-protein diets, microchips, flea, tick, and heartworm medication, and spay or neuter (required by law for all dogs leaving rescue) before being matched to loving homes. The

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4

average medical cost per mom and litter is approximately \$8,000, not counting the ongoing care of dedicated volunteers on three shifts per day for ten weeks. That's a lot of poo, baths, and laundry!

Two of our moms required C-sections with hospitalization. One puppy spent four days in an incubator in the intensive care unit at UC Davis Veterinary Hospital. Add typical care for hundreds of dogs to these litter expenses.

With the retirement of longtime volunteer vet Dr. Codde and the significant increase in intakes, we braced for an even greater financial impact. Thanks to the return of Dr. Mary LoCicero, DVM, to our ranks, her donated volunteer hours, and a veterinary network stitched together across the region, our vet costs did not fully mirror the 43% intake increase. Still, the costs are substantial. **The bottom line: We could not do it without you.**

This year's **Fund of Love** ambassadors are abandoned dog moms and their little ones, and the plight of all breeding dogs from disreputable breeders. Through education, advocacy, and opening our doors – we hope to begin to turn the tide on the practice of indiscriminate breeding and abandoned pregnant dogs.

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.

Please join us in our mission to continue providing the best possible care and chance for a happy life for deserving dogs and puppies by helping us build our **Fund of Love**.

The minimum donation for this fund is \$250. You can choose to donate a greater amount or endow the entire fund. **Fund of Love** provides the critical matching funds for our spring **Double the Gold Challenge**. 100% of the proceeds of both campaigns are dedicated to medical care for the hundreds of dogs and puppies we rescue each year and the ongoing support of nearly 80 dogs in permanent foster – so they can be home.

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!

Meet the Moms

Through most of 2023, our Puppy Palace was out of commission due to a Parvo infection the previous year. While our team went to work on a replacement building, our quarantine unit was commandeered for puppy litters. As it turned out, that was just the beginning. Get ready for musical chairs!

SASHA



Sasha was found abandoned by a neighborhood backyard breeder around the new year. She was running with her

Continued on page 6

FEBRUARY 2024 5

paramour, Benny. The good Samaritan who took them in attempted to return them, but she was rebuffed. With shelters overloaded, she turned to Homeward Bound. Unbeknownst to us, Sasha was already pregnant. Sadly, she also had contracted kennel cough and pneumonia, requiring hospitalization. We were warned that the outcome for the puppies would not be good, and it wasn't. She gave birth to 11 but over the course of a week, all but one was lost. Sasha and her closely bonded remaining pup were adopted together.

ASTER



Aster came to us from the Ohio Puppy Mills in April. This beautiful girl was carrying more in her luggage than we suspected. When she went in for spay surgery we discovered she was pregnant. A month later, she went in for an emergency C-section. Aster's experience inspired a new purchase for Homeward Bound: an ultrasound machine!

AUTUMN

About the time that Aster's litter was headed home in August, Autumn arrived. She had been running stray in the Central Valley – another abandoned breeding dog. In September, she gave birth to ten beautiful babies with our already tired puppy team rising to the next challenge. And then came...Megan.



MEGAN

Megan and her two four-month-old pups or cousins – we'll never know for sure – had been abandoned in the Central Valley. It was a cold and wet October and she had curled up on someone's porch, too tired to go on. Her pups, Marigold and Rusty were found in the field nearby. Terrified of people, we housed them in a our newly constructed Puppy Palace, though all the finishings were still in progress. She immediately took advantage of its vulnerability and hid herself under the building – for three weeks. She would only come out at night or when she was certain no one was around to check on the pups and eat. For her health and safety, we finally resorted to trapping her only to discover that she was heavily pregnant. With Autumn's litter still occupying the quarantine building, we moved Megan to the only secure place: our conference room. There, she raised six striking pups who thankfully never adopted their mom's fearfulness.



DANI



Dani was part of a large rescue from a breeder who had gotten in way over his head. Judy and our transport team lead went to pick up eight dogs. They came back with 15. The Suisun 15 were used to living in an open space full of foxtails, and an unheated or air-conditioned barn. Litters weren't planned as much as they just happened. Our ultrasound machine confirmed that Dani was very much expecting. She gave birth in November in our now completed Puppy Palace.

EVE



Mid-December, we got another call for help. Eve was pregnant, dumped in the Central Valley (do you sense a theme here?), and incredibly sweet. We took control of the quarantine unit once more and settled her in for another extended puppy stay while Dani's litter occupied the Puppy Palace.

