

# THE heart



MAY 2026 / VOL 27, ISSUE 2

HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE AND SANCTUARY, INC.

## What's Inside

Some dogs' journeys to their new lives happen quickly; others take much longer. Leo's year-long journey is our cover story, and the tale of his transformation is not to be missed!

For years, Woody went without the care he needed. His suffering was seemingly invisible to those around him until someone finally stepped in. Read his story on page 7.

There is new hope for leaky dogs; a surgery performed in only a few veterinary hospitals nationwide including UC Davis. Read about our three leaky friends on page 6.

Adopters frequently come seeking a service, therapy, or emotional support dog. We can never guarantee that a dog is suitable for these important roles. Explore the differences on page 8.

May marks the halfway point in our **Double the Gold Challenge**. Your gifts – no matter the size – are matched by a waiting **Fund of Love**. Help us capture every matching dollar! All gifts support the medical needs of hundreds of dogs that will come into our program this year and many more that we support in permanent foster. Read about the Challenge on page 4. THANK YOU!

## PLEASE PASS ALONG!

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



## Leo's Journey

By: Audrey Farrington

Leo is an intelligent, energetic, eager-to-please two-year-old boy who is thriving in his new home. He loves belly rubs, snuggles, play, and the company of other dog friends. To understand what an achievement this is, you need to know where he began.

At one year of age, Leo was found chained in a makeshift shelter (inset next page). He was exposed to the elements and to every critter or dog that crossed his path. He was unable to defend himself, his food, or his ramshackle home. Animal control was called; they said Leo deserved better and confiscated the young boy. Despite all, Leo never lost faith in people – greeting all with a wagging tail and grateful heart.

He was welcomed to Homeward Bound in early January 2025. At first, all seemed forgiven and forgotten. But his understandable distrust of other dogs soon appeared.

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 2026  
125

VET EXPENSES TO DATE 2026  
\$265,867



## A Message from Our President

My (now) side job at Homeward Bound is helping to maintain the gardens and property. The photo above is of the walking paths installed last year for the new adoption yards. This colorful display represents just one season of care and growth. There is an alarming stat in our 2025 Annual Report. From 2022 to 2025, the percentage of dogs surrendered to us under 1 year of age has grown dramatically from 22% to 44%. So far this year, 39% of the dogs who entered our program are under 1 year old.

They arrive as puppies purchased without an understanding of the commitment, or as dogs six months and older, having grown into adult bodies without ever receiving the foundational training or socialization required. Imagine if every puppy or young dog purchased or adopted received the benefit of just one season of committed care, training, and socialization. How different would the results be?

We're glad we can be here to help these kids get started on the right path. Still, the hard work belongs to devoted adopters who see beyond the jumpy, mouthy, sometimes unruly behaviors they first encounter to the dog's full potential. They know that each dog's blossoming happens with patience, dedication, consistency, and love. We're so thankful to each and every one.

Our gratitude extends to our **Fund of Love** donors who raised a record \$199,000 and issued **The Double the Gold Challenge!** Every gift in April and May will be matched by their waiting **Fund of Love**. All proceeds will support the medical care of the hundreds of dogs that will come to us this year seeking health and home.

The cost of vet care has skyrocketed. According to one report, costs have nearly doubled in the past five years due to increased labor costs, corporate consolidation of small practices, and even tariff impacts on medications. Owners are putting care off. As a result, the dogs that come to us arrive with significant needs driving our medical expenses as well.

Within, you will read the stories of dogs that have already benefitted from your support this year. Thank you all for your generous hearts!

Audrey Farrington  
President



In one horrifying incident, he got hold of a blind dog through a fence and refused to release. Thankfully, the other dog only suffered a laceration, and the volunteers separating them were safe. But this display and his extreme fear-based behavior would certainly jeopardize his adoption options and perhaps even his life if the behavior could not be addressed.

It's difficult to tackle extreme reactivity when a dog is constantly surrounded by other dogs. Enter Jonna Dolinta.

Jonna was first introduced to Homeward Bound as an adopter. A dog lover, her experience through the adoption process led her to want to help. She joined our volunteer team almost 16 years ago.

