

# THE heart



OF  
HOMEWARD  
BOUND

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HOMEWARD BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

## What's Inside

A tiny Golden mix stole everyone's hearts. Remi arrived as a dog in need, then became the dog her new family needed. Hers is our cover story.

Cyrus is our **Fund of Love** ambassador dog this year. Rescued from China, he has begun a lengthy orthopedic journey to restore his mobility and transform this beautiful dog's life. 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 Cyrus' journey and the campaign, beginning on page 4.

Inspiring and nurturing the next generation of rescue ensures our future. Read about four young volunteers making a difference on page 6.

Some dogs need special people to guide them; others have the ability to guide us. Read Ori and Jasmine's stories on pages 7 and 9.

Finally, in the last three years, we have seen a surprising trend in the number of surrendered breeding dogs. Does it signal a permanent shift in puppy mills and large-scale breeders? Read about it on page 10.

## PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



## How Remi Became Zia's Eyes and Our Heart

BY: Michael Cornaglia

Zia, our eleven-year-old Golden Retriever, was already a seasoned soul—gentle, spicy, dignified, and carrying the quiet resilience that older dogs often develop. She had lost one eye and had significant impairment in the other, leaving her world soft-edged and uncertain. Yet she remained patient and trusting, even as everyday life became harder to navigate. We believed we were bringing her comfort and safety; what we did not realize was that another dog would soon bring her much more than that.

Enter Remi—formerly Toast—an energetic, long-haired Dachshund and Golden Retriever mix rescued through Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue. He was small in stature, barely a year old, but with a presence that filled every room he entered. He approached the world with curiosity, gentleness, love, humility, and an almost uncanny emotional awareness. We adopted him believing he would add joy to our home. Instead, he transformed it.

Continued on page 3



## Our Mission

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

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

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

DOGS RESCUED IN 2025  
408

VET EXPENSES IN 2025  
\$544,007



## A Message From Our President

In early 2020, I sat with Jody, our founder, one morning in the Memorial Garden she had inspired. This was our meeting place. We talked about succession. She firmly believed that Homeward Bound would crumble if she pulled back or retired. She thought no one would step up. I told her I thought otherwise. Judy Kent stepped forward when Jody passed unexpectedly later that year. It didn't surprise me. For the past five years, she has guided us through a transition that most rescues don't survive. And now, I will attempt to walk in both of their very large shoes as Homeward Bound's new president.

The Memorial Garden brought me to Homeward Bound as a volunteer more than 15 years ago. In a weed-filled patch of land, we asked her where the garden was that she wanted help with. She said: "You'll find it." And we did. It was built as everything at Homeward Bound is – with the labor and love of our volunteers and the support and generosity of our donors and partners.

It introduced me to many aspects of the organization, with a focus on marketing, fundraising, and my passion: fostering puppies with the help of my boys, Yogi and Skye. These experiences led me to join the board and, eventually, to take on the role of Chair. For the past five years, I have worked side by side with Judy, absorbing as much as possible. She is a generous teacher and leader.

Judy stays on as Medical and Intake Director. Two vital roles. We are immensely indebted. My role will be more operationally focused. Dividing these areas will make it easier for us to groom the next generation of the organization's leadership.

As I begin this journey, I feel the weight of the incredible leadership that preceded me – but also the strength of our volunteers and supporters beside me. Please walk with me to ensure the future of this fantastic place: Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue & Sanctuary – where it is all about the dogs.

Thank you for your golden hearts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey Farrington".

Audrey Farrington, President



From the moment Remi met Zia, something clicked. It was immediate and unmistakable, as if he recognized in her a purpose waiting to be fulfilled. Where most young dogs would have bounced and tumbled around an older, visually impaired companion, Remi slowed down. He approached her with respect, playfulness and affection, nudging her face softly, pressing his body close so she could follow his movements. Within days, they were inseparable.

