

# THE heart



FEB 2025 / VOL 26, ISSUE 1

HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

## What's Inside

Finley is our **Fund of Love** ambassador dog this year. Orthopedic surgeries have already begun transforming this beautiful dog's life...from crawling to walking. The **Fund of Love** provides the match for our **Double The Gold Challenge** later in the spring. Both campaigns are dedicated to meeting the medical needs of hundreds of dogs we will support this year. Read about Finley's journey and the campaign, beginning with our cover story.

The devastating fires in Southern California remind us to plan for our pets before disaster strikes. You'll find steps to take and a checklist on page 7.

Saying goodbye to a beloved pet is one of the hardest and kindest things we do for them. How will you know when it's time? Please read our article on page 9.

Adopting a dog is a life-changing experience. How do you choose the right dog for you? Start with an honest assessment and the help of knowledgeable resources. See page 10 for more.

Finally, 2025 marks Homeward Bound's 25th year of rescued love. On page 8, we share the lessons that guided us then – and continue today.

### PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



## Finley: Our 2025 Fund of Love Ambassador Dog

New Year's Day was the beginning of a new life for Finley. The journey will be long but so worthwhile.

At nine months of age, Finley was abandoned in a shopping center parking lot. He wasn't going to travel far because he could barely walk. Finley had lateral luxating patellas in both back legs. This congenital defect caused the kneecaps to 'pop out' of their normal positions. With a Grade III patellar luxation like Finley's, the patella is out of the groove most of the time, but it can be temporarily manually pushed back into place. Typically, he used his front legs while his back legs would scoot behind him. Occasionally, he could stand briefly as things "snapped back" into position. The condition dramatically diminished his mobility and, over time, would result in severe arthritis and joint pain.

Continued on page 4



## 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 2024  
540

VET EXPENSES IN 2024  
\$499,809



## A Message From Our President

How is it possible that another year has gone by? Time is a blur of dogs, projects, and new initiatives. In 2024, 540 dogs came to us looking for safety, health, and forever homes. Of those, 43% were under the age of one, and 31% were under three. There are just far too many puppies being bred and people purchasing them who have no idea about the care they require. We are so grateful for our growing network of fosters who play a critical role in helping to get these untrained youngsters on the right path.

This year, we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. How far we have come! I am delighted to share that the new medical ward and vet clinic are in full operation, along with the office space completed mid-year. Three dogs have already taken up residence in the recovery space, and our vet team is grateful beyond words for heat on these icy winter mornings!

New adoption yards have sprouted where a duck pond once languished and shaded walking paths for adopters and their potential companions are growing beside them. What a difference these new spaces have made for the dogs, adopters, and our teams. They are improvements our founders could only have dreamed of. They were made possible thanks to good people like you.

We feel so blessed, especially when we see the devastation in Southern California. We have offered assistance, donated food, and stand ready as the real crisis for dogs unfolds over the coming months when people displaced by the fires seek permanent housing. We know that we can be there when needed because we know that you are by our side. Thank you for being the heart of Homeward Bound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Kent".

Judy Kent, President

# Project Update

Our founders, Jody and Mike Jones, built Homeward Bound on a shoestring and a prayer. In the early days, we lived on a super thin margin, with scarce resources and a ton of goodwill. What we accomplished together was nothing short of miraculous.

Time takes its toll. Repairs and maintenance need to be constantly addressed. Visions evolve. As we have built a foundation of supporters, we have arrived at a time when significant improvements could be made for the dogs and our volunteers. Completed last year: the creation of a new office space for adoptions (bottom right), clearing the way for a new medical recovery ward (right), including an enclosed and climate-controlled vet clinic (top). They are accompanied by new adoption yards and an in-progress walking path for adopters and their potential matches (below).

The work was done almost entirely by our own volunteer crew with their decades of experience. Both areas are in full use, and the photo results speak for themselves. Our sincere thanks to our generous supporters and sponsors for making this dream possible.





