

Reaching out to you with...



The Golden Paw

Volume II Number 1

February 2010

Published by Arizona Golden Rescue



Our Holidays Were Jolly Days!



*That wonderful
Golden Paw was
certainly in evidence
during our
holiday
gift wrap sessions!*



See pages 18 - 24



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COLUMNS

Wags and Woofs – President’s Message 3 - 4
Who Let the Dogs Out? – Director of Operations 4 - 5
Second Time Around – Director of Dog Care 5 - 6
The Information Highway – Director of Information Management 6
The Human Connection – Human Resources Director. 6 - 7
Health and Safety: Physaloptera; CareCredit® 7
The Financial Picture 8

FEATURES

Magic Moments. 9 - 13
Diamonds in the Ruff 14 - 15
Over the Rainbow 16
Membership Matters: Holiday Party; Congratulations. 25
Golden Hearts (Donors) 26 - 27

SPECIAL FEATURE

Do Dogs Go To Heaven? 17

HERE AND THERE – Events from November 2009 - January 2010

Put a Big Bow on Us! Holiday Gift Wrapping 18 - 21
 Meet-and-Greets
PetSmart 21
My Best Friend Grand Opening. 22
Choice Pet Market 22
 Photos with Santa at *PetSmart* 23 - 24

MISCELLANEOUS

One For One 8
 Pet First-Aid Kit 15
 Microchips 25
Paws At The Park Announcement 27
 Board of Directors Election 28
 From the Editor’s Desk. 27

TEAMS AND VOLUNTEERS cont.

Vet Records Manager Liz Tataseo
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Editor’s Note: Any personal opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by Arizona Golden Rescue. THE GOLDEN PAW is published quarterly by Arizona Golden Rescue and printed by AZ Correctional Industries, Perryville, AZ. Members receive it automatically; others may subscribe for \$16 per year.

Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President
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Years ago, I purchased a T-shirt that shows a heart containing a photo of a Golden with the verbiage, *Saving Just One with Love Matters... Support Golden Retriever Rescue*. Unfortunately, although rescuing Golden Retrievers does take love and a big heart, it also takes money and an organization willing to do whatever it has to do to get those needy dogs into Rescue, take care of them medically, and find them new homes. Just after New Year's, we got the news that a local rescue group which formed four years ago is going out of business. Out of business in these days when there are more animals needing rescuing than ever before? It was a shocking announcement. This group had a good niche in the rescue community, too, as three of the four breeds they dealt with are not specifically serviced by any other Rescue in Arizona. This Rescue burst on the scene in January 2006 with about 25 members, most of whom were quite knowledgeable about what it took to operate such a group, as many of them had for years been integral to the operation of another very successful local Rescue group. They attributed the necessity of their close-down to declining membership and the economy. It is, unfortunately, a vicious circle. Declining membership means less money coming into the organization in the form of membership dues and donations. It also means fewer people among whom to spread out the work of rescue, that is, taking in dogs and raising the money to pay their vet bills.

Two things are required for a Rescue's success: people and money – in that order. If you don't have the volunteers, you can't raise the money; if you don't have the money, you can't rescue the dogs. The formula is simple. The implementation is not.

The questions are, "How do we get more members and more volunteers from within that membership?" and "How do we raise more money?" The Board wrestles with these questions at every Board meeting. Unfortunately, there are no ready answers.

Even if you have an absolute passion for rescue work, you will not be able to do it alone. Over the holidays, I was contacted by a woman who was interested in starting a Pit Bull Rescue. I did not try to discourage her because of the breed she wants to work with – we each have our own breed preferences. But, she has no friends or even acquaintances that have Pits, and that is what she will have to address first if she really wants to form a Rescue organization.

Organization – the key word in all aspects of its various definitions.

We are fortunate to have a fabulous group of volunteers. Our Board members, auxiliary staff, and department managers all work very well together, and all are extremely good at what they do. Thank you Debbe, Liz, Debbie, Louise, Teri, Cindy, Michele, Sheila, Fred, Teryl, Kathy and Connie! But even these twelve people could not have made our organization what it is today without the help of many others, including you who are reading this publication. So many of you came out to help during the holiday season. So many of you have made monetary donations. Most of you readers have memberships. Many of you have told others about our organization and encouraged them to join or apply to adopt. One of our member families has upgraded from the Single Membership required as a minimum of all our adopters to a Family Membership; other adopters joined at the Household level right from the get-go. Several subscriptions to this newsletter for nonmembers were purchased as holiday gifts. All of that has helped us grow and maintain a very healthy financial picture, despite a number of "high ticket" rescues.

We have only just begun, though. The year 2010 will be our first full year of operation. As we become better known, we will rescue more and more dogs. So, we have to raise more money to take care of them. Within the first week of 2010, we rescued two dogs. The second one, ^{10.002} **Duncan**, had a vet bill of almost \$5,000 when he was finally ready to go to a foster family (please read his story on pp. 14-15). We are so grateful that, due to everyone's help during the holiday season, the money was available to take care of his problems! We want to continue to be ready to take care of all the dogs who come into our program.

At the moment, our membership is healthy – we currently have ²²⁶ members! We rescued ⁴¹ dogs in 2009, and we spent \$^{40,602} on dog-related costs, which is an average of about \$990 per dog. Our adoption fees, which were \$^{10,924}, covered only a little more than one quarter of these expenses. Where did the rest come from? Donations, which covered a little more than half of these expenses, and fundraising, which more than covered the rest.

We cannot do just one major fundraiser (golf tournament) each year, though. Dogs will come in year round, so money also needs to come in year round. We need a planning committee for fundraising. Several of you indicated on your membership application that you are willing to help with fundraising. You will be contacted soon, if you haven't been already. Some ideas are on the table, and we need others. We need people to carry them out, as well. If you get the call, please be prepared to step up to the plate and start swinging!

Special thanks go to all of you who helped during the busy holiday season, but especially to Debbe Begley, Larry Jessup, Connie McCabe and Kathi Youhas, who chaired the various *Barnes & Noble* gift wrappings and Photos with Santa at *PetSmart*. We raised \$^{13,000} in the 28 days of the season preceding Christmas! Fantastic job, everyone!

I would also like to thank Liz Tataseo for compiling all the dog and medical statistics for ²⁰⁰⁹. The **Golden Retriever Club of America National Rescue Committee's** survey is now due. Filling it out was easy, since Liz had all the numbers and information in a spreadsheet. Submitting this survey will make **AGR** eligible to receive grants from the *April Fund* and the **Golden Retriever Foundation's Rescue Fund**.

Additional thanks go to Kathi Youhas, who has spent many hours in front of a sewing machine stitching up everything from business card holders, check book covers and luggage tags, to blankets and throws, all from attractive dog-pattern fabric, which she donated. She has also made several slings from a pattern generously sent to us by **Love A Golden Rescue** in Missouri. These have helped the caregivers of dogs that have needed cruciate ligament surgery.

Who Let the Dogs Out?

By Debbe Begley, Director of Operations
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Proud to be an Active Member

We organized our new group in March of ²⁰⁰⁹ with ¹²¹ founding members. We were immediately faced with many challenges in order to get our new organization up and running. Selecting a name, choosing colors, designing a logo, writing by-laws and getting our key management people in place were some of the major decisions that needed to be made. We must have done a good job, as our first ⁹ months proved to be even more successful than we had hoped for.

Our name, created by Nick Dodson, is simple and at the top of the alphabet: **Arizona Golden Rescue**. Our colors represent the Golden Retriever breed: Field Red (rust), Show Gold (medium gold) and European Cream (off-white). Our logo, designed by Connie McCabe, is very classy and eye catching. Our management people are the best at what they do, and our volunteer base continues to grow.

The success we have enjoyed has helped us get the best veterinarians in the Valley on board with us, so that we can provide quality care at an affordable cost to us for all of our incoming rescues. Our website is up and running; improvements are made regularly. We have partnered with **PACC⁹¹¹**, **PetSmart** and **Choice Pet Market** in order to receive the financial aid and visibility they offer. All of our fundraising efforts have exceeded our expectations. Our first annual golf tournament, *Fore! Paws*, was planned at half the size that we had done in the past and grossed more revenue

than the larger event. We brought in several thousand dollars for *Bowl-A-Rama*, and I still cannot believe how well we did with our holiday season efforts. I had deliberately scheduled fewer dates and shorter hours this year for gift wrapping at **Barnes & Noble** and Connie McCabe, our photographer and graphic artist, limited the Santa Photos at **PetSmart** to only ⁵ weekend days, as we knew that we had a smaller membership base from which we could get volunteers to help. We still collected \$^{13,000}!

The year ended with a total of ⁴¹ dogs being processed through Intake, and all but three of them have been adopted by wonderful families. We had several dogs with major medical issues, but we still ended the year with money in the bank, as you will see in the financial report (p. ⁸).

All of these successes have reinforced my belief that our decision to organize a new Golden Retriever Rescue with loyal, dedicated members who share the same philosophy about Rescue, was a wise thing to do. It makes me very proud to be an integral part of this amazing collection of hard-working, caring individuals who have come together time and time again to be there for any Golden Retrievers or Golden mixes that need our help.

Basking in the success of ²⁰⁰⁹, we started ²⁰¹⁰ off with renewed enthusiasm for the tasks that will always be ahead of us. This was once again proven by the amazing rescue of **Duncan**, rescue #² for ²⁰¹⁰. On January ⁵, ²⁰¹⁰, at approximately ^{2:30} PM, we were contacted by the **Humane Society**, stating that they had picked up a stray Golden puppy with parvo. Larry Jessup, who checks our WAGSline several times a day to ensure that urgent calls are not missed, forwarded the message to Michele Wehry and her always-available Intake Team to start the process. Fred Brown was also notified so he could get the Transport Team in motion. In addition, Liz Tataseo, our Director of Dog Care, was notified so that the medical treatment **Duncan** would obviously need could be authorized and **AMSC** notified. Deb Orwig, our President and also a member of the Transport Team, dropped what she was doing and went to collect this helpless little guy. She arrived at the shelter literally ²⁰ minutes before he was scheduled to be euthanized. He was transported in her personal vehicle, even though he had a highly contagious and often fatal virus, to **AMSC** where the vet staff was waiting for him. After a few days of IV fluids and antibiotics, he was doing better, but then he took a turn for the worse. A complication of parvo is that the intestines can sometimes get tangled from the constant diarrhea. This condition required emergency surgery. All went well, and little **Duncan**, this absolutely adorable ⁴-month-old purebred Golden Retriever puppy whose life was almost lost, is now on his way to full recovery and a wonderful life. The Placement and Home Evaluation Teams sprang into action to select the perfect foster for him: Liz Sawtschenko, who is a surgical nurse and quite capable of monitoring his recovery. There is no doubt that the Placement people will be very busy reviewing applications to adopt this precious little guy once he is put up on our website. His medical

costs totaled more than \$⁴⁸⁰⁰, which we are prepared to pay due to the great success of our holiday gift wrap and Santa photo efforts.

Dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talents ²⁴ hours a day, ⁷ days a week made this amazing rescue possible. This is not the first time a Golden Retriever whose life has been in danger has reached out for help, and it will certainly not be the last.

I am so proud I am a member of an organization that in ⁹ short months can establish such efficient team work, get all of the key players in place, all of the necessary equipment purchased and raise money enough to be able to handle a life-and-death rescue with such success.

²⁰¹⁰ will be another challenging year for us, as the economy is still struggling and Golden Retrievers are still being cast aside. It will be even more important for us to maintain our network, attract more volunteers and potential adopters, encourage and support each other's efforts and work harder and smarter to always have the money available to handle each and every intake with the same sense of urgency and professionalism that we offered **Duncan**.

