



Reaching out to you with...

The Golden Paw

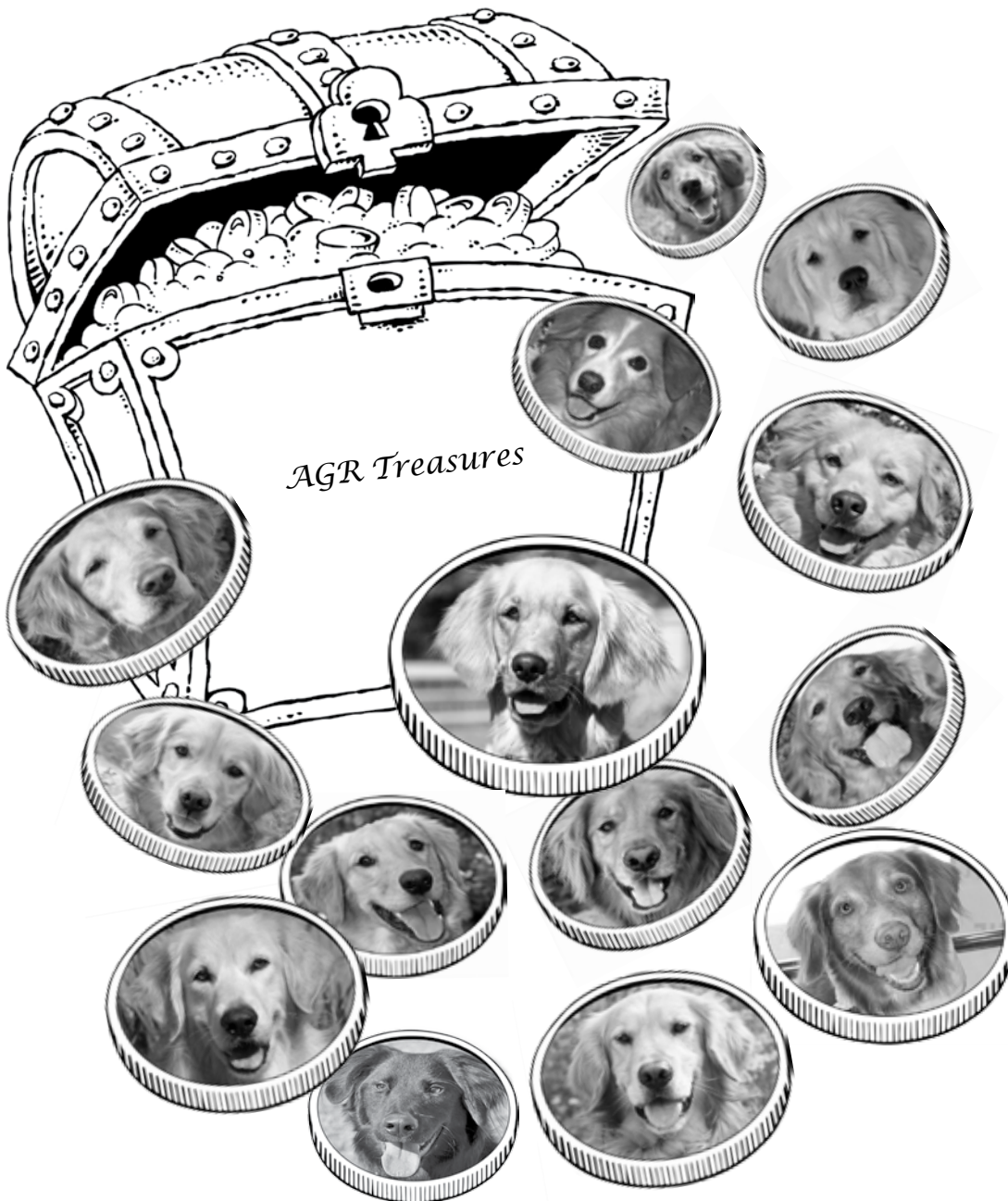


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Treasures ~ Dedicated to our Wonderful Fosters and Adopters



*There are treasures in life,
but owners are few
Of money and power
to buy things brand new.*

*Yet you can be wealthy
and feel regal too,
If you will just look
for the treasures in you.*

*These treasures in life
are not hard to find
When you look in your heart,
your soul, and your mind.*

*For when you are willing
to share what's within,
Your fervent search
for riches will end.*

*The joy and the laughter,
the smile that you bring;
The heart unafraid
to love and to sing;*

*The hand always willing
to help those in need;
Ones quick to reach out,
to labor and feed.*

*So thank you for sharing
these great gifts inside;
The caring, the cheering,
the hug when one cried.*

*Thanks for the energy,
encouragement too,
And thank you for sharing
the treasures in you.*

~ Author Unknown ~

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Thanks to Connie McCabe for preparing the graphics for the cover and helping with the cover design

Coins on the cover: top going down **12-014 Reilly, 11-091 Keller, 09-018 Duke, 09-030 Fresno**; middle **09-001 Jessie**; left **09-003 Max**; then down and left to right **12-037 Casey, 11-078 Duke, 11-062 Trip, 09-033 Riley**; bottom row left to right **11-026 Colby, 11-079 Jackson, 11-056 Mufasa, 11-087 Winnie**

Masthead photo is of **10-039 Nakita** now **Molly**

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Editor's Assistant's Note



My mom, the Editor, calls me a treasure and tells me that I'm worth more than my weight in gold – Aunt Connie figures that's almost 2 million dollars (read her column on page 6), but Mom says I'm really priceless! I know I'm a lucky dog, as I had heartworm when I was rescued by **AGR**. They had me treated for that awful disease and then placed me in my

current home to rehabilitate. After a month in isolation, I found my treasure – a great house to live in, three Golden companions, and love, love, love, even when I do something I shouldn't. Mom yells at me, but then she hugs me and says, "I know you didn't mean to do that, just don't do it again." Somehow the latter part of that message hasn't quite sunk in yet, especially if I see or smell something on the counter that I want. It can be a toy, some food, or just something that looks or smells interesting. So, up I go. "MuFASA – GET OFF!" is what I hear.

By now, I know what "off" means. I also know what "down" means, and it doesn't mean "off" even if I'm up on something I shouldn't be on. "Down" means to lie down on the floor or on the sofa or on the bed or in the car; "off" means to get off whatever I'm on – the counter, the sofa, the bed, the window sill, a person. When Mom began to teach me not to jump up on people when they came into the house, she clipped a really short leash (called a traffic lead) to my collar and if I tried to jump up, she yanked me down and said, "No, OFF!" Because Mom does not use "down" to mean "off", I know exactly what she wants me to do, not that I always do it, but I am getting better. I now know that I have to sit in the hallway until the visitor gets all the way into the house and closes the front door. I'm still learning that I should just greet them politely after that and not jump up on them, but it's way too much fun to jump up – I like to look visitors in the eye and watch their funny reaction when I put my paws on their shoulders and try to slather their face with kisses.

Remember in the last issue I told you that Mom swore she was going to teach me to pick up all my toys and put them in the toy bin? I am learning to do this! Mom walks me over to a toy and says, "Fasa, get the toy." When I pick it up, she gets real excited and tells me I'm a good boy. Then she walks with me over to the toy bin and says, "Put it away." When I drop the toy into the bin, wow that really gets an excited reaction from her – sometimes she even gives me a treat to get me to let go of the toy, but only if it falls into the bin and not onto the floor next to the bin. My aim is getting better and better – I like those treats!

Benefit Wines

Arizona Golden Rescue is now marketing our own, private-label wines, which we hope will provide significant monthly revenue to our fundraising efforts. There was no cost or obligation to **AGR** for setting up our charity wine store. The amount of funds raised is based solely on our and our supporters' efforts to promote our charity wines. **Benefit Wines** has been wonderful



to work with. They have sent us free marketing and support materials including suggestions for emails, banner ads, press releases and graphics to assist in marketing the wines. In addition, **Benefit Wines** has provided a secure, customized website URL and storefront with our organization's specific information and message. What is even better is that **Benefit Wines** handles all of the order processing, product fulfillment and customer service, providing a completely stress-free fundraising tool.

Our fabulous graphic artist, Connie McCabe, designed unique paw-shaped labels. In January, we invited **AGR** members who had adopted an **AGR** dog to sponsor their dog's photo on a wine label, similar to what we do for the centerfold of our calendar. At \$50 per photo, the 24 "paw-pad photos" have already raised \$1200! The labels make the bottles collector's items, as this will be the only time these particular 24 dogs are featured on the label – next year, we will have a different set of 24. Even if your dog is not among those shown on these labels, if you are a wine drinker, you will want to purchase at least one bottle because the labels are so attractive!

AGR will receive a donation from **Benefit Wines** for every purchase of our private label wines. The wines featured in this program include fine certified organic and vegan-friendly varietals imported from LaFortuna Vineyards in Lontue Valley, Chile (www.lafortuna.cl). The six wines offered as part of this all-inclusive program include Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Malbec and Pinot Noir. Malbec is a red varietal that is produced primarily in Argentina and is becoming more popular in the US as wine drinkers discover it.

The cost to purchasers for one bottle is \$19.99, \$78.95 for a sampler four-pack, and \$117.95 for a collector's six-pack. You can order any or all of these wines by clicking on our website's **AGR**-email shopping link and then scroll down until you see the wine bottles. You can order directly from our website! Please enjoy these wines and drink responsibly!

THEN

We've lost our home and have to move in with relatives who can't take in more dogs.

We don't have time for the dog.

We're moving to an apartment and can't keep the dog.

I got married, and my new spouse doesn't like dogs.

The dog got too big.

I can't sell a blind dog.

The dog is hyper, destructive and unmanageable.

The dog has valley fever (or some other medical condition), and we can't afford to pay for the treatment.

We have a new baby, so we're too busy to take care of the dog.

My spouse has cancer, and I can't take care of the dog.

I found the dog tied to a playground swing with a note on his collar asking for a new home.

Our children aren't interested in the dog now that she's grown.

My spouse and I just got divorced and neither of us wants to take the dog because she's too much of a reminder of our marriage.

I was given the dog as a gift that I never wanted.

He's getting so old he's going to die soon and I can't stand to be around when that happens.

Come get the dog NOW, or I'm taking him to the pound.



Wags and Woofs

By Deb Orwig, President
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Since our incorporation three years ago on March 11, 2009, we have heard every reason imaginable for wanting to get rid of a Golden Retriever or Golden mix. Although we must accept the reason, those of us “in the trenches” of this organization still cannot understand why a Golden owner would not move heaven and earth to keep their dog, regardless of what life presents them.

What keeps us going – sometimes beyond the point of what we ever dreamed we could tolerate – is the knowledge that the home we worked so hard to find for a particular dog is the best possible place for that dog to be, both for the dog and for the new family. Our success rate is admirable – less than 2% of the dogs we have adopted out have been returned to Rescue.

We receive anywhere from two to ten adoption applications a week. In any one week, we may bring in no dogs, or one, or maybe as many as five (rarely). Do the math. Not everyone who applies to adopt is going to get a dog from us, even if they pass through the approval process with flying colors. Our job is, always has been, and always will be to find the best possible family for a specific dog. Notice I did not say “find the best dog for a specific family.” Our number one priority is the dog. No matter how much a particular family wants a particular dog, if, in the judgment of our Placement Manager (who spends an inordinate amount of time poring over adoption applications, home evaluations and dog histories), that is not the right family for that dog, then the dog will not be placed there.

Just because a family has had Golden retrievers in the past does not mean they are the best family for a specific one of our rescues. True, we are only human and we do occasionally make mistakes, as sometimes our enthusiasm overshadows reality. For example, a family thinks they want a young dog, having forgotten just how much energy, attention and time raising a young dog properly takes. We place a young dog with that family because they are sure they are ready for one and know what to do. Then, a day or a week or two weeks later, the family calls us and says the dog is “too much” for them to handle. We will place another, older dog with such a family when an appropriate one comes into Rescue.

Some adopters spend too much time comparing their former dog with the one we place with them. This is not healthy either for the family or for the rescued dog. The rescued dog is going to have some adjustment issues no matter what the personality and history, and it will have some behavior patterns that are not like those

NOW

This dog is the best thing that's ever become part of my life!

We have a small yard, but we take him for walks every morning and evening. He loves to run in the local dog park, too!

Our whole family just adores her!

We love this great big boy – he loves to cuddle and he's like a big Teddy bear!

He learned “sit”, “down”, “come”, “stay”, “off”, and a new name all in just a couple of days!

She has never even attempted to chew anything that wasn't hers. She also doesn't “counter surf”, and she's already housebroken!

I have been ill for some time. Getting this dog has been medicine for my soul. He's so gentle and just seems to know when I need his beautiful head on my knee.

This dog has taught me the real meaning of “man's best friend.”

Everyone in our neighborhood thinks this is the BEST dog!

I can't understand why anyone would ever give up this great dog. Their loss is definitely my gain!



of someone's former dog. It will take time – longer for some dogs than for others – and patience on the part of the adopter for the dog to become part of the family. Just this morning (April 9th), I had an adopter say to me, “This dog is finally MY dog. Just in the last two weeks I've noticed changes in his behavior. He now greets me at the door, talks to me, sleeps on the bed with me, etc.” This dog, an only dog in a single, retired person's home (so no competition for attention and affection), was adopted early last November!

The business of rescuing Golden Retrievers in Arizona is not inexpensive, and our adoption fees do not, on average, cover the cost of many dogs we rescue. Too many of our rescues are not spayed or neutered. Too many have valley fever and/or tick fever. Too many have hip or elbow dysplasia. Too many have severe ear or skin infections. Many are hypothyroid. Some have terrible allergies. One is blind. One had degenerative kidney disease. Some have had cancer. Some have been strays, filthy, matted and covered with ticks. Some have had huge cysts on their bodies. Some have been abused and cower at the sight of a baseball cap, a raised hand, a broomstick, or a rolled up newspaper. Some are afraid of thunder or other loud noises. Some have separation anxiety. Almost all have some kind of “baggage.” All have been unwanted for the remaining part of their lives, whether they are 10 weeks old or 12 years old.

In order to raise money so we can rescue more Golden Retrievers and pay for whatever they need in the way of rehabilitation, we do many fundraisers. Our recent garage sale chaired by Beverly Ruth was truly a trash-to-treasures event! We made over \$3500 in two days! That will go a long way toward helping with the medical expenses of future rescued dogs. Thank you, Beverly, for your time and dedication. We have more fundraisers planned – please participate in some way when you can.

Our rescued dogs are treasures; our adopters are treasures – what a rich organization we have! Thank you for caring and for helping us help more of these wonderful dogs.



Earning our Treasures

Unfortunately, dogs do not have hands, only paws, so when they lift them up as Golden Retrievers do, no one can put money in them. Of course, they do get to wear those nifty donation vests – people just seem compelled to put money into them. Ah, problem solved. If you have not yet come to an event or fundraiser because you are uncomfortable asking for donations, don't worry, you don't

have to ask at all. People just want to give the dogs money! How could they refuse those wagging tails, deep brown eyes and smiling faces? We truly treasure our volunteers and their wonderful dogs that are so irresistible.

We have had many events already this year and there are more to come. You get to meet great people, wonderful dogs, and do what we all love to do, talk about our dogs. Come on, you know you do. Any amount of time is what you need to give, and great things happen because of that. The money raised during events goes to help the new, incoming dogs get all their vetting done, and some of them need more than others. So check the Event Calendar on our amazing **AGR** website (www.arizonagoldenrescue.org) and plan to come.

I will also send emails out to members who specifically ask for volunteers for certain events. Please be on the lookout for those; the subject line will usually start with Arizona Golden Rescue (**AGR**) and a title. Check your spam folder at least once a week just in case.

Upcoming Events

Barnes and Noble Pre-Father's Day Gift Wrap: We will be at two locations to do gift wrapping: **Barnes and Noble** Arrowhead (Bell Rd) on June 16th from 10-6 and the Happy Valley location on June 15th and 16th from 11 - 8.

Chase Field Community Corner: We will do two shifts with four dogs each session. Dates will be determined, probably in July.

Bowl-A-Rama on August 4th: We ask members to get pledges from friends and family and our bowlers bowl away. Members who come to the event get to cheer, sing, heckle the bowlers and enjoy the morning. We even wear costumes! This is a **PACC 911** event. Attending helps us qualify for medical grants to rescues, and we have received one every year.

