

THE heart



AUGUST 2024 / VOL 25, ISSUE 3

HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

It took a uniquely skilled foster family and extraordinary adopters to see into the heart of a once near-feral dog mom and transform her life. In the process, Megan became Maggie. Many followed her journey. Now, her final chapter is being written. She is our cover story.

A young dog with a diagnosis we never wanted to learn and the angels who insisted that she come home with them to fill her life – whatever length – with love. Don't miss Sally's story on page 6.

Bonded? Or Not? It's a call we make through careful observation before deciding whether to send dogs home separately or together. A lot goes into the decision. You can read about the process on page 7.

Have you ever considered fostering? How about puppy fostering?? Every holiday season, homeless puppies arrive in droves. You can help! See page 10 for details.

And we are undertaking a major project: a new medical ward for recovering dogs complete with an indoor vet clinic. We're hoping to Build a Better Dog (Care) House – with your help. Full details are on page 4-5. 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!



The Last Word: Home Megan's Story

By: Audrey Farrington

Last December, we put out an urgent call to find a foster for our near-feral mom dog, Megan. Entirely unsocialized to humans, she had been made to have puppies before she ever got to be one herself. Pregnant, she was abandoned in a field with her two four-month-old pups (or cousins? We'll never know for sure). A skilled and devoted foster family trained in raising CCI service dogs answered our call for help when Megan signaled she was done nursing. We are forever grateful to Wendy and John for taking on the challenge. "It's a marathon, not a sprint," they said. So true.

"While we will never truly know what all Megan experienced before coming to Homeward Bound, we know there was a loving puppy in there that needed a safe place to land so

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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 TO DATE 2024
358

VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2024
\$324,421



A Message from Our President

Remember the days of 350-400 annual intakes? Gone! As of August 1, we have already welcomed 352 dogs. Of the 85 who have arrived since June 1, six came from a single breeder, six arrived as transfers from a Nevada rescue where adopters are in short supply, 15 were pulled from shelters, or stray, two were international rescues saved from the meat markets, and 11 were puppies whelped at Homeward Bound. However, the overwhelming majority were surrendered due to financial hardship, divorce, loss of home, or health. The requests are endless and heartbreaking. Many have not seen a vet in years with missing vaccinations, needed dentals, ear infections, and skin and weight issues from lack of care or exercise. A few, like our \$10,000 dog, Teddy, required lifesaving surgery due to an intestinal blockage.

We can welcome these dogs and meet their needs thanks to a combination of blessings: the dedication of more than 250 tireless individuals in our all-volunteer organization, adopters who still come seeking well-vetted companions, and the support of good people like you.

This month, we are launching a campaign to “Build a Better Dog (Care) House”—a significant undertaking. With our new office space completed and moved into, we have begun gutting the old, cluttered office space to make way for a quiet and hygienic medical ward for recovering dogs. We will also move our vet clinic indoors, where our devoted vet, Dr. Mary LoCicero, her volunteer vets and techs, and our expensive blood and urinalysis equipment will finally enjoy a climate-controlled environment. It’s an improvement our founders, Jody and Mike Jones, could only have dreamed of. We are asking for your help if you are able. You will find all the details inside.

We look forward to Fall as a welcome respite from this long, hot summer. And we will stand ready to offer the relief of safety, comfort, health, and homes for dogs in need – thanks to your support.

Judy Kent
President



we could meet that version of her," shared Wendy and John. "Megan came to us as a very timid and shy girl, but it was clear that she still had hope she would find good humans. In the early days, Megan would only come out of her crate at night when we were fast asleep to eat. She would tolerate us pulling up next to her crate to reach in with love pats. Then, one day, she leaned into that love and kept leaning in. She began taking treats directly from our hands and then would seek us out for attention on her own terms, of course."

Each week, when we received our Megan update from Wendy, we were filled with astonishment, pride, joy, and deep gratitude for the dedication of her foster family. From frightened and nearly feral, Megan slowly stepped into trust. Each day was filled with new discoveries, like a puppy experiencing the world for the first time. Words Megan learned in foster care: trust, play, companionship, and peace. But there was one word left to experience: home.