So, the conference room is full, the Puppy Palace is full...and along comes Joy!

Continued on page 7

JOY

Joy had been found stray and - yes - pregnant. She had been sent to foster to protect her and the unborn pups, but not before she contracted kennel cough. Where to put her? We merged Dani and Megan's litters in the conference room



(15 puppies!), moved Joy into the Puppy Palace, and Eve gave birth on New Year's Day in the quarantine building. Joy gave birth a week later in the Puppy Palace.

If you're having a hard time keeping up, imagine how we feel!

Each litter requires 9-10 weeks of care with a minimum of three shifts per day. Our puppy team grew from a few to many and still we struggled to keep up. Puppy team members provide the feeding, cleaning, laundry, and re-supplying. It's physically taxing work. But the most important element is socialization and love as this is what keeps nursing moms sane, and nurtures puppies that are well adjusted and ready for loving homes. If you are interested in joining the puppy team, complete a volunteer application on our website. We are always on the lookout for good puppy mommas and pops!



National Spay/Neuter Month

February is National Spay and Neuter Awareness Month. The choice to spay or neuter your pet may be one of the most important decisions you make impacting your dog's long-term health while helping to reduce the number of unwanted litters. For rescue organizations, there is no choice at all, except in extreme cases.

Studies from the University of Georgia and Banfield Pet Hospitals database of 2.2 million dogs found that the life expectancy of neutered male dogs was 13.8% to 18% longer respectively, and 26.3% to 26% of spayed female dogs. The reduced lifespan of unaltered pets can, in part, be attributed to the urge to roam leading to fights with other animals that result in injuries and infections, trauma from vehicle strikes, and other mishaps. Behavioral problems that may be alleviated by spay/neuter include:

- Urine marking (most typically in males, but sometimes in females).
- Certain aggressive behaviors.
- Excessive barking and mounting activity.
- In-heat behaviors such as vocalizing, marking, and erratic behavior.

Spay and neuter can reduce the risk of certain types of cancers in pets. Intact female dogs have a greater chance of developing pyometra (a potentially fatal uterine infection) and uterine, mammary gland and other cancers of the reproductive system. Neutering male pets eliminates their risk of testicular cancer and the possibility of developing benign prostatic hyperplasia which can affect the ability to defecate.

Some studies challenge the health benefits of widespread spaying/neutering, raising concerns that these surgeries may predispose certain altered dogs to certain orthopedic conditions and cancers. Existing research data has not definitively established causality. More work needs to be done with greater databases of animals.

For rescue organizations in California, spay and neuter is not up for debate; it's the law. The California Food and Agricultural Code section 30503 states: "...no public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group shall sell or give away to a new owner any dog that has not been spayed or neutered." The only exemption is if a veterinarian determines that the animal is too sick or injured to be spayed or neutered or otherwise determines it would be detrimental to the health of the animal. However, once the animal is determined to be healthy by the veterinarian, it must be spayed/neutered within 14 business days of the certification.

Homeward Bound covers the cost of spay and neuter of all dogs in its care – greatly exceeding adoption fees. For others concerned about cost, consider this: A uterine infection that requires emergency surgery to save your female dog's life can easily cost several thousand dollars, while neutering can save hundreds of dollars in products needed to eliminate urine odors after your home has been well-marked by your territorial male dog. Most communities offer low-cost spay/neuter clinics. Check with your local shelter, SPCA, or Humane Society.

Sources: Humane Society; American Veterinary Medical Association, The American Animal Hospital Association.



Caring for Your Tripod

Archer and his sister, Ladybug, arrived in mid-November. Twelve weeks old, they came from a backyard breeder who couldn't sell them because of their "defects." Ladybug was born with microphthalmia - a rare condition where one eye is smaller and often recessed. The result of bad breeding, microphthalmia can result in vision loss and infection and require eye removal.

Archer had suffered a broken leg as a young puppy. While surgery was performed, the breeder did not follow instructions for rest and quiet. The result was a failed fix and a useless leg. The bone became infected, and activity risked further injury. The orthopedic surgeon said the leg needed to go. We sent both pups to foster to recover.

It's hard to watch a dog endure amputation – particularly a very young dog. It's painful and disorienting in the first few days as they begin to adjust to their new life without the fourth limb. But take heart: in no time, they will bounce back and adjust. For some, including Archer, once they are over the initial surgery, losing a previously painful limb is a blessing resulting in a positive change in their entire demeanor.