Phoenix Mercury Dog Days of Summer on August 25th: Members can buy tickets at reduced rates, enjoy the game and help out **AGR**. Be on the alert for more news on how to get tickets.

Fore! Paws Golf Tournament on September 22nd: Do you golf? Do you like to eat? Then you will want to be in this tournament. And there is dinner too! We will need many volunteers for this event, so mark this on your calendar now. We also need members to solicit donations for our fabulous auction and raffle during the tournament. Please contact me if you want to help out by getting donations or you have something you can donate. I will be asking!

Treasure the time you spend with your furry Golden. One way is to get involved with your dog in our many events. So, plan now to join us as many times as you can during the year.



Forever Home

By Teri Guilbault, Director of Dog Care
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2012 is so far proving to be a very busy year for our organization. We have already brought in 45 wonderful Golden friends, and there are lots more to come. We have rescued three shelter dogs in the last week alone, and they come to us dirty, matted and, most times, tick infested. To say that they are “ruff” when we get them is usually an understatement. Once we get those dogs vetted, bathed and trimmed (or shaved depending on the amount of ticks we find), they definitely go from “ruff” to “ready”. It’s amazing to see the transformation in these wonderful, furry friends.

Those of us who have adopted a dog from **AGR**, or any Rescue for that matter, know how much we end up loving these poor babies whose past, for the most part, was probably filled with sadness, but definitely with uncertainty. They are almost like finding buried treasure, for buried under all that dirt and mess is a real gem of a Golden or Golden mix that is waiting for someone to love them and to give unconditional love in return.- truly a treasure of a dog!!

If you haven’t already done so and are able, or if you have already adopted a wonderful Golden buddy and he or she needs a friend, why not take a chance at finding some “buried treasure” of your own. You may not get diamonds, rubies or silver, but the golden gem that you will end up with will make you feel happier and more loved than all the other precious gems in the world ever could, and that is something that you will truly treasure forever!

The Information Highway

By Dana Haywood,
Director of Information Management
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AGR continues to grow in so many ways that it is a constant responsibility to keep up with everything. As of April 24th, we have done 45 intakes, which is by far more than the number of intakes that we had at this time last year. Our membership base continues to grow, and the way that we manage all of this information continues to grow and change every day.

In several of the previous newsletters, you have read that we have a database being programmed for us and that it should be available soon. Now, a year after I started in the position of Director of Information Management, we have finally switched over from

many of our other numerous ways of storing data and have transferred over to the new database. We are in the process of training everyone who needs to access the database on how to use their portions of it; we are also requesting them to recommend changes that might be needed to the database. There are still some additions to be made which will enhance even more the usability of the database.

The website is also going through some changes. We are in the process of creating a new website with many new security enhancements and features. As the database and the new website evolve, they will be able to exchange data that will streamline many of the processes we now duplicate. Areas such as membership renewals, adoption applications and home evaluations will utilize the interchangeability of data between the two systems.

The **AGR**-eMail is operational and it includes the following items:

- **GoodSearch** is an Internet search engine powered by Yahoo that generates donations for **AGR** when you use it as your default search engine. In most cases **AGR** receives a penny per Internet search.
- **GoodShop** – Shop online at **GoodShop** and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to **Arizona Golden Rescue!** More than 2,500 top stores are participating, including **Target, Staples, Best Buy** and more! You pay no more to shop online at the different stores, but by using our interface the stores pays **AGR** a percentage of the sale through **GoodShop**.
- **GoodCoupons** – Part of the **GoodShop** shopping experience is the availability of coupons from the store that you shop in, which reduces the price that you have to pay for certain purchases.
- **GoodDining** – You love to dine out. You may even do it several times a week. So, why not earn donations for **Arizona Golden Rescue** every time? As a member of **GoodDining**, you can earn donations by going to your choice of thousands of participating restaurants, bars and clubs, including many of your favorites. It’s an easy-to-use program that’s totally discreet and allows members to earn donations coast-to-coast when they visit participating restaurants, bars and clubs.
- **GoodApp** (formerly known as **GoodToolbar**) is a toolbar for Internet Explorer and Firefox which combines all the above **Good Applications** into one toolbar making it simple to use. The toolbar includes **GoodSearch** and **GoodShop** with the addition of **GoodCoupons**; once you register **AGR** as your default location for donations, the toolbar will keep you informed as to the money that you have earned for searches and the amount **AGR** has raised through the program.

- **Smart Betty** – We are very proud to say that we have partnered with one of the fastest growing social shopping companies anywhere, **Smart Betty**. Basically, each day you will be notified by email of different discounts from local merchants that you will be able to take advantage of – all you do is go online and purchase the voucher for the product or service and then redeem it at your convenience! The benefit to you is obvious: great deals on products and services that you already purchase! Another benefit is that **Smart Betty** understands the importance of charitable donations. So, for every dollar you spend purchasing **Smart Betty** vouchers, **Smart Betty** will give 10% of their earnings back to our organization.
- **Arizona Golden Rescue Embroidered Clothing**. Here, members can order their shirts, jackets, hats with the **AGR** logo on them and other articles to come online. Once you place your order you will be notified via email asking how you would like to pay for your order. You can use a credit card or online checking, or you can mail a check. You can pick up your merchandise at an **AGR** Event or you can have your order shipped.
- **Benefit Wines** – Our newest adventure is described on page 3. Please check out the **AGR**-eMall page for the types of wines available. Because of the cost of shipping alcohol and the need for an adult signature, it is recommended for shipping savings to order multiple bottles. One way is to coordinate with a friend to order together. We are trying to put together an introductory way to have an order sent through **AGR** to a central shipping location. More details will follow with this option.

We are far from done trying to make our systems the most efficient possible and to make the shopping experience attractive to all. More information will come out in emails as we get it.

A little personal note that I would like to add: everything that we do, including all that I have mentioned here, is all for the dogs. They are all our treasures. I do a lot more than just the Director's position because I find it so rewarding to work for these dogs and the pleasure that it brings when we are able to improve their lives with great new homes. Try using the **AGR**-eMall, and please let your friends know about it also. You don't have to be a Golden Retriever owner or a dog owner at all. To new as well as long-standing members, please consider attending a Meet-and-Greet to meet other members and their dogs and to help spread the word that **AGR** is here. We have many locations now in both the East and West Valley areas and all are listed in the events calendar. Let all of our dogs become your "treasures," too! As I put on the bottom of all our Membership renewals... "For the love of our Golden!"



The Human Connection

By **Connie McCabe**,
Human Resources Director

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I would like to thank the Board for showing such confidence in my ability to handle this new job, and also to Katie Donahue for graciously passing the hat and some very valuable information. I know my official title is "Human Resources Director" but really, because of what the job entails, I prefer to think of myself as a Treasure Hunter or Gold Prospector. I will be continuing the quest for people who are "worth their weight in gold." That is one often-used figure of speech that has real meaning in an organization such as **AGR**. We're all about the gold, both two-legged and four-legged (and sometimes even three-legged).

We all know how much our furry gold is worth – priceless! But so are our volunteers. If you must put a value on yourselves, consider this: the price of gold today as I am writing this is over \$1600 an ounce. The Assumed Average Weight Per Person (AAWPP) of 185 pounds became effective December, 2011 – somebody really does track this! This makes the average person who volunteers worth over \$4.7 million dollars. I told you I was really a treasure hunter!

I want to thank everyone who volunteers in any capacity; unfortunately we could never afford to pay you what you are worth. To new members, who might be a little shy about coming to events where you don't yet know anyone, I assure you that you, and hopefully your dog(s), will quickly make new friends and fit right in. The best place to start is at any of our scheduled Meet-and-Greets at various locations around the Valley. We are regularly scheduled at **Choice Pet Markets** and **PetSmart** stores almost every weekend, and the schedule is on the website. It is really great if you can wear **AGR** clothing if you have it, and please consider contacting Deb Orwig to purchase a gorgeous personalized bandanna for your dog to wear. We will also be sure that you have an **AGR** logo name tag to wear if you tell us you will be attending.

We have a place on the membership application that allows you to indicate areas in which you would like to participate. I do make sure that information is passed to the appropriate people. At any given time, though, not all activities are in need of help, so don't think you have been forgotten if you don't receive a call right away. And please, don't hesitate to make changes to that information. Just contact me at photocraf@aol.com

In my fourteen years of Rescue events, I can tell you there are two crucial areas in which we can always use help, and I would encourage all of you to consider these activities if you have not yet done so. We always need more help in soliciting donations of goods and

services for our various events that have raffles and auctions. Of course, cash donations are always welcome too! Please keep that in mind for our upcoming *Fore! Paws Golf Tournament* in September. Every year we try to offer great items for the baskets and even greater items for the silent auction. Please let me know if you would like to add fundraising to your membership profile.

The second need we always have is for volunteers to help transport equipment and set up our booths and tables at larger events. This is so important, and we can never have too many hands to help, especially young people. Most of the people who regularly carry and set up the tables, chairs, canopies, merchandise and other heavy items are in their fifties or sixties, or even seventies. We would love to see more “youngsters” in their twenties, thirties and forties come out to help with both set-up and tear-down. There are no special skills required, and you can give as little or as much of your time as you would like.

Grizzly, Sasha, Winnie, Yoshi and I are looking forward to meeting all of you new members soon at some event of your choosing. Please take a look at our calendar of events on the website and make it a point to join the very first one that you are able to attend. I promise you will be very happy you did.

Health and Safety

By Teri Guilbault, Health Care Manager

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Bloat

Bloat is a very serious health risk for many dogs, yet many dog owners know very little about it. Research has shown that after cancer, it is the second leading killer of dogs, and Golden Retrievers are high on the list for being susceptible to this condition. Recently, one of our beloved rescues went to the Bridge as an unfortunate casualty of this condition.

The technical name for bloat is “Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus” (“GDV”). Bloating of the stomach is often related to swallowed air (although food and fluid can also be present). It usually happens when there’s an abnormal accumulation of air, fluid, and/or foam in the stomach (“gastric dilatation”). Stress can be a significant contributing factor also. Bloat can occur with or without the stomach twisting. As the stomach swells, it may rotate 90° to 360°, twisting between its attachments at the esophagus and at the upper intestine. The twisting stomach traps air, food, and water in the stomach. The bloated stomach obstructs veins in the abdomen, leading to low blood pressure, shock, and damage to internal organs. The combined effect can quickly kill a dog. Be prepared! Know in advance what you would do if your dog bloated.

Typical symptoms often include some of the following. Unfortunately, from the onset of the first symptoms there is very little time to get immediate medical attention. Best rule of thumb for this, and any other medical condition, is: Know your dog and know when it’s not acting right.

- Attempts to vomit that are unsuccessful.
- Dog does not act like its usual self, a very early warning sign and the only sign that almost always occurs.
- Significant anxiety and restlessness.
- Hunched up appearance.
- Lack of normal gurgling and digestive sounds in the tummy.
- Bloated abdomen that may feel tight.
- Pale or off color gums.
- Excessive drooling.
- Coughing.
- Foamy mucus around the mouth.
- Unproductive efforts to pass stool.
- Pacing and whining.
- Heavy or rapid panting, or shallow breathing.
- Unable to stand, or collapses.
- Accelerated heartbeat.

If you believe your dog is experiencing bloat, please get your dog to a veterinarian immediately! Bloat can kill in less than an hour, so time is of the essence. Call your vet to alert them you’re on your way with a suspected bloat case. Better to be safe than sorry!

Here is a partial list of things that you can do to reduce the risk of bloat developing in your dog:

- Avoid highly stressful situations or try to minimize stress as much as possible.
- Do not exercise for at least an hour or longer before and especially after eating.
- Discourage rapid eating – if your dog “inhales” his or her food, there are specialized bowls that you can purchase that are compartmentalized to make it harder to consume food as quickly.
- Feed two or three meals a day versus just one.
- Allow access to fresh water at all times except for one hour before or after a meal.
- When switching dog food, do it gradually – over a period of weeks is suggested.
- Do not feed dry food exclusively, but if you do, avoid foods containing fat as one of the first four ingredients, avoid foods that contain citric acid, and select a food that includes rendered meat meal with bone product among the first four ingredients.
- Do not promote rapid or excessive drinking.
- Use of an elevated food bowl has been debated by many well-known veterinarians – some recommend only bowls that are elevated, and some say not to use them.

A couple tips which are always a good rule of thumb:

- If your regular vet doesn't have 24-hour emergency service, know which nearby vet you would use – keep the phone number handy.
- Always keep a product with simethicone on hand (Mylanta Gas (not regular Mylanta), Gas-X, etc.) in case your dog has gas. If you can reduce or slow the gas, you've probably bought yourself a little more time to get to a vet if your dog is bloating.

There are many very useful articles on the Internet with suggestions on how to help your dog avoid this condition or how to recognize this condition if it happens. Suggestions in this article were taken from <http://www.globalspan.net/bloat.htm>

The Financial Picture
By Deb Orwig

To demonstrate just how fast our cash reserves can be depleted by vet costs, I direct your attention to the Total Assets as of April 2, 2012 in the box to the right. The figure looks great, doesn't it? Today, April 15th, only thirteen days after I prepared that table, our total assets are down to \$107,639.03, and we have an outstanding credit card balance (due to be paid on May 6, 2012, so it will be higher by then) of \$18,116.73.

Recently, we have dealt with three medically expensive dogs: **11-061 Maxx**, who had his second hip surgery in February; **12-015 Abby**, who had a huge diaphragmatic hernia that had to be repaired and then developed pancreatitis on top of the megaesophagus condition that manifested after her diaphragm was repaired and her liver, kidneys and intestines were pushed down into her abdomen where they belonged; and then **12-032 Rayce**, who will need surgery to repair both of his bad hips.

All three of these dogs are young dogs, each only about a year old. We never had any question about doing whatever was necessary to ensure that each will have a long and pain-free life. But, we need your help with our fundraisers and with donations. Please, send what you can – if each of us **AGR** members gave just \$10 (\$20 for a couple), that would amount to almost \$4500! If you would like to specify your donation for a particular dog, you will be listed as a Diamond Donor for that dog in the next newsletter. These three dogs, and perhaps others, will be showcased as our special needs dogs that your participation in our upcoming *Bowl-a-Rama* fundraiser will benefit. You can start collecting pledges now from your friends, family and co-workers. All donations are, of course, tax deductible, and all will be acknowledged.

Reporting period: January 1, 2012 - March 31, 2012

Total Assets as of April 2, 2012: \$122,268.77

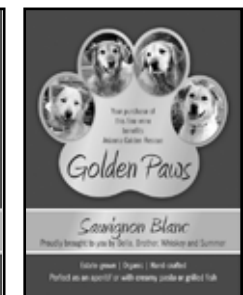
	Income	Expense
Adoptions	\$ 9,513.00	\$ 1,000.00
Calendars – Sales & Sponsorships	240.00	
Celebration Party silent auction	400.00	
Donations	9,621.16	
Debbe Begley Memorial Fund ¹	25.00	
Event Expense		- 200.00
Grants ²		500.00
Memberships	5,365.00	
Merchandise	1,835.00	157.76
<i>Paws At The Park</i> Picnic 2012 ³	767.50	- 76.26
<i>PetSmart Charities</i> PetWalk ⁴	516.00	
Santa Claws Photos taken in 2011	1,375.00	
Stationery & Printing		26.81
Tickets, Raffle ⁵	1,185.00	
Vet and Dog-related Expenses:		
Boarding		166.45
Microchip & Heartgard® expenses		19.95
Rosettes for Rainbow Bridge dogs		298.00
Transport Expense ⁶		172.50
Veterinary services		2,610.74
TOTAL	\$30,842.66	4,675.95

NET INCOME: \$26,166.71

Checking Account on 04-02-12: \$49,592.18
Savings Account on 04-02-12: \$61,874.56
The Debbe Begley Memorial Fund as of 4-02-12: \$10,802.06

¹ *Debbe Begley Memorial Fund* shows only donations that have been made in 2012
² Grant to *Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue* to help with expenses of a 20-dog puppy mill rescue
³ Income does not include raffle ticket sales – that income is shown separately
⁴ Online donations including registration fees have not yet been sent by *People Saving Pets*
⁵ Includes *Celebration Party* raffle and *Paws At The Park* raffle
⁶ Gas for transport of six dogs from *El Paso Golden Retriever Rescue*

NOTE: This report is unreconciled and unaudited by our Organization Accountant, as she had to take a leave of absence due to illness in the family.