Remi quickly assumed the role of Zia's guide. Around the house, you will see him pause at doorways, glancing back to ensure she is behind him. When the flooring changes underfoot or a hallway narrows, he instinctively adjusts his pace. If Zia hesitates, Remi circles around and touches his nose to her shoulder—a silent signal that she can keep going. He leads not with force but with patience, offering reassurance through presence alone.

Their bond is most visible at night. Remi refuses to settle anywhere unless Zia is within reach. He curls his small frame against her side, his head tucked into her neck, as if standing guard while she sleeps. If she stirs, he stirs. If she rises, he rises. Remi's loyalty is not routine; it is devotion.

During the day, they share toys, resting spots, and routines. Remi, despite being young, never steals from Zia or tries to outrun her. Instead, he plays at her pace, inviting her to engage with soft nudges and patiently waiting when she needs a moment to orient herself. Their companionship has given Zia renewed confidence. She moves with more certainty now, buoyed by Remi's steady presence.



But Zia is not the only one who has been changed. Our entire family has felt the impact of Remi's kindness. He has brought warmth into quiet moments and laughter into difficult ones. His sensitivity is remarkable; he senses stress or sadness instantly and responds by pressing into us with gentle insistence, as if reminding us that comfort is meant to be shared. He has taught us to notice the small things—the soft thump of paws trailing faithfully behind another, the quiet communication between two souls who understand each other without words.

We often say that we rescued Remi, but that is only half the truth. Remi rescued Zia and our family. And in many ways, he rescued us. He reminded us of the beauty in caring for another being, the power of patience, and the grace of unconditional companionship. He brought new life to a dog who could easily have withdrawn into uncertainty. He brought joy, structure, and healing into our home.

None of this would have been possible without Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue. Their dedication to the dogs in their care, their thoughtful placement process, and the compassion of every volunteer and staff member made this story possible. They saw potential in Remi—potential that we now witness every day. They gave Zia and Remi a second chance, and in doing so, gave our family a gift beyond measure.

We remain deeply grateful for the work done at the Homeward Bound Sanctuary. It is more than a rescue organization; it is a place where hope is restored, and lives—human and canine alike—are transformed. Remi and Zia are living proof of the extraordinary impact that love and dedicated rescue efforts can have.

Our home is warmer now. Softer. Kinder. And every evening, when I see Remi curled against Zia, guiding her through dreams as steadfastly as he guides her through the day, I am reminded that the greatest rescues sometimes happen in reverse.

Remi may have arrived as a dog in need of a family. But he became the dog our family needed.

Our family is forever grateful for the gift, which is Remi, that was bestowed upon our family. ~ Michael, Janice, Zia, and Remi





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



Cyrus was part of a group of dogs rescued from an unspeakable fate in China. When Homeward Bound was asked for our preference among the rescued dogs, the answer was simple: “Send us whoever needs us most.” Cyrus definitely needed us. He arrived suffering from a condition called angular limb deformity: his knees faced outward - the result of compromised growth plate development and spending the first two years of his life in a small, cramped cage, unable to stand correctly.

Cyrus underwent surgery in mid-November at UC Davis to correct the deformity on his first leg. All was going well...until it wasn't. The pins holding the hardware in place had not penetrated deep enough into the core of the bone, causing the hardware to fail. In early December, he returned to UC Davis for a repeat surgery on the same leg. Thankfully, things are going much better this time. Still, it marks the beginning of a long journey to recovery and a second chapter for this sweet, gentle, and forgiving boy who must still go through the same process on his second leg.

The intricate surgery first required a CT scan and a 3-D model built to guide the surgeons in reconstructing the leg.