A professional bodybuilder, Jonna retired in 2018 after 10 years of competition with the World Natural Bodybuilding Federation (WNBF). She wanted to prove the capabilities of vegetarian athletes. That strength would serve her well as she joined the United States Navy in June 2022. Jonna's goal was to become a K9 Military Chaplain using therapy dogs to comfort and serve the men and women in uniform. Most Navy Chaplains are commissioned straight to officer. Jonna decided to join the military as an enlisted service member instead. By putting herself through the same training as junior enlisted sailors, she learned first-hand some of what they had endured. It was tough work, but Jonna never shies away from a challenge. She put her fitness capabilities, maturity, and life experiences to work, building team camaraderie – one of her great strengths. The other is the training she received working with military dogs.

In March, 2025, Jonna took Leo home as a foster. Because she had her own dogs to protect, Leo took up residence in their climate-controlled garage. Away from the stress of the kennel, she could begin working with him. Key to his development and Jonna's understanding of his potential was her outreach to Canine Purpose in Rocklin, CA.



Founders and trainer directors, Weston and Elise Kester, have studied animal psychology and behavior. They have extensive experience working with Schutzhund – a demanding dog sport developed to evaluate a dog's temperament, trainability, and suitability



for working roles. They have translated this expertise into understanding and support for dogs with challenging behaviors. Enrolled in their program, Leo began extensive work on the reactivity he had acquired to survive.

It took many months of daily work, but Leo learned to safely interact with other dogs, building his skills and confidence. In time, Leo achieved a milestone: he exited the garage and began living with Jonna's pack in the home.

Leo thrives on structure, clear expectations, and lots of physical and mental stimulation. He needed an adopter who understood the importance of these needs and that Leo requires ongoing

training and care in handling to keep his experiences with other dogs positive.

An applicant expressed interest in Leo; but said he didn't want a dog with behavioral issues. Still, a year into Leo's journey, it was time to throw the net wide. Jonna reached out and learned that the adopter's definition of behavior issues did not include leash reactivity. He witnessed the reactivity, but more importantly, he saw through to Leo's heart and found the friendly, engaged, and well-trained dog who could form relationships with other dogs with the right introductions. And he fell in love.

One year after Jonna took Leo home to foster, his journey was complete: Leo found his forever home. He continues to go to Canine Purpose with his new dad, where he can successfully engage with other dogs, and he plays with his grandpaw's pup regularly (above). Leo's happy ending is a testament to a dog's capacity for transformation and forgiveness and one woman's unfailing belief in a dog's full potential. Happy life, Leo!

Supporting a reactive dog takes time, patience, consistency, and committed management. For help with a reactive dog, visit our Training Library and this link: <https://homewardboundgoldens.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/The-Reactive-Dog.pdf>.

# Here's Your Opportunity to Double The Gold!

Each year, in early spring, a small group of donors step up to build a fund for the medical care of the dogs. Now, we turn to you. This is where the smaller donations of the many add up to a lot because every dollar raised through the **Double the Gold Challenge** will be matched by their waiting **Fund of Love** – doubling the impact of every gift.

Last year, 408 dogs came through our doors. Because we never turn away a dog based on medical needs, **our vet expenses hit \$555,000**. Between bad breeding practices and an economy that puts significant medical expenses beyond the reach of many families, your support is needed now more than ever to capture every penny of the waiting **Fund of Love** match. No gift is too small. Together, we can get there and ensure that we can still say “yes” to every dog in need.

Following are just a few of the hundreds of dogs your gifts will support this year.

## CYRUS: OUR FUND OF LOVE AMBASSADOR DOG

Cyrus was rescued from China, joining us in 2025. He arrived suffering from a condition called angular limb deformity: his knees faced outward - the result of compromised growth plate development,



Homeward Bound

# DOUBLE THE GOLD



lack of good nutrition, and spending the first two years of his life in a small, cramped cage, unable to stand correctly. He waddled instead of walking upright – his mobility severely compromised. His future looked painful as the pressure on the joints would lead to early arthritis and continued joint degeneration.



At UC Davis, 3-D models were constructed to guide an orthopedic team in rebuilding his legs. Three surgeries and \$30,000 later, Cyrus is now proudly walking upright – and trying desperately to run as he completes his rehabilitation in his forever home. Patience boy! Almost there!

## LEAKING DAISY, LILY AND MR. BLUE

It's unusual to have one leaking dog with ectopic ureters; so far this year, we have had three! Daisy and Lily's leaking was



discovered when they were puppies. The condition is rare in male dogs. Mr. Blue's did not exhibit it until one year of age. Their detailed stories are within this edition. Daisy (above) has already undergone ablation surgery at UC Davis and has retired her diapers. Lily (below) and Mr. Blue (top, next page) are next.