Six months into her journey, we all felt that Megan was ready to complete it in a place of permanence. With her foster family, she was herself: playful and mischievous, a great companion to their dog, Maura-Jean, and growing in confidence every day. We all knew that she would take a step back with new people before she moved forward again, but we all agreed that she was capable of more.

Megan needed a quiet home with a dog companion, a small, secure yard, and people who would accept her for who she was, allow her to set the pace, and recognize that there would be setbacks along with triumphs to melt the heart. The people needed to live close enough to visit Megan and her foster family to get to know her before taking her home. Not everyone can see into the heart of a shy dog and understand the thrill of its slow blossoming. But Megan only needed the right someone to complete her journey. As it turns out, the right ones had been watching and waiting all along.



Brittani and Dan are former adopters. In 2021, they brought Tucker (below) home, a two-year-old Lab who just needed a little guidance. Brittani and Dan are parents to two teens; Dan is a former law enforcement dog handler. They work



primarily from home, and someone is around almost all the time. Brittani and Dan had been keeping up with Homeward Bound and watching the website – not so much searching as waiting for the right story. Megan's story touched their hearts, and the timing was right.

The process was purposefully slow and thorough. A phone interview with our lead

adoption counselor was followed by a conference call with our president. Then, a phone call with Megan's fosters before a visit to their home. Megan typically hides in her crate when new people enter the scene, but Tucker immediately drew her out. They felt sad about her story but also excited about her potential. With Homeward Bound's support, they thought they had the right situation and tools to help write a happy ending.

"As our time with Megan drew to a close, it was starting to get hard to imagine her with a new family, even though we knew it would be best for her. That is until we met her forever family," says Wendy. "In the months we had Megan, she grew to regularly seek treats from us, but never from a stranger. On their first meeting with Megan, she took treats directly from Dan and Brittani and was clearly checking them out; she could tell they were the ones for her!"

One hurdle remained: Spay. It is required of all dogs leaving rescue in California, and it was essential for a girl of Megan's

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Let's Build a Better Dog (Care) House!

For too long, recovering dogs have been co-housed in our chaotic office. These are dogs that need a quiet space for eyes-on care and recovery like Bruno and his shattered leg, Fallon with her de-gloved leg, and the (now transformed) Max II (below).



At the same time, we have outgrown the beloved but tiny, converted shed without heating or air-conditioning that we use as our on-site vet clinic.

In a 10'x12' space, Dr. Mary LoCicero is typically accompanied by a small team of aspiring vets and techs who share her passion for rescue, our president, and 1-2 members of our dog-handling team. It's TIGHT – *and it's hot or cold* – for our people and our expensive blood and urinalysis equipment.

We can do better...with your help!

In our quest for a peaceful and comfortable alternative for dogs and humans, we relocated our office this year. The newly remodeled space is custom-designed to support adopters in search of new companions, including dedicated adoption yards right outside the ADA-



Medical Recovery Room and Vet Clinic Layout



compliant door. The new office space built by our volunteer team (below) clears the way for our Special Project: **We're Building a Better Dog (Care) House!**



The new Medical Ward will occupy the area that was formerly packed with office staff, overflowing storage, human kitchen items, and a revolving group of dogs housed in crates, behind the desk, and what was once our president's tiny office.

The old space is being gutted and completely redesigned to accommodate recovering dogs in modern and hygienic kennel spaces, medication storage, and a fully functioning, and climate-controlled indoor vet-clinic.

The project includes new electrical, insulation, flooring, lighting, oodles of storage, camera monitoring, a dedicated and updated vet clinic, and most importantly, quiet refuge for dogs recovering from surgery, injury or illness.

But we can't do it without you!

While much of the building will be done by our talented volunteer team, construction materials and outfitting hard costs will be expensive. Some of you have already contributed...thank you! If not, you can help by Sponsoring, or by selecting items from the Wish List found on our website to purchase directly or underwrite (for items Homeward Bound can purchase at discount).

We have four sponsor tiers. All sponsors or wish list donors within the tiers will be forever featured on plaques in the new Medical Ward. One very generous donor has already earned naming rights! Of course, if you prefer to remain anonymous, you can substitute the name of a beloved dog companion.

To sponsor, go to our website at www.hbgr.org and click on the links provided - or mail a check to:

Medical Ward
Homeward Bound Golden Retriever
Rescue
7495 Natomas Rd.
Elverta, CA 95626

Be sure to tell us how you prefer to be recognized.

