

THE heart



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HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

What's Inside

Some matches seem destined; guided by fate and invisible forces. Evan's adoption seems to have been written in the heavens. His is our cover story.

Bonded pairs adopted together bring double the joy but do require individual attention and care. We share important tips on page 6.

Beckham suffered physically and emotionally before arriving at Homeward Bound. We healed his body; his new mom healed his heart. Read his story on page 7.

If one thing is constant in our rescue world, it's change. For anyone who missed it, our president shares an important development on page 2, and our board shares their gratitude on page 4.

Finally, our sincere thanks and acknowledgement of the incredibly generous gifts that helped us surpass our Special Project goal with photos of the finished results on page 4. And don't forget...the 15th Annual Giving Tree launches on Thanksgiving weekend. 'Tis the season to give from the heart while ensuring the care of hundreds of dogs that come to each year in search of safety, health, and loving homes.

PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



Written in the Heavens

By: Audrey Farrington

Homeward Bound receives many donations made in honor or memory of others, but this one stood out. A sorority sister reached out to honor the memory of a fellow sister's son, tragically lost in a car accident.

Evan Lonsdale had recently moved to the Bay Area to begin a new job and chapter. A young adult and recent graduate, typically filled with wanderlust, he hoped that his newfound stability would allow him to adopt a rescued Golden Retriever in honor of his beloved Golden, Sunny, who had earned his wings. His dream was not fulfilled. On June 29, 2025, Evan's young life was cut short, leaving behind broken-hearted parents, grandparents, and his sister, Brenna.

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 TO DATE 2025
325

VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2024
\$395,026



A Message from Our President

In case you missed our emailed communication...

I recently announced that I would be stepping down as president of Homeward Bound. Not to panic; I am not leaving, just moving into a different role.

It's been five years since I took over as president of Homeward Bound. We've done some amazing things in this time, including navigating the property purchase, facility improvements to the office, operations and adoption centers, the puppy palace, and my favorite – the medical ward and vet clinic. We created the Compassionate Care program supporting hospice dogs and those needing emergency care. We strengthened our foster program, which is larger and stronger today than ever. Most importantly, we rescued more than 2,000 dogs, adding to Homeward Bound's count of more than 12,000 rescued, healed, and home since our founding. It has been fun, challenging, rewarding, sometimes heartbreaking, and wonderful to see so much progress in such a short time – a blur of activity and achievements.

As we have grown, the president's job has also grown – becoming more than one person alone should handle. After discussing this with Homeward Bound's board, we decided the organization would be best served by dividing the job and getting more people involved in the day-to-day management.

My passion and expertise have always been in medical and intake. I will be staying on to continue leading those areas. At the same time, effective January 1, Audrey Farrington, our current board chair and 15-year veteran volunteer, will assume the role of president with an operational focus. Audrey came up through our volunteer ranks and oversees marketing, communications, and fundraising. Her background includes business leadership; we have worked side-by-side for many years. Audrey and I plan to make this a gradual and seamless transition for our volunteers, donors, and organization contacts.

You have all contributed to Homeward Bound's and my success in the role. Audrey and I hope to continue calling on you as we begin a new chapter in our story. Thank you for your unwavering support and your dedication to the dogs.

Judy Kent
President



The fundraising organized by the sorority sister was hugely successful. Nearly 40 individuals contributed in Evan's memory. Touched by the outpouring, we promised to bestow the first nameless dog Evan in his honor. Dogs without names are typically from regional shelters as unclaimed strays. That dog arrived on July 10th.

Seven years old upon arrival, he looked like he had had a hard life with scarring on his nose, a limp, and a bloody nose. He was significantly underweight, had a cough and congestion, and his paws had to be shaved to remove foxtails. Still, he was a perfect gentleman for his first vet visit.