Be proud of yourselves for all that you have contributed to **AGR** and know that you are appreciated for your involvement, as these rescues cannot be done by just one person. They are done by all of us working together as one dedicated force. Thank you all for a great beginning.

Second Time Around

By Liz Tataseo, Director of Dog Care
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Road to Rescue

Bullets, tumors, ligament damage, broken bones and disease. Rescued dogs often come into **AGR** with life-threatening injuries or illnesses due to their former circumstances. You may have been a part of the ongoing fundraising events to raise money for vet costs for our dogs; if you have, thank you, thank you, thank you. We are fortunate to have leadership that is ready and willing to do all they can to organize events and do all the hard work necessary to raise big bucks to let us take care of our dogs medically and behaviorally. How is that money translated into helping our dogs? It happens through the Dog Management and Health Care Teams.

The purpose of the Dog Management and Health Care Teams is to get the dog in, get the dog healthy and make sure it has a great home

and an adoption finalized so he or she is home forever. After an Intake volunteer – Michele Wehry, Kathy Blue or Judy Petitto – has done all the preliminary work to bring in a dog (from either a surrendering owner, shelter or finder, which could take hours of gathering information), our Transport Coordinator, Fred Brown, assigns a transport person who picks up the dog and takes it to a vet, foster or foster-with-intent-to-adopt (FWITA). If the dog is on the E-list at a shelter, this transport has to happen immediately, and our volunteers have been known to drop everything else to make this happen (please see the list of transporters on the inside cover of this magazine). If a dog doesn't go directly to a foster or a vet, our Placement Coordinator, Michele Wehry, has spent additional hours matching each dog with a great family. The FWITA in this case would be the one who takes the dog to the vet or sees the dog through additional treatment. Once a dog is safely in a home or at the vet, each dog receives our standard vetting: needed vaccines, valley fever and heartworm testing, fecal if necessary, spaying or neutering and microchipping. During the exam, if any other disease or issue is suspected, then further treatment is planned. These issues have included cancer treatments, ligament surgeries, spinal surgeries, amputations and treatment of heartworm, *Giardia*, kennel cough and ear infections, to name a few. Our Health Care Manager, Teri Guilbault, and Vet Liaisons, Liz Sawtschenko and Beverly Ruth, stay in close contact with foster or FWITA and the vet until the dog is medically cleared. Once cleared for adoption, our Follow-up volunteer, Karen Davis, contacts the FWITA to make sure all is going well. The decision is then made to finalize the adoption.

If a dog has been fostered, the Placement Coordinator goes through the same intensive process to match the dog with a great family with input from the foster. Oftentimes, a dog might have behavior problems and our trained Behavior Liaison, Teryl Hall, will work closely with the foster or FWITA to alleviate the problems and/or suggests a professional to work with the family.

Our *Road to Rescue* often starts with a phone call to our WAGS line, manned by Larry Jessup, who coordinates all calls to the appropriate volunteer.

Our *Road to Rescue* ends with a great family and that, too, takes volunteer hours. Our Home Evaluation Coordinator, Sheila Joyce, receives all applications, assigns a home visit volunteer (see list inside front cover) and then reviews and approves or disapproves a family in conjunction with the Home Evaluator. All that information is passed on to our Placement Coordinator, who has the enviable job of making the great matches.

From beginning to end, it takes many volunteers, many hours and a lot of care to bring a dog to his or her forever home. In the middle of this issue, you can read about the dogs that have been rescued and how their new families feel about having a wonderful Golden in their lives. You can also find the Success Stories on our website.

The *Road to Rescue* can be short, maybe as little as 24 hours, or sometimes it can be months before a dog is ready for adoption finalization. No matter the time, all rescued dogs are loved by all the volunteers who have had a hand in helping them reach their forever homes.

The Information Highway

By Debbie Ball,
Director of Information Management
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Arizona Golden Rescue's premier issue of *The Golden Paw* was proudly published in November 2009. Our President, Deb Orwig, deserves most of the credit for this superb, informative newsletter produced after countless hours of effort! Issues of the newsletter were distributed not only to members but also were available as handouts at the *Barnes & Noble* gift wrapping events and other meet-and-greet activities, which is a great way to share knowledge of just what our organization does. Several people who stopped by to pick up information were amazed at the content, pictures, stories, etc! The newsletter is a great way to share information with those who prefer a paper medium.

The *AGR* website www.arizonagoldenrescue.org also continues to generate much interest in our group, information on available dogs, necessary forms, contacts, etc. Please be sure to check out the Stories page on the site for pictures and updates on the dogs that have found their forever homes. An Education tab is now on the top menu bar, with links to various informational articles that can be downloaded as PDF files. We still have plans to put lots more information on the website. An After-Events link to pictures and summaries of the various meet-and-greet activities is in the works, as well as a Shopping link for the purchase of merchandise.

Investigative work continues toward the development of a support database for our dog records, adoption records, and membership records. One of our members, Jeff Sager, has volunteered his time and knowledge to assist with this development, so we remain hopeful that we can make some progress on the database in the near future.

Our Yahoogroup <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArizonaGoldenRescue/> makes a great resource for questions or other topics of interest that anyone might want to share on a daily basis with other group members! If you have questions about your dogs, this can be a great resource to get answers from your fellow "dog-friends" or even just to share a funny story, latest

pictures, etc. You must be a member of the Yahoogroup to post any comments, but that is easily done, and since the group is monitored it ensures that all postings are relevant.

Please continue to support our sponsors including choicepet.com and PACC911.org and, especially, by using www.goodsearch.com when doing cyberspace searches. Links to all of these may be found on the AGR Links tab of our website. These groups continue to support our rescue efforts, so we hope to return the favor by supporting their efforts. We also have a new link on our website to PetMeds (1-800-PetMeds), as they have generously donated some supplies to our group. Thank you for your continued support of our sponsors!

Finally, if any members have talents and interest in the area of Information Management, whether programming related, website updating, newsletter publishing, etc., please don't hesitate to contact us as we can always use more assistance in these areas!

The Human Connection

By Louise Carter Carreiro,
Human Resources Director
louisecarter72@yahoo.com

The holidays were a wonderful time for volunteering. So many new faces... Golden included. If you were one of those holiday season helpers, thank you so much for your support!

Volunteering is very easy. All you have to do is show up (although it is a courtesy to let the event chairman know you are coming). The Golden do the work, and do they ever know how to work a crowd! It's quite amazing that just putting a Donation Vest on one of these wonderful dogs turns the hearts of so many people.

We are starting a new year. As we grow, we will be getting more Golden and we will need more volunteers. Some of the jobs for which we could use new volunteers include:

- Intake Team – we have three people now and need one or two more to rotate every 4-5 weeks "on"
- Home Evaluation Team – more volunteers needed throughout the Valley and in outlying areas of the state (Tucson, Prescott/Sedona, Flagstaff); as soon as we have an operational database, we will need an Assistant HEV Coordinator to do data entry
- Placement – Michele Wehry has been doing this job alone for 9 months; she needs help from one to three others to rotate every 2-4 weeks "on"

Transport – more volunteers needed throughout the Valley and in outlying areas of the state

Health Care Team/Adoption Finalizations

Someone to keep track of supply of Avid microchips and Heartgard, to be sure our vets all have an adequate supply and to procure more (*AGR* pays for these supplies) and distribute them where needed and to register the chips to *AGR* and/or the adopter

Someone to prepare and send out contracts to FWITAs/potential adopters

One or two to do long-term follow-up (3 months, 6 months, 1 year) after adoptions

A grant writer

A thank you letter writer

Someone to send out Rainbow Bridge cards

Fundraising Committee – needs several volunteers who will provide ideas and help manage our fundraisers

Many of these jobs just require phone and/or computer work. If a job requires supplies of any sort, *AGR* will pay for the supplies (stationery, postage, etc.) unless the volunteer offers to absorb the cost as an In-Kind donation.

Please regularly check our website Events Calendar and join us for a fun time. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Health and Safety

By Teri Guilbault,
Health Care Manager
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Physaloptera – An Unusual Parasite

When our organization takes in a new rescue that has been a stray, we have a fecal sample tested to ensure that our dogs are not carrying any parasites that can make them sick or be transmitted to other dogs and/or cats in their new household. It is not unusual that we find *Giardia*, roundworms or other common parasites, which we immediately treat. Recently, though, one of our rescued Golden retrievers tested positive for *Physaloptera*, which is a relatively uncommon nematode parasite that can be contracted by dogs if they eat a beetle (the most common carrier), cricket, grasshopper or other small animal like a mouse that carries the larva of the *Physaloptera*. Once inside of the dog or cat's stomach, it attaches itself to the stomach lining, and when it has grown to adulthood, its eggs are then passed in the feces. The *Physaloptera* looks similar to a roundworm, although shorter, and can easily be

confused with a roundworm if it appears in the vomit of a dog. In severe infections, it can cause stomach bleeding, vomiting, loss of appetite and black, tarry stools. The good news is that it is not infectious to other dogs or to cats or humans. Newer wormers such as Panacur effectively eradicate this parasite.

Our dogs can contract parasites at any time, and a simple check of your dog's stool by your veterinarian will help to identify any potential problems and keep your dog parasite free. Please remember to keep this an important part of your dog's annual checkup.

CareCredit®

Most of us live on a budget; some even live paycheck to paycheck with little in reserve. So, what options do you have if your pet becomes seriously ill or has to have emergency surgery? You surely do not want your pet to die unless he or she is determined to be terminal and that nothing can be done to save or prolong the animal's life. Look into CareCredit®. Teri found out about it from Dr. Bashaw at *Animal Medical and Surgical Center* when she was told what it was going to cost for Allie. It's basically a no-interest credit card that is somewhat controlled by the specific doctor or veterinarian who participates. The amount that you charge determines how long they will give you to pay off the bill interest free! It can be 3, 6, 12 or 18 months. CareCredit® can really help – you won't have to take the entire amount you owe out of your bank account or put it on an interest-bearing credit card. Most of the vets who cooperate with *AGR* offer CareCredit®. This company's roster of participating vets also includes many specialists, such as canine dentists, canine ophthalmologists and canine oncologists. If you access the CareCredit® website, you can determine if your vet or the specialist you intend to consult is a participating vet. CareCredit® is also available for human medical needs, such as Lasik and vision issues, cosmetic surgery, dentistry, hearing problems, and other specialties. Check out their website and keep it handy – you never know when you might need it: <http://www.carecredit.com/vetmed/>

It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.

~ Unknown

The Financial Picture

Those of you who scrutinize the financial report in each issue of *The Golden Paw* may notice that there are some Expense items listed in the current report that are lower than those reported in the November issue. How can expenses go down over time? There is a simple explanation. Cindy Tigges, the *AGR* Accountant, and Deb Orwig, President, met with the CPA they eventually hired to prepare *AGR's* 2009 tax return. They discussed the Quickbooks categories into which the various types of expenses had been placed and decided that some rearranging needed to be done. Except for the Veterinary Services category, whose expenses did, indeed, increase a lot in the last 3 months, where you see a significant increase in a particular category's expense, it is most likely because something was moved into that category from another. Conversely, categories with lower expenses than those shown in the November report had items that were transferred to another category.

The CPA was impressed with how clean and organized our records are and how healthy we are financially. We have Cindy to thank for the former and all of you who have helped with fund-raising or made a donation to thank for the latter.