## Help Us Build A Very Special “Fund of Love”



We'll never know why someone chose to wait so long to simply abandon this amazing, joyful boy who has so patiently waited for a brighter future. We're determined that he will have a full and rich life.

In December, Finley saw Dr. Katrina Castaneda, DVM, DACVS-SA, at VCA for an assessment. She specializes in orthopedic and reconstructive surgery – and we have kept her very busy! While awaiting surgery, Finley went to foster where he quickly attached to his family and the other dogs in the household. He could not be in better hands with Ed and Kerstin Morrell. Ed is a former paramedic and firefighter; Kerstin is a devoted dog mom. Both are repeat fosters of special-needs dogs.

On New Year's Eve, Finley underwent surgery on both knees. Tackling both at the same time made things difficult for his fosters, as Finley needed to be lifted to potty for several days. It's good that Ed, who feels like a sleepless new mom, is a big guy! Addressing both knees at once saved a repeat surgery on the second leg 8-10 weeks later. Finley may still require a follow up surgery in April or May



to straighten the left leg once his bones are fully formed. But Dr. Castaneda is delighted with his progress - particularly on the right side.

In mid-January, Finley began physical therapy to extend his range of motion. It's not the most comfortable series of exercises, but it will make all the difference to his future mobility. Next up: swim therapy in Homeward Bound's donated and heated pool.

For Finley, it is a whole new world already. Given the chance, he would like to try to run and play with his three dog siblings. Keeping him quiet and helping him to pace his recovery is challenging, but Ed and Kerstin are up for it. And don't get any ideas about adopting him. Once well, he will become an official member of their pack.

Continued on page 5





Continued from page 4

Homeward Bound will see Finley through his surgeries and provide whatever medical support is needed. Costs are now expected to exceed \$20,000. We think he is worth every penny...don't you?!

Finley is this year's **Fund of Love** ambassador dog. We will follow his journey and share many more stories of medical transformations made possible by good people like you.



In 2024, we welcomed 540 dogs – many with medical and special needs. Throughout the campaign, you will learn about them and this year's needing dogs. Homeward Bound has always welcomed dogs regardless of their age, health, or special needs. Because we are one of the few Golden rescues in the nation with a facility, we can accept dogs that foster-based rescues simply cannot accommodate. It's why our intake numbers are three to four times higher than most other Golden rescues, and it is why our medical costs typically exceed \$400,000. **Last year's total was \$500,000.**

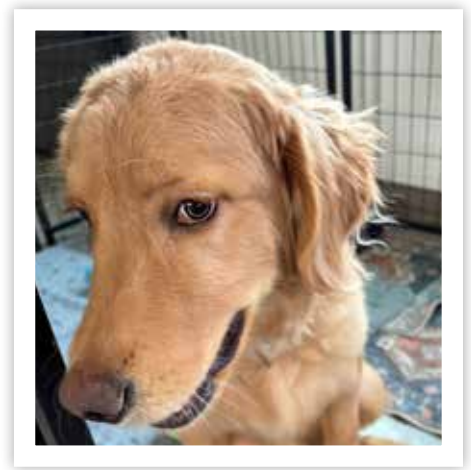
The **Fund of Love** campaign provides the critical matching funds for our spring **Double the Gold Challenge**. We turn to you first – the select few who make such a huge difference to build this Fund of Love. Then, we ask the many to combine their giving to match your gifts - doubling the impact. **100% of the proceeds of both campaigns are dedicated to the medical care of the hundreds of dogs who come to us each year seeking safety, health, happiness, and forever homes.**

We can say 'yes' to dogs like Finley because of the generous donations and huge hearts of people like you. **We can't do it without you.**

Please join us in our mission to continue providing the best possible care and chance for a happy life for deserving dogs 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.

To receive a **Fund of Love** packet, or for more information, please contact Audrey Farrington at [audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org), or visit our website at [www.hbgrr.org](http://www.hbgrr.org) to give online securely, or download a form for your mailed gift. Thank You!