No sooner did we name him than Evan had to be whisked away to the emergency vet. A massively bloody nose hinted at a potential cancerous tumor in the nasal cavity. It was more than two weeks and multiple tests later before we knew that Evan was in the clear – his condition was the result of a raging infection, not cancer. We're sure the Lonsdale family thought it odd that a rescue the size of Homeward Bound had not received a nameless dog in almost three weeks. Still, we couldn't possibly share this news if it meant further heartbreak. When it was finally safe, we sent the family a photo and Evan's story.

Evan's sister, Brenna, expressed her interest in adopting his namesake to our surprise and delight. We put her through the application process, but the timing was bad: She had a planned overseas research trip. We don't typically hold dogs, and Evan had already been with us for several weeks. Brenna's mom and dad asked if they could foster Evan until Brenna returned to make it official. After vetting the parents, we were happy to accommodate the request.

Evan went home with the Lonsdales on August 9th (top photo). Three weeks later, Evan and Brenna finally met and she made it official (far right). Along the way, Evan was renamed Eggy. Here was a dog they knew almost nothing about



except our observations, yet they all felt immediately bonded to him. Fate brought them together, and forces beyond our understanding made it a match.

There was training and cat introduction work to be done, and confidence to be built, but Eggy is progressing well with a grateful heart for his second chance and loving family and his incredible new home by the ocean in Santa Barbara (below). Some things are written in the heavens.



A Note from Homeward Bound's Board Regarding the Leadership Transition:

Five years ago, when Homeward Bound's founder, Jody Jones, passed away, Judy Kent graciously stepped into the role of President. She led the organization through a challenging transition period, bolstered our team by empowering others, set out a new vision for what we could achieve, and nurtured an exceptional all-volunteer team. Her dedication has been tireless. The role, as structured, was always too demanding for any one person.

Judy announced her intention to step down as President in our September board meeting. Thankfully, she is not leaving Homeward Bound. We are indebted to her for guiding us through these last five years and delighted that she will continue to support us under a new structure. Our sincere thanks to Judy Kent - and to all of you - for your dedication and commitment to Homeward Bound, where it's all about the dogs.

Board of Directors
Homeward Bound Golden Retriever
Rescue & Sanctuary, Inc.



Thank You for Your Tremendous Support of New Dog Central!

When we asked for your help to complete this vital project – a reimagined central hub for dog care - we never imagined the level of support we would receive! Not only did you come together to cover the entire project, you raised more than \$160,000 dollars to support the hundreds of dogs that come to us each year for safety, health, and forever homes.

We are grateful beyond words for your continued care and support of Homeward Bound and our dogs. All sponsors will be featured as promised with a 25th Anniversary Remembrance Circle and plaque in the Memorial Garden, and every donor has our sincere thanks for coming together for this incredible outpouring of love. Thank you!



Doggy Day Outs: Help a Dog On It's Journey Home

Becoming part of our Doggy Day Out Program is one of the most fun and flexible ways to help dogs prepare for home. This day-long foster opportunity adapts to your schedule while providing important time away from the kennel environment for dogs preparing for home. Particularly for dogs who come to us without much background information, a day out at your home or in the community provides invaluable information about how the dog is in the car or house, greeting new people, passing by other dogs, and socializing with others. Outings can be as simple as going to your home for a few hours to decompress, or as fun as dock diving, visits to the local park, garden shop, pet store, and stops for pup cups at the local coffee hangout!

Current and new volunteers must be trained as walkers before the Doggy Day Out orientation. New volunteers will find our application on the website. People and dogs are color-dot matched to ensure the best fit based on the volunteer's physical abilities and handling expertise. Our program lead, Jonna, covers outing scheduling with a list of approved locations and local dog-friendly spots. At the end of your session, we ask that you complete a brief report card to help us understand how the dog did.

For people missing a dog connection but not yet ready to commit to adoption or a longer term foster, the Doggy Day Out program is a great fit.

Already a volunteer? Reach out to Jonna at jonnaedwinson@gmail.com. New and interested? Complete your volunteer application on our website at www.hbgr.org.