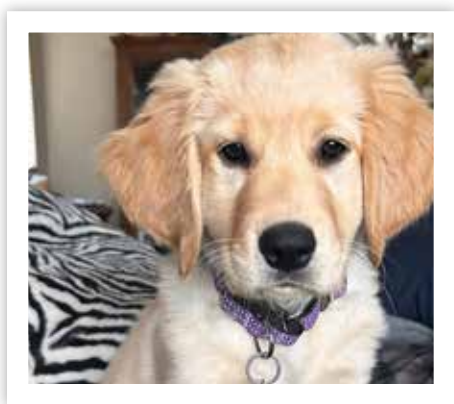


UC Davis is one of the few veterinary hospitals in the country that performs this surgery which offers the best possible outcomes. Homeward Bound has and will support their care.

## HOW TO HELP US “DOUBLE THE GOLD!”

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

Visit our website at:  
[www.homewardboundgoldens.org](http://www.homewardboundgoldens.org) and click on “Double the Gold Challenge” for the link and mailing information.



**NOAH**

Good dogs who come from good homes deserve to stay there. So, when a family with a history of good care asks to surrender their beloved dog purely to ensure it gets the extraordinary medical care it needs, we can step in with our Compassionate Care Program. Noah is a handsome young boy with a giant body and bad genes. At one and a half years of age, he was hobbled like an old man suffering from bilateral elbow and hip dysplasia.



The surgeries that Noah needed were more than his family could financially provide. They loved him enough to be willing to let him go so he could get the care he needed. We thought he belonged in the home he knew and loved. Noah underwent double elbow surgery in March. It's tough to put a dog through both at the same time, but knowing he needed three surgeries in total, this was the vet's recommendation. He did the first four weeks of his recovery with us with his devoted mom visiting daily, then recently returned home for the remaining month.

He comes to swim in our heated pool three to four times weekly; it's the best medicine for recovering strength in his legs. When he is cleared, he will undergo FHO surgery on one rear leg and start the recovery journey over again. Is he worth it? Absolutely!

**ABIGAIL**

Abigail will steal your heart in an instant. She was surrendered at age five with a grade 5 heart murmur and Subaortic Stenosis (SAS) – a heart defect that resulted in frequent fainting, and Pyoderma, a bacterial skin infection. She had not yet been spayed. After consultation with a cardiologist, she began a new regimen of medications designed to stabilize her heart condition, while her foster administered medicated baths to clear her skin infection.



She made incredible progress, but when spot bleeding and a distended stomach were noted after her heat cycle, she was rushed to emergency for Pyometra - a life-threatening uterine infection in unspayed dogs. Thankfully, on the new heart medications, she was strong enough to survive the emergency spay surgery. Enrolled in our Permanent Foster program, Abigail has found her forever home with her foster while Homeward Bound ensures her medical care for life.

**Thanks to your support, we can be there when dogs arrive with significant medical needs. In addition, we provide ongoing medical support to a revolving list of approximately 50 dogs in our Permanent Foster Program.**

**We know that these are extraordinary times for many. Anything you can contribute during the *Double the Gold Challenge* will not only help – it will go **TWICE AS FAR** as your gift is matched by a waiting *Fund of Love*.**

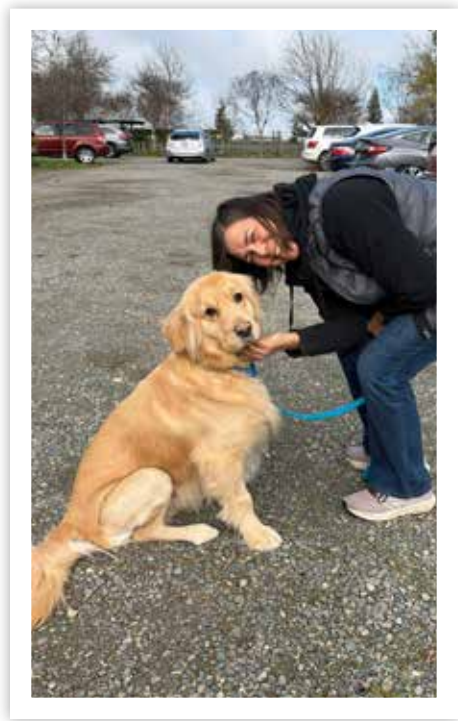
**Let's not leave even a dollar of that Fund of Love match behind! We simply cannot do it without you.**

**HOW TO HELP**

Donate securely online on our website at [hbgr.org](http://hbgr.org) - or by check mailed to:

Double the Gold  
Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue  
7495 Natomas Rd.  
Elverta, CA 95626

On behalf of the Golden and golden-hearted dogs that will benefit from your generosity, our heartfelt thanks.