Build a Better Dog (Care) House Sponsorships

Golden Guardian: \$10,000+
Shared Golden Guardian Plaque with Donor Names
Mention in Newsletter
Mention on Website (if desired)

Champion: \$5,000-\$9,999
Shared Champion Plaque with Donor Names
Mention in Newsletter
Mention on Website (if desired)

Hero: \$2,500-\$4,999
Shared Hero Plaque with Donor Names
Mention in Newsletter
Mention on Website (if desired)

Best Friend: \$1,000-\$2,499
Shared Best Friend Plaque with Donor Names
Mention in Newsletter
Mention on Website (if desired)

WISH LIST ITEMS

Our Wish List items can be found on our website. Items range from small necessities to make the dogs more comfortable and their rooms clean, to larger items to ensure a modern and fully functioning rehabilitation space and vet clinic.

Some items may be purchased directly from the links on our website. Others are best purchased by us as we receive a significant discount. All are needed and appreciated!

If you purchase directly, be sure to include your name on the gift notice or advise us, as Wish List items are eligible for sponsorship benefits within the tiers listed.

This Medical Ward is an improvement our founders, Jody and Mike Jones, could only have dreamed of when they began Homeward Bound out of a barn. We can make it a reality with your help!

BUILD A BETTER DOG (CARE) HOUSE

Donate securely online by credit card or PayPal on our website, or simply mail a check.

Visit our website at: www.hbgr.org

Click on "BUILD A BETTER DOG CARE HOUSE" for sponsorship links, wish list items, and mailing information.

THANK YOU!!

Sally: Angels Answer the Call

Sally is a fantastic young Golden who was in search of special someone(s) with good, strong hearts. At 20 months, she has great energy, a love of dogs and kids, a passion for play, and first-class snuggling skills when the day is done. Sally was surrendered due to incontinence. What her people didn't understand was why she leaked urine. An incomplete diagnosis missed the underlying issue: Sally has kidney disease. Renal failure is never a diagnosis anyone wants to hear, especially at such a young age. We didn't tell Sally; she couldn't care less. She was just too busy living.

We were able to control her incontinence with medication and to support her kidney disease with a special diet. What we couldn't change is the diagnosis. It will, at some point, shorten her life. But we have no idea when that will be. With kidney disease, it could be weeks, months, or years. While Sally was busy living in the moment - a happy dog, checking off her bucket list as we all should do by living each day to its fullest, we set about finding a permanent foster for her. It would be a lot to ask - requiring people with solid hearts because this girl was so easy to fall in love with!

Sally loves water and swimming, can play fetch for hours, is great in the car, is crate-trained, and has attended puppy and basic obedience classes. She was a rock star in our playgroup sessions, but as much as we enjoyed having her in our care, we knew she deserved an opportunity to be home. We made her available as part of our Permanent Foster Program to ease the burden. For people who live within 50 miles of Homeward Bound, the rescue provides the dog's medical care and special dietary needs for life, while the family provides love and care. In Sally's case, Homeward Bound will also provide in-home hospice care when the time comes.



One very special family answered the call. The Sim family had been permanent fosters to two dogs before—Lexie and Precious, a bonded senior pair who came to us when their people could no longer care for them. They gave both dogs the final chapter they deserved.

"My wife has always wanted a companion," wrote James Sim, "especially as our kids got older and started having their own activities with their friends. She checks the Homeward Bound website to peruse. When she came across Sally, she told the rest of us we needed to bring her home."

What kind of people open their hearts to a dog with Sally's diagnosis? The best. "There was never a discussion of the

uncertainty regarding Sally's health. The most important thing was to give her a loving home and hope she will have a good life regardless of how long that may be," James relayed. "Once we brought her home, we all knew we made the right decision. Sally has brought us closer together. The entire family, which now includes Sally, walks to the park

together, which we have not done in a while. We're hoping for cooler weather so we can go more often. Sally has truly been a blessing. She is so amazing. Sally is well-behaved but gets a little excited sometimes. She is so full of life. All we pray for now is that she will be with us for a really long time. The reality is her presence in our home is a gift. I actually believe we are the lucky ones to have her rather than the other way around."