Service Paws

By Wendy Enos
wendyenos@cox.net

Follow the Children

A few weeks ago, my husband and I started out on a long-planned visit to Washington, D.C. As awesome as it was, I'd never have gotten through the fast pace and the massive crowds if it hadn't been for my service/guide dog, **Sophie**. She worked tirelessly keeping me safe from falling, supporting me when I faltered, and leading me through the streets and subways where there was either too much light for my sensitive eyes to handle, or not enough of it. At the expense of her own comfort, **Sophie** worked harder than she ever had before in her life, or ever will again. As important and impressive as that was to me, it isn't exactly what I'm writing about.

As often as it happens, I never get used to it... people reaching out to pet and distract my dog. Adults, who should know better, were not only speaking to her but actually calling her to them! While **Sophie** did her best to ignore them, it was unrealistic to expect her not to respond to them at all. She's not a robot or a machine; even a service dog is exactly that... a dog. I lost count of how many times I was pulled off balance by someone distracting my dog.

Now, here's the amazing part. The children got it right! With the exception of only one little one out of several dozen, every single child asked first before petting **Sophie**! The message is actually getting out there. It's being taught in schools. Parents are teaching their children to ask before petting a working dog. And to perpetuate the message, I make an effort to thank each child for asking first.

So follow the children! Never call the dog to you, and ask before petting any variety of working dog. If the dog isn't actively engaged in a particular task, more than likely the answer will be yes, but certainly don't be offended or take it personally if it's no.

As a side note, voting is now open for the 2012 Hero Dog Awards. You can vote once a day, and **Sophie** would appreciate yours. Here's her link: <http://www.herodogawards.org/vote/?nominee=68697196>. Vote daily until June 30th at 11:59 PM.

2013 CALENDAR

Reservations are now being accepted for photos of **AGR** members' dogs for the centerfold collage in our 2013 calendar. One photo spot is \$50; there can be more than one dog in the photo; and the dog may or may not be an **AGR** dog or even a Golden. Send your money to the **AGR** P.O. Box and put "calendar photo" on the Memo line. Send high-res photo to photocraf@aol.com



Spring Cleaning Garage Sale

By Liz Tataseo



Perry: It rained donations for 3 weeks!

AGR's garage sale was held March 30th - 31st at **Easy Street Auto Sales**, 11234 W. Michigan Ave in Youngtown. **Easy Street** is owned by Perry Ruth, and our event was chaired by Beverly Ruth – what a great combination! The location for storage and for the sale worked out extremely well, and we can't thank the Ruths enough for the place and the expertise in putting together such a large garage sale. Many members donated lots and lots of items!



Beverly: Show me the money!



We had a tremendous turn-out of customers the first day due to an accident on Grand Ave that routed about 10,000 cars by the corner of 113th Ave and Michigan. Volunteers who helped at least one day during the two-day event were:

Linda and Bill Atkinson, Tony Cotner, Jackie and Dave Engelhardt, Karin Forsythe, Teri Guilbault, Teryl Hall with **Martie**, Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley** and **Rayce** (a new intake being transported), Jodi and Jay Koblick, Don Krause, Sarah Martin, Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Grizzly**, Deb Orwig, Larry Orwig (came to help with clean-up), Beverly and Perry Ruth, Liz Tataseo and Bob and Kathi Youhas. During the last hour of the second day, we discounted everything that was left to half price. A "feeding frenzy" ensued by the many customers who came back at 2 PM, so we didn't have a tremendous amount of stuff for pick-up by St. Vincent de Paul.

Advanced sorting and pricing was done by Beverly, Deb, Liz and Kathi. Collecting and delivering donated items were Tony Cotner, Cristi Erickson and her teenaged sons Blake and Chad, Dave Engelhardt, Teri Guilbault, Sandra Hansen, Dana Haywood, Don Krause, Connie McCabe, Debbie Mikol, Deb Orwig, Todd Peapenburg, and Liz Tataseo. Thanks to Connie and Nick for lending **AGR** their trailer for security.

Our grand total was **\$3560!** It was a lot of hard work but worthwhile, and we had a great leader for the event – thanks again, Beverly!

MAGIC MOMENTS

By Katie Donahue, D.O.

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 January 16, 2012 through April 10, 2012. All adoptions finalized after April 10th will be in the next issue.



10-045 Ricky and his sister **10-046 Lucy** came in way back in May of 2010. At that time he was about 9, so he's almost 11 years old now. He and **Lucy**, while both sweet and spry, had multiple medical problems but that didn't stop them from participating in numerous parades and Meet-and-Greets – foster Mom Susan brought

them almost everywhere. These Golden-Basset Hound mixes were a big hit with their Golden heads and bodies and short little Basset legs. Unfortunately, **Lucy** has gone to the Bridge, but **Ricky** is still here serving as an **AGR** Ambassador. He might not be in the best of health, but he is mild mannered and polite and knows all of his basic commands. He enjoys meeting new people and having them give him cookies! We look forward to having him attend **AGR** events as long as he is able. Due to **Ricky's** serious and chronic medical problems, Susan has been allowed to adopt **Ricky** under **AGR's** new *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program.

10-063 Aengus is another dog who was rescued in 2010. He is special to me because I liberated him from the shelter in Yuma and chose his funny name. Our President, Deb, won't let me name dogs after eponymous body parts like Sphincter of Odi or Marginal Artery of



Drummond, so as a compromise I pick hard-to-spell Gaelic names. **Aengus** happened to be the name this skinny white Golden answered to, so **Aengus** it was. Unfortunately, **Aengus** didn't get along with my Golden retrievers, so after a month in Yuma, he moved north to Phoenix where he spent some time with Raeann before meeting the love of his life, her brother-in-law Jeff. While **Aengus** doesn't have special veterinary needs – **AGR** was able to take care of him medically when he was first rescued – he does have some special behavioral needs. He is best suited to a one-dog household and needs

an experienced dog person to introduce him to other dogs he may meet on walks or in the neighborhood. Jeff lives on a large property up in Snowflake, and **Aengus** has the run of the land. Jeff is also home almost all the time and able to take **Aengus** with him if he travels. When **Aengus** went up north, he couldn't have been happier. He is able to run around, play with the kids in the neighborhood, chase his ball, and participate in his favorite pastime: catching flies. I couldn't be happier for **Aengus** and I know **Aengus**, who is now around 8, couldn't be happier

with Jeff. Due to **Aengus's** special needs, Jeff has been allowed to adopt **Aengus** through **AGR's** *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program.



11-053 Tatum is a sweet girl who has surpassed senior citizen and has moved into the realm of geriatric. She was found out in the desert and wasn't doing very well when we rescued her but,

Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption Program

In December 2011, the **AGR** Board adopted the *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program. This program allows the caring fosters who take chronically ill and/or very senior dogs (over age 12) or dogs with very special needs into their hearts and homes to adopt the dogs for \$1. As we do when any dog is in foster care, **AGR** will continue to pay for the dog's medical expenses until the dog passes away, unless the adopter can do so, but usually the medical expenses are prohibitive. **AGR's** primary goal is and always has been to keep the health and well being of the dog as our #1 priority. We want our old, physically-ailing dogs or dogs with other special needs to be cared for in the best possible way for their remaining days. We all feel that this program offers the best opportunity for this to happen. Each potential *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* will be decided on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by a Board vote.

through the loving care of her foster mom, Sandra, she's made quite the turnaround. She did have *Giardia*, an intestinal parasite, when she first came in, but a course of metronidazole took care of that. We also discovered that she has spinal fusion and severe arthritis, but anti-inflammatory medication is helping, as are excellent food and lots of love. Sandra got **Tatum** back on her feet, and she now likes showing off her Golden grin and her beautiful and soft coat. Once described as the slowest moving Golden ever, **Tatum** has become quite the busybody and likes to know what everyone's up to at Meet-and-Greets. And, of course, everyone likes to come snuggle with her and let her know what's going on. We always look forward to seeing her, her sister **Jasmine**, and their mom Sandra at events. Due to **Tatum's** advanced age, which could be 13 or 14, and to her chronic medical problems, Sandra was allowed to adopt her through **AGR's Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption** program.



When Maxx was a young puppy, his hips were so bad he could barely stand or walk and would usually sit

11-061 Max, now spelled **Maxx** by his adoptive family, Sherrill and Bruce in Glendale, was a 14-week-old puppy who could hardly walk when we rescued him last year. Dr. Pullen at **Animal Medical & Surgical Center** in Scottsdale was all ready to do

Maxx's first hip reconstruction when he discovered the puppy had pyoderma (otherwise known as puppy impetigo), a *Staphylococcus* bacteria-caused skin inflammation that wasn't apparent until he was shaved for the surgery. Such an infection is not usually life threatening, but Dr. Pullen wanted to be sure it was cleared up before doing the hip surgery. He did the first femoral head ostectomy in September, the second in February of this



Handsome 10-month-old Maxx at Paws At The Park in March



Maxx says, *L is for LOVE - I love my family and we love AGR!*

year. Sherrill and Bruce brought **Maxx** to **Paws At The Park** in March. He is still recovering from the second surgery, but he looks great and is now a gentle giant of a puppy! Before deciding to see **Maxx** through the whole process, Sherrill met Liz Tataseo's Golden **Cooper**, who had had the same surgery on both hips when he was 7 months old (he is now 5 1/2 years old). To watch **Cooper** play and run now, you'd never know he had once had bad dysplasia. It was very encouraging to Sherrill to see how well **Cooper** has recovered. **Maxx** will eventually also walk and run normal-

ly, but Sherrill made the comment, *We will never give him up even if he is crippled for the rest of his life because we love him SO, SO much!* We love our adopters – they are such treasures!



11-083 Maximus, a 6-month-old Golden puppy, was found in the desert in Buckeye. After an unsuccessful search for his original owners, his finders contacted **AGR** and requested we find a new home for this energetic little man. We made a slight detour to the vet for some basic care before taking him to his new home in Scottsdale; he was altered at a later date. Dave, Denita, their other

AGR rescue **Izzie**, and the family cats welcomed **Max**, also known as **Mad Max**, into their home with open arms and paws. **Max** was thrilled to have a new sister, excited about the pool in the backyard, and thought the stairs in the house were just the best! **Max's** new parents write: *Maximus fit into our home from the minute he walked in the door. He immediately became an inseparable partner in crime with Izzie, our two-year-old Golden Girl (also an AGR rescue). They play and roughhouse incessantly and teach each other new tricks in the pool. Max thinks he is a world class cat herder, much to the disgust of his feline housemates. Max also makes daily attempts to relocate every shoe in the house (much to his human mom's displeasure). While he is all Golden Boy, he is also sweet and affectionate and is sure he must sleep in the middle of the bed. He is a great little man with a big personality, and we are thrilled to have him. Thanks for everything!*

11-088 Oliver is a sweet 8-year-old male Golden mix who came back to Rescue after his first adopter had emergency family issues. We were able to place him with his original foster family, Beverly and Perry in Peoria. While he was still a foster, **Oliver** came to several of the Arrowhead **Barnes & Noble** holiday gift wrapping sessions, where one of our other regular member couples fell in love with him. They spoke of adopting him, and we know Beverly was crushed, but she and her husband had not yet committed to his adoption – at least she didn't think they had. Unbeknownst to her, Perry had contacted us – he wanted to present **Oliver's** adoption contract to Beverly on Christmas. The next time Beverly wanted to bring **Oliver** to meet with the couple she thought might adopt him, we prevailed upon her to leave him home. The next day, Christmas Eve, Perry couldn't wait any longer and made Beverly cry tears of happiness when she saw he had signed the adoption contract. **Oliver's** new parents describe him as happy-go-lucky, very well behaved, and a big love bug. He does have a funny spot on his nose that was confirmed as lupus but only requires protective cream if he's going to be in the sun, kind



of a challenge for a boy from Phoenix, but his parents are OK with that. Mom Beverly writes: *He is still the same well behaved, mellow, happy dog as before. He loves to play with my dogs and he is such a happy little guy in the mornings, it's a joy to wake up and see his "smiling" face. He LOVES his walks and the dog bed. Again, I have to say he is the "perfect dog."* And we think Beverly and Perry are the perfect family for **Oliver!**



11-090 Bailey is a lovely 9-year-old lady who was bailed out of the shelter right before Christmas. She was a little on the slim side so we were initially concerned about a thyroid condition, but it appears she was just very active for a senior Golden. We suggested her foster do just the opposite of what we suggest to most Golden parents: free-feed her. Most Golden will eat

themselves into the size of a nice coffee table if allowed to free-feed. After **Bailey** put on just enough weight, she was put back on a regular 2-meals-a-day schedule. She also moved in with her new mom Penny and new Golden sister **Sheba**. Penny felt now was the right time to take the plunge and add a second dog into her life. **Sheba**, at 13, wasn't quite so sure, but now she enjoys leisurely walks with her younger sister and even the occasional romp in the house. Penny sent us this note about life with two Golden girls: *I had a neighbor who would walk her two Golden Retrievers every night, and they seemed like such gentle dogs. She told me that she took in senior Golden Retrievers because they were hard to place. It seemed like soon after that I would see these Golden Retrievers everywhere, in the park, at parades, and in stores. Being a senior myself, I decided then that when it was time to get another dog, I would go to Arizona Golden Rescue and adopt an older adult or senior dog. It was very reassuring to know that if we were not the right fit, the dog would be returned and I could search for another dog. But, that wasn't necessary at all. Bailey was accepted by my 13-year-old dog immediately, sharing bones and toys, and she acts like she's been a member of our family her whole life. She actually cried for me the second day when I left the room. How could she become so attached so quickly? It has been more than 3 years since that conversation with an old neighbor. I do believe in fate, and I think I waited for Bailey's previous owners to give her up last month, and for Michele [Wehry] to realize that Bailey was supposed to spend the rest of her life with me and Sheba. I'm very grateful to AGR. And AGR is grateful to Penny for taking a chance on one of our wonderful senior dogs!*



11-093 Blue is a very active 3-year-old California transplant. His former family was visiting friends of one of our members in Phoenix and came to the conclu-

sion that keeping him in their back yard all day was just not the right thing for **Blue**. Fortunately, Joyce referred them to **AGR** and we were able to find a new home for **Blue**. He was up to date on all of his vet work, but he did need some significant training, since living as an outdoor dog can leave one pretty lacking in one's house manners. New mom Pat in Mesa felt up to the task of taking **Blue** through his paces. He has since learned that jumping on people is not OK, running out the door is also not OK, and walking, not pulling, while on a leash is appreciated. **Blue** is doing very well with his training, and we wish him a happy new life with his mom Pat!



11-094 Elsa (left in photo) and **11-095 Howard** are also in the geriatric club. **Elsa** is a 16-year-old Golden/Aussie mix and **Howard** is a 15-year-old Golden/Yellow Lab mix. They have been together since puppyhood. When their original owner's job changed and required him to travel often, he requested **AGR** place them in a home where

someone would be available to look after them. Both have health concerns that plague senior dogs: **Elsa** has some incontinence issues, **Howard** has some early kidney disease, and both have rather severe arthritis. Foster mom Susan, who loves the mellow senior dogs, was happy to take on their care so they could remain comfortable together for their rest of their lives. They now spend peaceful days interspersed with medications for their respective conditions, with glucosamine for their joints, the occasional cookie, and lots of love and affection. **Elsa** and **Howard** enjoy nothing more than to curl up together, share their cookies, have fun in their own form of play and keep each other company. Susan requested to be able to adopt this pair through the *Gentle Paws Hospice Adoption* program and was approved to do so by the **AGR** Board.