# Stop the Leak: Ectopic Ureters Explained

In our 26-year history, dogs with ectopic ureters have been relatively rare. So, we were surprised to see three so far this year. Meet Daisy, Lily, and Mr. Blue.

Ureters are small tubes that drain urine from the kidneys to the bladder. Animals have two kidneys, so there are two ureters. In a healthy dog, each ureter attaches to the bladder at a specific location, allowing urine, which drains from the kidneys on a nearly constant basis, to collect in the bladder until the dog chooses to urinate. In dogs with ectopic ureters, the ureters do not enter the bladder at their usual location; instead, they drain into the urethra or into the vagina (in females), which interferes with the bladder's normal ability to retain urine. Thus, the leak.

Ectopic ureters are caused by abnormal development in the womb. The congenital anomaly is suspected to be hereditary, often linked to poor breeding practices. Responsible breeders are encouraged to avoid breeding pairings that have previously produced affected puppies. What are the signs of ectopic ureters? The most common sign of ectopic ureters is urinary incontinence or dribbling. The condition is far more typical in young female dogs, but can occur in males as well. The condition may be noted soon after weaning or as late as adulthood. The urine leakage may be constant or intermittent. If the leakage is small, the signs can be subtle.

Dogs with ectopic ureters are often prone to repeated urinary tract infections – a clue that the issue is anatomical. Ultrasounds can provide some evidence, but in female dogs, the most accurate test for ectopic ureters is cystoscopy, where a small camera probe is inserted into the sedated dog's urethra or bladder. Often, treatment by laser ablation can be performed at the same time as diagnosis.



In males, the most accurate diagnostic test is a CT scan under anesthesia, allowing the veterinarian to trace the exact path of the ureters.



Daisy (top) was surrendered at 4 months old due to her condition. If Lily's leaking was known to her family when she was surrendered at five months of age, it was not disclosed (photo above). Mr. Blue (below) was surrendered by a breeder for a level II heart murmur. His leaking did not present until he was approximately one year old.

Historically, surgery to relocate the ureter required open surgery involving an abdominal and bladder incision to reimplant the ureter. Success rates were low, and complication rates were high. Laser ablation offers much better outcomes. This procedure is currently only done by a handful of veterinary hospitals, including UC Davis Veterinary Hospital. While laser surgery may be curative for 50%-75% of dogs with ectopic ureters, some will continue to experience incontinence due to

other anatomical issues, including a weak or short urethra, or associated muscular weakness (sphincter incompetence), necessitating additional medication.

Daisy underwent laser ablation surgery at UC Davis on February 21, 2026. The ureter was successfully relocated to the bladder, but some leaking continued post-surgery. Daisy was prescribed medication to strengthen the urethral sphincter muscle. Today, the diapers have been retired, and she is home with her new family – leak-free!

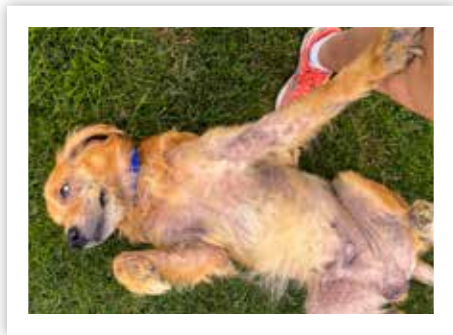
Daisy owed her quick treatment to the special relationship her foster, Carolynne, has with UC Davis. So, naturally, when Lily arrived shortly thereafter with the same condition, we called upon Carolynne again. She has become an expert in caring for these leaky girls, where great attention to hygiene helps to prevent urinary tract



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# Woody: The Once Invisible Dog

Woody arrived late last year at the age of 8. He had chronic skin, ear, and thyroid issues. The hairless dog was a hot, itchy, stinky mess who was in obvious distress, constantly clawing at his naked body with nails so long they turned under. His joints were stiff with arthritis. His primary vet had not seen him in three years. It seemed that Woody and his suffering had become invisible.