If you would consider opening your home and heart to a permanent foster or a hospice dog, please complete a foster application on our website at www.hbgrr.org. You too may find yourself realizing how lucky you are to be blessed with a special needs dog.



Bonded? Or Not?

You may have heard about something called “littermate syndrome.” There’s no scientific evidence of a “syndrome”; however, some common sense realities exist.

“Littermate syndrome refers to a specific set of unfavorable behaviors that two puppies might exhibit if raised together immediately after weaning from their mother, like anxiety or fear,” says Harmony Diers of Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine. “This syndrome occurs when a pair of puppies raised together develop such a close bond with one another during important socialization stages that it hinders their ability to bond with their new owner.”

Pups raised together from the same litter can form such a strong bond with one another during important socialization stages that it hinders their ability to bond with their new people. This bond can also interfere with their social development, interactions with other household dogs, and training as they look to each other instead of their person to reinforce positive or negative behaviors. However, much depends on how well they are socialized from puppies.

At Homeward Bound, we have seen many bonded siblings, like our current Maylee and Teela (top) – sisters from different mothers whose humans passed and we hope to get home together. We have also seen supposed bonded siblings who actually do better individually when given the chance, like Gus and Rufus (center), brothers who arrived together but recently went home apart. Most importantly, we take our time to assess their closeness and potential co-dependence.

Signs of unhealthy bonding may include:

- Extreme separation anxiety
- Fear of other dogs, aggression toward other dogs
- Fear behaviors when confronted with unfamiliar people or experiences
- Escalating quarrels when they reach sexual maturity around six months of age
- Guarding
- Leash reactivity



The reality is that socialization is critical for all puppies, siblings or otherwise, as is training guided by positive reinforcement. Anyone considering a bonded pair should be aware of the need for extra time and patience to work with each dog individually. They will also go through life stages simultaneously, which means



double the work, training, and exercise time for puppies and rambunctious adolescents. Rivalries and other behaviors may develop, requiring consultation with a vet, trainer, or behaviorist. It’s not impossible, but it is an added commitment.

Puppy mill survivors may be unhealthfully bonded to their littermates. Having endured the same traumas, they tend to travel in packs with a common fear and distrust of people. While they are comfortable in the company of their fellow survivors, it makes it difficult to break

through to them. They are better paired with another calm and gentle dog that can introduce and guide them to a better life.

We have also welcomed bonded pairs of non-siblings, particularly older dogs that have lived together for years. Some true “Mutt and Jeff” matches may surprise and delight you, making a ready-made family. They come as surrenders or from shelters where they were left together. They show closeness and seek each other’s physical contact; they comfort each other, sleep together, and show open signs of affection while still attaching to people. Difficult decisions arise when one dog is genuinely bonded, and the other is not, despite the longevity of their relationship. They should be thoroughly vetted to ensure the dogs have a mutually beneficial and undeniable relationship, balancing the potential for depression and grieving in one dog against the other dog’s opportunity for a full life.

This is when careful matches become critical to meet the needs of both. People’s first instinct is to hope we will keep all pairs together. But each situation is unique, as is each dog. Careful observation and a commitment to each dog’s emotional health guide our team in their decision: bonded? Or not?

Sources:

Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine; Humane Society

Responsible Dog Ownership

Each year, on the third Saturday in September, Responsible Dog Ownership Day reminds pet owners to make a promise to our forever friends.

A pet is more than a companion; it's a lifetime commitment. The decision to add a pet to your family should never be based on impulse or an unexpected gift. Because animals can't speak for themselves, we have an obligation as owners to make thoughtful decisions and a responsibility to advocate for them, providing the support and resources they need to live healthy, happy lives. The American Veterinary Medical Association breaks this commitment down into six essential pledges.



COMMIT

- Avoid impulsive decisions when selecting a pet.
- Select a pet that's suited to your home and lifestyle.
- Keep only the type and number of pets for which you can provide appropriate food, water, shelter, health care, and companionship.
- Commit to the relationship for the life of your pet(s).
- Provide appropriate exercise and mental stimulation.
- Properly socialize and train your pet.

INVEST

- Recognize that pet ownership requires an investment of time and money.
- Provide exercise and mental stimulation appropriate to your pet(s)' age, breed, and health status.
- Make sure your pet receives preventive health care (vaccinations, parasite control, etc.) and care for any illnesses or injuries.
- Budget for potential emergencies and/or invest in pet insurance.