Bonded Pairs: Together Fur-ever

We're seeing a trend toward more bonded pairs—dogs arriving together sometimes due to owner health or death, but increasingly due to economic circumstances and housing insecurity. When pets are surrendered in pairs, they run the risk of being adopted into separate homes, which can be heartbreaking for two animals who have created a meaningful bond. We recently sent home two bonded pairs: Ginger and Mocha (below), and Chad and Bertha (right).

Adopting a bonded pair has many benefits. Already uprooted, the companions provide comfort and security to each other while waiting for a new home. Adopting them together supports their emotional and social well-being while making the transition to a new home easier for them and you. You get double the love and joy in your life by bringing home a ready-made fur family.

Many pets engage in destructive behaviors because of boredom or separation anxiety. A built-in playmate naturally provides the stimulation and security many dogs need to reduce stress and anxious behaviors.

Bonded or Not?

Still, not all dogs who have lived together are bonded pairs. Sometimes, pets who have been surrendered from the same household actually do better on their own – especially littermates and dogs that need a chance to blossom separately. We generally don't recommend adopting puppy littermates. It can create something called littermate syndrome or littermate dependency as they grow. When two puppies from the same litter go home together, their strong attachments to each other can create difficulty bonding with humans and other animals. Behaviors, including aggression, separation anxiety, guarding, and reduced independence in training, can result.



Having experienced the stress of being separated from their former owners and past lives, two bonded adult dogs may cling to each other. This over-bonding could undermine their ability to bond with their new people and adjust to their new lives.

Adopting bonded dog pairs requires managing their strong bond while ensuring individual development. Pausing their connection in the early adoption stage allows them to decompress individually, allowing each dog to adjust to the new situation independently. Provide them with as many individual as shared activities. This means creating individual time for training, exercise, and one-on-one time with you, including potentially separating them for sleeping. This separation prevents co-dependency and allows them to build a bond with their new human family members.

Take them on separate walks to experience their surroundings individually. Socialize them separately so they don't rely on each other to cope with new situations and prevent them from viewing each other as a unit. This will help them learn to handle unfamiliar situations without each other's presence.

As the individual dogs adjust to a new, predictable routine and show interest and responsiveness to their new people, shared activities can be increased from a healthier foundation.

Adopting a Bonded Pair into a Household with Existing Pets

Introducing a bonded pair to current pets can be a more complex and lengthy process. Both animals will need to be introduced on their own and assessed for feelings of anxiousness, fear, or acceptance. This gradual process will require patience to ensure a positive relationship develops within the new pack.

If you have room in your heart, home, and schedule for a bonded pair, the rewards are tremendous while bringing comfort, joy, and security to dogs once displaced – now home.



Beckham's Healed Heart and Soul

Beckham, an 11-year-old owner surrender, arrived in April 2025. He lived with an older Labrador Retriever and a young Golden. Neither Beckham nor the other Golden was neutered, and the young guy decided he was in charge. The owner reported that Beckham couldn't get along with the younger dog. But based on his injuries, it was more likely that the young guy was asserting his dominance, and Beckham did not fare well. Fresh bite marks on his face and neck masked sustained injuries endured over months evidenced by layers of scar tissue and fractures to his skull, face, jaw, and the back of his neck. How this was allowed to go on so long without medical care or intervention, we will never understand. Despite all he suffered, Beckham is one of the sweetest dogs you could ever want to meet.

We whisked him first to emergency, then to surgery to remove the scar tissue around his neck. The fractures would heal on their own in time, but soft food was in order, given the damage to his jaw. We hoped he had a short memory to forget what happened to him.



His recovery was challenging to say the least. Beckham had two neck drains that he pulled out repeatedly. He figured out how to roll back his cone and get to his



neuter incision, creating a hematoma. We placed a plastic e-collar, then a Velcro one, and a body suit on him; he shredded all! We finally sedated him until he could go to foster, to see him through recovery. At the end of May, Beckham went home with his new mom, Marilyn.