Some three-legged dogs do better than others, depending on their size, age, or other physical problems. The first challenge is relearning proprioception, which means they must get a new idea of where their body is in space and how to balance. Losing a front leg poses a greater challenge than losing a back one, as the front leg accounts for approximately 70 percent of the dog's strength and balance. The rear can follow, but the front must lead. Even so, a tripawd dog can live a good and long life with a bit of extra care.

Post-surgery, monitor the dog's activity level and keep them from going too

fast too soon. They must learn how to navigate uneven or slick surfaces and stairs. A wipe-out on a freshly amputated stump can be pretty painful and risk further injury.

Once they have recovered, it's essential to protect the remaining limbs. Make sure they are moving and active without overdoing it. Generally, you can let an adult dog go at its own pace. For puppies with typical energy bursts (zoomies), you will have to keep an eye on them and rest them if necessary. Regular exercise keeps tripods at a healthy weight and builds muscle strength in the remaining limbs. Swimming is an exceptional exercise because the water takes stress off the body.

Feed them a healthy diet and keep them on the trim side. Less weight means less pressure on their joints, which can lead to injury and arthritis. Your vet may recommend supplements, including glucosamine for

joints, fish oils, and other anti-inflammatory supplements to ease pressure on the dog's remaining limbs. Regular checkups are essential for all dogs, but especially so for tripods.

There is no reason why a three-legged dog has to be disabled. With proper care and exercise, a tripod can resume a normal life and may not even notice that the leg is missing. Archer found a pain-free life without his infected and unhealed leg and new happiness in his new home.



Compassionate Care Program: So They Can Be Home

All surrenders are difficult, but two types are especially heartbreaking in instances where a family's financial capacity at a crisis point causes them to make a gut-wrenching decision: medical emergency and hospice.

Marley (below) is a handsome and sweet 10-year-old Golden boy who was reluctantly surrendered by his loving family. He had a cancerous mass on his foot, and while they had covered his basic vet needs throughout his life, they could not afford the surgery required. Knowing it would be lifesaving, they were unselfishly willing to give him up to ensure Marley got the needed care. He took up residence in our president's office, and his family asked to visit him weekly as we waited on test results and surgeon's recommendation. To prevent the cancer from spreading, Marley needed to lose a toe – a painful operation with a long recovery for a large dog. As we watched his family on their weekly visits, it became obvious that the best place for Marley was in the home he had always known. Homeward Bound provided his surgery and monitored his initial recovery. When we felt he was stable, we sent Marley back to his family. We provided follow-up care, and they were able to adopt him back without an adoption fee.

Henry (above) came to us in July at the age of almost 15. His owner had died, and he and his bonded canine sister were

surrendered to us because family members could not afford their care. He was deaf and had very weak hind legs, making it nearly impossible for him to walk. He was on medication for aching joints and was being treated for chronic, painful ear infections. It was clear that Henry's best life was behind him. Henry also took up residence in our president's office, which meant being separated from his sister, who was quickly adopted. We were fortunate to have a volunteer who could take Henry home. It wasn't for long. He earned his wings just two short months later. Henry was lucky to have found a loving foster to see him through his final days. Still, the kindest thing for this true hospice candidate might have been to let him go gently in the home he knew with his bonded sister by his side.

In January, Homeward Bound's board approved the new Compassionate Care Program for medical emergency and hospice candidates.

The new Program extends financial support for dogs like Marley, who are being surrendered or at risk of euthanasia purely due to an extraordinary medical need resulting from trauma, obstruction, cancer treatment, orthopedic surgery, etc. The dog's prognosis should be good, and the family must have a record of providing good primary care with the capacity to do so on a continuing basis. The family must be committed to providing rehabilitative care in the home following medical guidelines. The care will be provided



by the family's vet or emergency vet but paid for by Homeward Bound. Program beneficiaries must live within 50 miles of Homeward Bound. Acceptance is at the discretion of our president.

The financial cost of hospice care, including humane end-of-life services, can be more than some families can bear, leading families to surrender a dog or seek a shelter's support in euthanizing the dog – a terrifying and horrific ending for a beloved family companion. The hospice care component of the Program provides financial support for palliative and end-of-life care in the home, so the dog earns its wings in the comfort of the surroundings and people it knows and trusts. The family must have a record of providing good basic care and be committed to providing hospice care in the home, following the hospice vet's guidelines. This Program is available to families within 50 miles of Homeward Bound and is approved at the discretion of our president.