COMPLY

- Clean up after your pet.
- Obey all local ordinances, including licensing, leash requirements, and noise control.
- Don't allow your pet to stray or become feral.

IDENTIFY

- Ensure your pet is properly identified (e.g., with tags, microchips, or tattoos) and keep its registration current.

LIMIT

- Don't contribute to our nation's pet overpopulation problem: limit your pet's reproduction through spay/neuter for its long-term health and safety.

PREPARE

- Prepare for an emergency or disaster, including assembling an evacuation kit. Review its contents twice annually.
- Make alternate arrangements if you can no longer provide care for your pet.
- Recognize declines in your pet's quality of life and make timely decisions in consultation with your veterinarian regarding appropriate end-of-life care (e.g., palliative care, hospice, euthanasia).

Our Wishlists

Big dogs have big needs. One simple way to help is to visit our Wish Lists for items of all budgets that are loved by our dogs and always needed by our hard-working volunteers.

We maintain two wishlists - one at Amazon and the other at Chewy. 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!



Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

Estate or planned gifts to Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue are excellent opportunities to create a legacy ensuring the rescue's permanence and that more Golden lives are saved. Planned giving is an option for donors of all incomes and may allow you to make a larger gift in the future than you otherwise could from current assets. A planned gift can also help you reduce capital gains or estate taxes on your heirs.

Naming us in your will or trust is one of the easiest ways to ensure that future generations of Golden Retrievers in need will find a second chance at life. You'll find more information on our website under "Donate."



background and potential flight risk. What could have been a complete setback ended well, thanks to planning and the cooperation of our vet. Wendy and John took the fall by taking Megan in the safety of her crate to the vet. Once there, she never left the crate until she was under anesthesia. After the spay, Brittani and Dan picked her up, becoming her rescuers to begin her new life in their home.

Megan was understandably cautious the first few days. But now, her personality shines through, and her trust and confidence grow. She ventures out for pets. She is beginning to engage Tucker (right) in play. She is back to mischievously hoarding all the toys. And she has a new name to start her new life: Maggie.

When asked why she and Dan were willing to take this leap of faith, knowing the road ahead would require time and patience, Brittani responded: "Who wouldn't want to help a dog in need?" Helping a dog like Megan is a commitment. In reality, only a few people inquired from a post and video that reached thousands. "We are just excited to help her grow. It's a learning experience for us as well," Brittani says.

When writing this article, I planned to ask Wendy and John if they would do it all again - but they had already done so! They took home another timid mom who needed time to decompress after nursing her litter of 11. Thanks to their loving care, she is coming around quickly.



"We have been asked about the secret to our success with Megan," Wendy shared. "Here is the answer: Megan herself. She didn't give up on humans, so we didn't give up on her. It took lots of patience, salmon treats, and the confidence lent to her by our dog, Maura-Jean, which certainly helped. However, she never lost her spunky puppy spark; it was just hard to see at first."

Before her final chapter is written, Maggie will mark many new discoveries and milestones. But they all begin with one simple word: Home. Our heartfelt thanks to Wendy, John, Brittani, Dan, our volunteers, and all who shared her story to help Maggie on her journey home.

"We are so grateful to be a small part of Megan's story," Wendy and John shared. "She is so loved and has such a bright future now. Our hearts are bursting." Ours too.



**HOMeward
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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Becoming a Puppy Foster

It's as predictable as 100-degree days in summer: Every year around the holidays, Valentine's Day, and Mother's Day, we are inundated with surrendered puppies. The reasons for surrender are many. Breeders purposefully target these special holidays to appeal to puppy purchasers. Their adorable faces are hard to resist, but the care required is often grossly underestimated. Puppies require physical stamina and a significant time commitment to keep up with their potty and basic training needs, growing energy and exercise requirements, and vital socialization. Purchased on a whim or given as gifts, people quickly realize that they are accompanied by accidents in the house, puppy razor teeth, and rapidly growing bodies that can knock over or trip up the unsteady and unsuspecting. Breeders with unsold "inventory" add to the burden.