He was taken for grooming once, but medication was declined. His human had struggled to care for him – or herself - for quite some time. It took others to finally intervene and convince her that Woody deserved better.

The care that he required was nothing extraordinary, but it did need to be consistently administered. Twice-weekly medicated baths, a very inexpensive thyroid pill daily, medication to calm the itching, address the ear infections, and soothe the aching joints. We sent him home to foster – or more to the point, he was dog-napped by Elise, one of our volunteers with a huge heart for senior, shy, or neglected dogs.

Thankfully, Woody is a lover who enjoys other dogs and people. So much so that he tries to hop into strangers' cars when he is out and about on the town. He's such a nice boy that he almost gets away with it!



Elise had spent countless hours with Woody at Homeward Bound. He was understandably attached to her when he first came home and would howl when left alone, fearful of being abandoned. But he quickly learned that she would return and soon became attached to her human other half, Pat, and their Golden boy, Gibson. Adorable, with the extra-large toys he squirreled away in Elise's office, Woody was destined to be a foster failure.

With consistent care, his coat has grown back beautifully. Today, this handsome boy is unrecognizable (above with Gibson and below).



Sadly, the years of neglect left Woody with early arthritis. While he enjoys his play with Gibson and a half-mile daily walk, he happily rides in a cart for the three miles it takes to keep the rest of the family in shape.



With grace and a grateful heart, Woody has welcomed a growing list of foster dogs into his new home – paying his own good fortune forward. Homeward Bound is blessed to have the resources to care for dogs like Woody. We wish that his suffering could have ended sooner. If you see something, say something. A better life awaits long-neglected and deserving dogs.

# The Elusive Service, Support, Therapy Dog

We frequently receive adoption applications from people seeking a service, therapy, or emotional support dog. We try to be clear: dogs must be trained in these roles. Dogs with these skills would rarely, if ever, be surrendered to us, and we would never claim to know if a dog had this potential. We ask adopters seeking dogs with this possibility to bring their trainers to the adoption appointment. The trainer should have an existing relationship with the applicant and will be in a much better position to see if a particular dog has the potential to aid them. Then, the hard work begins.

Service dogs, working dogs, therapy dogs, and emotional support animals all fulfill important roles, but the terms are not interchangeable. Each recognition is specifically defined, both in terms of the jobs undertaken and the legal rights offered.

## Service Dogs

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service dogs as individually trained to perform specific tasks and to work with people with disabilities. Disabilities can be “physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities.” The work of the service dog must be directly related to the handler’s disability. Disabilities are not always visible, and legitimate service dogs come in all breeds and sizes. Examples of the support they offer include:

- Guide dogs help blind people navigate the world.
- Hearing (or signal) dogs alert deaf people to sounds, such as a knock on the door or a person entering the room.
- Psychiatric dogs are trained to detect and lessen the effects of a psychiatric episode.



- Service dogs help those in wheelchairs or otherwise physically limited open doors, fetch, or carry items for their handler.
- Trained Autism assistance dogs can distinguish important sensory signals, such as a smoke alarm from other sensory input. They may also alert their handler to repetitive behaviors or overstimulation.
- Some service dogs are trained to recognize seizures and will stand guard over their handler during a seizure or go for help.

The ADA mandates that service dogs have full public access rights, meaning they’re allowed to go places where animals are typically not allowed. They must be permitted in housing, even if other pets aren’t allowed. While service dogs are allowed on airplanes or public transportation, they must follow the carrier’s established guidelines.

## Emotional Support Dogs

Emotional support animals (ESAs) have no definition or special access rights under the ADA. They may be trained for a specific owner. Still, they aren’t trained for specific tasks or duties to assist a person with a disability, which is the main difference between ESA dogs and service dogs. They are considered companion animals and can ease anxiety, depression, some phobias, and loneliness. To be considered an emotional support dog, a true mental health professional must prescribe the ESA

for a patient with a diagnosed psychological or emotional disorder.

ESA owners have only limited legal rights. While they don’t have unlimited access to public spaces, the Fair Housing Act mandates “reasonable accommodations” for emotional support animals, even in buildings that don’t allow pets. As of January 2021, airlines aren’t required to accommodate emotional support animals.