11-097 Clarence, now known as **Carter**, is a young Golden mix, rescued from the e-list at the *Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Service*. We think he is between 1 and 3 years of age. He had some significant health problems when he first came in, including tick fever, ringworm, tapeworms, and bilateral ear infections. Oh, and he needed to be neutered. He

spent quite some time on medication and needed a lot of TLC. Fortunately his foster parents, Bob and Kathi in Glendale, were able to chauffeur him back and forth to all of his vet appointments and are experts at TLC-providing. They provided so much TLC that **Carter** decided he had no intention of leaving their house, except for occasionally having a good time jumping over their 6-foot fence. Fortunately for **Carter**, Bob and Kathi's sometimes-cranky-pants senior Golden **Leo** decided he was OK with **Carter**

staying. **Carter** sent us this note to let us all know how things are going for him: *I was fostered and then adopted by a wonderful family (first-time foster failures). They nursed me through my tick fever and tapeworm problems and then my neuter and five extractions of broken teeth. I am finally on the mend and have even gained some weight. They feed me well here – my ribs don't show as much as they once did. I have an older Golden brother named **Leo**, and he had the final decision as to whether or not I found my "forever" home and I guess he approved as I am still here. I also have an AKC (All Kinds of Canine) sister **Krissie** who is mostly black and when we are together Mom and Dad call us salt and pepper, since I am mostly white. **Krissie** has taught me a lot, especially how to mooch... that is very important to a dog like me. Mom and Dad call me a goofball, a bull in a china shop, the ghost, and a puppy in an adult dog suit. I like to run, and jump, twist and turn on my hind legs when it is meal time. I don't care who or what is in the way when I want to be someplace (like on the bed or the couch with my dad) I just jump and land wherever. I've even jumped the fence gate a few times because Mom and Dad were on the other side of it and I just wanted to be with them. They tried to scold me but I could tell they were having a hard time not laughing. At least I stay in our cul-de-sac when I do it. After all, who would want to run away from a home where I am fed yummy stuff and loved? Even though Mom and Dad were looking for a senior dog, not a youngster like me, they say that I am one of the best things to happen to them lately as I make them smile and laugh at my antics. I was a belated Christmas present, after spending Christmas in lock-up at the county shelter and New Year's at **Academy West Animal Hospital**. I am glad that **AGR** took me in and found such a loving family for me. Thanks **AGR**. You guys rock!*



11-098 Goldie is a 6.5-year-old Golden girl who was living the life of an outside dog at her previous owner's home. He was not able to provide the attention she needed and felt it best if **AGR** placed her in a more appropriate home environment. We were able to update her on all her necessary vet care and get her spayed, then we placed her with new mom Pam in Sun

City West. **Goldie** is now enjoying a home with a view and only visits the back yard if she needs to play or have a potty break. Mom Pam says, ***Goldie** has found a new life in a retirement community discovering that there are a lot more opportunities to go for a walk and more attention than ever before! She loves running on the golf course after hours and visiting with all the neighbors.*

12-001 Kai, now known as **Skyler**, is a 6-month-old red Golden who is a very exuberant Golden puppy. His original owners requested **AGR** find a new home for him, as he was too active for their lifestyle and he tended to jump on their children. We were happy to place him with his new parents John and Barbara in

Aguila. **Skyler** did need a little bit of time to adjust to his new home and, like many dogs, had some digestive issues while trying to get used to his new living arrangements. Fortunately, he made a complete recovery and is now a fabulous Velcro dog. His new parents are very active, and he loves to accompany them on all of their outings. He especially likes to



finish up his day with a game of fetch. His new mom, Barbara, sent us this note to keep us updated on his progress: ***Skyler** (formerly **Kai**) came into our lives on January 5, 2012. At 6 months old, weighing 61 pounds, he changed our lives forever! He is very active and keeps us on our toes. Every day **Skyler** and I do two workouts. He is doing great on leash work, and I am also working with him to cure him of some bad habits like jumping up on people and stealing things off the kitchen counter. When we first got **Sky** he wouldn't even get into the car. We had to physically lift him in and out. He soon got over that because he loves to go places with us. He has become very attached to me and is always as close to me as he can get. We stay active and participate in a Jeep group, an ATV group and a flying group. **Sky** has gone on his first Jeep trip into the desert and everybody that met him said he was beautiful as well as calm and very well behaved. When we stopped for a bag lunch break, **Sky** was right at home with his own water bowl and food dish. **Skyler** is also learning to stay in his 5-acre yard right now, and he puts himself into his crate when he needs a nap. He has not been on an ATV ride yet, but his riding lessons will start on Monday because our friends are anxious for us to go ATVing with them. He also will learn to fly with us; I know he will love it. He has gone through a lot of changes in his little world in the last three weeks but he seems to love it and he loves to play ball after each workout. We are very blessed.*



12-002 Abby is a lovely blonde of about 7 years. She's another four-legged friend whose original owner was no longer able to provide her the kind of care and attention she needed. We were able to place her with Pat, one of our fantastic foster parents, and Abby and Pat's dog **Sunny** became fast friends. Pat was determined she was not going to become a foster

failure so, after getting **Abby** up to date on all of her vet work and getting her acquainted with being a well-loved family pet, Pat took her to meet her new family, Colleen and Neil and their children in Phoenix. **Abby** was quite pleased to meet them and quickly made herself at home. She learned how to use the doggy door in no time and enjoys playing with her two-legged siblings then curling up with them for a rest. Colleen says: *On January 24, 2012 we got the best gift ever. We brought home our new best*

friend, **Abby**. She has been a wonderful addition to our family. She is the sweetest dog who loves taking walks with the kids to and from school and just hanging around. She just wants to be close to us and loves to be petted or hugged. When the kids are about to go to school she will sit and lean against the door so we don't leave without her. She is the "Best Dog Ever" and the greatest dog we could ever ask for. We are so happy and love her so much. She has brought so much joy to our lives. We could not imagine our family without her.

*** In January, **AGR** was able to help out one of our sister rescues, **Golden Retriever Rescue of El Paso (GRREP)**. They had more available dogs than homes and we had more homes than available dogs. The next five dogs you'll read about are the Southern Pawspitality dogs who are now happy denizens of the Valley of the Sun. ***



12-003 Nina is an 11-month-old blonde bombshell with almost no bad habits for a puppy. She's housebroken, doesn't chew or dig, doesn't jump, rides well in a car, and is crate trained. Having raised a puppy myself, I'm impressed. My puppy is three and he still does some, if not all of those things! Like all active young dogs, **Nina** needed just a brush-up on her manners and is a star pupil in her obedience

class. She now spends her days with new parents Jackson and Christina and answers to her new name of **Bella**. **Bella** did require several tooth extractions, as she had some fractured teeth and dental crowding, and even the best doggy dentist doesn't do orthodontic work. She also had treatment for demodex, a skin parasite, but is doing just fine. We wish her all the best in her new life!

12-004 Redd, now called **Hogan**, is a beautiful red Golden Retriever who also came from **GRREP**. He is an energetic three-year-old who was rescued from the shelter in Texas. Unlike **Bella**, he didn't come pre-trained, but, like most Goldens, he is eager to please and learn what his new parents wanted him to do. He did have some issues realizing where parents, Debbie and Mark in north Phoenix, wanted him to do his doggy business, but with consistent training and some help from our resident behavior expert, Teryl, he was able to get the hang of things. **Hogan** and his older fur-sister **Willow** have become fast friends and enjoy spending time together wrestling and sharing toys. They also enjoy going for walks together and getting lots of love from their family. We're sure **Hogan's** happy he's in Phoenix and not languishing in a shelter in Texas!



12-006 Celina is a two-year-old Golden also from Texas. The

interesting thing about her is that when she arrived, she didn't understand much English! She did know all of her commands but only in Spanish. Her new parents, Judy and Mark, their twin sons and older daughter, had to introduce a new language as well as a new name, **Stella**, to this playful little girl. She picked up both very quickly and loves chasing her two-legged siblings, fetch-



ing balls, getting lots of pets and treats, and even making trips to school! Her family sent us a note about how well she's doing: **Celina/Stella** joined our family a few weeks ago. The surprise phone call came one night. When **AGR** described her to us, we couldn't wait to meet her. We were all so excited. The minute she came into our home, she felt comfortable and happy. The entire family couldn't stop petting her, praising her and playing with her. She gets lots of attention with walking, chasing balls, and snuggling with the kids. We walk to school to pick up the kids and she has become a welcomed visitor at school. She is so well behaved and gentle with children. **Stella** is a wonderful new family member. We feel so lucky to have her in our home. No matter who **Stella** meets, she always brings a smile to their face. **Stella** and her family are also regular attendees at our Mayo Blvd **PetSmart** Meet-and-Greets. All the customers there love her, too.

12-007 Bobby is another transplanted Texan. He was relinquished to **GRREP** because his original owner had recently had a baby and was unable to provide him with the attention and care an active young Golden needed. **Bobby** traveled with his other Texas friends out to Phoenix and has moved in with new dad David in Scottsdale. **Bobby** loves to show off his fabulous red head by taking lots of walks



through the neighborhood; he also runs and hikes with his dad. He loves playing with his Doxie brother and the other dogs in the neighborhood. Dad David writes: *My cousins moved to Arizona from Wisconsin a couple years ago and went through **AGR** to rescue a dog for their family of 5 (2 young boys and a 14-year-old girl). They absolutely love the Golden they rescued from **AGR**, and when they heard I was looking to rescue a Golden they highly recommended this group. The approval process was quick, and the people working with me were very friendly. Within a week of being approved, I got a call from **AGR** that they had 5 Goldens coming in from Texas and said they had a 4-year-old*



Bobby and his little Doxie friend

me. I was very excited and shocked they found a dog so quickly! They even waited around 4 hours for me to get off work so I could pick him up. Everyone at AGR has been absolutely great and helpful with everything! I rescued **Bobby** in January and have had him for almost 2 months. He's a handsome red 4-year-old with lots of energy and love. He's been great around all types of dogs from the mini Doxie we have at the house to our next door neighbor's Pit Bull. Just like me, he loves going for hikes, runs and being outdoors. AGR is a top-notch organization if you are looking to adopt the perfect new addition to your family.



12-008 Summer is another blonde Golden from Texas. She initially had some health and behavior difficulties adjusting from one state to the next, and it took us some time to find just the right home for her. **Summer** had a mass on her side that the vet was concerned was cancerous. We had it removed and fortunately for this smiling Golden,

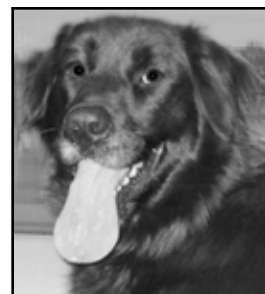
it was benign. She also needed medication for ear infections and a special diet for allergies, two things that frequently plague Golden Retrievers. Our fabulous behavior expert, Teryl, was able to work with her on her manners, get her socialized with other dogs, work on her people skills, and ensure she'd know how to interact in a family environment. After some doggy boot camp, **Summer** moved in with Debbie and Craig in Chandler and has settled in very nicely. Debbie helped **Summer** write us a note: *I was found in El Paso in the desert, starving and alone. After they washed all the mud and dirt off of me, they found the beautiful Golden that I am. AGR brought me back to Phoenix in early January. The vet who checked me out found a growth on my right side and decided to remove it. Then, I went to a new home, but they had a cat and a dog. I really love people, but am not quite sure about other pets. So, it was back to the kennel for me. Within a few weeks, Debbie and Craig applied to AGR and decided that they wanted to meet me. I immediately felt at home. But, my first few days were confusing. I ate my food almost before the bowl touched the floor, because I wasn't sure if I would get another meal. Now, I sometimes leave the food in my bowl all day before I eat it, because I know I'll always have food and a home. In the first few weeks, there were times when I woke up and you could see the fear in my eyes. But, within a few seconds, after some reassuring kisses, I realized I was safe. I have been here for almost 2 months and the nightmares have almost stopped. There are no other dogs or cats living here, and Debbie is home most of the day to give me lots of love and attention. I especially like it when Craig comes home at night and rubs my belly. I am the perfect dog, who enjoys walks, playing with my toys and going for rides in the car. But, my favorite time is cuddling on the couch or in bed. I am very sweet and am happy to have found my new family and perfect forever home. We wish **Summer** a long, happy life with her new family!*



12-009 Katie is a lovely light-red 3-year-old girl who came to us because her owner's neighbors did not like it when she barked when people walked by her yard. Other than her barking, she's quite nice. She has excellent house manners, loves to play ball and take walks, thinks she's a lap dog (though some may not approve of that) and, though she enjoys being with her people, also likes to

be independent. She has since moved in with Jaclyn and Kurt and is sharing her exuberance for life with them. Some of her favorite things to do are snuggle and give kisses. Her parents say she is 65 pounds of pure joy. She is the quintessential Golden girl, loving, sweet-natured, willing to retrieve non-stop or lean in for a cuddle. We wish her all the best!

12-011 Devyn, now called **Maddy**, is a 7-year-old black Golden/Aussie mix who was picked up as a stray and must've been one for awhile because she had contracted heartworm disease. We thought we were getting a male dog from the shelter, but when we took her to one of our vets for her initial check-up, she was found to be female. We wonder what the Shelter people saw...



Due to a nationwide shortage of the medication used to treat heartworm disease, the vet decided to administer the two requisite doses in three treatments, one in February and two 24-hours apart a month later. Unlike **Mufasa**, who also had this disease, **Devyn** did not react well to the heartworm treatment, so it is a good thing the vet had decided on a lower dose to begin with. After a 1-week initial foster period at Deb's house, **Devyn** went back to board at the vet's for a week, then was transported to Leslie and Ted's house in Ahwatukee. They have kept her quiet and relatively unstimulated as directed by the vet so as not to dislodge any pieces of heartworm before the dead worms completely dissolve. Leslie wrote, ***Maddy** is doing well. She has determined that we are here for the duration and that she can eat, drink, do business, etc. In all of these she is doing well. She is very comfortable with the crate and goes in well with a cookie. We hope that we are keeping her quiet enough for good healing. She is very loving and has definitely become Ted's dog, for she looks for him immediately. After loving from him, she will come to me for a double dose. She is very well-mannered; I can't believe that she has touched little to nothing around the house. Someone trained her well and I hope that they sense that **Maddy** has found a good home. AGR knows she has!*

12-012 Razzy is an adorable Golden-mix puppy found in the alley behind the **Razmataz Outlet** store in Glendale. AGR just happened to have a Meet-and-Greet at a nearby **PetSmart**. Deb and Teryl were there and went to the store to pick him up. That

was easier said than done, though, as he displayed classic fear aggression, snapping and snarling at them. By offering a line of treats like Hansel and Gretel, they were finally able to coax him to them; once he was eating out of their hands, they were able to wrap him in a blanket donated by the store owner and pick him up. He calmed down immediately once he was wrapped up and snuggled – it was an amazing transformation! We had him checked and vaccinated by the vet at **PetSmart's Banfield Animal Hospital** and then did the essential neutering



elsewhere prior to placing him with Linda and Jim in Mesa. All parties involved couldn't have been happier. **Razzzy** was convinced Linda and Jim's was just the right place for him the moment he walked in the door. He even made friends with the resident felines – he is about the same size as they are! We're not sure what **Razzzy** is mixed with, possibly Dachshund, so he will never be as large as even a small Golden, but he is a cutie, his heart's all Golden and he's got lots of love to share with his new family. Mom Linda says: **Razzzy** is turning out to be the ideal dog for us. He greets us with a smile and



loves all the outings we take him on. **Razzzy** has especially bonded with Robin, our 10-year-old. The cats have also become friends with **Razzzy** and we have no worries about anyone getting hurt. **Razzzy** looks to them as playmates, but the cats are able to hold their ground on how much they will tolerate. We are glad **Razzzy's** adoptive family kept the name we gave him in honor of the store where he was found. We wish all the family a wonderful life!