The firm we have hired is Charles M. Hirlinger, P.C. Chuck's office is located at 3509 E. Shea Blvd., Ste. 108 in Phoenix (85028); 602_861_0033. If you need someone to do your taxes or for any other accounting purpose, please consider using this company. *AGR* will get a discount on the fees we pay if you tell them you were referred to them by *Arizona Golden Rescue*.

One for One

As rescuers, we save one dog at a time. We do what we can to ensure that the dog is as healthy as possible, so that he or she can live as long and happy a life as possible. Sometimes we have to do very little, like a heartworm test, a valley fever test and a microchip. Sometimes we have to do a lot – read **Duncan's** story on pages 14-15, as well as the other stories on page 14 – but dogs with serious medical issues almost always also need the little things.

The standard "little things" we do for rescued dogs add up. These are average costs among our participating vets:

Rabies vaccine:	\$ ¹⁰
DHPP vaccine:	\$ ²⁰
Heartworm test:	\$ ²⁰
Valley fever test:	\$ ⁵⁸
Microchip:	\$ ¹⁰

To the health of our rescued dogs, though, little things mean a lot. We would like to invite you to help us with these little things by becoming a *One for One Sponsor* – one person sponsoring one small medical procedure for one dog. Make a difference in a dog's life *One for One*. Your contribution will, of course, be tax deductible.

Reporting period: March 11 – December 31, 2009

	Income	Expense
Adoptions	\$10,924.00	\$1,200.00
Bowl-A-Rama	2,566.92	
Calendars		2,604.62
Sales	3,020.00	
Sponsorships	2,700.00	
Donations	30,485.89	
Golf Tournament	44,852.62	8,381.27
Memberships	4,820.00	
Merchandise	8,637.56	7,521.96
Newsletter Subscriptions	36.00	
Office Expenses		485.95
Organizational Costs		
Bank, Legal & Professional Fees		930.25
Credit Card Processing		519.20
Insurance		219.00
Miscellaneous Supplies		143.34
Promotional		550.00
Quickbooks subscription		54.00
Signs, banners, & wagon		1,206.65
Telephone		472.36
Website		124.00
Postage		370.52
Printing and Stationery		1,934.78
<i>Phoenix Mercury</i> Tickets	1,240.00	620.00
Raffle Tickets	920.00	
Vet and dog-related expenses		
Heartgard		1,516.68
Leashes, collars, & collar tags		1,747.25
Microchip expenses		910.88
Transport		322.87
Veterinary services		36,408.61
TOTAL	\$109,582.99	\$68,244.19
NET INCOME	\$41,338.80	

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Dr. Katie Donahue

Magic Moments... when a stray Golden Retriever or Golden mix is spotted in a shelter kennel and does a happy dance when taken out; when a neglected backyard dog is surrendered by its owner to a member of our Transport Team and is delivered to a foster family that shows the dog love, comfort, toys and good-quality food for, perhaps, the first time in the dog's life; and the most magical of all... when a rescued dog meets his or her forever family and we see the dog's excitement and the sparkle in the family's eyes. As rescuers, we are privileged to share in these Magic Moments. Below are stories of Arizona Golden Rescue's Magic Moments from November 1, 2009 through January 20, 2010.



^{09_020} **Libby**, now known as **Halo**, came to **AGR** in August from **Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Services (MCACCS)**. This incredibly loving, fluffy, cream-colored little 5-year-old Golden-mix girl came in with a vaginal tumor, bilateral ear infections, a ruptured right cranial cruciate ligament in her knee, and 3 bullets in her chest. How

the bullets got there only **Halo** knows. She is just so happy to have a new home, she doesn't really want to talk about it. Fortunately, the tumor was benign, her ears got nice and clean, and the bullets were easily removed. After healing from these initial surgeries and losing a few pounds, she was able to have her knee repaired and now spends her days frolicking in Tucson with her new family, Heather and JR. This little girl is so sweet she has won fans everywhere she's gone, from the shelter, to **AMSC** where she had her first surgeries, to the vet's in Tucson where her knee was repaired. Her fosters describe her as incredibly loving and forgiving. But Heather and JR got the best part of the bargain as they're now **Ms. Halo's** new forever family. Michele described it best when she introduced **Halo** to her new mom: *It was actually a little on the odd side because if I didn't know better, I would say that **Libby** loved her so much that Heather must have been her mom in her last life. **Libby** was kissing all over her, jumping up and down continuously, and would not let Heather out of sight. **Libby** loves her; there is no doubt.*

^{09_022} **Princess**: ¹⁰-month-old **Princess** and her brother, ^{09_021} **Prince**, came from a family in Flagstaff who kept them chained outside all the time. At one point they escaped and went chicken hunting in a neighbor's yard. When the neighbor threatened to shoot them if they returned, the owner agreed to surrender them to a friend who brought them to **AGR**. The two went to separate foster homes, and



Prince, now **Presley**, is living the good life with Jason in Phoenix; his story was in the November ²⁰⁰⁹ issue. **Princess** spent some quality time at foster Liz's home before going to her forever home with Steve and Tram and Golden sister **Napa** in Phoenix, and received a new name similar to her brother's: **Pressley**. Steve and Tram have this to say about their new family member: *On October ^{24, 2009}, we received a wonderful new addition to our family, **Pressley Ann**. We named her **Pressley** after our coffee and wine bar, **PRESS**. **Pressley** is incredibly smart and seems to love her new home. She's been playing, wrestling, and teasing her sister **Napa Bella**. We've noticed that **Pressley** likes to run into **Napa** when they're playing at the park instead of fetching the ball. She loves to follow her sister everywhere too, smell where she's smelling, lie where she's lying, and bark when she's barking – there's definitely a bond there! **Pressley** loves to roll over on her back, always wants attention, and cuddles up to us on the bed at night. She also loves to chase after birds. We've taught her how to shake with each paw. We're looking forward to teaching her more new tricks and how to swim, just like her sister. We're so happy to welcome **Pressley** into her new home! Thanks, Arizona Golden Rescue!*

^{09_024} **Madison**, now **Zoey**, a little red Golden mix, was rescued from the Eastside **MCACCS** Shelter's E-list at the tender age of 5 months. She spun triple sevens in the kennel lottery and wound up with intestinal parasites, kennel cough, and ticks, but these didn't bother her. This little girl believes in better living through chemistry and, with the aid of her vet and her dedicated new parents, Jackie and John in Chandler, is doing just fine. She has since kicked her parasites to the curb, lost her cough, been spayed, and is learning her commands. Mom and Dad have this to say about their new sunshine: ***Madison** was a stray that was sentenced to death before **AGR** saved her from the shelter. When **Madison** first came into our home she was excited, curious, and afraid. Once she knew that we were there to protect and love her, her true personality came through and we decided to*



name her **Zoey**. **Zoey** is a typical hyperactive puppy, with a smile that will make you fall in love with her. **Zoey** fits in with our family perfectly and has even converted one of our family members into a dog lover. **Zoey** enjoys playing fetch with her squeaky toys and is learning her commands. She is a great addition to our family and will be loved fur-ever.



09_027 **Teddy**
(left) and 09_028 **Shaggy**
(right):
Five-year-old brothers **Teddy** and **Shaggy** came to us from an owner who



could not keep them, as her cats were not thrilled to have canine brothers. The boys came to foster Michele and had a great time at her house where they showed her just how inseparable they are. They also showed Michele their big boy appetites and earned themselves some green beans and a reduction in their kibble. They initially went to a home here in the Valley but had to come back to us because a serious illness developed in the people part of the family. Their



second foster, Karin, found out they enjoyed swimming to help work off some extra weight, as they jumped in her pool as soon as they arrived at her house. Karin's resident 6-month-old puppy followed right after

them. At Karin's they enjoyed swimming, playing with the puppy and more green beans, and **Shaggy** slimmed down but **Teddy** is still working on his figure. They have moved to their forever home in Tucson with parents Tanya and Greg, their human children, and a new rabbit sibling. They are both enjoying life in Southern Arizona. **Teddy** recently had surgery to have a mass removed from his side. He is now sporting a fashionable sweater to keep him and **Shaggy** from nibbling at the incision site. Pathology results from **Teddy's** funny bump came back as a neurofibrosarcoma, a soft tissue tumor of nerve and connective tissue. This is a very slow-growing tumor, but it does tend to recur if not totally removed. Fortunately for **Teddy**, his tumor was removed in its entirety and he will not require any further treatment. Tanya wrote: *After losing our last two Golden Retrievers over the past couple years, we were ready to fill the void left in our house. We wanted to find a couple Golden Retrievers to fit in with our busy family, and ones who would be good with young children. We knew right away we had found a match when we pulled up to meet **Teddy** and **Shaggy** and they both ran outside, jumped into our van, sat down in the back row, and looked eagerly at us to start*

driving. It was as if they had just been waiting for us to come get them to take them home. They have fit in with us perfectly since then and, in fact, rotate from night to night as far as which one of our beds they will choose to sleep on. They even resist their instincts to catch our rabbit now and seem content to just watch him in the backyard like he is their entertainment. They are gentle, patient (except at walk times!) and wonderful companions for all of us. We look forward to our kids growing up with them and having the same experience I did when I was a child with a Golden as my best friend. We appreciate all the help AGR provided to make **Teddy** and **Shaggy** part of our family.



09_029 **Rex** is an 11-year-old gentleman who has cheated death twice. Once, two years ago, his original owner asked the vet to have him euthanized because of a minor stomach ailment, and once not so long ago they were moving and didn't want to take an old dog with them. This time their vet convinced the owner to surrender him to the vet, who then called **AGR**. **Rex** made many friends at his original vet

before going off to spend a day with Liz and the six dogs at her house. After just a short time there, he was romping around the back yard with Liz's other foster, 10-month-old **Princess**. He then went to visit foster Sandra and her boy **Duke** before making a final journey to his forever home in Tempe. He lives with new mom and dad, Jackie and Dave, and is soaking up all the TLC they can give him. They wrote: ***Rex** is a beautiful, big and cuddly 11-year-old Golden. He is more the color of an Irish Setter but with all the qualities of a laid-back, knows-he's-loved Golden. He loves to cuddle up to us, and I think he would climb onto our laps if allowed. No 11-year-old Golden should be without a forever home, and we are so glad to have him.*

09_030 **Fresno** is a 2-year-old young man who has seen more in his two years than most doggies see in their entire life. This little guy was living on his own in the back yard of a house in Phoenix and had probably been in that yard forever. His original "owner" moved and left him in the back yard. When new renters arrived they were informed he "came with the house." The home owner and renters



decided that wasn't the best idea and surrendered him to **AGR**. **Fresno's** rebirth began at that moment. He went home with foster Teryl, had multitudinous ticks removed, his health care tended to, was groomed, slept in a house, and ate a real meal, probably for the first time in his life. He became her Velcro dog, following her from room to room, sofa to sofa, making sure she wasn't going to magically disappear on him. He did become friendly with her six-pack and would play with them, but would always return to

Teryl's side. **Fresno's** biggest event was the amputation of his left front leg. Injured while he was little and never tended to, he rarely used it and repairing it would have been impractical. The vets felt the best decision for this little guy, who'd already been through so much, was to amputate the leg. So the same day he had his teeth cleaned and visited "Dr. Snip Snip" he had that leg removed. After a few days of recuperation at Teryl's Doggy Palace, he was moving along just fine as a tripod. With all of his vetting taken care of, **Fresno** was finally able to start on the most important of his tasks: becoming a happy dog. With Teryl's constant affection and cues from her well-mannered six-pack, **Fresno** started opening up and showing people the funny dog he was inside. After two months of care at Teryl's, **Fresno** finally picked his forever family.