# He Was Born That Way

BY: Nora Salet

*Remy came to Homeward Bound in April, 2024. A 10-week-old puppy, he had been found dumped with his mom on a backroad and picked up by a good Samaritan. Seemingly healthy, he went home with his new family. Two months later, he was diagnosed with abnormal liver function. Having raised puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind, his mom had yearned for a puppy of her own. It was the best few months of Remy's life and sadly, far too few for his mom. This is her tribute to Remy who became Doug.*

I can't explain why, maybe fate had a turn; but I felt the need for a puppy, my own puppy. We have raised over 20 puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind, but we always had to give them up. We went to Homeward Bound to find one.

I want to tell Remy's aka Doug's story; a short one it is. He couldn't be fixed. We took him home on April 19th, three months old he is. He is skinny, has long legs, big ears, soft dark gold fur, and a wagging tail. A sweet golden boy indeed. Feed him extra food, we were told, as he was a stray with his Mom. He was born that way they say.

He was a regular puppy for a couple months, energetic and playful. But it was soon determined at the emergency vet he



had congenital liver disease that was not operable or fixable. He was born that way.

It is a hard thing to accept, that at five months this pup had an uncertain, if any, future. He was sweet as can be. His tail wagged at everything, every day. Like all puppies he loved to play; squeaky balls were his favorite. He loved his big brother and other dogs he met. Despite many medical procedures - and pain I'm sure - he didn't show it.



Every vet trip, though he didn't want to go, in true Golden style his tail wagged on the way. We were told he was born that way.

We tried to find fun for him. We took him to the beach, to the park and restaurants.

He loved car rides even if it was to drop a grandchild at school and back home. He loved a pup cup and most of the time a yummy Charlie bear or peanut butter bone. He was always the first one to the door and ready to go. He was born that way they say.

I sent his DNA in and he was 100% Golden Retriever. He showed the characteristics again and again. After this determination, we see he was born that way.

For the next few months, it was really hard to see this little face and wagging tail and not know how long he would have. We tried to do whatever we could for him. I read a dog with liver disease can survive with special diet and medicine. We fed him homemade liver diet and supplements because he won't eat the liver kibble. He tried to play with the other dogs but couldn't catch them. Despite how he felt, his tail always wagged. He was born that way.

He underwent procedures to remove fluid due to the liver disease, but in a month or so the fluid would come back - each time faster than before. The procedure was getting harder for him, and we decided not to do it again. On October 14, 2024 we had Lap of Love (a mobile vet) come to the house and peacefully put him to sleep. He can now run with the best of them and hopefully find some friends over the Rainbow Bridge. We did the best we could for you, little buddy. We were told he was born that way.

I'll always love you Dougy, and miss you every day despite the short time we had with you.



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# Preparing Your Pet for Disasters

The devastating wildfires in LA once again drove home the importance of preparing a pet disaster plan and kit just as you do for your human household. Along with the plan, it's vital that your pet is leash and crate-trained as many emergency shelters will require it. Keep a pet carrier or crate on hand with an extra leash and harness inside, and always ensure that your pet is microchipped and wears proper identification. Here are other key steps for ensuring its safety in a disaster.

## MAKE A PLAN

Having a practiced plan in place helps to ensure a safe exit if local officials ask you to evacuate. This includes planning for times when you cannot get home to evacuate your pets yourself. Things to include in your plan:

- **Have an evacuation plan for your pet.** Know a safe place where you can take your pets before disasters and emergencies happen. Many public shelters and hotels do not allow pets inside. Check with your local resources for the location of typical small animal emergency shelters.
- **Develop a buddy system.** Plan with neighbors, friends, or relatives to make sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you cannot. Ensure that they can access your home if you cannot get there.
- **Have your pet microchipped and wear an identification tag.** Make sure to keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- **Consider putting a GPS tracker on your pet.** Pets often sense danger before we do. They can get spooked and bolt. A GPS tracker on your pet's collar can help you locate your pet faster if they flee.