12-013 Penny is a sweet little girl, about the color of a penny, who came back to Rescue, as her original family was moving and was unable to take her with them. She also needed a little extra TLC as she has a condition called tracheomalacia where her trachea is a little floppy and, if too much pressure is placed on it from a collar or other object around her neck, it could



collapse and cut off her airway. As long as she wears a harness rather than a collar, she's just fine and she has no problems breathing on her own. She is a well-mannered 5-year-old, enjoys lots of pets and cuddles, loves to go for walks with her new family, and just wants to spend quality time with her people. We thought she would fit in well with Susan and Roger in Goodyear, and they agreed! They had recently lost their previous Golden and were looking for a furry friend to brighten up their days. They sent us the following note to tell of her progress: *She's been here a week, but it feels like she has always been part of this house. What a love!*

*It is absolutely amazing how well she has settled in. She really didn't seem to respond to either [previous names] **Baby** or **Bailey**. While walking one morning, she made a polite "dive" to a group of kids gathering with an adult to walk to school. (She REALLY loves kids.) One of them suggested she should be called **Penny** because of her color. She apparently thinks so too, as she immediately responded to the name. She really should be **ha'Penny** (half Penny) because of her diminutive size, but **Penny** it is. She is very mannerly and wonderful in the house, with us or alone. She feels no need to rearrange shoes or anything except her toys, and thoroughly enjoys her window seat to the front yard. She has met all five of the dogs that were in her predecessor's "pack" with complete acceptance on all sides. She shows no particular shyness, just the standard meet-and-greet, then on we go. Most of the dogs are bigger than she, but one is smaller. Again, no problems but we met each one on leash first and then walked together. This weekend, she met four of them at the school, and while I kept her on leash until we were really solid on "come;" she enjoyed the romp while they were all off leash. I have not heard her cough once. If I had not been told of her problem, I would be unaware, except we are using a harness instead of a collar. She walks well now that we are both becoming accustomed to it. I do want to get her further on her training, but that will come later. Thank you so much for our delightful little red friend.*

12-014 Sophie, now known as **Reilly**, is an extremely-high-energy 6-month-old puppy. Did I mention she was high energy, because she is really high energy! She gives the Energizer Bunny a run for his money on the going-and-going-and-going department. **Reilly's** original owners loved her very much but weren't able



to keep up with her energy level, and she was beginning to run them ragged. Fortunately we were able to place her with a couple in Mesa who are just about as active as she is. Mom Dawn runs several miles every day and Dad Russell walks every day. Our girl actually got so much exercise she developed growing pains in one of her front legs and had to cut down on some of the exercise! One thing she didn't have to cut back on was her obedience training. Both parents work with her regularly on reinforcing good behaviors and breaking her of bad puppy habits such as jumping, counter surfing, and mouthing. **Reilly** is really coming along well with her training. We anticipate she'll be a model Golden by the time her first birthday comes around!



12-016 Amika is a lovely blonde whose family was moving and un-

able to take her with them. It was rather fortunate she came to us, since **Amika** has valley fever and was not getting her medication consistently. All of the dogs who are rescued by **AGR** are tested for valley fever, as this disease, while treatable in its early stages, can be fatal if left untreated. It can cause severe lung disease, liver disease, and can spread to the bones and cause lameness. Once it has disseminated, or spread throughout the body, it is usually almost impossible to treat. **Amika's** valley fever titer was 1:64 which, while not low, was not exceedingly high. Her new parents, Diane and Michael in Phoenix, are giving her fluconazole twice a day, and the vet will recheck her titer in three months. She may need to continue on several more months of fluconazole, but that's a small price to pay for getting the valley fever under control. **Amika** is adjusting well to her new home despite having to take bad-tasting pills, and is enjoying long walks when it's cooler than 95 degrees outside.

12-018 Goldie, who is more red than gold, came back to us, as new dogs added as a result of a marriage in her original adopter's home were not getting along with her. She was more than happy to see us and meet a new family. We were able to place her with Richard and Nancy in Goodyear. They haven't had a dog in their home for over 20 years and were ready to add a canine companion. Nancy had toys, bowls, and a new bed all ready for **Goldie** to pick and choose which ones she'd like. **Goldie** will also get to enjoy daily hikes with Nancy, so they'll get their exercise together!



*** **The Tucson Group:** In early February, a family in Tucson, whose house had gone into foreclosure, was unable to move into a relative's home with all nine of their Golden/Lab mixes and requested we find homes for five of them. Deb and Tony drove down south to collect three blond and two black dogs. Interestingly, the blond dogs all have short hair like the Black Lab parent and the black dogs all have long hair like the Golden parent. None of the five had ever been on a leash or worn a collar or been in a car. They actually rode surprisingly well in Deb's van until just before arriving at the vet's when one of them vomited in his crate. The dogs all went to **Academy West Animal Hospital** for their initial vet work, and the Saturday before Presidents' Day their new families came to meet them and take them home. It was a heart-warming experience to participate in this group Meet-and-Greet! ***



12-019 Chico Chibacca, whose new name is **Tanner**, is a 10-month-old big blond puppy. Like his brothers

and sisters, he was not quite sure what to do with a leash or collar or how to ride in a car. He learned quickly, though, because after his parents collected him at **Academy West** he had a long drive to his new house at the Grand Canyon. **Tanner** now lives with Mom Lisa and Dad Aaron, who are both park rangers at the Grand Canyon, and Golden sister, **Roxy**. He even got to play in some late snow that fell up north! With some gentle persuasion, he's walking well on a leash, playing ball regularly, and loves to spend time with sister **Roxy**. One of his favorite things to do is give her kisses. **Roxy** is not sure how much she likes kisses, but as long as **Tanner's** happy, that's what's important.

12-020 Lucky Lizard, now known just as **Lucky**, is also a 10-month-old blond puppy. He's moved home with Kierie and George and their human children in Glendale. They had some difficulties initially, as **Lucky** had some bad puppy habits he needed help getting over but, fortunately, our behavior consultant, Teryl, was able to give them good suggestions to make him a cooperative member of the household. **Lucky** is now walking well on his leash, playing nicely with his human siblings, and participating in his favorite activity: swimming. One afternoon he spent so much energy swimming he slept for 11.5 hours straight! It's hard to get into any puppy mischief if you're exhausted and asleep! With summer on the horizon, he should have many days of swimming and nights snuggling up with his new family.



12-022 Baby Oso (for Oh So cute) is one of the other color of dogs in the litter – he happens to be black with long hair. He also happens to be the smallest, weighing in at only 50 lbs, while his siblings are all 70 lbs or more. He was really not a fan of the drive up from Tucson and christened his crate with doggy vomit. Deb and Tony thought it was very kind of him to share his predigested breakfast with them on the ride home. Fortunately he didn't have quite as far to go to make it to his forever home with new parents Stephanie and Steve, who live in Carefree. Now known as **Parker**, he is adjusting quite well to life indoors with regular walks on leash and occasional car rides. Like his siblings, he enjoys playing with doggy friends, going for his walks, and snuggling with his new people.



12-023 Heavy Dawg was described by Dr. Radtke, the owner of **Academy West Animal Hospital**, as the "biggest, blackest Golden Retriever" he'd ever seen. And **Heavy D**, now **Sammy**, is a big, black dog. But he is probably the sweetest big black dog there



is. **Sammy** loves to curl up on his people's laps and give kisses, snuggle, and send telepathic messages encouraging cookies and more petting. He's quite happy inside his house, but not so thrilled with things that go on outside. Parents Carol and Robert had a trainer come several times to work with **Sammy**, as he seems to be afraid of new things. Cars, soccer

balls, and strangers seem particularly worrisome to him. He is getting better and has started to warm up to people with more socialization. **Sammy** is still a homebody at heart and likes nothing more than to snuggle with his people after a long day of working on his socialization techniques.



12-025 Elsa Marie is a lovely 10-year-old lady who developed severe separation anxiety when her human daddy, who had been "her person," passed away. She became seriously destructive when left alone, and that was a huge problem since her human mom worked full time. **Elsa** was very

happy and relaxed at her foster home with Kathi and Bob in Glendale because both were home most of the time, and when they were both gone **Elsa** still had three canine companions to keep her company. Kathi and Bob were getting really attached to **Elsa** and she to them when one of **AGR's** adopters, Maggie in Mesa, decided she needed another rescued dog to keep her boy **Benzo** company when she was at work. It was the right decision for all concerned. **Benzo** and **Elsa** get along famously, and **Elsa** is no longer destructive. Maggie brought both dogs to the Tempe Marketplace **PetSmart** where they were terrific ambassadogs. Now that she has permanent companionship from **Benzo**, **Elsa** has really come out of her shell and acts more like 5 than 10. We are glad everything has worked out so well for everyone.



12-028 Dakota, a Golden-Chow mix now 7 months old, was given by a well-meaning person to an older woman who lives in an apartment in Snowflake. She didn't realize when she got **Dakota** that the dog would require much more space and exercise than she would be able to provide. A wonderful person from **Pet Allies** transported **Dakota** down to

the Valley. After we took her in, **Dakota** told us, *I am five months old, lived with my elderly mom my entire life and was spoiled absolutely rotten. My mom received me at eight weeks and wouldn't*

you know I grew into a bigger puppy. My mom realized that she didn't know what she was thinking because now I was starting to walk her and I could pull her down. She loved me so much but realized that I was going to have to be trained and cared for by a stronger person so she contacted the Rescue. I am house trained and as sweet as they come. I need an active family that can give me lots of attention and love, take me on long walks or frequent trips to the dog park, and has a yard big enough for me to romp around (a pool is a big plus!). I could be 65 lbs or more when full grown. Puppies are high energy, get excited and quickly become bottle rockets that romp around, jump up on furniture, and knock things over including small children. So, if you have little ones in your home or they visit frequently, you will need to train the puppy and your children to coexist. I will deposit more love to you than you could ever return and will love you forever. Can you promise to care for and love me for my forever life? Jeff in Phoenix did make that promise to **AGR**. He immediately started playing ball with **Dakota** when she arrived at his home and said she looks like his former female Golden. He is a climber and hiker and has plans to take **Dakota** hiking with him once her immunity to distemper and parvo is established with her booster vaccines. Happy new life, **Dakota**!

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Diamonds in the Ruff

By Deb Orwig

Diamonds in the Ruff are rescued dogs that require **AGR** to spend at least \$1000 on their health care. In our February issue, we featured one-year-old **11-079 Magic**, now called **Jackson**, and four-year-old **12-008 Summer**. **Jackson** has completely recovered from his bout with parvovirus and the complication of intussusception. **Summer** has healed from the surgery to remove a suspicious lump on her side. Thankfully it was a benign mass that the vet thought had developed as a result of trauma (perhaps being kicked).

Fortunately, there were only three dogs that had significant medical costs during the past quarter: **11-061 Maxx**, who had his second hip surgery; **12-015 Abby**, who had multiple problems resulting from a large diaphragmatic hernia; and **12-032 Rayce** (now **Luke**), who had his first hip surgery. At about \$8100 for his vet care, **Jackson** was one of our three most expensive dogs until



Abby at a Tempe Marketplace Meet-and-Greet in March

Abby, whose bill came to over **\$11,400**. Yes, yikes! Is it worth spending that much money on one dog? Absolutely and emphatically yes! **Abby** is only a year old. When her condition was discovered, she was already a well-loved member of a FWITA family and had already attended a couple of our events as an ambassador. She had been panting excessively even after slight exercise, so we had a chest X-ray done. It revealed the hernia. What it didn't reveal and what Dr. Pullen at **AMSC** found when he opened her up was that most of the organs

that should have been in her abdomen – liver, kidneys and much of her intestine – were up in her chest cavity compressing her lungs. It was truly amazing that she could breathe at all with such a large hernia and such reduced lung capacity. Dr. Pullen managed to relocate all the organs to their proper place in the abdomen and repair the hernia. However, once that was done, he discovered that **Abby** had megaesophagus, which had been eclipsed until her chest cavity had been cleared out of everything that didn't belong in it. Dr. Pullen had to insert an esophageal feeding tube; **Abby** will have this in place for several more weeks. As if this wasn't enough, **Abby** developed pancreatitis due to the trauma she was experiencing. After everything settled down, she was discharged to her FWITAs. Fortunately, her human mom is a critical care nurse – who would have known her skills would be so important in helping with the rehabilitation of our little **Abby**? We do not have any major fundraisers on the schedule until the *Bowl-a-Rama* on August 4th, the funds raised from which will be dedicated to **Abby**. Please help us pay this large bill of hers by sending whatever you can. Thank you in advance for caring.

... BUT IT'S JUST A DOG ...

By Nancy Campbell LVT*

reprinted with permission from the author

If it were my brother, I'd find an allergist to help him with his allergies, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my sister, I'd find the best laser eye surgeon so she could see again, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my mother, I'd hire a staff of oncologists for the cancer that is stealing her away from me, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my father, I'd find the best orthopedic surgeon to enable him to walk again, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my husband, I'd hire every medical professional necessary to put him back together after that terrible accident that almost took him away, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my child, I wouldn't skimp on dental care, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If it were my best friend, I would go with her to the doctor, every day that she needed me to help her through the worst pains in her life, taking off work if necessary and putting my own needs aside, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

If any member of my family were dying, at that moment I would pull out all the stops and do whatever was in my power to save their life, no matter the cost.
But they tell me, it's just a dog.

Just a dog.

Just my friend.

Just my family.

Please . . . my dog . . . no matter the cost.

*from *The Guardian*, the *Canadian Golden Retriever Adoption Service* Newsletter, Issue #28, Winter 2002

OVER THE RAINBOW

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



Whiskey Erickson



Sunny Fuller



Riley MacDonald



Elsa Parker



*Miki Youhas
(went to the Bridge
on May 18, 2011; we are sorry
we neglected to
include her in the
newsletter until now)*

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.

A Dog's Last Will & Testament

Before humans die, they write their last Will & Testament, give their home & all they have, to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask...

To a poor and lonely stray I'd give:

My happy home. My bowl & cozy bed, soft pillows and all my toys. The lap, which I loved so much. The hand that stroked my fur and the sweet voice which spoke my name.

I'd Will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.

So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."

Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has Held no joy or hope and give MY place to HIM.

*This is the only thing I can give...
The love I left behind.*

~ Author Unknown ~

AGR Treasures

Aengus

*Hi, my name is **Aengus** [#10-061]. I thought I would drop you a line just to let you know what I have been up to since I adopted my new human, Jeff.*

First, I get to live in Snowflake, on a five-acre lot where I can go anywhere I want to. There used to be lots of rabbits, squirrels and little lizards for me to chase around the yard, but they don't seem to come around very much anymore. I don't know why.

Certain times of the year, the rain is white. My human tell me it's called snow. It's so much fun to play in, I just love to jump into snow banks. But I learned to jump in feet first, because there could be things hiding in there, like tree stumps. That was the same day that I found out you can see stars during the day. Did you know that? I also like making doggie snow angels in the snow. This always puts a smile on my human's face. He's even made snow angels with me. Cool, huh? And the best thing is my human lets me eat as much snow as I want, though he keeps telling me not to eat the yellow snow. I like to eat snowballs the best.

My favorite thing to do is to go for rides in cars. My human takes me with him wherever he goes, except for about five or six times a month. But I'm still trying to train him to take me every time.

The drive I like the best is when we go visit his brother and wife. They live in the country about twenty miles away, and there are no fences and no houses in sight. I can go anywhere I want. But I stay near my human so he doesn't worry about me.

After adopting this human, it took me a little while before I learned all humans are not alike and that some humans like having four-legged friends. My life, my attitude, and my wellbeing sure have become better in the last year!

*With Love to **AGR**, **Aengus***

*P.S. I never said thanks for taking me in when life seemed to be at its worst. I have a new lease on life now, and I catch myself smiling for no reason. I owe it all to **AGR**! **THANK YOU!** And thank you for helping all my brothers and sisters of mixed and pure breed, young and old, healthy and ailing Golden Retrievers.*

P.P.S. I think I'll keep my new human.

Keller

The following was written by David Jewett about his **AGR**-adopted puppy, **11-091 Matt**, now called **Keller** in honor of Helen Keller.

It is amazing that **Keller** is turning 6 months of age this week! It seems like only yesterday we brought him home. He was about 2 ½ months old, weighed about ten pounds and fit nicely in our arms. Now, it's not quite so easy to pick him up, although our laps remain his preferred place. His current weight is approaching 50 lbs and can it be far off that he looks us directly in the eye? His paw size suggests that larger is clearly in his future.



Keller's route to us was interesting at best. Having only recently decided it was time for our family to expand, we contacted **AGR** about rescue. We had been blessed with **Maggie** (a beautiful and loving German Wirehair) for 15 years. Following her passing, we were unsure if we would ever be ready for another dog. Clearly, something was missing in our home, however, and after approximately a year since her passing, we decided it was time to admit that we needed another dog. I was retiring at the end of December and my wife thought I needed companionship while she was at work. Sharla happens to work with Teri [Guilbault] who provided us with wonderful mentoring regarding rescue and **AGR**. So, with some fear and trepidation, but mostly youthful enthusiasm, we requested a dog. After careful deliberation, we determined that a young adult female, between 2-5 years of age with no special needs, would be perfect.