Fresno did not use his left front leg at all, so it was more of an encumbrance than anything else, which is why we had it amputated. He doesn't look much like a Golden in this photo because he was shaved down to the skin so that all the ticks he had could be removed. His coat is now growing out nicely.

Teri and Jeff in Sun City are this lucky boy's new parents. Teryl has this to say about how the meeting went: *We did a meet 'n greet with the family earlier in the week and this was the family that **Fresno** picked, without question. **Fresno** was a foster for me that was not just glued to my side, but super-glued, duct-taped, bound by barbed wire... get the picture? While in [Teri and Jeff]'s home, I was set aside like an old chewed-up shoe. The smiles and sparkles that I saw in his eyes in my house were nothing compared to what came through in his new home. Yes, this was the perfect home for him. He endured more than any dog should ever have to go through in a lifetime. It was time for him to settle.* Teri and Jeff have this to say about their new boy: *We've got our first week down and **Fresno** and the rest of our gang are learning how to interact with each other. He managed to take a "swim" earlier in the week so we told him if he can stay out of the pool until the weather and water warm up, we'll go out and let him do it the right way! We've discussed the fact that **Fresno** obviously did NOT have a good relationship with a male – he relates to females wonderfully without hesitation.*



Fresno spent a few of his recuperative days at Deb's while Teryl was out of town; he promptly claimed the sofa as "his spot"

*Jeff has been very patient and loving with him, talks softly to him, gives him lots of love and affection, and yesterday he was actually excited when Jeff walked in from outside and he gave Jeff his first kisses! Jeff was really happy, as was I (maybe now **Fresno** can stick to Jeff a little instead of me!). Both Michelle and I have been off on winter break all week, and this*

week it will be "back to a normal routine" in our house. It's given us a really good opportunity to get him settled.

09_031 Chrissie, now **Gracie**, came to **AGR** with **09_032 Casey** from **Golden Retriever Rescue of El Paso (GRREP)**. She is a happy-go-lucky, dark golden 3-year-old, who enjoys quality time with other dogs, cats, and kids. That was perfect, as her new home has all three! She is now living with mom Debbie, her husband, their small human, a cat cousin, and **Texas**,



her Lab brother. Due to a birth defect, **Gracie** is missing a few toes on her right front paw which made navigating around some of the concrete and rocks here in the Valley a little challenging, but she has adapted beautifully and loves her time at the grassy dog park in the neighborhood. Mom Debbie wrote: ***Chrissie** is the newest addition to our family! She has been such a perfect dog since the minute she came here. She has been great with our other dog, and our baby just loves to follow her around! We now call her **Gracie** and she seems to like the name.*



09_032 Casey, a 3-year-old red-gold male, is another one of the Texas dogs who came to **AGR** from **GRREP**. He had an interesting start to life here in the Valley and was not too keen on making other doggy friends, but with lots of love and dedicated training from our behaviorist, Teryl, and his new mom and dad, Janet and Jerry, he is becoming an excellent example of a

Golden Retriever. Janet and Jerry couldn't be happier with him. He knows all his commands, he comes when called 100% of the time, and he's even figuring out what toys are for and how to play with them. At bedtime, **Casey** starts on doggy bed number one on Dad Jerry's side of the bed. When Jerry gets up early in the morning to start working, **Casey** switches to his other bed and snuggles in on Mom Janet's side until it's really time to get up and start the day. **Casey** then enjoys the rest of his day hanging out with his parents, going on walks, bird watching, and getting lots of pets.

09_033 Copper, now **Riley**, is an approximately-2-year-old boy who was turned in by owners who received him because his original owners were moving and couldn't take him with them. **AGR** was informed that this beautiful boy was too active to be inside – he'd never spent a day in a house. He was now tearing up his owner's back yard and was too hyper for the other pets in the house. He came with "minimal manners, barked, dug, and howled." Well, his new family would beg to differ. They are very pleased with **Riley** (as they have renamed him) and state that he is a happy and cooperative dog. He and the



resident Golden/Cocker mix are now best of friends and play like crazy. They believe his only bad habit is that in the morning when he wants to wake his people up, he places both his paws on the bed then whacks the sleeper with a foot. His parents say that as his paws are the size of a small pony's, that whack gets your attention really fast! **Riley** is also working toward becoming an assistance dog for the son in the family who is hearing impaired. **Riley's** deep bark falls just in the range that his new human brother can hear, so he's already off to a good start. **Riley's** new family writes: *We have had a Golden Retriever in our home for the better part of ³⁰ years, and once you own one you need to have one around. The new dog never replaces the one that you had before them, but they fill their own spot in your lives. We lost our last Golden of ^{10 1/2} years suddenly and just found it difficult not to have her around. We always expected her to be lying in those certain spots, and greeting us when we came home. We also had our Golden trained to be a Hearing Assistance Dog for my son who is hearing impaired. She was not only his service animal but his best friend. We found soon after she had passed that we needed another Golden to fill the void. We contacted Arizona Golden Rescue and they found Riley for us; he has fit into the family like he has always been here. He loves playing with two other rescues we have at our home, which are a Golden/Cocker mix and a Miniature Poodle. He loves to go on walks and wants to be with you at all times. He just loves everyone at our home, and we could not have asked for a better fit. Thank you, Arizona Golden Rescue, from all of us.*



09_034 Abby is a lucky little 1-year-old girl who was sprung from the shelter when **AGR** found her on the dreaded E-list. She went to go hang out with foster mom Judy where she got over her bout with kennel cough, recovered from her spay, and learned to enjoy living indoors and sleeping on a doggy bed. After her recovery and a spa day, **Abby** revealed her true

Energizer-bunny self, bouncing back from just about anything she encountered. She was ready to meet her forever family. Judy took her to her new parents, Peggy and Guy in Mesa, and she also got to meet her new doggy brother, a 7-year-old red Golden named **Jake**. **Jake** was quite pleased to meet his new playmate and after a brief introduction, they took off to romp together. Mom, Dad, and **Jake** are thrilled with the new addition to their family: *What can I say, Abby is a sweetheart! For being ¹⁴ months approximately and not really knowing her background and what baggage she came with, she is adapting very well. She is headstrong, and I have to keep telling myself she is still a puppy! She and Jake, her new buddy who is 7 years old (he's a red Golden), get along great. They play until they wear each other out! With him a dark red and her light gold color they compliment each other. She still thinks the cats are strange and wants to smell and play. They stay out of her way. She started obedience training yesterday (^{1/10}). There is hope – she*

must listen and learn to walk on a leash. That's where she becomes headstrong and a handful, as she has lots of strength. When she came home after her first class she slept all afternoon and night! She's filling out and is becoming a beautiful Golden. I know she thanks everyone, especially Arizona Golden Rescue and foster mom Judy, for saving her and for giving her a forever home with us.

09_035 OB, now **Luke**, is another Texas transplant. He came to **AGR** from **GRREP** when his foster in Texas could no longer care for him and **GRREP** felt he needed a home and not another trip to a boarding kennel. He is a 3-year-old red boy who enjoys other dogs and the great outdoors. He made the trek across state lines with Texas native Pete, and Deb met them in Casa



Grande so Pete could continue on to his vacation in San Diego. Deb and **OB** went to his new home with Mary Beth and Bob in Peoria where he received his new name of **Luke** and met his new brother, 8-year-old Golden **Finley**. **Finley's** littermate and best bud, **Riley**, had recently passed away and the whole family was feeling the loss, so **Luke's** Golden grin was just what they needed to help heal their hearts. **Luke** is doing very well adjusting to life with his new family; he is very gentle, plays well with **Finley**, and is getting a fine-tuning on his training.



09_036 Sparky and **09_037 Annie** are 6- and 4-year-old life partners who were rescued from the E-list at the Westside Shelter. **Sparky** is a big gold Golden and **Annie** is a big Black Lab



mix. Emphasis on the word BIG... these two are both enjoying the green bean diet at their forever home with Rachel and Ron in Glendale. They are fantastic dogs who play well together and with others, walk well on leash, enjoy quality time with their people and have taken over the couch at their new home. They have also trained their people well – they inform them when it is time for meals or walks. For relatively young dogs, neither had any problems with digging, chewing, or jumping. **Sparky** did initially have an interest in rocks, but he's redirected that fascination to the bunnies in his back yard. Fortunately, he just sniffs them out; by the time he sees them, they're well on their way to hopping to freedom.

09_038 Buttercup, now **Bella**, is a 1-year-old who came to **AGR** as a stray right before Thanksgiving. A neighbor found her but was unable to find her original owners. Her finder gave her almost all of her initial vet care and described her as just the perfect puppy,



but she was unable to keep her so she turned to us to find her the perfect forever home. It was not hard for us to find a home for a pretty blond girl, and she's now enjoying life in Sedona with her new mom and dad, Pat and Mike. Lovely **Bella**, as she is now called, sent us this letter: *Here I am with my new mom. Today we took long walks and went to the dog park. I am trying to be*

a very good girl, but I got a little nervous and had an accident on the carpet. After that my mom took me outside so many times that I learned how to go outside. My dad said smile, so what can I say! This is my first day in this new home. I have been in three homes since November 27th. I hope this is my forever home. My mom likes to brush me and I like to wrestle with the brush while she tries to brush me. She is teaching me a game called, "Stay" and "Come." When I listen really good I get a yummy treat.



09-039 Maggie is a cute little Golden mix, about 10 months old and full of energy. Her life was almost cut very short by euthanasia at the Westside **MCACCS** shelter. Liz offered to go down to the shelter and pick up the dog, but when she got ready to leave the shelter, she discovered she had a flat tire. So she called Deb and Deb went down to get **Maggie** who already had an appointment at **Animal Medical &**

Surgical Center in north Scottsdale. She reportedly had kennel cough, as most dogs do who come out of the shelter, so **AMSC** was expecting to put **Maggie** in their isolation room. However, as it was almost 4 PM when Deb left the shelter, it took her 1 1/4 hours to get to **AMSC**, and by the time she arrived with **Maggie**, the isolation room was unavailable, as a parvo dog had been brought in by another Rescue. So, after her exam, **Miss Maggie** went home with Deb, who set up her x-pen on top of a plastic ground pad in her garage – she could not take **Maggie** inside the house because her other foster dog, **09-023 Jimmy**, had not had the Bordatella vaccine and Deb didn't want him exposed to kennel cough – one dog with it was enough! **Maggie** stayed isolated in Deb's garage for 3 weeks, having a royal fit every time Deb's dogs came out in the garage to get into her car – she would bark and bark and carry on. Turns out that she just wanted to play with them! Michele finally decided that **Maggie** needed to be socialized, so she and her neighbor, Joyce (also an **AGR** member), picked up **Maggie** and drove her back to Joyce's house where there is a very laid back older canine. **Maggie** was fine with him and also with all of Michele's dogs. Within a couple of days, **Maggie** was placed with Kris, but she turned out to be too energetic for one of Kris's dogs. Kris saw to it that **Maggie** got her spay done, and by that time Michele had finally found **Maggie** her forever home with Krista in Chandler. What a saga for a little girl who was almost

put down. Happy new life, **Maggie!**

09-040 Bella: This little **Bella** is an 8-month-old sweetheart who came to us from an owner who had her only three months and couldn't handle having a puppy. "She chews everything!" was the response from the surrendering owner's child when asked about bad habits. Well, what normal 8-month-old puppy doesn't chew some things when left without supervision? So, **Bella** came to **AGR**, and we took her to Bonnie and Thomas in Tucson. They were kind enough to meet Teri and her daughter Michelle at **Animal Medical and Surgical Center** in Scottsdale and brought **Bella's** new doggy sister with them. It was love at first sight for both humans and canines. Michele and Teri discovered that **Bella** was going to be joining her sister in living the good life, starting with pooch pillows for the ride home to Tucson and continuing on with a family vacation to Rocky Point for the holidays. **Bella** had an excellent time on vacation and is settling in well with her family.