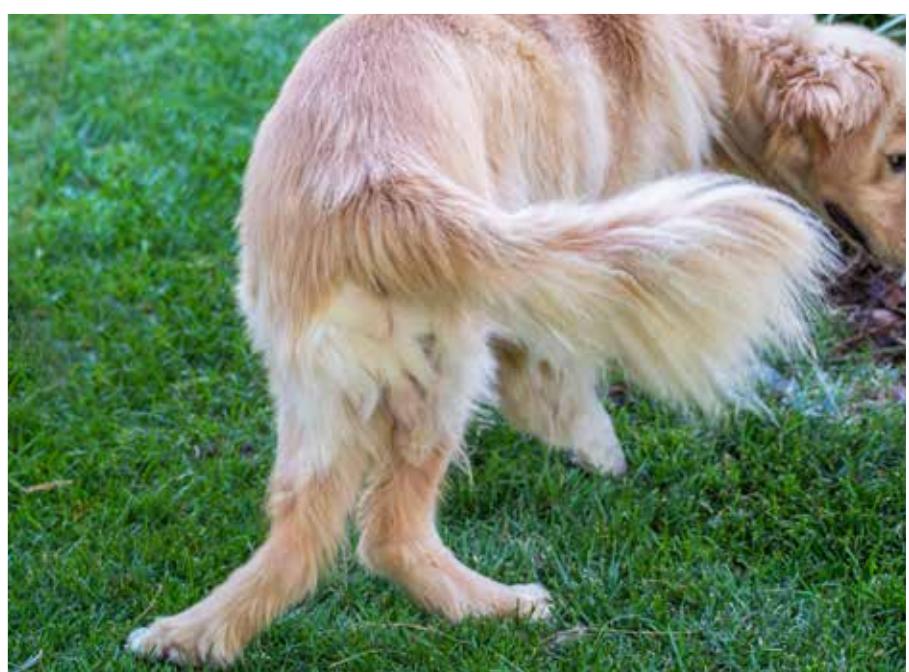
Each surgery took five hours to perform. Recovery takes several months and began in our recovery ward. His new gait started out unsure and gawky – but over the first 2-3 weeks, we watched as he stood upright, gaining confidence and muscle.

Cyrus is at foster for the remainder of his recovery. The first leg will need to fully heal and gain sufficient strength to support him during the second surgery. Each surgery comes with a \$10,000 price

tag. Hopefully, the second leg will not have to be repeated!

Is he worth it? What would you tell a dog rescued from a dog meat market who has endured what Cyrus has and traveled halfway across the world for a second chance? We absolutely think so! Homeward Bound will see Cyrus through his surgeries and provide whatever medical support is needed.

Continued on page 5





Fund of Love Continued from page 4

Cyrus 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 2025, we welcomed 408 dogs. We saw a significant increase in the number of surrendered breeder dogs, mirrored by other Golden rescues across the country. Does that mean that the market for puppy mill and backyard breeder puppies has changed? Or only that the economy is challenged? It's too soon to know. What we do know is that the dogs that did arrive came with many more long-neglected medical and special needs.

Throughout the campaign, you will learn about them and newly arrived dogs in need this year. 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 \$500,000. Last year's total was \$544,007 with \$74,000 for five dogs with special medical needs in December alone.

The **Fund of Love** campaign provides the critical challenge funds for our spring **Double the Gold Challenge** campaign. We first turn to you – the select few who make such a huge difference to build this Fund. Then, we ask the many to give what they can and combine their efforts to match your gifts - doubling the impact. 100% of the proceeds from both campaigns are dedicated to the medical care of hundreds of dogs who come to us each year seeking safety, health, happiness, and forever homes, and to ensuring we can begin the year by confidently saying 'yes' to dogs in need.

We can say 'yes' to dogs like Cyrus thanks to 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.

You can visit our website at [www.hbgr.org](http://www.hbgr.org) to give securely online or download a form for your mailed gift. If you have questions, please reach out to [audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org). Our heartfelt thanks!



# Inspiring the Next Generation of Rescue

BY: Carolynne Beno

Homeward Bound volunteers vary in age and are from all walks of life. Engaging volunteers across generations is vital to our future. As an all-volunteer organization, a continuous supply of new recruits is essential. Four golden-hearted young people recently found their place among us. Each has a heart for rescue, embraces hard work, and is finding a sense of belonging and purpose through their volunteer work.