"We have been together for five months since his adoption from Homeward Bound," Marilyn writes. "I had lost my two 11-year-old Golden Retrievers in just three months. A month later, this poor, damaged old soul came to me. When I saw him, I thought that he wouldn't last long as he was also 11 and had massive injuries. But this old guy has blossomed.

Beckham is my eighth Golden. He arrived with many fears which I suspect came from human mistreatment, not just from dog fight wounds. His wounds were

physical and emotional. But with constant lovies, conversations, hugs, and pets, he is doing very well. He can eat now with his jaw fractures healed, and he has grown a beautiful winter coat while gaining a couple of healthy pounds.

Thank you to all the volunteers and the foster who saved this fine boy."
~ Marilyn, a happy Mom!

Beckham is living, thriving proof of a dog's resilience and capacity for forgiveness. Happy life, boy!



Ramps: Not Just for Old Dogs

Ramps can be lifesavers for senior dogs, but that's not all. Training your dog to use a ramp can be invaluable if your dog has surgery, is developing joint stiffness, ligament injuries like ACL tears, advancing intervertebral disc disease, or for any dog whose jumping up and off the furniture or car seat puts them at risk of injury. And let's face it, lifting heavy dogs can also take a toll on dog parents! In the debate between ramps and stairs, ramps are gentler on joints and typically better for larger dogs or those with arthritis or other mobility concerns. The gradual incline minimizes joint stress.

That said, ramps don't come naturally to most dogs. Taking the time to acclimate your dog to ramps when they don't actively need them is well worth the effort. Here are some tips for helping your dog get accustomed to this helpful tool.

Choose a ramp with good traction and the right height or the ability to be adjusted. With the flat ramp on the floor, start training your dog at zero elevation. This crucial step is the foundation of successful ramp training, especially with fearful or wary dogs.

With the ramp lying flat, toss some treats off the ramp, then on the ramp, then back off again. Let your dog naturally step onto the ramp while following the treats. Repeat until your dog is comfortable with the exercise.

Though it may seem odd for a dog to be suspicious of what is essentially a board on the floor, fearful dogs may not be fans of new items that suddenly appear. They might be doubly suspicious if you try too hard to get them to touch it. Go at your dog's pace.

This tossing method, alternating between treats on and off the ramp, makes learning feel casual and non-threatening. It should



help your dog become comfortable with the ramp, without any pressure to perform.

Once your dog casually steps on the flat ramp, teach them to walk along it. Walk alongside the ramp with your dog. Guide them to naturally step onto the ramp as you shift back and forth alongside them so that your body blocks them from jumping off. If your dog tries to go around the other way, create a treat trail for them to follow across the ramp. Practice familiar commands, like "sit," while they're on the ramp to increase their comfort level.

This stage might take multiple sessions. Don't rush. Only move forward once your dog can happily accept treats in exchange for their progress.

Once your dog has mastered the ramp on the floor, you can raise it. If your target furniture is very high, start with something lower like a thick dog bed.

Place a treat at the bottom and another one-third up the ramp. Start with just front paws on the inclined ramp, then toss the next treat back to the ground to give the dog some relief. Gradually move treats up the ramp until your dog puts all four paws on it. Practice the back-and-forth motion: up partway, back down, up a little more, back down.

As you elevate the ramp to the target piece of furniture, make sure it's properly

placed. Your dog will only use the ramp if it's positioned where they naturally want to access furniture, not tucked away in a corner. This might mean your ramp sits in the middle of your living space, but proper placement is essential for success.

Going up is one thing. Going down without jumping off the furniture or out of the car is another. Stay vigilant—especially during the first two weeks—and gently redirect your dog to use the ramp when it attempts to jump down.

Once your dog has mastered one ramp location, it typically adapts to ramps in other places, if needed. Start with lower furniture (like couches) before moving to higher surfaces (like beds), and introduce each new location gradually. Let the dog learn at its own pace.