They arrive at ages as young as eight weeks and up to six months of age, their young lives already turned upside down. They need safety, socialization, training catch-up, and loving guidance. An ideal puppy foster home has someone who is around most of the time and who:

- Lives within 50 miles of Homeward Bound to bring the puppy in for its vet visit(s)
- May have a good puppy-companion dog to serve as a role model
- Can create a safe, puppy-proof area within the home and yard
- Has patience and either knows how or is willing to learn how to provide a puppy with basic skills.

Most puppies arrive healthy but need to be seen by our vet for a checkup and, typically, to catch up on vaccinations. Others may need deworming or medicated baths. Puppies generally stay with their fosters for approximately three weeks before adoption. All supplies and



food are provided by Homeward Bound.

For those equipped to manage special care, medical puppy fosters are also needed. Typical medical foster needs include recovery from illness, surgeries, or skin issues.

Is it hard to say 'goodbye' to a puppy you have fostered? Always! But it is also incredibly gratifying to see them find their perfect forever home. All fosters understand that if they "foster failed" each dog and adopted it themselves, we would soon be without a foster network. Each dog that moves from foster to a forever home creates room for another to be saved. Besides, updates from your former foster as they grow into big dogs make it all worthwhile!

If you are interested in puppy (or big dog) fostering, please complete an application on our website at www.hbgr.org. Thank you!



Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary's Foster Program is a gift that comes in various forms – each increasing our capacity so more lives can be saved.

Short-term fosters are the bridge to a dog's forever home, providing a soft place to land while they are readied for adoption. Our foster dogs range in age from very young puppies to very senior dogs.

Medical fosters provide the quiet and calm needed to heal from a wide range of conditions including heartworm treatment, broken bones, rebuilt hips, and more. When long-term medical care is the only obstacle to being home, we offer a Permanent Foster.

Prospective families complete a foster application and receive a visit from one of our Home Visit team members. The purpose of the visit is to learn about your lifestyle, determine what type of dog is a good fit for you and your family, and ensure a secure, loving environment for the foster dog.

Homeward Bound is responsible for all veterinary care, food, and supplies. We strive to make successful matches based on your lifestyle and the dog's needs. And we are always here to help you with behavior, training, nutrition, and health issues.

VALENTINO: IN MEMORIAM

He arrived as a shadow of a dog – so thin – and yet so full of life – those giant, flowing paws making him appear to glide over the ground. At nine years of age, he had been shuffled between homes two years prior. His people said they struggled to maintain his weight: he weighed only 32 pounds as a full-grown Golden Retriever. They tried different foods and supplements but never took him to the vet, unable to afford that care.

He was happy, handsome, and sweet, a gentle soul who got along with everyone, two-legged or four. But something dark was lurking beneath the surface: Lymphoma.

We made him eligible as a Permanent Foster, meaning that Homeward Bound would cover his medical and special dietary needs for life. Valentino's first angel was a long-time hospice and special needs foster, Alex Russell. She scooped Valentino up and brought him home for spoiling.

We enrolled him in our Compassionate Care program, which was launched this year. Through this program, dogs with terminal diagnoses are supported by our veterinary hospice partner, Dr. Jackie Connor of Constant Companion, so they can receive palliative care in the comfort of their homes.

If his heart could have willed his body to go on, or if Alex's love and doting could have saved him, Valentino would still be here. But lymphoma stole this gentle boy's strength, so Dr. Connor helped



peacefully guide his journey to the bridge.

Valentino was in our lives for too short a time but made an unforgettable impression on all who met him. Through the combination of these programs, Valentino could be where he belonged when it was needed most: home. Thank you, Alex, for bringing him home and

surrounding him with love. Thank you, Dr. Connor, for your compassionate care. Thank you to our generous donors who support these vital programs.



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
judy@homewardboundgoldens.org

Fostering
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
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Retriever
Rescue

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www.homewardboundgoldens.org

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Dates to Remember

Santa Photos - November 22-24 at HB
The Giving Tree - Launches Thanksgiving Weekend

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.

Our Golden Wish List

You can also shop our **Amazon and Chewy Wish Lists**. You'll find the links on our website!

For Our Goldens:

Nature's Select Dog Food (donate with your online purchase)
Large Pill Pockets
Dog Cookies
Rubber-backed Rugs
Amazon 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