Assuming adoption would be forthcoming immediately was our first mistaken perception. Days became weeks and to say we were discouraged was an understatement. Dogs we thought would be perfect were already placed. Then one evening in December, just before Christmas, Michele [Wehry] called and had a dog that needed a home. It was a male puppy and "delightful!" Then... the rest of the story followed. I think her words were something about raising him would be a "project." He was



blind. Would we be interested? While not what we requested, she just had a feeling we might be the right home, especially because I would be home daily. It took us only a matter of minutes to decide that we should try. So, the next day, **Keller** joined our family and the adventure began!

Yes, he is named after Helen Keller, a wonderful woman who helped the world view disabilities through a different lens. It seemed only fitting that he, who we recognized as special from the moment we saw him, should be named after someone so special. While our journey with **Keller** has only just begun, we have already experienced more joy than words can describe. Can it be bumpy having a blind dog? Of course! A better question might be what **Keller** thinks about being a blind dog living with us, however.



Part of that journey included David trading in his 2-seater BMW sports car for a Jeep Wrangler, so that he could take Keller everywhere with him. He even had a new license plate made for the new Jeep!

First, let us clarify something... **Keller** sees, just not with his eyes.



It seems Keller is the one in the driver's seat whether he's sitting in his new Jeep or not!

Although, upon initial introduction to him, people are often fooled, as he appears to have sight. What first is noticed is his unbridled enthusiasm and genuine love for people. He greets everyone as if they were his favorite... a trait we should all embrace. You see, he always leaves people feeling better! He is, without a doubt, the best known dog

in the community. Many people will greet us having already heard about him. Questions such as "Is he the blind dog?" were common. Now he's just **Keller** to everyone, the happy dog who loves people. One couple (also dog people) shared that they've never known a dog that smiles so much! While sight may be lacking, insight certainly isn't. He already knows that physical touch and love are much more important than sight.

Clearly, his other senses are heightened by the absence of sight. Our walks (and I use the term loosely) are filled with many stops. We listen to (and regularly chase) leaves, fountains, birds and especially footsteps, because that means friends must be close. His favorites are friends with other dogs. Watching him



"look" with his ears is one of our truly favorite images. Naturally, all walks with dogs are interrupted by "sniffing", but this remains more frequent and lengthier, again, because he "sees" differently. So, walks are both physical exercise and an opportunity for brain growth.

His ability to adapt is truly amazing! In addition, his tolerance of us, who sometimes forget about his lack of vision, is also commendable. **Keller** quickly learns where things are and appears to have little trouble remembering surroundings. He zigs and zags throughout the house with little difficulty. We sometimes believe he must have an internal radar system. Will he crash? Sure, but rarely twice in the same place. The greatest challenge for us is, and always has been, to "prepare" him adequately. Advice we received early on, was to try to keep his environment stable (e.g., things in the same place). While it would be nice if things never changed, that isn't reality. Reality is, change is ever present, whether in a home, in a neighborhood, in a vehicle, or anywhere in the community. We just try to remember to alert him to change. As an example, when we are walking across a street, sometimes there is a curb and sometimes it's ramped. We try to alert him when there is a raised step using the word "up." Stability is best and certainly a goal, but not always possible, and he can't live in a bubble. So rather than stressing about change, we focus on trying to be good at helping him deal with some change.

Another essential word is "bonk." From the beginning we would preface an upcoming obstacle with such a prompt. He now knows when he hears that word that he is about to bump into something and can change course if he chooses.

Keller is often described as a "special needs dog" by those who don't know him. Once people get to know him, they forget the middle word and understand that he is just a "special dog." People have said he was lucky to have us adopt him, when in truth, it was us who were lucky. Please know that it was a little intimidating at first to consider adopting a dog without sight. We had serious doubts as to whether we could provide what he needed. That was when we perceived him as a blind dog. Once we adjusted our thinking of him as a dog with sight challenges, we realized we were exactly what he needed, a home full of love. There is nothing more special or more therapeutic than love and we knew that while others may know more about dogs with special needs, no one would love him more. So the only challenge was finding alternatives to perceived barriers. We like to think of it as eliminating the apostrophe t in "can't." So problem solving starts with remembering he's a puppy first and then we address the vision issues. Then we wrap a lot of love (often followed by a lot of laughter) into whatever we try. Fortunately for us, he tolerates our mistakes and still loves us back unconditionally (something else we all could learn to be better at). He follows us everywhere and is always the first to greet someone at the door. When either of us is gone, he makes sure we are happy to be home by giving us that

special 1:1 time with him.

So, we feel truly blessed. Thank you **AGR** for being there for **Keller** and all the other dogs that you have rescued and found forever homes. Thank you also for all the guidance, support and mentoring, as well. Most of all, thank you for finding **Keller**, our “special” dog who has so enriched our lives. To everyone who thinks of adoption but may be hesitant when it comes to special needs issues, I hope **Keller’s** story will help alleviate some of those concerns. The only real prerequisite is love, and if you are even thinking of adoption you must already meet that requirement.



With that being said, it is time to return to the adventure. **Keller** has beckoned and my job is to open the door and come outside and play... enjoy!

Golden Retriever Rules

The Golden Retriever is not allowed in the house.

Okay, the Golden Retriever is allowed in the house, but only in certain rooms.

The Golden Retriever is allowed in all rooms, but has to stay off the furniture.

The Golden Retriever can get on the old furniture only.

Fine, the Golden Retriever is allowed on all the furniture, but is not allowed to sleep with the humans on the bed.

Okay, the Golden Retriever is allowed on the bed, but only by invitation.

The Golden Retriever can sleep on the bed whenever he wants, but not under the covers.

The Golden Retriever can sleep under the covers by invitation only.

The Golden Retriever can sleep under the covers every night.

Humans must ask permission to sleep under the covers with the Golden Retriever.

HeeHeeHee... HeeHeeHee... HeeHeeHee.... WOOF!

~ Author Unknown ~

Maddy

*I am as black as midnight and the name **Maddy** seems to be very fitting for me. My eyes fall back into my darkness so people don't know when I am looking at them. That makes me very mysterious, and I like that trait very much. I am not a talker, so I silently move around to my favorite places.*



I like my new dad and he likes me, too. He kept me down for the first month nursing me, but now I am up and going and have helped him landscape the garden, repair the shed and rearrange the garage. I love to sit in the porch swing with him and swing and swing. We watch the world go by as the sun rises and sets. I also get into his business affairs as I lie by his feet when he sits at his desk doing important stuff. I keep a good eye on him, whether he sees it or not.

I am the great black hunter who flushes out the rabbits that are plentiful in my large desert backyard. My favorite line is, “Rabbit, rabbit, where is that little rabbit?” And, if I watch and wait long enough, there he is!

My favorite spot, besides the porch swing, is my mom's or dad's lap. Even though I am 65 lbs, I am sure I was meant to be a lap dog, so I try my best to get at least half of me on their lap. If they do not pay attention, I have back legs that just ease the rest of me up and soon I am totally in the Lazy Boy chair with them. I just sit there like the princess I was meant to be and take it all in. As a princess, I also love to have my stylist comb my hair. I sit very still and let my hair be combed and combed. I bet you have never seen a girl with shinier hair, and I am very proud of it indeed.

I have gotten in a bit of trouble with the chef, for I have snuck a chunk of corned beef and the end of a loaf of strawberry bread. Lately I have not smelled much above me on the counter, so either cooking and baking have ceased or the chef has moved to another kitchen. My mom loves to work in her sewing room, but I take a peek, maybe go in to give her some kisses and then move on. I was taught when I was little to look but not touch, and I remember that line to this day. I am a very good girl.

*I am so grateful to **AGR** for finding me at the shelter, rescuing me, nursing me to health at **Kennel Care** with Dr. Meri Brandt and finding me a home. I have been as sweet as sweet can be, and I now have my new forever home. They like me, they really like me!*

We thank **AGR** for finding and saving our **Maddy** for us. We have weathered the storm of heartworm disease and now look forward to many years of happiness with midnight **Maddy**. She is a jewel that was lost but now is found. And like a precious jewel, we love and cherish her and she loves us with each kiss and loving stare. What a gift we have received. Thank you all. ~ Leslie and Ted

HERE and THERE
 Events from January 15, 2012
 through March 31, 2012

Your membership in our organization will be more fulfilling for you if you get involved and join us at our events, especially if you are one of our adopters. Our Meet-and-Greets are a great way to socialize both for you and for your dog. Our fundraisers are FUN raisers! Please regularly check the events calendar on our website – www.arizonagoldenrescue.org – for dates and times of upcoming events. We'd like to include your picture in this section in future issues.

food everyone brought to share was fantastic as always! Tony Cotner brought me a beautiful painting of Rocky that had been done by AGR member and artist Jude Kettunen, who unfortunately couldn't make it to the party. Including merchandise sales, the raffle, the silent auction and donations, as well as five wine bottle label sponsorships that were collected that evening, \$1592 was raised to help our 2012 dogs! Thanks for the support to all who attended.



Since Rocky was no longer with us, Troy decided he had to carry on the tradition of trying to snatch from the food table



Celebration Party

By Deb Orwig

Fetch Doggie Store
 By Deb Orwig



The food was plentiful and delicious!

On January 15th, we celebrated AGR's fantastic 2011 year, especially the spectacular job of fundraising during the holidays, with a party at our house. We had a fun time with over 50 guests, and the Orwig canine four enjoyed the attention – we know they got



Sonomi with Daisy and Keiji with Rocky

From 10 AM - 2 PM on January 28th, *Fetch Doggie Store, Kitty & Horsie Too*, 14885 N. 83rd Place, Ste 106, Scottsdale, hosted an adoption event, which we were invited to attend. This is a nice, local, family-owned, holistic, all-natural pet grooming

some "sneaked treats" too! **Mufasa**, who had not yet been introduced to most in the group as he still was not neutered and couldn't yet go to events, just loved the company, especially the Wieser boys, who wrestled and giggled with him on the



It was good to see the boys laughing, as they had just lost their old Golden Max the week before the party

sofa!
 B e -
 f o r e

the party, Kathi Youhas kindly helped me straighten up the house, put the Christmas decorations away and arrange the raffle. The raffle was a big success and so were the three silent auction items, including a gorgeous afghan of the AGR logo crocheted by Gail Haywood, which got some hot bidding and ended up going for \$150! The

and retail store. There were only two other Rescue groups there and not a tremendous amount of people traffic, but our group managed to collect \$54 in donations. Attending were Mary Lynn Ament with **Hoagie** and **Winslow**; Tony Cotner and sister Jan Newland with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Teri Guilbault with **Fresno**; Teryl Hall with foster girl **Bella** and little **Razzy**, whom she had picked up at *Academy West Animal Hospital*; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Sonomi and Keiji Narihara, our international members who were visiting from Japan; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; and Bob and Kathi Youhas with **Krissie**. Michele Wehry also stopped by for awhile and picked up **Razzy** so she could take him to his new family. Thanks to all who represented *Arizona Golden Rescue*.



Michele trying to get Razzy's attention, but he only had eyes for something in the store



Mary Engstrom was the high bidder for the afghan

For those who are willing to make an effort, great miracles and wonderful treasures are in store.
 ~ Isaac Bashevis Singer



PACC 911 Adoptathon at Anthem

By Deb Orwig



Teri Guilbault was attending the birth of her grandson, Lucas Miller, so she was unable to join us for this wonderful event, which was held on February 4th. We always enjoy the Anthem Adoptathon.

The weather is usually gorgeous, as it was this year, and the event is very well attended by the public. We had an ideal booth location right near the parking lot and really the first one people would stop at as they were coming into the event. So, we talked to many, many people about our Rescue, passed out lots of literature, and the dogs got a lot of attention. We also sold merchandise. Between donations and merchandise sales, we raised \$321.33.



Pointing out that we accept credit cards, Hayden says, *May I help you?*



Joining me with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy** were: Brian Huddleston with **Duke**; Teryl Hall with foster

girl **Bella**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Jodi and Jay Koblick; Connie McCabe with **Grizzly**; Jan Newland with **Rocky** and **Goldie Cotner**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; and Kathi and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**. We reunited with the Triumphs, who adopted our girl **11-067 Sierra**, a lovely blonde. We also visited awhile with old friend Rusty Ward, who gave us a generous donation. As a result of our participation in this event, we got a new member family joining the group.



Duke says, *I love my daddy Brian!*

The Giddings have a beautiful little 7-month-old female named

Baylee, who was doing wonderfully well with all the other dogs at the event. They said she needed the socialization, so we encouraged them to join and to bring her to other **AGR** events, the best place



there is for socializing with other Golden Retrievers! There is always a lot to see at the Anthem Adoptathon. One of the more popular things is the lure course which was provided by **AZ Jack Russell Terrier**

Rescue. Teryl took **Bella** through the course and she did great – **Bella**, that is; Teryl had a little trouble fitting through one of the jumps.



Both had fun, though, and

Bella turned around to see why Teryl wasn't following right behind her

Bella was very proud of herself. Thanks to all who came to help that day.



Parada del Sol & Trails End

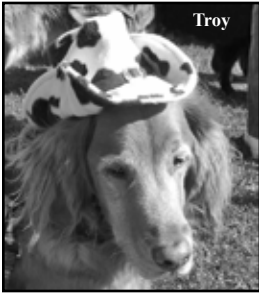
By Teri Guilbault



Parada Del Sol, which took place on February 11, 2012, was fabulous! Several of us got to the *Trails End* location on 1st St/Brown at about 6:30 AM and had the booth mostly set up by 8, then we drove down to the parade start and were there by 8:30 AM; most of our walkers arrived between 8:30 and 9. Unfortunately, our group ended up being #74 in the lineup, so everyone, especially the dogs, was already tired before we even stepped off. However, it was an absolutely gorgeous day for a parade – weather was partly cloudy, there was a nice breeze, and walking in the 70+ degree weather was lovely. Our parade theme this year was "America's Favorite Dogs Are Gettin' Western!" Many of us wore western outfits and we



Grizzly



had cowboy hats for everyone, including for a couple of the dogs. All the dogs wore black bandannas in memory of Debbe Begley, as the 2011 parade was the last event she was able to attend before she was diagnosed with cancer.

We had a great group of people and

Golden buddies walking on behalf of **AGR** in the parade, and we enjoyed the cheers and clapping of all the spectators. People especially loved seeing Joy and Todd Slagowski's husky, **Kody** (photo at right of the whole Slagowski clan), as part of our group! Boy did he get the applause!



Linda and Bill Atkinson with **Sammy** leading the way carried our banner the entire length of the parade. Patrick Doyle and **Annabelle** kindly pulled the water wagon. Casey Pulis pulled another wagon with Liz's tripod **Trip**,

but **Trip** wanted out of the wagon about 3/4 of the way up the street. It was a good thing, too, because Deb's **Ladybird** needed to ride the rest of the way. After we finished the parade, everyone went back to our booth at the *Trail's End* party for a little rest and something to drink. The dogs were happy and tired, and after they had some snacks and a nice cool dish of water (and a shady spot to do their business), they settled down for a snooze and some really great meeting and greeting. The crowd didn't seem quite as large as in previous years, but we still had loads of people stopping by and speaking to us as we walked our dogs through the areas.



Jodi and Jay to the right of center stayed in the booth for the almost-4 hours it took us to get back there after we set up

We sold \$281.69 in merchandise and received \$452.97 in donations, for a total revenue of \$734.66. After paying our booth fee and entrance

fee for the parade, we netted a very nice sum of \$584.66 for the day!