With patience and consistency, you can help an aging dog or one who's otherwise vulnerable to orthopedic injury maintain its independence while safeguarding its ligaments, spine, and joints.

Sources: The Farmer's Dog Blog and Grey Muzzle Organization

Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

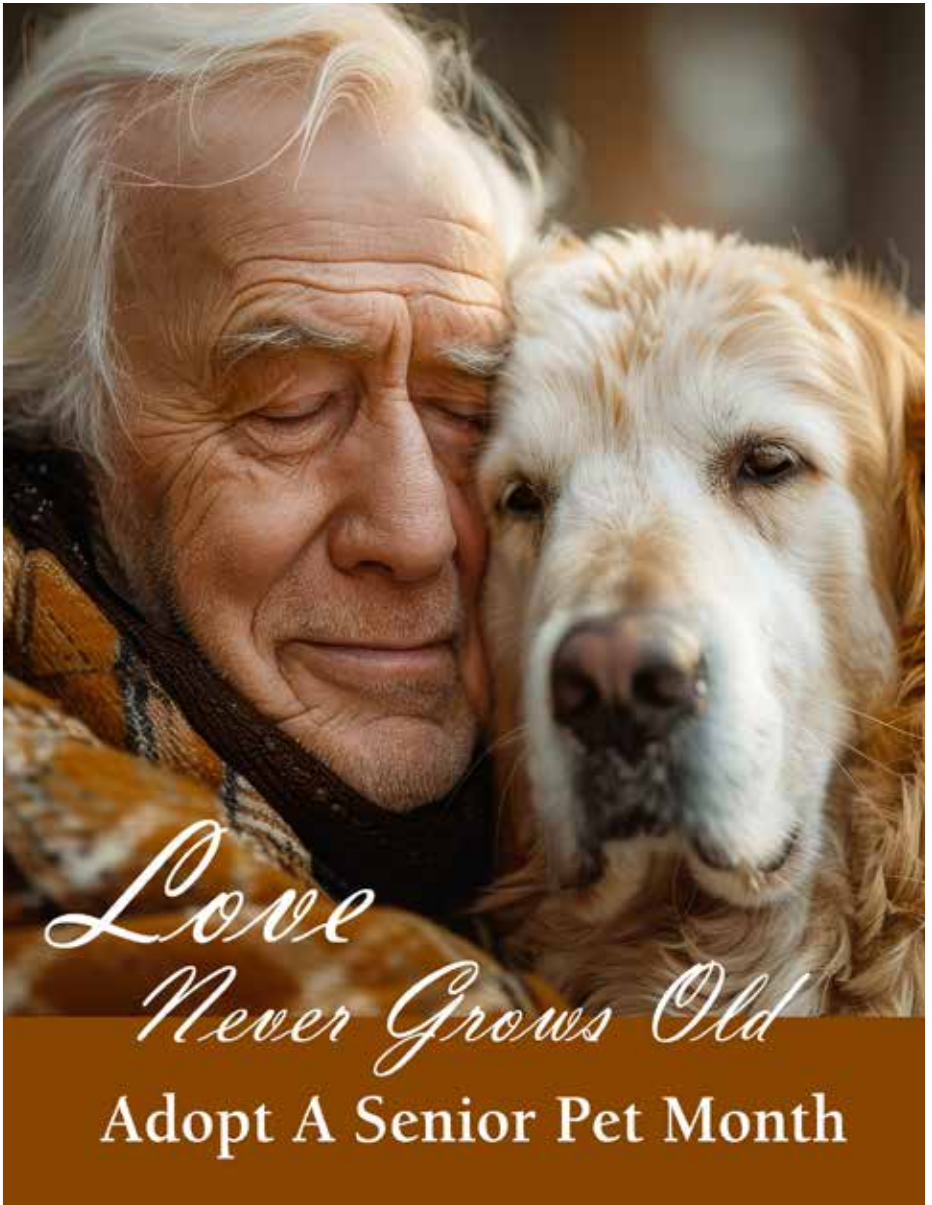
Bequests have played a major role in our ability to purchase the property and to support much needed improvements.