Mateo Guzman (below) recently graduated from Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove. Mateo is a young man with Autism. His golden retriever, Bailey, provides him with emotional support. In 2023, Mateo endured a twelve-hour brain surgery. Post-surgery complications left Mateo unable to recognize family members or form sentences. Mateo's parents received special permission from the hospital for Bailey to visit. With Bailey's visit came Mateo's first post-op smile, putting him on the road to recovery. To honor Bailey, Mateo's entire family volunteers at Homeward Bound. It's a labor of love. Mateo's dad, Carlos, runs the dogs out, and his mom, Maricela, feeds and cleans alongside Mateo on the Saturday morning feeder team (top photo). Mateo is proud to help the dogs at Homeward Bound and appreciates that volunteering gets him up in the morning. How early in the morning? Morning feeders arrive around 7:30 a.m., an impossible feat for most 18-year-olds, but not for Mateo!



Nicole Kidwiler (right) recently graduated from Towson University in Maryland. She moved here with her fiancé, Myles, who works for the



A's. Nicole wanted to volunteer at Homeward Bound because Myles works long hours and she misses her family's golden retriever, Ellie. However, she was hesitant to try something new without a friend or Myles by her side. Thankfully, Nicole took a leap of faith and joined the Sunday night feeding team. Nicole was a utility player on the softball team at Towson University. She quickly became one of Homeward Bound's utility players, where she feeds, cleans, runs and walks the dogs, is training to be a shift lead, and takes dogs for doggy day outs!



Ricky Bagby's (top right) first volunteer experience was at a cat rescue. Don't worry, dogs - he has seen the light! Ricky recently finished high school and works as a certified forklift operator. Forklift operators must be detail-oriented, attentive, and effective communicators. These same traits make Ricky an excellent dog runner on the feeding team at Homeward Bound despite a chronic medical condition that rendered him unable to walk for several months earlier this year. With his doctor's permission, Ricky credits the Homeward Bound community and caring for the dogs for healing his heart!

Dylan Grogan (bottom right) attends Inderkum High School in Natomas. Dylan recently completed his community service project at Homeward Bound to honor his 3-year-old



golden retriever, Nala. Dylan described his feeder team as a family and didn't expect volunteering to be so emotionally rewarding. Nor did Dylan expect to grow as much as a person while volunteering. A self-described procrastinator, after 10 weeks of volunteering, Dylan has been reformed and started taking the initiative to do chores at home.



New recruits keep showing up with open hearts and inspiring all of us with their energy and enthusiasm. At the same time, long-time volunteers share their experience and introduce them to the world of rescue.

By investing in the next generation of rescue, we ensure that Homeward Bound can continue to support dogs on their journeys home well into the future!

# Written in the Stars: The Story of Orion

BY: Michael Cornaglia

If you look into the southern sky tonight, you'll see the giant constellation of Orion. There, among those stars, you will find our precious Goldendoodle Ori, looking back at you. When our family has to say farewell to a treasured companion, we "place" them in the stars so that we can always be reminded that they never really leave us. It is a comfort to connect with them in this way.



I met Ori just before the pandemic. At age five and a half, he'd been at Homeward Bound over six months. After two failed adoptions, he was placed with a loving foster. He had a history of trauma at the hands of his former owners. He was fearful, especially of men; he lunged and barked at strangers, startled at loud noises, and was reluctant to get into a car. He ate poorly and was 15 pounds underweight. His behavioral issues were serious enough that our vet cautioned me that I might have bitten off too much by adopting him. Yet, the look in his eyes told me that he was ready to be loved...and love him we did!

Seeing him accept our love and develop trust in us was the beauty of our journey. As time passed, he gained weight, calmed in our quiet home, and improved in many of his fears. Ori never became the open and accepting dog that he might

have been without his traumas, but there was much improvement. We knew how to be vigilant of his fears and managed our environment as best we could. With patience and lots of treats, we were rewarded with Ori becoming a loving member of our family.