My thanks to everyone who joined us for this event. Helping set up and tear down were Patrick Doyle, Teri Guilbault, Gail and Dana Haywood, Jodi and Jay Koblick, Deb Orwig, and Bob and Kathi Youhas. While everyone else was at the parade, Jodi and Jay Koblick, along with Don and Rusty Krause, with **Sunshine** and **Stormy** and Rusty's sister, Joy Demmler (all in above photo), stayed at the

booth to put the finishing touches on the merchandise display and handle any sales during the parade. Mary Lynn Ament with **Hoagie** and **Winslow** also came to the booth to lend a hand before the parade finished and stayed to help out during the day. Joining **Blossom**, **Jackson** and me during the parade were Bill and Linda Atkinson with **Sam**; Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky** and Tony's sister, Jan Newland, with **Goldie**; Beth Chaffee and Valerie Mylowe with **Bevo** and **Darby**; Kathy Davison with **Jake**; Patrick Doyle with **Annabelle**; Dave Engelhardt with **Maggie** and **Sage**; Teryl Hall and Annie Hall, Teryl's mom, with foster girl **Bella** and **Napoleon**; Dana and Gail Haywood with **Riley**; Jim and Diane Henkel and Stephanie and Abby, their daughter and granddaughter, with **Bella**, **Mojo** and **Winston**; Sheila Joyce with **McKenna**; Sarah Martin with **Bunny**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Grizzly**, **Sasha** and **Winnie**; Pat Morgan with **Sunny**; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy**; Casey, Carrie and Jane Pulis with **Rocky** and **Major**; Joy and Todd Slagowski with **Happy**, **Amber**, **Sweetie**, **Kahuna** and **Kody**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; Michele Wehry with **NinAnnie**; Robert and Ingrid Wilson with **Bailey**, **Jazzy** and **Sadie**; and Bob and Kathi Youhas with **Krisie** and **Leo**. Staying until the end and helping with teardown were Tony, Jan, Patrick, Gail and Dana, Deb, and Bob and Kathi. Once back at the booth, we also enjoyed the company of Lew Halpert,

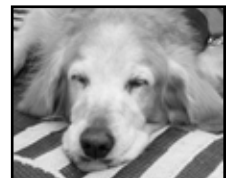


Teryl, Deb, Sarah, Lew and Liz with dogs in front of the *Smart Betty* car



He spent the afternoon getting people to sign up for the email notices that the company will soon be sending out with local deals that will benefit the buyer and **AGR**, as well. Again, thank you to all who came for the fun. We look forward to seeing everyone, plus those of you who were unable to join us, next year!

Tired people (Dana) and dogs (Hayden) at the end of a long day





By Teri Guilbault



The annual *People Saving Pets PetWalk* on Sunday, February 19, 2012 saw cloudy to partly cloudy skies and chilly to mild temperatures. It was a fantastic day for a walk, whether you were doing the 5K or the one-mile, or just to be outside in general.

Arriving literally at the crack of dawn for setup were Katie Donahue with **Ginger**, **Jake** and **Joe**; Teri Guilbault with **Blossom** and **Jackson**; Connie McCabe with **Grizzly**; and Deb Orwig with **Hayden** and **Troy**. Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky** followed soon after, and in no time our booth was set up and ready for customers.



Although we received an award for Best Decorated Booth, we didn't do anything special - we just had a nice merchandise display

Joining our terrific group for the walk were Debbie Fuller; Teryl Hall and foster girl **Bella**; Sheila Joyce with **Tessa**; Katie Donahue walking **Joe** and **Jake**; and Robert and Ingrid Wilson with **Sadie**, **Jazzy** and **Bailey**, all of whom went out and accomplished the 5K walk with ease! A short time later, it was everyone else's turn for the one-mile walk, and so went Tony Cotner with **Daisy**



AGR's one-mile team: Nick, Tony, Liz, Deb, Teri, Todd and Joy with dogs



Katie and Debbie (left photo) and Teryl (left in right photo) and Sheila (right in right photo) did the 5K walk along with Ingrid and Robert Wilson (no photo, sorry!)

and **Rocky**; Teri Guilbault with **Blossom** and **Jackson**; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson with **Winnie**, **Sasha** and **Grizzly**; Deb Orwig with **Hayden** and **Troy**; Joy and Todd Slagowski with **Happy**, **Bella** and **Sweetie**; and Liz Tataseo with **Sweetie** and Katie's girl **Ginger**. When the walk was finished, we were met back at our booth by Michele Wehry with **NinAnnie**, who came while we were walking and manned the booth until everyone returned.



As the saying goes, *Unless you're the lead dog, the view never changes!*



We all had a lovely time meeting with members of other Rescues and loads and loads of other pet walkers with their fur kids. On top of that, **AGR** won a beautiful First Place basket for Best Decorated Booth, and Deb, **Hayden**, **Grizzly**, and **Troy**, all decked out in red, white, and blue, won First Prize for Best Dressed Team (photo at left)!

In addition to walker registrations and pledges we received totaling \$1,350 prior to or on the day of the *Walk*, our ambassadogs collected \$497 in anonymous donations at the *Walk*, including \$100 from a wonderful lady from **Best Friends Animal Rescue**, who stopped by just to thank us for the outstanding job we do; we also got \$130 in donations sent directly to us in support of the *Walk*. We sold \$367.25 of merchandise, too, for a grand total of \$2,344.25! A check will be coming soon from **People Saving Pets** for \$1,350.

At the end of the day, Tony Cotner, Katie Donahue, Sheila Joyce and Liz Tataseo helped Deb Orwig pack up the **AGR** merchandise and load it into her van. You couldn't have asked for a better weather day or a better time!

Thanks again to everyone who helped us out with this event in one way or another. You made our Golden and mostly-Golden fur babies very proud, indeed!



Stress Relief at GCU

By Deb Orwig



We love the opportunities we've been offered to take our dogs to **Grand Canyon University** to provide students with some stress relief during exam periods. On February 27th and 28th we were there from 9 AM - 1 PM. As she has done twice before, Beth Jamison, **GCU's** Disabilities Services Administrator, set up the Meet-and-Greet for us. On the 27th, there was a huge

mob of high school kids who were being given a tour of the campus, so the dogs all got a tremendous amount of attention. In addition, that day we were joined by several members of **Happy Tails Service Dogs** with their dogs; a member of one of the teams ended up joining **AGR**. She wants to get her Golden better socialized and quickly realized that our events offer such opportunities. The dogs had a fabulous time chasing tennis balls around the big lawn to the north of the Arena and loving up to all the students. Those who attended on one or both days included: Bill Atkinson with **Sam**; Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Karen and Phil Davis with **Caesar** and **Star**; Dave Engelhardt with **Rex** and **Sage**; Rusty Haller and Cherri Beuke with **Murphy** (photo below right);



Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Bob and Darel Johnson with **Holly** and **Bo**; Jodi Koblick with **Logan**; Sherry and Gary Landwehr; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; Linda Taylor with **Daisy**; Frank Turco with **Molly**; Peter Wong with **Billie**; and Kathi Youhas with **Krissie**. Frank had planned to attend only on the 27th, but he and **Molly** had such a wonderful time that he rearranged his Tuesday schedule so that they could come back and be with us again.



Frank and Molly with a GCU staff member who has come to visit with us each time we've been there



PACC 911 Spring Fling at Franciscan Renewal Center

By Deb Orwig



The weekend of March 10th - 11th was very busy for **Arizona Golden Rescue**. **PACC 911's Spring Fling Adoptathon** was on Saturday, March 10th, and on Sunday, March 11th, **AGR** had our annual

Membership Meeting and Picnic. The **PACC 911 Adoptathon** at the **Franciscan Renewal Center** was, as always, well attended by the public. Our booth was located at the north end of the field alongside **AZ Lab and Giant Breed Rescue** and a couple other really popular booths, so we had a crowd around and near us the entire day. This event is not much for merchandise sales, as people come to "shop" for a new family companion of some sort, but we still sold about \$53 worth of stuff, plus our dogs collected \$53 in donations. Joining me with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy** were: Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Jackie and Dave Engelhardt with **Rex** and **Sage**; Teryl Hall and daughter Trystan Schuff with foster girl **Martie**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; and Michele Wehry. Yanna and Rick Reid also stopped with sweet **Ciara** and handsome **Jake** to say hello. We all enjoyed the day.



Jackie and Dave surrounded by kids and dogs



Paws At The Park

By Deb Orwig

We had a perfect day for **Paws At The Park**, our Annual Meeting and Picnic on March 11, 2012, at **Sahuaro Ranch Park** in Glendale – not a cloud in the sky and the temperature was in the mid 70's by the afternoon. All totaled, we had 150 people and 98 dogs attend, and the amazing thing was no barking and not even a growl all day! Helping with set-up starting at 8:30 AM were Tony Cotner, Patrick Doyle, Karin Forsythe, Teri Guilbault, Teryl Hall, Dana and Gail Haywood, Dave and Nancy Kimmel, Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson, Deb Orwig, Hiran Raichura, Liz Tataseo and Bob and Kathi Youhas. Larry Jessup kindly lent us his trailer, which Bob picked up on Saturday and took to the storage facility to load up all our tent canopies and picnic supplies, then went to Deb's house and

Stress Bag

This is your **STRESS BAG**. It is hoped that some of these items will help you relax and enjoy life.

RUBBER BAND – to remind you to stretch your ideas and your mind to new limits so you will continue to grow and meet the needs of rescue and of life.

TISSUE – to remind you to see the tears and needs of others.

HUGS and KISSES – seven of each, one for every day of the week, to remind you that everyone needs a hug, a kiss or a word of encouragement every day.

LIFESAVERS – to remind you to think of friends and family as your “life savers.” Care about and help each other through the stressful times in life.

PENNY – to remind you of the value of your thoughts – big ones and little ones. Share them with others.

ERASER – to remind you that we all make mistakes and with an eraser they can be erased, as can our human mistakes be overcome.

NOTEBOOK and PENCIL – to help you remember all those little – and big – things that you might forget because you have so much to remember!

TOOTHPICK – to remind you to “pick out” the good qualities of others and yourself and to be tolerant and accepting of the differences of others.

PAPER CLIPS – it’s important to “keep it all together” whether “it” is your mental health or your effectiveness as a cooperative and supportive member of our organization; the heart-shaped paper clip is to remind you that you are the heart of our Rescue operation and the “thumbs up” one is to remind you that you are the best!

The design on the fabric the bag was created from is called “Best in Show” – it is what you are!

loaded all the merchandise; and food coolers. Raffle items were transported to the Park by Tony, Connie, Deb, Liz, and Kathi.

The week before the event, Deb and Kathi put the raffle together and then set it up at the Park – there were over 50 great items, so many members went home with a treasure or two (or more). Debbie Myrick and Angela Palumbo were our raffle ticket sellers. The raffle alone generated \$693! We also did a tennis ball lottery, which earned \$230. Trystan



Schuff and her friend Amy Jonovich (above) sold tennis balls for \$5 each. They numbered the balls consecutively as they sold them and gave the purchaser a ticket with the ball number. The balls were put into a big bin and at 2:30, Deb took the bin out into the field and Liz’s Gonzo, who is a tennis ball addict, ran



out to the pile, looked over all the balls (he really did, and didn’t grab the first one he came to) and then picked #28. The winning ball belonged to Barbara Connoyer, who generously donated her half of the money collected, \$115, back to AGR.

Teri and Liz had arranged for some speakers, entertainers and vendors to be present. Dr. Penelope Wooff (photo at right) from *Eyecare for Animals*, gave an interesting talk about eye diseases common in Golden Retrievers. Dr. Kim Hillers, a canine oncologist from *Southwest Veterinary Specialists*, reminded us about what to look for when we’re concerned that our Golden may have developed cancer of some kind. AGR member Peter Wong brought his Border Collie, Billie, and gave an impressive demonstration of many of the tricks Billie has learned. Christine Filler, a dog obedience instructor (*Christine’s Obedience Buddies*) who also does pet sitting, showed us how to properly walk a dog on leash and how to correct if the dog is not paying attention – I think most present learned something from Christine’s demonstration. Sharon and Ed Whitt, who own *Shar-Ed Crafts*, were



Dr. Wooff



Peter says, Take a bow, Billie!



Christine working with Belle Palumbo



Maureen (at left) discussing her artwork

on hand to sell some items beautifully embroidered with Golden Retrievers. Maureen Hawkins, a local pet portrait artist, set up a display of her work. Both the Whitts and Ms. Hawkins made generous donations to AGR. Linda Den Beste, Owner of *Hug N Pups Grooming Salon*, 1609 E. Bell Rd, Phoenix, brought her assistant, Gavin Easton, and her grooming table and Dremels.



The 2011 - 2012 AGR Executive Board of Directors
 Deb Orwig, President; Liz Tataseo, Director of Operations;
 Teri Guilbault, Director of Dog Care; Dana Haywood,
 Director of Information Management; and
 Connie McCabe, Human Resources Director

They spent the entire day trimming nails and cleaning ears, then gave us \$160.06 in donations that they had collected. The 6¢ came from a young boy who rode up on a bike and asked what they were doing. When he was told they were trimming toenails for a donation to help the Rescue, he dug into his pants pocket and pulled out the 6¢. Somebody’s raising their kid right!

After the speakers and demonstrations, Deb presided over the election of Board members for the coming year. Since no one was run-

ning against any of the incumbents (although Liz and Teri were switching positions), she just asked for a vote of confidence, which everyone gave. Then she presented the “State of the Organization” address (page 32) followed by giving each Board member and Team Manager a Stress Bag (box on p. 30) as a thank you for their service. Dana Haywood was then given a special Starfish plaque due to his invaluable service as Director of Information Management and everything else he had done for **AGR** during the past year.



Dana with Starfish Plaque

Deb and Teri then presided over the Rainbow Bridge ceremony.



Debbie Fuller holding her Bridge booklet and the rainbow rosette she received in memory of Vanna

Dave Kimmel had our sound system set up to play “So Hard To Say Goodbye.” Each family remembering a dog they had lost during the past year was given a commemorative booklet with stories about all the dogs being recognized and a beautiful rainbow rosette in memory of their special family member. Following this moving ceremony, Deb and Teri then called for an assemblage of all who had adopted a dog from **AGR** during the past year. Those with adopted



Nancy Roberts putting on Goldie's Golden Paw adoption medallion

dogs from 2009 or 2010 who were present but who had not been able to attend *Paws At The Park* before were also invited to participate.



Teri handing Barbara Connoyer a Golden Paw adoption medallion for Buddy; Rusty Krause with Stormy, Aaron Fritzer with Tanner and Eric Peapenburg with Watson are also in the photo

Each adopted dog was recognized and presented with a Golden Paw medallion. The families will be sent an official Adoption Certificate.

Then, we had the most fun part of the day: the

Parade of Rescue! Everyone who had adopted their canine companion from ANY Rescue group was invited



to participate in the Parade. Almost everyone who was at the event followed Deb with **Mufasa, Hayden, Ladybird** and **Troy** around the park. Deb had forgotten to bring the CD that had “Who Let the Dogs Out” and “Rescue Me”



on it. However, Dave Kimmel, our electronics guru, had managed to download “Rescue Me” from the Internet with his phone and plugged it into the sound system, a terrific and welcome surprise!

Staying to help with the break-down and clean-up of the event were: Tony Cotner; Teri and Jeff Guilbault; Teryl Hall, Trystan Schuff and Amy Jonovich; Dana and Gail Haywood, Nancy and Dave Kimmel; Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson; Deb and Larry Orwig; James Schunn and his three teenagers; Liz Tataseo; and Kathi and Bob Youhas. Thanks so much to all of you!

Our cost to produce this event was kept very low due to some generous assistance and donations.



Cooks Bob Youhas and Jeff Guilbault

Liz Tataseo donated the cost of the venue (\$180). Robert Wilson, owner of the **Arizona Culinary Institute**, acquired the meat and condiments at wholesale prices

from his vendors. Karin Forsythe got donations of hamburger and hotdog buns, water, and soda from three local **Albertsons** stores. To round out our food offerings, Connie got coleslaw from the **KFC** at 9639 W Olive Ave, Peoria, for a 50% discount, Deb got Bush's Beans and chili with no beans at **Smart & Final**, and Teri got cheese for the hamburgers and individual-serving bags of chips. Deb also purchased leftover-but-still frozen veggie burgers from the **PACC 911 Spring Fling** that was held the day before. Quite a few members

AGR thanks the following **Albertsons** stores for their very generous donations:

8240 W Deer Valley Rd, Peoria – 8 cases **Albertsons** 24-pack water

8950 W Bell Rd, Peoria – 16 12-packs of assorted soda

20255 N 59th Ave, Glendale – 15 pkgs hamburger buns and 9 pkgs hot dog buns

brought brownies or cookies for dessert. Nick ran out and bought more charcoal when the cooks, Jeff Guilbault and Bob Youhas, decided we hadn't brought enough. This event was not designed as a fundraiser, but it generated \$3504.73 in profit. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we had a terrific picnic!

State of the Organization By Deb Orwig, President

When Debbe Begley and I stood before a group of 30 of you on March 14, 2009, what we were able to tell you was this:

We had incorporated a new rescue group on March 11, 2009, exactly three years ago today! Thanks to Nick Dodson, we had a name: *Arizona Golden Rescue*. We had an address, which had to be changed after a year because the mail box facility closed down. We had a phone number with a catchy name: 623-566-WAGS (9247). Connie McCabe had designed a gorgeous logo and had chosen our colors of rust, gold and cream to symbolize the spectrum of colors of Golden Retrievers. We had written By-laws and were working on a *Policies and Procedures Handbook*.