Sadly, multiple online sources offer fake service dog vests or ESA diagnoses and certificates without ever meeting or speaking with a patient. Pet dogs don’t have the required training and may act unsuitably in a public setting. Posing a pet as a service dog is against federal and many state laws, and fake certifications have made life harder for true service and ESA dogs and their handlers.

## Therapy Dogs

Therapy dogs aren’t trained to live with a specific handler. These are dogs that, with their human teammate or owner, volunteer in various settings to interact and offer comfort and affection. Therapy dogs are trained to be comfortable in new environments and to interact with different people. They should have a calm temperament, be unfazed by unfamiliar noises, environments, and movements, and be comfortable being handled.

Therapy dogs aren’t considered service dogs under the ADA and don’t have the same legal rights to access in public

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spaces. No uniform state or national rules regulate or certify therapy dogs; different organizations have different guidelines. As a rule, therapy dogs should be trained, insured, and licensed by the non-profit that's offering their services.

### Working Dogs

Occasionally, a dog comes into our program that is so driven it has either become homeless or surrendered. These high-energy dogs with intense focus and fearlessness may not make great pets, but they can make ideal working dogs. A working dog is a purpose-trained dog that learns and performs tasks to assist its human companions. Detection, herding, hunting, search and rescue, police, and military dogs are all examples of working dogs. Working dogs often rely on their excellent sense of smell to help out where humans fall short.

Working dogs are specifically trained to perform certain roles in certain locations. When they're on the job, working dogs shouldn't be approached or petted. Doing their job properly requires a high level of focus, free from distractions.

Homeward Bound has worked with the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) to help highly driven dogs like Gizmo (below) find purpose and reward.



SDF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Santa Paula, California. They recruit dogs and partner them with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. Graduated dogs live with their handlers and all dogs are guaranteed placement, even if they ultimately fall short of program expectations.

Sources: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and [www.canine.org](http://www.canine.org)



## Take Your Dog to Work Etiquette

While National Take Your Dog to Work Day happens every June, many people are lucky enough to have their dog accompany them regularly. Dogs in the workplace can boost morale and decrease stress for everyone. However, with this employer benefit comes the responsibility to ensure success for your dog, other participating dogs, and coworkers.

Dogs in the workplace should be well-behaved, socialized to people and other pets, vaccinated, fully potty-trained, and, of course, flea-free. Be mindful of employees with allergies or a fear of dogs and ensure everyone is on board with your pet being in the workplace. Here are tips on how to prepare:

Unless you are in a private, enclosed office, keep your dog leashed, crated, or always separated by baby gates or exercise pens. Bring familiar bedding and ensure that there are no chewable cords or hazards in the area. Do not take your dog into restrooms or common lunch areas.

Even a well-trained dog may be uneasy or excited in a new environment. Stay close to them to provide comfort and familiarity. Monitor your dog closely, ensuring they don't jump on coworkers, roam, or get into things.

Pack a doggie bag with quiet toys, a water bowl, treats, and poop bags. Be sure your schedule includes potty breaks and some time for exercise before work begins and at midday. Time spent outdoors will help office dogs release nervous energy, so they settle while you and your peers focus on work.

Monitor for signs of stress, such as excessive panting or whining, and prevent them from begging, bothering coworkers, or interacting with other dogs unless invited. Most importantly, have a backup plan if things aren't going well.

Be real: If your dog barks at strangers, is anxious in new environments or around other dogs, or is territorial or possessive of you...leave Fido home. To ensure that your employer remains open to dogs in the workplace, the priority is still getting work done. You can do that by ensuring your dog is calm, quiet, and not distracting when you and your colleagues need to focus.

# Reunion Picnic: Coming Right Up!

Join the Paw-ty! The annual Homeward Bound Reunion Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th 11AM-2PM. We're back at Tahoe Park, 3501 59th Street in Sacramento this year...find us in the Pavilion Area.

All well-behaved Homeward Bound alumni and their well-behaved humans are welcome. Meet old friends and new!

Adopters, alumni, and volunteers reunite for a casual day of fun games, and golden companionship - and the food and drink are on us! Bring a blanket, some lawn chairs, and your appetite. We'll bring the fun! We hope to see you there!

**Annual Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Reunion Picnic**  
**Tahoe Park, Sacramento**  
**3501 59th Street**  
**Sacramento, CA (Pavilion Area)**  
**11AM-2PM**

# Check Out Our Wishlists

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

We maintain two wishlists - one at Amazon and the other at Chewy. Both links are on our website. Just click on Donate on the navigation menu of our website and scroll down. And don't forget to include a gift card so we know who to thank!