His health issues continued throughout his lifetime. He had Irritable Bowel Syndrome, likely caused by being in a high-stress environment for so long. His liver values were high, requiring biopsies to determine treatment, including a special diet. His health ebbed and flowed over the years, and mealtime was when all the meds came out. That meant he got more treats to get them down. He never minded that!



Over the years, our adventures took us far and wide. When we moved in 2023, we drove an RV from Carmel to New York. Our vet assured us that the RV would be better for Ori, providing him with a familiar environment to eat and sleep instead of staying in a different hotel each night. On that trip, we stopped for a week to visit family, where Ori became great friends with my sister-in-law, who was initially terrified when he barked and lunged at her. He just needed time and patience, along with a little freshly cooked chicken, to become her biggest fan. He followed her everywhere, looking for another tasty morsel.

As time passed, Ori developed arthritis, and his steps slowed. He found it harder to stand up, but still tried his best to do his happy dance when we came home. He loved to lean his full body weight against me at the end of his dance and would look up to be sure that I knew he was happy.

Earlier this year, I noticed that Ori was losing weight, though his appetite was still good. His energy level seemed lower than usual, he napped more, and he didn't seem OK. Another biopsy and blood tests revealed that he had two forms of cancer: liver cancer and an aggressive bladder cancer. His time was short, and I was committed to letting him go while there were still good days. It's been my belief since we lost our first Golden in 1989 that our final act of love is to let them go before their pain is too great.

While saying goodbye is the hardest thing we do with our beloved companions, to do so while we can still see the love in their eyes instead of suffering is a gift for both of us. Time is a cruel thief when we consider the brief time we have with our cherished animals. When that earthly bond is broken by having to say goodbye, there is comfort in knowing that we did the most loving thing for them.

I learned so many lessons from Ori in the five years, seven months, and 29 days we shared. I looked past the rough edges, past the old traumas, past the sadness in his eyes, so that I could see the love that was there. There is an expression about dogs that says: "They live in a time zone most of us have forgotten. They live in the NOW." I am deeply grateful that Ori and I came together in that time zone, that we stayed in it until his last breath, and that I can continue in it by looking up into the southern sky at the stars of Orion. For me, all the love and the memories are worth the pain of the farewell.



# Planning for the Unthinkable

Bequests are gifts made through a will or trust. They have played a key role in Homeward Bound's sustainability in recent years, including helping to fund the property purchase in 2023. Along with important financial planning is a responsibility that comes with being a pet parent: ensuring their future if the unthinkable happens.

At Homeward Bound, we encourage everyone to make a plan for their dog(s) in the event of their own passing. Without a plan, beloved companions may end up in shelters or worse.

Life doesn't always go as planned. Some promises can't be kept. But our promise to the dogs placed through Homeward Bound can be. You know that sharing your life with any dog is a blessing. Sharing your life with a rescued dog is doubly so. By including Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary in your planned giving, you create a legacy ensuring that more Golden lives are saved. By preparing for your pets' future as well, you ensure their safety, security, and happiness when you are no longer there to care for them.

On our website, we have updated our Pet Biography form. It provides more detailed information in the event of your passing, including release language, veterinary release information so we can gather key records, our contact information to pass to your executor or



## Pet Guardianship: Planning for the Future

relatives, and a place to share your dog's favorite and not-so-favorite things. All of this helps to ensure the best care and placement of your beloved companion when you are no longer there for them. You'll find it under the Donate button on our website, or copy this URL into your

browser: [https://homewardboundgoldens.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/HB-Pet-Guardianship\\_8\\_25.pdf](https://homewardboundgoldens.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/HB-Pet-Guardianship_8_25.pdf)

We recommend that you revisit the completed form every six months and share it with your designated executor or relatives.



**HOMEWARD  
BOUND**  
Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue



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# Jasmine the Rescue Dog

BY: Jay Bevard

We adopted Jasmine from Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue when she was nearly one year old. A quiet pup with few social skills, she was good on a leash only if she wanted to, would not come or sit on command, and startled easily at everything and everyone. For the first year, all we did was give her plenty of exercise and non-stop love. In time, she matured into a well-mannered and very loyal Golden.