09-042 Ben is an 8-year-old boy who came back to **AGR** when things didn't work out at his first house. He spent a few days with foster Sandra and her four-legged family, including Golden **Duke** and several cats, before going to his really-forever home with Joyce in Sun Lakes. He and his tennis balls have settled in well with Joyce and her Golden **Rosie**. After a few days of **Rosie** and **Ben** trying to decide who was in charge, they decided everyone was happier if they just let Mom Joyce be the boss. Joyce said: *Do I love Ben! All's well here with the addition of Ben in early December. At first there were a few little spats with Rosie as to who was "the boss" here, and it turned out to be neither of them as it's me. He's bonded like a glove. I was told he absolutely loved balls, and boy were they right. He loves going to the dog park to race after balls tossed with a launcher. It didn't take long for him to find the woobie basket here and actually has Rosie playing with him. Now if only I could teach both of them to pick up their toys before they go to bed. He had a little separation anxiety at first when I left the house without him but has come to realize that I do return. He now greets me at the door with excessive tail wagging and a happy smile. He's the first rescue I haven't had to take off 20-30 pounds as he is just right! He's absolutely the best!*

A dog wags its tail with its heart.

~ Martin Buxtom

Diamonds in the Ruff

Diamonds in the Ruff are rescued dogs that require **AGR** to spend at least \$¹⁰⁰⁰ on their health care. In our November issue, we featured ^{09_005} **Bagel**, now known as **Big**, ^{09_013} **Jake**, and ^{09_020} **Libby**, now known as **Halo**. To follow up... **Big** is doing wonderfully well. He can now sit and lie down without pain and even has shown an interest in playing with **Lilly**, the other resident Golden. **Jake** brought his parents and Golden brother, **Rex**, to help with a couple of the gift wrap sessions during the holidays. No one could tell he'd ever had anything wrong with his hips or his left leg. The biogel has done a remarkable job with his hips, and the cruciate ligament repair was successful, thanks to Dr. Pullen's expertise and to the diligent rehabilitation exercises carried out by **Jake's** folks, Dave and Jackie. **Halo** has finished her chemotherapy and is now cancer free; she has also recovered from her TPLO surgery and is doing splendidly.

Since November, **AGR** has rescued four dogs that have had serious medical needs: ^{09_023} **Jimmy**, ^{09_027} **Teddy**, ^{09_030} **Fresno**, and ^{10_002} **Duncan**.



Handsome, ¹¹-month-old **Jimmy**, a classic-looking Golden with very nice conformation, was surrendered at the end of October by an owner who had kept him in his back yard. He was unsocialized both with people and with other dogs. He was never given any obedience training or guidance, or had any limits put on behavior. He never learned that "people stuff"

should not be treated as chew toys. We placed him with a family that didn't realize how much time an untrained, basically full-grown puppy would require, so we had to take him back after just two weeks with them. We decided it would be the opportune time to get him neutered before placing him with a foster. At **Animal Medical & Surgical Center**, he ate the nice fleece pad they put in his kennel with him after the neuter surgery. He vomited part of it up, and then had to be made to vomit each day for the next three days, because the vet could still see on x-rays a mass of something in his stomach. On the third day, he threw up a whole sock, and "something blue" and "something green" plastic items, as well as the rest of the kennel pad. When **Jimmy** was finally emptied out, he went to foster at Deb's boot camp, where she says "every day is a training day in my house for whoever is here." He is doing well with his obedience training and now knows all the basic commands (sit, down, stay, come, heel), but he has not yet earned the right to be loose in the house (Deb has her large

kitchen area blocked off from the rest of the house) or to have soft toys for more than a supervised minute, as he still wants to shred and eat them. Although he is wonderful with people and around other dogs, he is still a little "mouthy" and wants to jump up on guests. We are looking for a special adopter for him who will be willing to continue his training with diligence. When all was said and done at the vet's, **Jimmy's** bill amounted to just under \$¹⁰⁰⁰.



You have read some of **Teddy's** story already in the *Magic Moments* section (p. ¹⁰). He has been adopted for the second and, we hope, final time. When he first came into our Rescue, we noticed a wart-like growth on his side. Once he was at his new family's home, his mom took him to the vet who thought the growth might be malignant, so we had him remove it. He was correct – it was determined to be a neurofibrosarcoma, a slow-growing cancer but one likely to return unless very wide margins were obtained when the growth was removed. We then consulted a canine oncologist, who recommended additional surgery to get wider margins, with possible chemotherapy follow-up depending on the biopsy results. The biopsy came back completely clean, so no chemo is necessary. Hooray for **Teddy**! He will now live a long and happy life. That prognosis, however, cost **AGR** over \$²⁸⁰⁰.



Little Golden mix **Fresno's** story is also in *Magic Moments* (pp. ¹⁰⁻¹¹), as he has now been adopted. This sweet little boy really had a rough time before he was rescued. In addition to his leg problem, he was cryptorchid, meaning that one of his testicles was undescended, so the neuter surgery was much more complicated (and expensive) than usual. He has adapted well to life as a tripod and is becoming better socialized by the day, although he is still somewhat skittish around strangers, especially men. We're sure that his new daddy's TLC will help him overcome that in short order. The operation to remove **Fresno's** damaged leg and do his neutering cost **AGR** almost \$³⁷⁰⁰.



On January ⁵, ²⁰¹⁰, we got a call from the **Arizona Humane Society** in mid afternoon. They had a ⁴-month-old purebred Golden puppy with parvo that they would be euthanizing unless we could

get him before ⁵ PM. Our Transport Manager, Fred, went into overdrive, issued a message to the Transport Team via e-mail,

then started calling everyone he thought might be able to go get the pup. Deb offered and managed to get down to the *AHS* at 4:40 PM, just 20 minutes before the puppy would have faced the dreaded big E. Celia, the nice *AHS* lady who helped coordinate this rescue, asked if we would name the puppy **Duncan**, so that's now his name. Deb drove **Duncan** to *AMSC* with an IV fluid bag hanging from the coat hook in her minivan. The vet and vet tech were waiting for her in the isolation room. **Duncan** was a sick pup. His status was touch-and-go for 3 days. The vet then determined that he was over the hump and would survive the parvo infection. However, on Sunday he developed intussusception, a not-uncommon side effect of parvo, where the intestine telescopes within itself. It occurs primarily in the small intestine. When the intestine slides within itself, the blood supply to that section is greatly reduced and the tissue begins to swell and then die. The entire process can occur rapidly, which makes early detection and treatment essential. Upon examining **Duncan** Sunday morning, the vet felt a sausage-shaped lump in his abdomen. She took x-rays and confirmed that it was, indeed, an intussusception and called us immediately to let us know that **Duncan** would die if we opted not to have her do surgery. Of course we wanted to do everything possible to save this little guy, so the vet opened him up hoping that all she would need to do was untangle the intestine and tack it down so it would not re-telescope. Unfortunately, she found that a small section of the intestine had already become necrotic, so she had to cut out that section and stitch the remaining pieces together. **Duncan** survived the surgery and is recovering from his ordeal at the home of his foster family. It will be a few weeks before we will even begin looking for a forever family for this young boy, but we are confident that we have bought him a new life. The cost to *AGR*? Thanks to a very generous discount from *AMSC*, only \$4,856.



We will be walking for **Duncan** in the 2nd Annual *PetSmart Charities Walk* on Sunday, February 21st. We hope to be able to raise enough money with our participation to recover what we have already paid for his vet expenses. How about joining us for this fun event? Registration information is available at www.mypet-walk.com

Won't you consider becoming a Diamond Donor? We would be grateful for any contributions any of you would like to make to help *AGR* with the medical bills of any of these *Diamonds in the Ruff*.

He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.
~ Unknown

PET FIRST-AID KIT

Creating a pet first-aid kit is a smart idea that will prepare you to act quickly in case of emergency. Put everything related to your pet's health issues in an easily-accessible bag. A clear plastic tote is ideal, as that will allow you to readily find whatever you need, and you can place a card with emergency numbers on the inside facing out so they are easily read. On your Emergency Numbers card, be sure to include:

- Phone number of your veterinarian
- National Animal Poison Control Center – open 24/7/365; charges a consultation fee 1-900-680-0000
- Closest Veterinary Emergency Animal Hospital phone number and address

Include a folder with copies of all your pet's medical records. These records will be most important if you have to take your pet to an Emergency Animal Hospital or to a veterinarian who is not your regular vet; for example, if you have need of a vet while on a trip out of your home area. If you leave your pet home with a pet-sitter, leave copies of these records, as well as a letter signed by you giving the pet-sitter permission to have your pet treated by a vet.

A very handy item is a book on pet health care; there are several good ones available. Be sure to read it before you have to use it!

Keep a list of substances which might be found in and around your home that are toxic to pets. Such a list is available under the Education tab on our website, www.arizonagoldenrescue.org

Carry a blanket or large towel in your vehicle. These can be used to wrap a cold animal or to carry an animal that is injured or bleeding.

First-Aid Kit contents should include:

- Tweezers
- Dog nail trimmer
- Styptic powder – to stop bleeding if you cut a nail too short
- Scissors
- Bandages and gauze
- Betadine sponges – for cleaning cuts and wounds
- Eyedropper
- Peroxide – use to induce vomiting upon ingestion of non-food object or if pet eats something toxic; can also be used for cleaning wounds
- Rubber gloves
- Saline solution – regular human contact lens saline solution can be used to flush out dirt, sand, or other eye irritants
- Sterile Vaseline – will prevent soap and water from getting into your pets eyes while you are giving a bath
- Sterile telfa pads (non-stick) to put on wound before applying bandage
- Triple antibiotic ointment

After applying what first-aid you can, be sure to seek veterinary care as soon as possible to assure the best outcome for your pet.

OVER THE RAINBOW

We honor the memory of our
canine and human
friends and companions
who have passed on...



Allie Guilbault



Daisy Johnston



Beetle Bailey
Foust / Korycki



Zach Morgan

Kelly Kunkel's beloved grandmother,
Veronica Blasco

Angela Palumbo's beloved mother,
Marian Castellano

The Rainbow Bridge

There is a bridge connecting Heaven and Earth. It is called the Rainbow Bridge because of its many colors.

Just this side of the Rainbow Bridge there is a land of meadows, hills and valleys with lush green grass.

When a beloved pet dies, the pet goes to this place. There is always food and water and warm spring weather. The old and frail animals are young again. Those who are maimed are made whole again. They play all day with each other.

There is only one thing missing. They are not with their special person who loved them on Earth.

So each day they run and play until the day comes when one suddenly stops playing and looks up! The nose twitches! The ears are up! The eyes are staring! And this one suddenly runs from the group!

You have been seen, and when you and your special friend meet, you take him or her in your arms and embrace.

Your face is kissed again and again and again, and you look once more into the eyes of your trusting pet.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together, never again to be separated.