# Foster Care Appreciation Month

May is National Foster Care Month, and while it was created with children in mind, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to our incredible foster care network. Dedicated fosters like Carolynne and Elise, featured within, and countless more, selflessly open their homes and hearts to dogs on their journeys to forever families.

Some dogs stay for a few days, others for weeks or months. Some stay forever as Permanent Fosters. And some, like Woody, whose story is inside, become adopted "foster failures."

Yes...for the majority that move on to new families, it is always hard to say 'farewell.' But fosters know that each dog they help creates opportunity for another in need - allowing us to greatly expand the number of dogs we serve.

We are so grateful for our fosters' support. If you are interested in learning more about fostering, visit our website at [www.hbgr.org](http://www.hbgr.org).

**HOMeward BOUND GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE's 2026**  
**REUNION PICNIC**

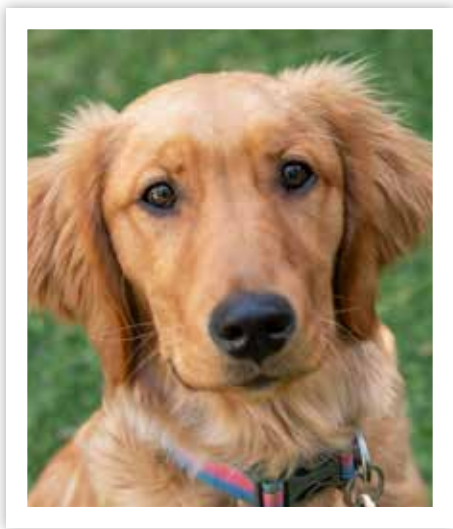
Adopters, Alumni, and Volunteers reunite at the HBGRR Reunion Picnic!

Meet old friends and new! A casual day of fun and Golden companionship.

You bring your blanket and lawn chairs - we'll provide the food, drinks and fun!

All well-behaved HBGRR alumni (and their well-behaved humans) are welcome!

**SATURDAY, MAY 16TH/11AM-2PM**  
**TAHOE PARK (PAVILLION AREA)**  
**SACRAMENTO, CA**



infections. Lily will be scheduled for the laser ablation surgery as soon as possible.

Mr. Blue is now Cooper. His case is complicated by his heart condition, which makes surgery imperative. Without it, he is at risk of developing an internal infection and compromising his heart. He will soon join the parade at UC Davis for surgery.

Homeward Bound has stepped up to cover the cost of all three pups, with each surgery costing thousands of dollars. Are they worth it? Absolutely! And we're not the only ones who think so. Cooper's mom says, "We love Cooper more than we could have ever imagined and are so grateful to Homeward Bound for their support whenever we call for advice, and the awesome volunteer work that goes into such a wonderful and successful rescue organization."

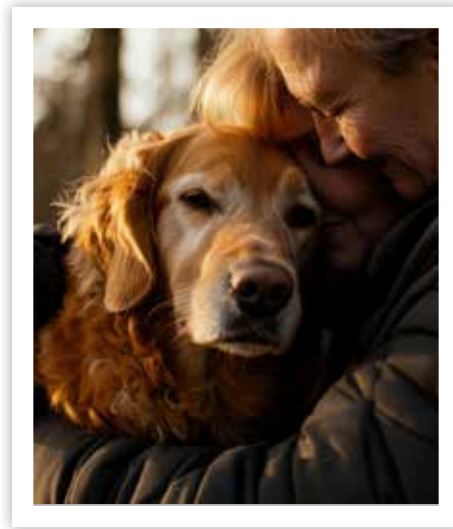
Source: <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/ectopic-ureters-in-dogs>

## Planned Giving: A Golden Legacy

Bequests have played a major role in our ability to purchase the property after our founders' passings, and support much needed and significant 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 Goldens in need will find a second chance at life. You'll find more information on our website under "Donate."



## 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, 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

Platinum Transparency 2026

**Candid.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**HOMeward  
BOUND** Golden  
Retriever  
Rescue

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

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

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## Dates to Remember

**The Double the Gold Challenge - On Now!**  
**Reunion Picnic: Saturday, May 16 at Tahoe 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.

## 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)  
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