Care will be taken to thoroughly evaluate each situation before extending support. In all cases, acceptable breeds are those Homeward Bound would typically intake. While Homeward Bound has always welcomed dogs regardless of age or health, sometimes, the best place for a dog in need is in the loving home they know. This Program will give us that option.



DISTRACTED DOG WALKING: THOUGHTS FROM THE OTHER END OF THE LEASH

BY: Gail Westrup

It's time to walk the dog, so you attach the leash and head out the door. The walk is a great decision, but what about this one: are you paying attention to your dog or that last text on your phone?

Just as distracted driving has become the cause of more accidents, an unengaged owner can rob a dog of the benefits of a walk and possibly jeopardize its safety.

In terms of benefits, Homeward Bound volunteer Jen Bercutt says dog walks are much more than a time to potty and get some exercise; a nice sniffy walk is very mentally stimulating for a dog and can do more to tire them out than a long jog or playing ball. Time on a walk can also offer training opportunities and build a connection between you and your dog. Let's interview the other end of the leash for the dangers of distracted walking.

Merry is a shy and fearful dog we have owned for two years. In her words, "Walks used to be very scary. If another dog was near, I'd drop my head, avoid eye contact, and sometimes pull to run away. But I felt better when mom or dad reassured me, watched for other dogs, and made sure they didn't get close. Now, I can hold my head high and wag my tail, and sometimes, when we pass a dog and owner we are familiar with, I'll greet them. If it gets scary, I freeze, and Mom and Dad know it's time to move on. And they always praise me for my bravery."



I've changed the names in the following "interviews," but they are dogs I have known or met on walks. You'll likely recognize the type as well.

Hoover says, "I love walks, and I really love food and anything resembling food. I can't wait for my owner to be distracted so I can eat something fun." Unfortunately, what appears yummy for Hoover could result in a trip to the emergency vet if you aren't paying attention to what he finds.

From plants to mushrooms to raisins from a kid's lunch, the outdoors is full of things that shouldn't go into your dog.

A walk can double as a training opportunity if you're paying attention. Jen suggests working on commands like "leave it" if they start picking up something they shouldn't. Or "let's go" when they are stuck munching on grass.

Then there's Snappy: "Walks are great, but I don't like those other dogs. I feel better if my owner sees I'm stressed and talks to me or changes direction. But give me a slack leash and a distracted owner, and I may do something we will all regret." Walking with a reactive dog requires an alert owner ready to move behind a parked car or change direction to keep the other dog out of sight or at a safe distance.

These situations are also training opportunities where you can practice commands like "Sit," "Stay," and "Watch me."

You get to praise them for something they are doing right instead of screaming as they do something wrong.

At the opposite end of the dog personality spectrum, there's Buddy.

"I love everyone. If someone is sitting on a park bench, I must greet them. If a cute dog is walking by, I'm quick to introduce myself!" While we may know our dog is a great guy, we can't assume every other person or pup feels the same way about him. Work on "sit" and "stay" commands and take time to ask before allowing Buddy social interactions.

Finally, an article about dog walks would only be complete with a mention of sniffing, sniffing, and more sniffing! Dogs have roughly 40 times more olfactory receptors in their noses than humans. Smell is their most prominent sense and primary doorway to the world around them. Sniffing works their brain, relieves stress, and can result in a calmer, more relaxed dog at home. And, as you remain patient with that extra-long sniff, appreciate what it means to your dog, and value your time outdoors with them, you might go home a more relaxed owner as well.

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. Each decoration, star, or toy represents a gift made in honor or memory of someone special and new hope for dogs in need. As one of our three major fundraising efforts of the year, its success is vital to our mission.

Once again, you filled our tree with love! Your gifts brought our tree to twinkling, sparkling life raising over \$200,000 - far exceeding our goal and ensuring support for the hundreds of dogs that will come through our doors in 2024. So far, we are averaging two intakes per day showing no signs that this wave will let up anytime soon.

Thanks to your generosity, we know that we can help hundreds more dogs on their journeys to health and home, including the moms and their babes featured 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!!**



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 retrievers 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 retrievers 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.hbgr.org.



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

judy@homewardboundgoldens.org

Foster Families
fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Placement Team
homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org

Golden Taxi (Transport)
goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org

Volunteering
volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Newsletter & Marketing
audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org

Training
Kathryn Baines, 916-300-9415
grdogtraining@gmail.com



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

phone: 916-655-1410
www.homewardboundgoldens.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROSEVILLE, CA
PERMIT NO. 98

Dates To Remember

The Fund of Love Campaign launches this month!
Reunion Picnic: Saturday, June 22, at Gibson 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