When rescued two years ago, **Beetle Bailey** was a 10-year-old, skinny, 42-lb, unspayed female Golden who had diabetes and, as a result, had lost her sight; she also had several tumors which needed to be removed. Rescue provided eye surgery and gave her her sight back. The diabetes got under control, and they also got rid of those nasty tumors, as well as getting her spayed. Connie and Nick fostered **Beetle Bailey** for months, then Greg and Carrie, who live in Austin, TX, adopted her. They had to wait until she had recovered from her eye surgery to take her home. Greg said, *I will never forget **Beetle Bailey**, the Golden who danced and sang for her breakfast and supper; the Golden who demanded belly rubs and insisted I rub her nose... and the Golden who surprised us again and again. We never lost sight that we wanted to make sure she had a good quality of life. She was my friend, my Golden, and my sweetheart. The TV room is now empty, the house is quiet. The barks that once echoed in our home are sadly missing, and the cats are wondering where their buddy has gone. **Pippi** and **Charlotte**, our other Golden, are wondering where's **Beetle**. We have lost a beautiful friend.*

DO DOGS GO TO HEAVEN?

By Rick Nedow
ricknedow@hotmail.com

As I sat in my easy chair one blustery February evening, I watched the snow continue to come down, covering the area I had just finished shoveling. I could feel the heat from the fireplace as it radiated across the room where I sat. The crackling of the burning logs reminded me of another time. I could almost feel his presence where he once spread out to sleep on his rug near the hearth. Its tattered edges were now a reminder of an old friend that once enjoyed its warmth. I was still unable to assign it to some obscure back corner closet; the memories were still too fresh to disturb this place of honor.

I began to reflect on the many wonderful dogs I've owned in my lifetime and then sadly gave up to death, but **Benny** was special. Looking down at that empty rug, a question came to mind, "If dogs don't go to heaven, then where do they go?"

I could think of several people I knew who couldn't hold a candle to the people skills this animal exuded. The unconditional love he gave me, his joy for living although short, could fill a human lifetime. He had developed these traits quite naturally.

Benny, after 13 years by my side, was given back to God on Christmas Eve night. As I lay there on that cold tile floor of the hospital's examining room cradling him in my arms, I could feel him convulse as the waves of pain washed over his body. Intuitively, I somehow knew that this would probably be the last time we would embrace. The touch of my hand stroking his body seemed to comfort him as we awaited the examination from the vet. Riddled with guilt, I remembered the promise I had made to myself many years earlier; after watching so many of my dogs suffer needlessly, unable to let them go. I vowed never to let that happen again.

The memories of our sweet times together began to play back in my mind. **Benny** was given to us as a six-month-old pup. He was the first Golden Retriever we ever owned that couldn't swim. I remember spending hours in the lake gently cradling his body with my arms as he made his best attempts at pleasing me. Finally, our hard work paid off. Swimming then became his favorite pastime. He would now spend each day trying to catch one of the thousands of elusive fish that populated our shoreline during our summers in northern Michigan. Occasionally our local duck population would seek him out for a game of "try and catch us if you can." After his swim, he would intuitively surprise me by running up to my side for a head pat, then instead, happily give me a soak-down – as he shook the water from his fur, he managed to cover every inch of my body. He never missed a spot and then left me there in shock dripping wet as he scampered up the pathway that led

to our garage. He would wait patiently until my arrival to finish towelng him off before letting him into the house. With that, he would collapse on his rug, near the hearth, to enjoy an afternoon snooze. I was begrudgingly assigned to the laundry room by my wife. There, I would leave my wet and hair-covered clothes in the basket marked "dog stuff" that had earlier been prepared for just such an occasion. His love for me and the contented look on his face while lying there asleep would immediately melt away any animosity I would harbor about the incident.

In late fall before bird season opened, I would take him to my hunting property to practice flushing the game birds that populated the woodlands of northern Michigan. When he had found his prey, his lower lip would begin to quiver as he froze on point to await my command. Watching him standing there like a statue but so excited was contagious even for an old bird hunter like me. We continued to practice this ritual each year until finally at the age of 12, one of his back legs began to give him trouble. It saddened me to leave him home when hunting season opened that year.

Since his death, I still awaken during the night, in a twilight sleep, believing I could hear the sound of his soft melodious breathing coming from my side of the bed where he used to lie asleep at night. Unconsciously, I would take great care not to awaken him while on my way for a midnight bathroom visit.

Do dogs go to heaven? I'm convinced they do. Knowing I'm a simple and flawed mortal, and if I'm allowed to pass through heaven's gate when I die, I just couldn't imagine paradise without them.

Ed. Note: In my reponse to a request for a short bio, Rick wrote: *I grew up in northern Michigan and operated a small business. Through good fortune, I was able to retire at a young age, then filled my time volunteering in the school system where my wife taught fifth grade. Through the years, we've been fortunate to have owned a number of Golden Retrievers, which had been given to us as one-year-old pups. Their owners either became ill or were unable to keep them due to rental restrictions. With my wife's retirement a few years ago, we decided to follow our son and family to Arizona, where we purchased a small home in which to wait out the Michigan winters. The story you have just read has been sitting dormant in my file for a year, until one day I met a gentleman (Larry Jessup) coming out of The Home Depot. He was being towed by a beautiful young Golden Retriever (**Honeybear**). As most of you would, I had to stop and meet him, er her; the dog. I told the owner I had recently lost my Golden of 13 years and had written a story about our short time together. He asked me if I would send him a copy, to which I agreed. I'm sure many of you can relate to my relationship with my dog **Benny**.* Rick wrote this piece on February 21, 2009. He lives part of the year in Gilbert and part in Michigan.



Heaven goes by favour. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in. ~ Mark Twain

HERE and THERE
 Events from November 2009 through
 mid-January 2010

By Debbe Begley, Director of Operations
 with input from Deb Orwig and Kathi Youhas

Put a Big Golden Bow on Us!

During the 2009 holiday season, we made our *Arizona Golden Rescue* debut at five *Barnes & Noble Booksellers*, wrapping gifts and watching our canine fundraising teams collect donations to support their incoming friends.



Larry Jessup (left) had set up what we hoped would be a spectacular day at the new store in San Tan Village in Gilbert. He worked with the store manager for months, and he had a sizable group all ready to go for "Black Friday," as well as two other dates. Unfortunately, at the last minute, the Westcor Mall administrators informed the store manager that we would not be allowed to set up outside in the mall area. We could only be inside the store and were limited to two dogs in the store at a

time. Larry was very disappointed, but he still managed to reschedule his volunteers in shorter shifts for the three dates he had set up, and they collected a total of \$1232.03 in donations and merchandise



sales. Way to go! In addition to Larry and his girl **Honeybear**, his volunteer crew included Debbe Begley, Jason Cullen and Kristen Kurtz with **Presley** (photo at left), Dave and Jackie Engelhardt with **Jake** and **Rex**, Dana and Gail Haywood with **Riley**, Jim and Diane Henkel with **Mojo**, Jane and Chris Murray with



Black Friday crew at shift change just before two dogs
 left: Larry, Honeybear, Hayden, Troy, Laura, Angela, Sandy and Judy

Indio, Deb Orwig with **Hayden** and **Troy**, Angela Palumbo, Judy Petitto with **Sandy**, Laura Rivers, and Jeff and Carla Sager with **Orion**. One couple unexpectedly showed up wearing teal shirts. They were supposed to be at

a different store working with **RAGofAZ** but went to the wrong location. They chose to stay and help us anyway, stating that Golden Rescue is Golden Rescue. How nice! Larry commented, *To all of you, a big WOOF! for helping me, and a special WOOF! to all those who worked two shifts. We showed those Westsiders what the Eastsiders can do with three dogs at the most!* Our thanks to Diane Henkel for the photos she took on December 12th and 16th; we are sorry we did not get photos of all the volunteers at San Tan.



Bob, Miki, Sandy, Patrick and Trystan

Since we were not needed on November 27th at San Tan, Patrick Doyle and I took **Khakidawg** and worked a last-minute opening at the Metrocenter *Barnes & Noble*. We were joined by Trystan Schuff and Bob and Kathi Youhas with **Miki**. It was a quiet morning, but we brought home \$74.00.

Kathi and Bob Youhas accompanied by **Krissie** and **Bennie** (photo at right) started their sessions at the Goodyear store on November 28th. They had four other dates scheduled during the season, including December 5th, 6th, 19th and 20th. During the season, the Goodyear location had help



Debbie, Rick with Shiloh, Debbe and Patrick outside Goodyear store

from Rick and Debbie Ball with **Shiloh**, Debbe Begley and Patrick Doyle with **Khakidawg**, **Sandy** and **Annabelle**, Janet and Jerry Brummer, Katie Donahue with **Ginger**, **Conrad** and **Jake**, Dave and Jackie Englehardt with **Rex** and **Big Jake**, Bert and Mary Engstrom with **Marley** and **Liberty**, Teryl Hall with **Amigo**,



Jennifer and Peter Monn with **Dakota**, Deb Orwig and her canine crew of **Rocky**, **Hayden**, **Ladybird**, **Troy** and foster **Jimmy**, Jordan Petty, a student volunteer from Valley Vista High School (wrapping gift at right), Jeff Sager with **Orion**, Joy Slagowski with **Amber**, **Happy** and **Bella**, Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo**, and Peter Wong with his two amazing performance dogs, **Sandy** and **Joey**. Peter has trained his dogs to do numerous tricks including mailing a letter, math problems, rolling a barrel and gathering all of their toys



Goodyear wrapping crew on December 5th; Katie, Bob, Kathi, Patrick, Deb, Debbie, Debbe and Rick with Ginger, Conrad, Jake, Rocky, Bennie, Krissie, Troy, Hayden, Shiloh, Sandy and Ladybird

into a basket. They did performances at Goodyear, Happy Valley and Arrowhead this year, and at the end of each performance, the Donation Vest pockets filled up. The shoppers were delighted to watch them and amazed to find out that both **Sandy and Joey** were

once unwanted dogs, as all of our rescues are – but look at them now. The Goodyear location brought in a total of \$²⁹⁹⁶.⁹⁷

Deb Orwig got us set up at the Happy Valley store. Her crew included **Rocky, Hayden, Troy, Ladybird** and foster boy **Jimmy**, Louise Carreiro with **Big**, Tony Cotner with **Daisy**, Katie Donahue with **Ginger, Conrad and Jake**, Sheri Fogel, Karin Forsythe with **Bailey** and her daughter Rachael, son Jacob and nephew Andrew Moravitz, Mary Beth and Bob Groholski with **Luke and Finley**, Teri and Michelle Guilbault with **Blossom and Goldie**, Steph Harding with **Tag**, Rae Pellegatti with **Annie and Casey**, Liz Tataseo with **Sweetie**,



Cathleen Yamanaka, Happy Valley store manager, with Rocky



Wrapping crew at Happy Valley on December 20th; Jacob, Rachel, Michelle, Sheri, Teri, Katie, Tony, Andrew, Karin and Liz with Troy, Ladybird, Hayden, Goldie, Blossom, Jake, Rocky, Conrad, Ginger, Daisy, Bailey, and Sweetie

Cynthia Wenström with **Bailey** and Peter Wong with **Sandy and Joey**. They collected \$¹⁷⁴⁰.⁶⁹ for the



Sandra with Duke and Ben

four dates that they worked. One evening Deb and her crew stayed late as the next group scheduled did not show up. A lady came up and handed Tony a \$¹⁰⁰ dollar bill. When he asked her if she had Golden Retrievers, she said, *No, I have cats. I just wanted to help.* The following weekend right at the end of their shift, a lady



Rae with Casey and Annie



Bob with Luke

showed up and said she was supposed to work from ¹⁻⁴. Deb told her that that shift was at Arrowhead, so she sent her over to me. When she arrived, we figured out that



Mary Beth with Luke and Finley

she was scheduled to work with **RAGofAZ** but had arrived early. I put her to work; she came back on Christmas Eve to help and is now a member. Welcome, and thank you Jodi Koblick!