On November 18, 2025, Jasmine and I were driving a long drive through the mountains to the coast. At the four-hour mark, it was time for a break on Highway 1 before committing to the last hour of a very windy road. I pulled off onto an area that had recently been used by Caltrans and logging trucks. There was fresh gravel extending out from the pavement about 40 feet before a drop-off into the South Fork of the Eel River. I left the truck running, with the lights on and a few windows down, since this was going to be a quick stop. I put Jasmine on her leash, and we walked around, encouraging her to relieve herself.

I was about five feet from the edge on the drop side with Jasmine on the roadside, when, without warning, the ground dropped out from under me. In a fraction of a second, Jasmine jumped away from the sinking ground. I started an unbelievable fall down the side of the mountain, riding on top of wet soil, gravel, and fresh lumber slash left behind from the recent logging activity. With Jasmine's leash still in hand, I felt the collar easily slide off her neck, leaving her behind as I accelerated straight downhill, experiencing a countless number of sideways rolls with fewer head-over-heel tumbles. This was an avalanche, and



I was just along for the ride. About 80 feet down, I was able to slide to a stop just long enough to take inventory and consider the situation. I looked up the hill and saw Jasmine staring at me, when suddenly more dirt came down from above me, and off I went again. I was able to roll my body laterally enough to grab hold of the base of a tree stump. Once I stopped again, I looked at where I was and where I needed to go. This stop looked to be over 100 feet from the top.

I knew my journey back up would be very strenuous. Jasmine remained at the top, staring down at me. The progress was slow, with soft soil and rock hindering my progress. Looking back up at Jasmine, I saw she was slowly making her way to me using a different route than the one I had just traveled. By the time Jasmine reached me, I had only progressed 10-15 feet.

I put Jasmine's collar and leash back on, thinking her dog tags were important if she decided to run off. I didn't put much faith in her 65 pounds pulling my 225-pound, 69-year-old body anywhere. Still, after a few moments of a motivating conversation with my two-year-old girl, she gave me a tug toward her path upward, and I let go of her leash. She slowly made her way to the top, stopping periodically to check on my progress. I eventually joined her at the top. When I looked back, a six-by-ten-foot section of

the hillside let loose and cascaded about 250 feet down into the river. That would have been my fate if not for her guiding me to safety.

After Jasmine checked me like a mother and her puppy, she gave a nudge and looked up at the truck door as though to say, "Let's go!" I knocked the mud off the best I could and noticed all I sustained was a torn shirt and a minor abrasion on one finger. Without stopping to catch my breath, we continued the last hour of our trip, thinking, "Wow, did that just happen?"



# A Lasting Shift?

We track a wide range of statistics in our dog database dashboard, including how the dogs come to us, breed and breed mixes, length of stay, adoptions, spay/neuter procedures, and more. We found an interesting trend in our multiyear dashboard: Breeder intakes as a percentage of total intakes have grown from a low of 3% in 2020 to as much as 14% in 2024 and 11% in 2025. These are dogs that come directly from breeders, typically as discarded mom dogs or unsold puppies.

As we write, we have just welcomed 10 adult breeding dogs, ranging in age from 1 to 7 years. They came from a breeder well known to us. She sold her pups to celebrities in Los Angeles until she was forced to leave the area, finding anonymity in the Central Valley hills. The dogs lived outside in dirt pens exposed to the elements. They came without names, vet records, or having ever worn a collar, much less a leash. Some have mammary tumors - common in older, unspayed female dogs.

As a pack, they appear wild and brave. Individually, they are terrified, unsocialized, and pancake when approached. The breeder had fallen ill; we suspect this is the end of her operation and the last of her remaining breeding dogs. Two days later, we were made aware of 21 unsold puppies (not Goldens) from three litters from one breeder in search of rescue. They were unwilling to surrender the breeding pairs, but that is our condition. We're not here to bail out bad breeders. We're here to educate and end the cycle.