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."



Guide to Giving: Estate Planning & Charitable Giving



**HOMEWARD
BOUND** Golden
Retriever
Rescue

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Holiday Gifts & Fun • For Every Human, Dog & Budget!

Light Up The Homeward Bound Giving Tree!

A gift from the heart that benefits the dogs! The 15th Annual Homeward Bound Giving Tree will be ready to decorate online beginning Thanksgiving weekend!

The Giving Tree has become such a special way to celebrate the holidays. It's the perfect gift to remember a loved one (canine or human), honor someone close or a dedicated volunteer, or just demonstrate your shared passion for rescue. When you donate to the Giving Tree – in honor or in memory of your special someone – you're giving a gift from the heart that benefits all the dogs who need our help on their journeys home.

For donations of \$10 or more, you can help us decorate our online Giving Tree. Place a virtual light, ornament, package, or star on the tree in honor of, or in memory of, friends, family, or pets. The honoree will receive a beautiful certificate from Homeward Bound telling them of your gift and where to view the online tree with your posted message. You will warm the heart of the honoree while helping Homeward Bound continue to take in, provide medical care, and place hundreds of dogs each year.

The Giving Tree is the last of our annual fundraising efforts and represents a third of the funds we raise in support of the dogs. You'll find it on our website (www.hbgr.org) beginning Thanksgiving weekend. It's magical to watch your gifts turn our bare tree into a bright light of hope every year during the holiday season.



Our Wishlists for the Holidays!

Spreading holiday cheer to the dogs is as easy as shopping our wishlists! We maintain two - one at Amazon and the other at Chewy. On both, you will find frequently used (and sometimes abused...as in toys!) items that are always in demand.

The links are easy to find 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!



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

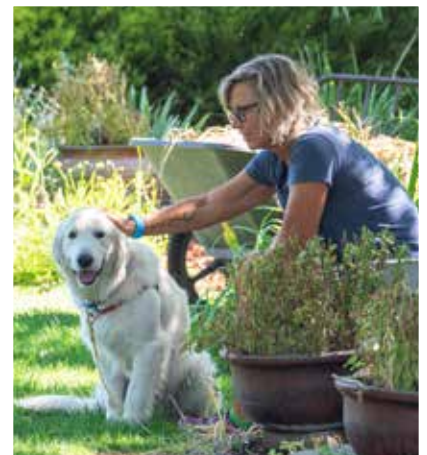
Placement Team
homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org

Golden Taxi (Transport)
goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org

Volunteering
volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org

Newsletter & Marketing
audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org

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



HO, HO, HO! Santa Photos with Your Pup(s)!



Friday-Sunday, Nov. 21-23, 2024
At Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue
10AM-2PM (except for an elf break between 12N-12:30PM)

Santa Returns to Homeward Bound!

Despite his hectic schedule, Santa is never too busy for photos with the dogs! Please join us for photos with your pup(s)... just in time for your holiday card mailings!

Dates: Friday-Sunday, November 21-23

Location: Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue, 7495 Natomas Rd., Elverta, CA

Time: 10AM-2PM each day (Except between 12N-12:30PM when Santa and his elves load up on cookies.)

For a \$20 donation, we provide the photographer, a winter backdrop, doggie scarves and holiday gear, homemade cookies for dogs and humans...and Santa, of course! You provide the dog(s)!

Your Santa Photos will be available online for download - with super speedy turnaround. Schedule your Santa Photos today! Slots go quickly. Drop-ins accommodated but there may be a wait.

To schedule, email grdogtraining@gmail.com





Homeward Bound Golden Retriever
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Dates to Remember

**Santa Photos - November 21-23 at Homeward Bound
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.
- **Golden Taxi Drivers:** Providing freedom rides!
- **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