Patrick and I didn't start gathering our crew together until December ^{12th}. We booked six dates this year. Two of them were evening



Wrapping crew at Arrowhead on December 12th; Debbe, Rick, Teri, Debbe, Michelle, Katie, Bill, Cynthia, and Kathi with Khakidawg, Sandy, Shiloh, Blossom, Conrad, Goldie, Sam, Tag, Ginger, Ladybird, Jake, Troy, Hayden and Rocky

shifts on December ^{21st} and ^{22nd} requested by the store, as they had had the scheduled group cancel and expected the evenings to be busy

with last-minute shoppers. Of course, we were there all day on December ^{24th}. The Arrowhead crew included our three girls, **Khakidawg, Sandy and Annabelle**, Bill and Linda Atkinson with **Sam**, Rick and Debbie Ball with **Shiloh**, Jack Begley with **Friday and Haley**, Fred Brown and his service dog **Sassy**, Louise Carreiro, Tony



Start-up group at Arrowhead on December 24th – later in the day it was way too busy to stop for a group photo: Teri, Liz, Cynthia and Tony with Rocky, Hayden, Troy, Tag, Ladybird, Jimmy and Daisy



Bill and Linda with Sammie

Cotner with **Daisy** or **Damele**, Karen Davis, Sheri Fogel, Gary and Sandy Fullington with **Houston, Petie and Nickey**, Teri and Michelle Guilbault with **Blossom and Goldie** and Michelle's friend Aubrie, Teryl Hall with **Amigo** and foster boy **Fresno**, Sandra Hansen with **Duke**, Suzanne Johnson (a non-member volunteer), Sheila Joyce with **Holly** and **McKenna**, Connie McCabe with **Yoshi, Zoie** and foster boy **Max**, Deb Orwig with **Rocky, Hayden, Ladybird, Troy** and foster



Arrowhead wrapping crew on December 19th: Sandy, Suzanne, Linda, Jack, Debbe and Jodi

\$4589.⁵¹ during the six dates scheduled. Christmas Eve day alone totaled \$1873! At



Liz and Fred with Sassy, Rocky, Ladybird and Hayden

if we would wrap his



Louise with Big

a hand shake)! He said he would definitely be back earlier next year.



Sally with Molly



Eileen with Ladybird, Hayden and Rocky

Jimmy, Eileen Proctor, Liz Sawtschenko with **Gus** and **Sunny**, Sue Strong with her grandson Connor and **Jake**, Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo**, Cynthia Wenström with **Bailey** or **Morgan**, Peter Wong with **Sandy** and **Joey**, and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Bennie**, **Krissie**, **Leo** and **Miki**. We collected



Jack Begley's dogs, Haley (top) and Friday (bottom) are members of Arizona Golden Rescue's witness protection program

one point, we had ¹⁸ dogs on the sidewalk with Donation Vests on – they really work (both the dogs and the vests)! The last shopper of the season was a gentleman who arrived right after the store closed. He was in a panic to finish his shopping and asked

trunkload of gifts. There were about ¹⁰ items in his car, so he handed us \$40.⁰⁰ and gave us all a big holiday hug (except for Patrick – he got

Our grand total for the holiday season was \$12,947.⁰³. That included



Gary Fullington with Nickey, Petey and Houston

\$1313 from our Holiday Party Raffle and \$1081 from Connie McCabe's Santa Photo Sessions at **PetSmart**. After I announced this total to our members via e-mail, I got an e-mail back from Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane on Christmas day to let me know that Steph Harding had stopped by with **Tag** and they noticed that **Tag** was limping. Upon closer investigation, they realized that she had money stuck to the bottom of



Liz Sawtschenko with Gus and Sunny

her paws. She must have had sticky paws when she and Steph had helped Deb Orwig at the Happy Valley store. When they counted it up, it was \$52.⁹⁷. I am not sure if I believe that story, but the donation was just enough to bring our GRAND TOTAL to an even \$13,000!



Steph and Tag

I cannot thank all of our wonderful volunteers enough for bringing your dogs out to help at the various locations to make **Arizona Golden Rescue's** first season at **Barnes & Noble** such a huge success. I especially want to thank the individual location chair persons, Deb Orwig at Happy Valley, Larry Jessup at San Tan Village, Bob and Kathi Youhas at Goodyear and, of course, Patrick Doyle who supports me at Arrowhead, for all of your long hours setting up and cleaning up each and every date scheduled. We each worked all of the dates for our specific locations and some of us even did double shifts helping at other locations as well. What an amazing group effort and huge success! Thank you all for your support.



Some of our terrific wrappers:
 (1) Sheri Fogel;
 (2) Teri Guilbault;
 (3) Debbe Begley with nicely wrapped gift;
 (4) Teryl Hall with her first tied bow; (5) the most challenging thing we wrapped was a large vase



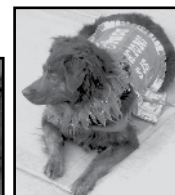
Our volunteers and dogs had so much fun getting into the holiday spirit during gift wrap sessions! Some dogs wore bell collars, bandannas with bells, red-and-green party collars, or red-and-green pom pom collars.



Luke and Finley



Tag



Krissie



Gonzo

Others wore Santa hats, Chimney Watch hats or reindeer antlers and, of course, all wore our red and green Donation Vests.



Blossom



Hayden



Pele



Honeybear



Duke



Miki



Goldie



Damele



Debbe



Liz



Kathi

Santa hats, elf hats and reindeer antlers were worn by the people and, during the last couple of sessions, many wore our new red or navy sweatshirts.

We saw some unusual outfits among the crowd.



Flip-flops in December? Only in Arizona!

This gentleman was very colorful with his red-and-green striped tam-o-shanter, his red and green plaid shirt, and a Christmas tie with Santa and reindeer on it



For entertainment, we had trick performances by Peter Wong's dogs and we even had our own chorus girls.



Debbe directing her Golden chorus girls in their rendition of "Jingle Dogs"



Sandy doing math trick



Jimmy winking as if to say, I know you're going to want to join this crazy fun in 2010!

Meet-and-Greets at PetSmart

By Connie McCabe

On Sunday, November 15th, I brought Yoshi and foster boy Max to the 57th Ave / Northern Ave store and was joined by Karen Davis with Caesar and Star and Michele Wehry with NinAnnie. Debbe Begley and Patrick Doyle with Khakidawg, Sandy and Annabelle, and Kathi and Bob Youhas with Krissie and Bennie were at the 91st Ave store (sorry, no photo). It was a fairly quiet afternoon due to the Cardinals football game at the University of Phoenix Stadium, but we still met some folks and passed out some literature. The two stores combined collected a little over \$102 in donations.



In January, we set up on the 10th, and the Cardinals again had a home game, so it was a pretty quiet afternoon. At the Northern Ave store, Karen Davis with Caesar and Star and Pat Morgan with her

beautiful new dark red senior girl Dixie joined me with Zoie and foster



boy Max. At the 91st Ave store were Debbe Begley with Khakidawg and Sandy, Tony Cotner with Daisy, Deb Orwig with Ladybird, Troy and foster boy Jimmy, and Kathi Youhas with Krissie. Collectively, we took in a little over \$132 in donations.

Thanks to my husband, Nick Dodson, for always helping me with the set-up and break-down.

My Best Friend Grand Opening

By Deb Orwig



On Saturday, November 14th, **Arizona Golden Rescue** was privileged to be invited to have a booth at the Grand Opening of a new pet supply

store. **My Best Friend** is located at 19235 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, which is about 1/2 mile south of Beardsley Rd. on the east side of Cave Creek Rd. We were among six rescues that were there. Joining me with **Rocky, Hayden, Ladybird** and **Troy** were Debbe Begley and Patrick Doyle with **Khakidawg, Sandy** and **Annabelle**, Liz Tataseo with **Sweetie**, and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie** and **Miki**. It was a pleasant day, maybe too much so, as the traffic through the parking lot and the store was fairly light and we only collected \$11 in donations. We did attract one potential adopter, who did end up submitting an application. We thank the store management for including **AGR** at this event.

Meet-and-Greets at Choice Pet Market

By Deb Orwig



November 7th: Deb Orwig, lady filling out adoption application, Bob Youhas, Liz Sawtschenko and Peter Wong

As we had a very busy gift wrapping schedule in December, we did not have any Meet-and-Greets at **Choice Pet Market** or at **PetSmart** that month. However, at **Choice Pet Market** in Glendale, the manager allowed us to be there three times in November and three times in January. This store, with



Connie with Sierra and Max

its wide outdoor patio area in front, is a great venue for us. Even on the slowest days, our dogs help us generate interest in our organization.



Perry Ruth with Chirpa



Beverly Ruth watching Sandy sit up, not an easy trick for a Golden

In fact, on one date when only Liz and I were there with a total of 6 dogs, there were two families who filled out adoption applications on the spot and two others who took them home and faxed them in that evening. In November and January, the volunteers who joined me with my gang of **Rocky, Hayden,**

Ladybird, Troy and foster boy **Jimmy** on one or more of our six weekend dates included: Debbie and Rick Ball with **Shiloh**, Debbe Begley and Patrick Doyle



Kathi, Peter, Tony, Teri and Liz on January 3rd

with **Khakidawg, Sandy** and **Annabelle**, Louise Carreiro with **Big**, Tony Cotner with **Daisy**, Mary Demarco, Teri and Michelle Guilbault with **Blossom, Goldie** and **Fresno**, Sandra Hansen with **Duke**, Connie McCabe with fosters **Max** and **Sierra**, Beverly and Perry Ruth with foster girl **Chirpa**, Liz Sawtschenko with **Gus** and **Sunny**, Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo, Sweetie** or **Pele**, Peter Wong with **Sandy** and **Joey**, and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Bennie, Krissie** and **Miki**. Thank you all for helping.



Liz, Mary, Tony and Kathi on January 16th

*If I could grab a star
for every time you
made me smile,
I'd hold the entire universe
in my hand.*

~Anonymous



Photos with Santa at PetSmart

By Connie McCabe

December 5th



Slow day, but still a lot of fun. This is the first time we have done photos at this 57th Avenue location. Many thanks to Carolyn Blean, Denise Padavano, Susan Parker and Saint Nick Dodson for the morning shift. In the afternoon we had Bob Youhas as Santa, Sheila Joyce and Pat Morgan as

helpers and Teri Turner as photographer. Deb brought her dogs for photos and so did Sheila. Here is a link to most of those photos (some are in the December 6th album instead)

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=6787205618030/%3A96232833>



December 6th



Many thanks to our Santas and helpers: Santa Jack Craven, Teryl Hall, Eileen Proctor, Janet Brummel, Zoie and myself in the morning. We were REALLY busy. Sold some



Janet with Zoie

calendars, got some donations and had a great time. In the afternoon, Santa was Phil Leavitt and we were joined by Liz Tataseo and Joy and Todd Slagowski – Joy got some really nice photos. Eileen worked the second shift, too! Here is a link to most of those photos (some are in the



December 5th or December 12th albums instead)
<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=4887205618030/%3A1716636338>

December 12th

What a great morning crew: Karen Davis, Carol and Don Thompson (Santa), Liz Tataseo and my Zoie. We had a busy morning! Also kudos to the afternoon folks: Santa Phil Leavitt (caught snoozing in one photo), Liz Tataseo, new helper Taylor



Lee, John and Louise Carreiro and Cricket Forstrom. And of course, Zoie, who collected \$61, thanks to Carol and Taylor, who walked her around the store gathering

donations. Extra thanks to the afternoon folks for helping me load up! Here is a link to most of those photos (some are in the December 6th or December 15th albums instead)