## BUILD A KIT FOR YOUR PET

Prepare two kits: one lightweight version if you need to evacuate with limited notice and one larger kit if you are sheltering with family or friends. Review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh. Items to include:

- **Food.** Keep several days' supply of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- **Water.** Store a water bowl and several days' supply of water.
- **Medicine.** Keep an extra supply of the medicine your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.
- **First aid kit.** You can purchase a pet first aid kit or make one yourself. Be sure to include tweezers, scissors with a blunt edge, disposable gloves, gauze pads, adhesive tape, cotton balls or swabs, 3% hydrogen peroxide, antibiotic ointment, alcohol wipes, styptic powder, and saline eye solution. Also, talk to your vet about OTC medications that may help to calm your pet in a crisis.
- **Collar with ID tag, harness, and leash.** Include a backup leash, harness, collar, and ID tag. When pets are fearful, they can sometimes back out of collars or harnesses. Use both and double clip them to each other.
- **Vaccination Records;** Have copies of your pet's most recent vaccination information – especially a rabies certificate - in a waterproof bag and available electronically.

- **Traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier** - ideally one for each pet.
- **Grooming items.** Pet shampoo and a brush in case your pet needs some cleaning up.
- **Sanitation needs.** Poop bags, pet litter and litter box (if applicable), paper towels, and plastic trash bags for your pet's sanitation needs.
- **A picture of you and your pet together.** If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help document ownership and allow others to assist in identifying your pet.
- **Familiar items.** Put a favorite toy, treats, or bedding in your carrier or kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

## STAY INFORMED

- Register in advance for area alerts and warnings sent by state and local public safety officials.
- Heed local officials when told to evacuate or shelter in place.
- Download the FEMA app and get weather alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five different locations anywhere in the United States.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster unless you are evacuating.

Source: [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), [ASCPA](https://www.ascpa.org)

# 25 Years of Rescued Love

This year, Homeward Bound celebrates its 25th Anniversary. The milestones below mark the journey; they are tangible reminders of what we have built, overcome, and accomplished together. To grow from a small home-based operation, surviving the loss of the organization's co-founders, and thriving while forging a new path takes determination, heart, and endurance. We have learned many lessons along the way. Here are a few.

## FOLLOW YOUR DREAM

Homeward Bound was founded in the year 2000, based on a dream and a promise made to our founders' beloved Golden, Chelsea: her miracle recovery for a life devoted to rescue. With the help of countless volunteers, we made this dream a reality and keep it alive. From eight acres of countryside, we have carved out a peaceful sanctuary where the dogs can run, play, train, and be loved on their journey to their forever homes. For those whose special needs or health issues make them unlikely to be adopted, they are welcome to live out their lives with us in security and dignity.

## BELIEVE IN YOUR VISION

All along the way, people have told us that we must adopt a paid-employee model. We have resisted at every turn. Homeward Bound is an all-volunteer

organization. People are here for their passion and devotion to the dogs and our mission. It's as simple as that. Their labor of love has built and maintained a beautiful facility that is the envy of many other rescue organizations. Our volunteers have donated hundreds of thousands of hours and, in doing so, have saved us significant expense. It is one of the reasons why 92% of all funds raised are dedicated to the direct support of the dogs.



## GREET EACH CHALLENGE WITH OPTIMISM

You get nowhere believing you can't. Every single day brings a fresh challenge. When we think we have seen it all, we are surprised by something completely unexpected. It doesn't mean that we will always succeed, but we are committed to doing our best and, most importantly, to try. Most rescue organizations never survive the loss of their founders. With our volunteers raising us up and our

supporters' backing, we continue to thrive. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of 11,751 dogs' lives. We know that sustaining Jody and Mike's vision would make them proud.

## FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE

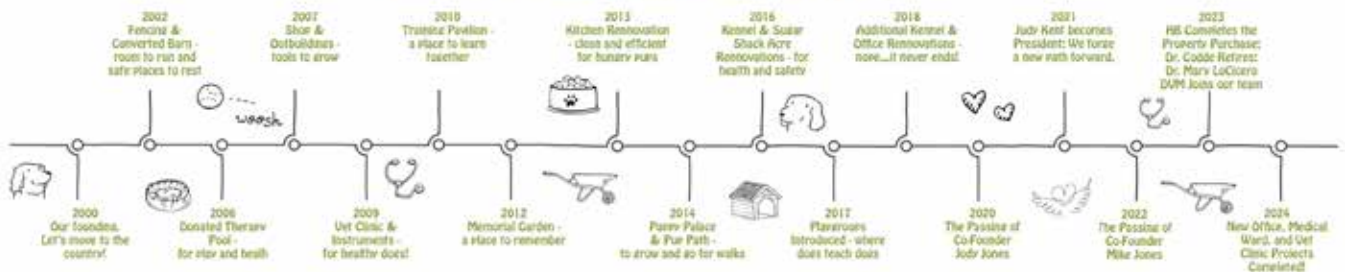
Treat others as you want to be treated. It's how we work together. It's how we teach respect for the dogs, allowing them to tell us what they need and want. And it is how we deal with every surrender. Life takes unexpected turns. People make bad choices out of ignorance. Instead of judging, we say, "Thank you." Thank you for entrusting your dog with us. Thank you for the opportunity to help. Thank you for letting us give this dog a chance at the life it needs and deserves.

## CELEBRATE

The bonds created by our shared love of dogs grow deep and strong. Every "going home" photo is cause for celebration. Every step forward for a dog with extraordinary medical challenges is an opportunity to cheer. Every barrier we break through for a dog with emotional or behavioral challenges is a chance for hope. And, as the years roll by and we say goodbye to dogs we have loved and lost, we have another reason to lean on each other and celebrate the joy they brought to our lives.

This year, as we mark our 25th year of helping dogs on their journeys home, we celebrate you – our volunteers, supporters, and friends for making this dream a reality. Thank you.

## 100% Volunteer-Powered!





# Compassionate Care Program: How to Know When It's Time to Say Goodbye

This year, we launched the Compassionate Care Program at Homeward Bound. This new initiative has two components to support families and their dogs in times of crisis. The first is for dogs at risk of surrender or euthanasia purely due to an extraordinary medical need resulting from trauma, obstruction, cancer treatment, orthopedic surgery, etc.

The second is a hospice care component providing financial support for palliative and end-of-life care in the home, so the dog earns its wings in the comfort of the surroundings it knows and trusts.

In both instances, the family must live within our area, have a record of providing good basic care and be committed to providing rehabilitative or hospice care in the home, ensuring that dogs are with the people they know and love in their time of greatest need.

Given Homeward Bound's support for Permanent Foster dogs, we have worked extensively with our hospice vet, Dr. Jackie Conner, DVM, an in-home hospice and euthanasia veterinarian in our area, and our partner in this program. Her focus is not on cures but comfort care, ensuring quality of life for dogs with a terminal diagnosis or approaching end of life but still exhibiting that special spark that says, "I'm still happy to be here." When the time comes, she guides beloved pets and their humans through the euthanasia process in a way that is quite remarkable.

People ask how they will know when it's time to say a final goodbye. It's a decision that can be filled with uncertainty and



dread. Many will offer advice like "you'll just know," – and sometimes, that is entirely true. However, when a dog is in a slow but clear decline that can take weeks or months, Dr. Conner shares the "How Do I Know When It's Time" guidelines provided by the Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. This helpful self-assessment tool helps to inject some objectivity, especially when multiple family members are involved.

When you have an inkling that the time is approaching, complete the checklist. You don't have to wait until you are in crisis. You can start documenting as your dog slows down with age or illness. Consult with your veterinarian if they know the dog well, or your hospice vet, who can help guide you. Then, revisit your answers over weeks or months – or when you see a dramatic and sudden decline. The checklist helps to bring quality-of-life evaluations into clear focus.

Incontinence, anxiousness, mobility challenges, and some aches and pains can be lessened or managed for a time. But unmanageable pain, extreme lethargy, shaking and trembling, breathing difficulties, and lack of appetite signal a dog in distress. These are the times when they need us to step in and provide a peaceful journey to the bridge.