Is this dumping of breeding dogs and unsold puppies a meaningful shift? The economy? Has education finally taken hold? Or is this the aging out of a generation that sees dogs only as inventory and dollar signs? It's too soon to tell.



We would love to believe that the message has finally gotten through to people. Still, we're not naïve – and it bears repeating – when people support these operations, they support the continuation of suffering. There are countless numbers of shelter animals in need of homes. For people whose hearts are set on a specific breed, consider rescue. If you must purchase, please do so wisely and educate others to do the same.

On our website, you will find information on how to choose a responsible breeder for yourself and anyone you know who is considering a purchase. A responsible breeder:

- Socializes the puppies to people and things like sounds and sights.
- Has a veterinarian individually examine and vaccinate each puppy and has verifiable proof of this.
- Knows about the breed's dispositions to certain genetic problems and has the dogs tested for them. Provides a pedigree before purchase, so you search the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) database for health certificates.
- Has active associations with local and/or national breed clubs, breed activities, agility training, dog shows, etc. They show a genuine interest in the breed beyond selling dogs, and they abide by the breed club's Code of Ethics. A reputable breeder can knowledgeably answer all of your questions – and welcomes them.
- Guarantees that they will take their pups back at any point in their lives – for any reason – demonstrating a lifelong commitment to the puppies and to you.

The proof of a reputable breeder is in your one-on-one interactions with them. By learning about responsible breeders and puppy purchases, you help reduce the number of unwanted dogs and support us in our mission of rescue.

# You Filled Our Giving Tree with Golden Love!

## How to Reach Us



Every Thanksgiving, we launch our bare, virtual Giving Tree and ask for your help in lighting and decorating it. Each decoration, star, or toy represents a gift made in honor or memory of someone special and new hope for dogs in need. As one of our three major fundraising efforts of the year, its success is vital to our mission.

Once again, you filled our tree with love! Your gifts brought our tree to twinkling, sparkling life raising over \$150,000 - ensuring support for the hundreds of dogs that will come through our doors in 2026.

So far, we are averaging two intakes per day showing no signs that this wave will let up anytime soon.

Thanks to your generosity, we know that we can help hundreds more dogs on their journeys to health and home. Thanks to you, when we get the call requesting support for dogs in urgent need, we can continue to say 'yes.' You make this possible. Homeward Bound supporters are the very best! **Thank You!!**

Your help and ideas are always welcome! Contact team leaders below if you are interested in helping in any of these areas:

Adoptions, Operations and Sanctuary Development

Audrey Farrington, President  
7495 Natomas Road  
Elverta, CA 95626  
916-655-1410

[audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Medical, Surrenders & Shelters  
Judy Kent, Medical & Intake Director  
[judy@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:judy@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Fostering  
[fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:fostering@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Placement Team  
[homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:homevisits@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Golden Taxi (Transport)  
[goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:goldentaxi@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Volunteering  
[volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:volunteering@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Newsletter & Marketing  
[audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org](mailto:audrey@homewardboundgoldens.org)

Training  
Kathryn Baines, Golden Rule Training  
[grdogtraining@gmail.com](mailto:grdogtraining@gmail.com)





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

phone: 916-655-1410  
[www.homewardboundgoldens.org](http://www.homewardboundgoldens.org)

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## Dates To Remember

The Fund of Love Campaign launches this month!  
Reunion Picnic: May (Date TBA) 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

### General Maintenance & Laundry

Paper Towels  
Garbage Bags (heavy duty & extra heavy duty)  
Pooper Scoopers

### Office Supplies

Postage Stamps  
Printer Paper  
Professional Printing Services

### Facilities Supplies

Lowes or Home Depot Gift Cards

### For Landscaping & Our Memorial Garden

Green Acres Nursery Gift Certificates  
Shredded Cedar Bark/Mulch