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=8887205618030/%3A1177147019>

December 19th

We had a very good Saturday morning shift at the 91st Avenue store – so good there were no breaks, and I completely missed the opportunity to get a first-shift photo. Too bad, it was a great crew. Many thanks to first shift: Mary Jo and John Courtney, Karen Davis, Santa Nick Dodson, and Anne Kowalski. And of course Anne's Sally, who really



brought in the donations. The afternoon was much slower, but we still did OK. We had John and Louise Carreiro, Santa Patrick



Doyle, Mike Mullaney, and Angela Palumbo helping. And also Queen Zoie, of course. The afternoon crew had me loaded up in no time – I never had to lift a finger! Here is a link to most of those photos (some are in the December 12th or

December 20th albums instead)

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=3259825618030%3A1136623768>

December 20th



We had a great day at the Peoria store. So busy in the morning, we actually had people waiting in line (just like the old days). We also had a lot of repeat customers – makes my heart swell to see the old-timers come back. Be sure to see the photos of Ray and his six rescued mixes. He always buys a set for each dog. And this time, on his last trip home, he had the misfortune to fall and break his leg. I hope that doesn't stop him from coming back next year! Many thanks to Cara Holland and Anne Kowalski with **Sally** as morning helpers, and Saint Patrick Doyle as Santa. Cara stayed to help on the second shift, too. We also had Cynthia Wenström, who was a terrific first-time elf, and Joy Slagowski as a fantastic photographer. And of course, jolly Saint Nick himself finished up the event. **Zoie** performed well, as usual. Many thanks to the afternoon crew who were so good at helping us clean up and get



everything loaded into my van! Here is a link to most of those photos (some are in the Dec. 19th album instead):<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=6259825618030%3A1410931971>

Some of the photos on the Kodak Gallery do not really correspond to the day they were taken. Sometimes the camera does that, and I don't know why. If you are looking for a photo from a particular day and don't see it, try the next date.

We ended up with a total of 122 photos taken (\$610) plus \$471 in donations and calendar sales, a total of \$1081. Not as good as last year, but not too bad, considering we also worked one less day than last year due to the afternoon Holiday Party on the 13th.



Connie took so many great photos that it isn't possible to include more than a sampling of them here, so please do follow her suggestion to access the online Kodak Gallery albums.



Membership Matters

Holiday Party



Cute cake brought by Teri Guilbault

Our Holiday Party was hosted by Deb and Larry Orwig on Sunday, December 13th from 3 – 7 PM. Thirty-eight members attended and all had a great time. The food everyone brought to share was fabulous –

nobody could possibly have gone home hungry and most probably skipped dinner that evening. The four Orwig canines plus foster boy **Jimmy** plus Katie Donahue's three Golden, who were staying at the Orwigs' Golden Motel for the weekend, were all dressed for the party and all tried to schmooz some treats. Thanks go to Debbe Begley, Katie Donahue, Teri Guilbault, Liz Tataseo and Kathi Youhas for their help with decorating



Hayden waiting patiently for Phil Davis to stop ignoring him



Bob Youhas, Debbe Begley, Larry Orwig, Janet and Jerry Brummer and Larry Jessup

and setting up the terrific raffle. Thanks, also, to Bob Youhas, who helped Deb get her living room Christmas tree and get that set up; he also strung all the outside lights. Special thanks to all who donated items for the raffle and especially to Sandy Fullington for donating

the beautiful Danbury Mint figurine "Mommy and Me" and to Tony Cotner for his donation of a gorgeous sterling silver ring with a rare sugalite stone (found only in South Africa) – we did a silent auction for these two items. Altogether, we raised over \$1300 from the raffle, silent auction and merchandise sales. As Dana and Gail Haywood, one of our new member/adopter couples, were getting ready to leave, Dana asked how he could get a



Jimmy and Tony



Katie sold raffle tickets throughout the party, then helped deliver the baskets to the winners

Household Membership instead of the Single Membership he had purchased when he and his wife adopted. He said, *When we adopted **Riley**, I really had no idea what this group was about and didn't have a clue about all that you do. Now that I know, I want to be a more supportive member.* Deb told him to just write a check for \$15 to

upgrade to a Household Membership. He also bought T-shirts for both himself and his wife. Remember to reserve the second Sunday of December 2010 for the next Holiday Party!



Dana and Gail Haywood

CONGRATULATIONS!



December was a momentous month for **AGR** members Fred and Betsy Brown. First, Fred's Golden, **Sassy**, earned her service dog certification from **Happy Tails Service Dogs** (photo at right). Congratulations, Fred and Sassy!



Second, Fred and Betsy's daughter Mary Beth Lawson, had a baby girl on December 13th. Mary Beth and husband Sean named her Mikalyn. She weighed in at 7 lbs 3 oz. Grandpa and Grandma Brown are so proud!

Congrats also to Erin Orwig, who was awarded her second Bachelor's degree (B.S. in geology/astronomy) from ASU in December 2009.

MICROCHIPS

Do you own a rescued dog? Not just an **AGR** dog, but a dog from any rescue organization that microchips their dogs or a dog that you have had a veterinarian microchip for you? Have you moved since you adopted the dog? If so, please contact the microchip company and give them your new contact information. Without your current address and phone information in their database, the company cannot trace your dog to you if it happens to get out and wander off.



Golden Hearts



Since we formed Arizona Golden Rescue in March ²⁰⁰⁹, many of our members, as well as some non-members, have been extremely generous in helping us financially. There are lots of costs associated with setting up a new animal rescue organization and in caring for the dogs that started coming in almost before the ink was dry on the paperwork. We are so grateful to everyone who has taken a chance on our new group and has given us their support. You all truly have hearts of gold! All donations to **AGR** are tax deductible. The donations shown below were made between November ^{1, 2009} and January ^{24, 2010}. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted.

General Donations from the Heart

Rosa Maria Acevedo
 Vivian Dailey
 Cari Dandy
 Kenneth & Cynthia Diamond
 Diane Friedman
 Carol Gebhardt
 Teri Guilbault
 John Gunby
 Denis & Tracey Hein
 Sheila Joyce – percentage of Mary Kay sales
 Marsha & Steve Kleinz
 Beverly Knapp
 Greg Korycki & Carrie Foust
 Penny Latshaw
 Daniel Newsome & Julie Gess-Newsome
 Deb & Larry Orwig
 Lynda Portiss
 Art & Mary Rivera
 James Schunn
Tag via Mike Land
 Cindy Tigges
 Tanya Underwood
 Mike Lane & Cynthia Wenström
 Patricia Whitlock
 Kathryn Williams

Honorary Donations

In Honor of Connie McCabe for taking our holiday card photo
 Karen & Phil Davis

In Honor of Connie McCabe for all she has done
 Joyce Hubler
 Jerrold & Susan Weinman

In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kuhel
 Kathryn Whitten

In Honor of AGR volunteers Kathi & Bob Youhas
 Despina Hardy
 Betty, Sky & Star Thompson

*In Honor of **Sassy** completing her service dog certification*
 Fred & Betsy Brown

In Honor of All Dogs Everywhere
 Connie McCabe & Nick Dodson

Memorial Donations

*In Memory of **Beetle Bailey Foust/Korycki***
 Dr. Katie Donahue
 Carrie Foust & Greg Korycki
 Connie McCabe & Nick Dodson
 Deb & Larry Orwig

*In Memory of **Zach Morgan***
 Dr. Katie Donahue
 Connie McCabe & Nick Dodson
 Deb & Larry Orwig

*In Memory of **Little Man and Breezie Eschenbacher***
 Connie McCabe & Nick Dodson

*In Memory of **Lester Meyer***
 Dana Stilwell

*In Memory of our two Golden, **Champagne and Bailey***
 Fred & Betsy Brown

*In Memory of **Daisy***
 Joyce Johnston

In Memory of **Dusty and Sadie**
David & Jeannette Morrocco

Corporate Donors

Goldman, Sachs & Company
for ²⁰⁰⁹ Fore! Paws Golf Tournament

PetSmart Charities for ^{3rd} Quarter Adoption Rewards
plus November Adoption Event Reward

One for One Sponsor

One for One Sponsor for ⁰⁹⁻⁰³⁰ Fresno
Teryl Hall

Diamond Donors

Diamond Donor for ⁰⁹⁻⁰¹³ Jake
Dr. Katie Donahue

Diamond Donor for ⁰⁹⁻⁰³⁰ Fresno
Liz Tataseo

Special Thanks

To Ryan Englin for many hours of assistance with website
design and administration

From the Editor's Desk

By Deb Orwig

A publication such as this does not get done by just one person. Yes, the layout does, but columns and articles were contributed by all the Board members and several others as well. Thanks to all of you!

Thanks to Rick Nedow for permission to publish his moving tribute, *Do Dogs Go To Heaven?*, to his Golden, **Benny**.

Special thanks to Dr. Katie Donahue for compiling the *Magic Moments* section and to Liz Tataseo for helping me with the *Diamonds in the Ruff* section.

Proofreading before publication is essential. For that daunting task, I thank Teri Guilbault, Erin Orwig, Larry Orwig, Liz Tataseo and Kathi Youhas.

Once the publication comes back from the printer, **Arizona Correctional Industries** in Perryville, every copy must be paged through to be sure there are no collating and/or printing errors and mailing labels must be applied. Thanks to Liz Tataseo for helping me with the mailing preparation for the November issue.



PAWS AT THE PARK

^{1ST} ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 21ST, 11:00AM-4:00PM

Sahuaro Ranch Park, ⁹⁸⁰² N ^{59th} Ave, Glendale, AZ

ALL DOGS WELCOME – Bring your Frisbees and tennis balls!

Hot dog and hamburger lunch with all the fixings

Parade of Rescue: All rescued dogs may participate; **AGR** dogs will receive a rosette

Rainbow Bridge Ceremony: Any pet owned by an **AGR** member that went to the Bridge from January ^{1, 2009} through February ^{28, 2010} will be remembered

Raffle and Silent Auction

Merchandise Sales

Vendors with dog-related products and services

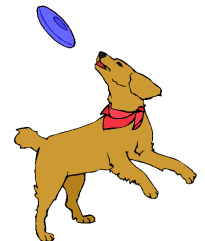
Demonstrations

FUN! for all dogs and their people

\$7.⁰⁰ per person; kids under ¹² free

Watch your e-mail for more information and registration procedure

Lots of volunteers needed; contact Debbe Begley at khakidawg@cox.net or call ⁶⁰²⁻²⁹⁰⁻⁹⁷⁸⁷

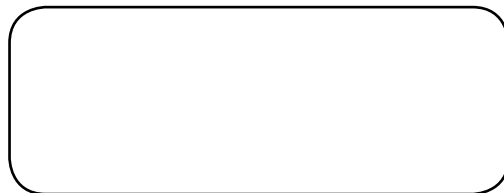




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Board of Directors Election

Interested in serving on the **AGR** Board of Directors? All Board terms are for one year, so we will have an election at our March 21st Membership Meeting. Four of the current Board members would be pleased and privileged to serve this organization for a second year. However, Debbie Ball, our Director of Information Management, will not be returning to the Board, as the responsibilities of her paying job have seriously escalated and she has found she no longer has time for her volunteer responsibilities. The D of IM job involves overseeing the website, the database, and public relations. If you have interest or talent in any of these areas, especially in marketing and/or public relations, please consider volunteering for this position. The Board meets once a month at one of our homes. If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for ANY of the Board positions, please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Kathy Blue at Phoenixgirl47@hotmail.com