We are grateful beyond measure for our partnership with Dr. Conner. The Ohio

State checklist she uses can be found online. It was adapted from the following sources: The HHHHHMM Quality of Life Scale: Dr. Alice Villalobos; Quality of Life Survey: Dr. David Vail; End-of-Life Values and Goals worksheet, and the University of Tennessee Veterinary Social Work Department.



# Choosing the Right Dog to Adopt

Love at first sight can happen – but more often than not, falling in love with a face is not enough. When it comes to adopting a dog, you owe it to yourself and the dog to take a closer look.

Adopting (or purchasing) a dog is a life-changing decision, just as adding a new human to our family would be. There will be challenges and immeasurable rewards along the way. With a dog, you have a chance to evaluate the right match for your household and lifestyle. How do you know if that picture-perfect pup is going to be the right fit? Think about the following and act with your head as much as your heart.

## START WITH AN HONEST ASSESSMENT

There is no skipping this: Begin by being absolutely honest with yourself and the adoption team about your lifestyle, physical capabilities, and your dog skills. Do you have the time and desire to exercise and train the dog? If you work, what is your schedule? Do you travel extensively? Do you have the right home for the size and breed of dog you are considering? What size dog and what activity level can you and your family members safely manage? Is everyone on board and committed to helping?

At Homeward Bound, all new applicants or returning adopters are interviewed to learn more about the family, their lifestyle, other pets in the home, and their expectations of the dog. Home visits are conducted to help make good matches and ensure that the home is set up for a dog. Many people fall in love with the idea of a particular dog. They will answer 'yes' to just about anything in their pursuit of it. Our placement team members do not intend to be nosy, but this is where we can match the reality we find with the adoption application.



## RELY ON THE EXPERTISE OF THE ADOPTION COUNSELOR

The advantage of working with a rescue is access to knowledgeable adoption counselors. Our adoption counselors assess the dogs as well as prospective adopters. Their job is to play matchmaker, ensuring the best fit for both. They learn the dog's history, witness it in playgroup, and understand its medical or behavioral challenges. They can help educate you on what kind of training will be appropriate and how to best set up your home for your household's newest member.

## FOSTER FEEDBACK IS A GIFT

In a kennel environment, dogs can be overactive, reactive, anxious, shy, or exhibit any number of traits that don't align with their typical personality or temperament. Their authentic behaviors are more evident in a home setting. Whenever possible, we try to have dogs spend time in foster – particularly dogs that exhibit some kennel stress. The foster's assessment of a dog is one of your best tools for understanding what the dog requires on a day-to-day basis. Fosters can provide true insights into the personality of the dog in a home environment. That's why they are a vital part of our work and always in demand.

Fosters can observe the dog's demeanor around children, other dogs, and sometimes cats. They have an opportunity to assess and begin work on household manners and training basics while

establishing a routine that can help the dog more easily transition to its new home. This information is incredibly valuable to the new dog owner and the dog. At Homeward Bound, the foster is invited to join the meet and greet so potential adopters can speak with them directly.

## BREED IS SOMETHING - BUT NOT EVERYTHING

Every dog is different, and its personality can change depending on its environment and past experiences. While breed isn't everything, it can provide generalized, inherent traits and clues to the dog's likely sense of purpose. If a dog doesn't have a chance to do its "job," it will find a different, often unappreciated one! Herding, working, and hunting dogs have a strong drive and will need structure and extensive exercise. Some dogs are guardians; others are highly social. Breeds and their mixes may help you identify the dog's motivations. Then, ask: Does my lifestyle help the dog fulfill its purpose? And keep in mind that a mixed-breed dog can often provide the best of all worlds, potentially diluting very strong breed traits.

## KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Openness and curiosity are the best traits a person can have when adopting a dog. Realistic expectations for a dog, plus a willingness to meet the dog where they are and put in the work to bring out their best selves, are crucial in almost every adoption story.

# Puppy Strangles: Know the Signs and Act Early

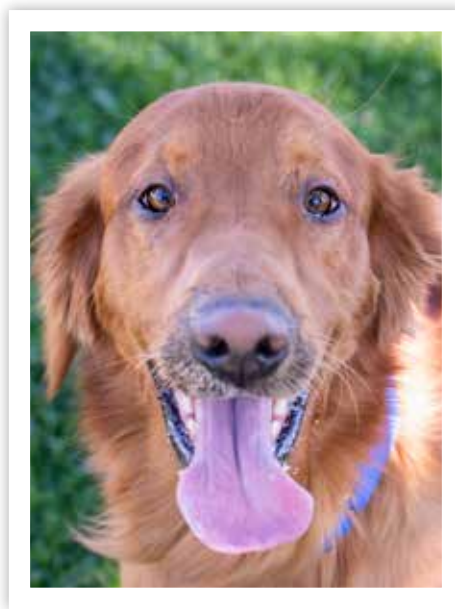
Kendrick (right) was surrendered in August when his family situation changed. He had been purchased from a breeder at four months of age, displaying a rash around his eyes and muzzle. Sadly, he had not seen a vet. If he had, the scarring on his face could have been avoided. Kendrick had a condition called puppy strangles. Left untreated, it causes lifelong scarring. Puppy strangles is the common name for juvenile cellulitis or sterile granulomatous dermatitis and lymphadenitis. The condition commonly affects young puppies up to six months of age. In rare cases, it may affect young adult dogs and has been reported in dogs up to four years old.

The cause of puppy strangles is unknown, but it appears that the puppy's immune system is attacking its own skin. Juvenile cellulitis may have a hereditary component; certain families of dogs are more likely to develop juvenile cellulitis, including Golden Retrievers, Dachshunds, and Gordon Setters.

The condition is relatively uncommon and thus typically not immediately diagnosed. Prior to Kendrick's arrival, we had not seen a case at Homeward Bound in many years, so we were surprised to find it in two puppies of a litter that came to us from a Las Vegas rescue partner. Thankfully, with early diagnosis and intervention, permanent scarring can be avoided.

## SIGNS OF PUPPY STRANGLES

The first sign of juvenile cellulitis is usually an acute (sudden) swelling of the face and muzzle. This generalized swelling is followed by the development of raised bumps and pustules over the face, muzzle, and ears. Over time, these



pustules may rupture and crust over, resulting in heavy scabbing across the affected areas. If severe lesions develop, especially around the eyes, permanent scarring may develop. The scarring is cosmetic in nature and does not affect the dog's quality of life.

The skin lesions may spread across the body if left untreated. The paws, anus, and vulva can be affected. There may also be swelling under your dog's jaw as the lymph nodes located on either side of the neck and under the jaw often become swollen and tender. As the disease progresses, these lymph nodes may rupture and drain, leaving oozing tracts and openings in your dog's skin.

Dogs with puppy strangles may not feel well, exhibiting lethargy, decreased energy, and a loss of appetite. They may develop a fever, and the condition may lead to limping and joint pain.

Puppy strangles can look like other, more common skin conditions, so your vet will probably rule those out first. Skin scrapings or even a skin biopsy may be performed to identify the specific type of inflammation that can be used to identify juvenile cellulitis.

## TREATMENT

Once diagnosed, treatment is fairly straightforward, employing steroids to suppress the immune system. Steroids are administered over a period of several weeks before being gradually tapered.

## 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

Affected dogs may also be treated with antibiotics.

Most cases of puppy strangles fully resolve with prompt treatment. The key is early intervention. See your vet as soon as the symptoms appear to avoid permanent scarring.

Source: Juvenile Cellulitis (Puppy Strangles) | VCA Animal Hospitals. <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/juvenile-cellulitis-puppy-strangles>



Homeward Bound Golden Retriever  
Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.  
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## Dates To Remember

The Fund of Love Campaign launches this month!  
Reunion Picnic: Saturday, May 17 at Gibson Park

## 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  
Printer Paper  
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