On March 14, 2009, those in attendance at our first membership meeting paid dues and elected officers: a President; a Director of Operations; a Director of Dog Care; a Director of Information Management; and a Human Resources Director. The only title you were familiar with then was President; the rest sounded kind of weird. No Secretary on the Board? No Treasurer on the Board? No, but the Board then appointed Teri Guilbault as Secretary; a short time later, Cindy Tigges offered to be our Organization Accountant and her appointment was made by the Board. We have found this arrangement to work extremely well.

So, we were off and running. Only about two weeks later by the end of March 2009, we had 121 members in 77 families; we had an Intake and Placement Manager, a Home Evaluations Manager, a Health Care Manager, a Membership Manager, a Merchandise Manager, a Transport Manager and a member checking our telephone voicemail calls; we had an operational website; we had taken in \$4,189.00; we had even rescued our first dog, thanks to a connection made by Cynthia Wenström.

NOW, today, March 11, 2012...

We have 454 members in 306 families, including 11 out of state: 2 in CA, 2 in CO, 2 in PA, 2 in TX and three in Japan! There are an additional 45 nonvoting spouses or significant others whose names were on applications for Single Memberships – we hope you all will consider upgrading to at least a Household Membership.

We raised \$110,808 in nine months in 2009; \$162,610 in 2010; and \$162,261 in 2011, for a total earned income in 33 months of \$435,679! After just paying a credit card bill of \$8,947, our bank account today holds \$36,561 in checking, \$61,872 in savings and \$10,547 in the Debbe Begley Memorial Fund for a total of \$108,980! Yes, it sounds like we're flush. However, if we take in 98 dogs in 2012 as we did in 2011, we will need an estimated \$91,623 to take care of them all – and we expect to rescue more than 98 dogs. We have already taken in 29; at a rate of 29 in a little over two months, that will amount to at least 150 dogs for this year! We have rescued 246 dogs in three years. We have spent \$231,854 on those dogs – that averages about \$946 per dog.

Our website is terrific and getting better all the time. Our database is functional. We have a live person answering our WAGS line from 8 AM – 8 PM. We are on Facebook, Twitter, and GoodSearch and have numerous other Internet connections.

In the past 3 years, we have done 107 Meet-and-Greets at 6 different *PetSmart* stores and 60 at 4 *Choice Pet Market* Locations and 13 PACC911 events including the *Bowl-a-Rama*, *Franciscan Renewal Center* in October and March, and the *Adoptathon at Anthem* in January; we had a booth at the *Glendale Firemen's Parade* and walked in that parade in 2009 and 2011; we walked in the *Parada del Sol* in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and had a booth at their *Trails End* event all three years. During the holidays, we took Photos with Santa at 2 different *PetSmart* stores, did gift wrapping at 3 different *Barnes & Noble* bookstores, and participated in the *Holiday Pet Festival* at *WestWorld* and the Grand Opening of the newest *Choice Pet Market* in Chandler; we have provided stress-relief furapy for the students at *Grand Canyon University* during their midterm and finals weeks in 2011 and 2012; we have sponsored three *Fore! Paws Golf Tournaments* in August 2009 and 2010 and in September 2011, participated in the *People Saving Pets PetWalk* in February for 3 years, and held our first *Golden Paw Saloon & Gambling Hall Casino Night* in June 2010; we have also had a booth at the spectacular *Phoenix Pet Expo* for two years and will do so again at the end of April this year. We are Adoption Partners with *PetSmart*, Community Partners with *PACC 911*, Charitable Partners with *People Saving Pets* and are sponsored by *Choice Pet Market*; we have rewards programs set up with numerous businesses whereby if one of our members uses the business or makes a purchase from it, *AGR* gets what amounts to a commission; we are an accepted beneficiary of donations through *American Express Employee Giving Program*, *Avnet*, *Bank of America Employee Giving Program*, *United Health Care Employee Giving Program* and *Valley of the Sun United Way*.

I would like to thank all 195 of you who volunteered for one thing or another during 2011, many of you for many things, and I would like to encourage the rest of you to get involved.

In particular, I would like to thank the 2011-2012 Board Members: Teri Guilbault as Director of Operations, Liz Tataseo as Director of Dog Care, Dana Haywood as Director of Information Management, and Katie Donahue as Human Resources Director and when Katie found she could not continue a couple months ago, Connie McCabe stepped in.

Also, we have a fantastic group of team managers: Michele Wehry as Intake and Placement Manager with assistance with Intake for most of last year from Kathy Blue and Judy Petitto; Sheila Joyce as Home Evaluations Manager; Gail Haywood as Transport Manager; and Teri Guilbault as Health Care Manager. Karin Forsythe is our Organization Secretary and Cindy Tigges is our Organization Accountant. We have a fantastic team of home evaluators, a very active team of transport volunteers, and some terrific help in the health care area from Mary Lynn Ament and Beverly Ruth. Mary Jo Courtney handled the writing of most of the donation thank you letters last year.

Does this sound like we have all our bases covered? Yes, we do, but we can always use more help especially with home evaluations – between February 7th and March 10th, we have had 55 applications to adopt submitted and they all have to have home evaluations done. We can also use more help on the Health Care Team, with transports and such things as data entry into our new database. We need help with planning and executing future fundraising events. In other words, if you want to get involved, we can find something for you to do! We hope you will.



Meet-and-Greets at Choice Pet Market

By Deb Orwig and Dana Haywood

We are now having Meet-and-Greets at two **Choice Pet Market** locations on the same day each month, one on the Westside at 20028 N 67th Ave, Glendale, and one on the Eastside at 2915 W Ray Rd, Chandler. Deb chairs the Glendale store and Dana chairs the Chandler store.



Kari, Inge, Ingrid, Rusty and Don; dogs are Sadie, Jazzy, Bailey and Sunshine

Jay Koblick with **Katie** (Yorkie) and **Shea** (Westie); Rusty and Don Krause and Rusty's sister Joy Demmler with **Sunshine** and **Stormy**; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy**; Liz Tataseo with **Augie**; and Ingrid and Karie Wilson and Ingrid's sister Inge with **Bailey**, **Jazzy** and **Sadie**. The weather was clear, sunny and cool and we



Meet-and-Greets are opportunities for our dogs to make new friends, too – here are Katie, Shea, and Bella doing just that

enjoyed the day. In Chandler, Dana wrote that they had a quiet day, and part of the reason may be that the store is still fairly new (Grand Opening was in December, which we attended). Gail and Dana



Jan and Gail with Riley and visitors

brought their **Riley** and **Trina Kearney** and were joined by Jan Newland with **Goldie Cotner**. They took in \$47 and talked to quite a few people about **AGR**. We also received two \$50 gift cards, one from each store.



Goldie with visitor

Our February date was on the 26th. Deb reported that the group



Bernie with Sarj, Linda with Daisy and Troy, Joy with Stormy, Tony, Jodi with Shea, Jay with Micah, Liz with Augie, Teri Guilbault, Jared and Michelle Miller, Donna with Simba, Maureen, Nancy with Lilo, Rusty, Sunshine, Don and Peter with Billie

had lovely weather to be outside and a large crowd of volunteers at the Glendale **Choice Pet Market**. In addition to \$127 in cash donations and a \$50 gift card from **Choice Pet Market**, we also received a new Copper Level membership with an additional \$25 donation from a very enthusiastic young man, Hiran Raichura, who wants to get involved (he also filled out an adoption application, but said he wants to learn about the organization and meet some folks before adopting a dog)! Peter Wong and **Billie** entertained the crowd with **Billie's** new tricks. It was a very nice day! Attending were: Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Teri Guilbault with **Fresno** and **Goldie**; Maureen Hawkins with **Jessie**; Sheila Joyce with **Tessa**; Jodi and Jay Koblick with **Micah** and **Shea**; Rusty and Don Krause and Rusty's sister Joy Demmler with **Sunshine** and **Stormy**; Michelle and Jared Miller with baby Lucas, who slept through all the commotion; Mike Newman; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy**; Bernie Quick with **Mylee** then with **Sarj**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; Linda Taylor with **Daisy**; Nancy Wolf and daughter Donna Hoffman with **Lilo** and **Simba**; and Peter Wong with **Billie**. There was a very good turnout at the Chandler **Choice Pet Market** also. Met and talked with quite a few people concerning **AGR** and had a few brochures



Mike stopped by in Glendale to get a Golden fix before going to an appointment in Scottsdale – that's Troy sitting on his lap

taken. Both Dana and Wanda Guercio took photos. Dana handed out several **AGR**-eMail business cards. The group took in \$80 and, of course also got a \$50 gift card from the store. Attending the Chandler Meet-and-Greet were Dave and Jackie Engelhardt with **Rex** and **Sage**; Wanda Guercio



February Chandler group: Dave with Shadow in front of him, Diane with Bella, Darrell, Gail with Rex being hugged by visitor, Riley, Judy with Sandy Joy, Kim and Jackie with Sage



Darrell, Puppet, Gail, Pauline and Riley

and daughter Arielle with **Puppet** (Wanda and Arielle's first Meet-and-Greet); Dana and Gail Haywood with **Riley**; Jim and Diane Henkel with **Bella**; Pauline and Kimberly Kearney with **Trina** (Pauline and Kim's first Meet-and-Greet); Darrell Marshall

with **Shadow**; Maggie Muller with **Benzo** and new FWITA **Elsa Marie** (whom she has now adopted); and a very pleasant surprise visit by Judy Petitto with **Sandy Joy**.



We do not have a Donation Vest small enough for Yorkie Katie, so we improvised by starting her collection with a dollar wrapped around her harness; after 4 hours, she was bristling with money!

In March, we were at both **Choice Pet Market** locations on the 24th. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood in Glendale. Volunteers included Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Teryl Hall with foster girl **Martie**; Jodi and Jay Koblick with **Katie**; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**,



When Peter brings Billie to our Meet-and-Greets, they always put on a short trick show

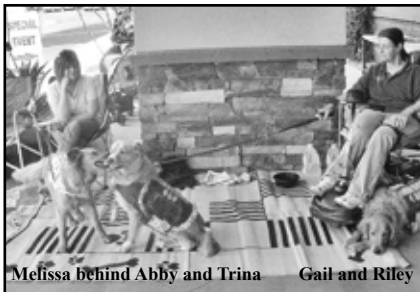
Ladybird, Troy, and Mufasa; and Liz T a - taseo

with **Gonzo** and **Trip**. It was quite a busy day, as we collected \$136! Chandler was quiet again, though. Only Dana and Gail with **Riley** and **Trina** and Melissa Beceiro with **Abby** were there. Later in the day Melissa's husband, Brian, and their two sons, Jordan and Justin, came by to join them. They had an **AGR** sandwich board



AGR's Behaviorist, Teryl Hall, knows that Meet-and-Greets are great places to socialize dogs with strangers and with other dogs, so she always brings whatever dog she happens to be fostering, **Martie** in this case

sign out as they did at the Tempe Marketplace **PetSmart** the previous weekend and it again encouraged a couple of drive-by donations. Dana remarked, *That sandwich board is going to be a standard with the*



Melissa behind Abby and Trina Gail and Riley

Meet-and-Greets I attend! Despite the small group, they took in \$168 in the 4 hours they were there! Beautiful weather, nice company and a good day for donations – what could be better?

East Valley folks, this is one event in addition to the Tempe Marketplace **PetSmart** Meet-and-Greet you can help us with each month without driving halfway across Arizona! Please check the website Events Calendar for dates in May, June and July. We would love to have you attend.



Meet-and-Greets at PetSmart

We now do Meet-and-Greets at four different **PetSmart** stores. Connie McCabe, our overall **PetSmart** chairman and liaison, chairs the store at 5707 W Northern Ave, Glendale; Teri Guilbault chairs the Arrowhead store at 7290 W Bell Rd in Glendale; Denny Myrick chairs the store at 7077 E Mayo Blvd in Scottsdale; and Angela Palumbo chairs the store at Tempe Marketplace on Rio Salado Parkway. The regularly scheduled dates for all **PetSmart** store appearances are shown on our website's events calendar. Occasionally, we will change the date to accommodate **PetSmart Charities'** request to be at the store during their National Adoption Weekends held four times a year. Usually, we meet in the afternoon on the second Sunday of every month at the Northern Ave and Bell Rd stores and on the third Saturday from noon to 4 PM at Tempe Marketplace. Denny's dates for the Mayo Blvd store are on the website calendar – he tries to fit them in around other events we have scheduled.

Bell Rd (Arrowhead) – Teri Guilbault



Early arrivals Gail, Tony, Dana and Liz were joined by several others later

January 22nd was a fantastic day for a Meet-and-Greet! It was such a nice day that we decided to set up outside instead of in the store, a smart decision! We collected \$193.88 in donations! While

we were at it, we rescued an adorable Golden-mix puppy that was found in the receiving area behind the nearby **Razmataz Outlet**. Welcome to **AGR, Razzy!** Joining me with **Blossom** and **Jackson** were Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Teryl Hall with foster girl **Bella**; Gail and

Teryl knew just how to handle this little pup, later named Razzy in honor of the store where he was found – he was displaying a lot of fear-aggressive behavior





Michelle and Jared just about 2 weeks before baby Lucas arrived

Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Don and Rusty Krause with **Sunshine** and her new sister, **Stormy**; Michelle and Jared Miller; Deb Orwig with **Hayden, Troy** and **Ladybird**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; and Ingrid Wilson with **Sadie**. Beverly and Perry Ruth also stopped by to say hi on their way into **PetSmart** to make a purchase for their newest rescue, **Oliver**.

On February 12th, Teri was helping daughter Michelle take care of new baby Lucas, so Deb did the set-up at this store. We were outside again, as the weather was terrific! Joining Deb with **Hayden, Ladybird** and **Troy** were Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Donna Hoffman and Nancy Wolf with **Lilo** and **Simba**; Don and Rusty Krause and Rusty's sister Joy Demmler with **Sunshine** and **Stormy**; Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**; Ingrid Wilson with **Sadie**; and Bob Youhas with **Krissie**. We collected \$193.06 in donations.



Donna with Simba, Dana, Nancy with Lilo; Dana marveled at how much more sociable these dogs had become since he delivered them in November

It's definitely better to be outside if the weather cooperates! However, it didn't on March 18th – it was cold, blustery and raining on and off. At one point when it looked like it might clear up, part of the group went outside, but after about an hour, they had to give up and come back inside. Attending were Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Teri Guilbault with **Jackson**; Sandra Hansen with **Jasmine**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Jodi Koblick; Michelle Nicholas with **Maggie**; Deb Orwig with **Mufasa**; and Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**.



Liz with Gonzo showing a customer our brochure



Michelle with Maggie and Mufasa and Tony with Daisy braved the cold, windy weather outside for awhile

Mayo Blvd – Denny Myrick

On Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Mayo Blvd **PetSmart** in Scottsdale the following **Arizona Golden Rescue** members participated in the monthly Meet-and-Greet: Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Mark and Judy Doseck with **Stella**; Denny and Debbie Myrick with **Jake**; Deb Orwig with **Ladybird, Troy**, and **Hayden**; and Liz Tataseo with **Gonzo** and **Trip**. We collected \$130.50 in donations and \$10 in calendar sales.



Mayo Blvd PetSmart group on 1-14-12: Liz Tataseo with Trip and Gonzo; Tony Cotner with Rocky; Denny (holding Hayden with Ladybird in front, Daisy behind) and Debbie Myrick with Jake; Judy and Mark Doseck with Stella and Troy

Ben Doseck and their dog **Stella**; Denny Myrick with **Jake**; Deb Orwig with **Troy, Ladybird**, and **Hayden**; Debra Rothwell with **Sassi** and cute puppy **Chloe**; Pam Spicer (photographer) with **Lexi**; and Rich Stolz with **Riley**. There was a delivery of one of our new dogs (**Maddie Lynn**) to her new FWITA. New **AGR** member Diane Traxler stopped by with her new FWITA **Amika**. **AGR** dogs collected \$131.91 in donations, a good day!



Jake Myrick watching Pam Spicer and Lexi accept a drive-by donation



Deb with Hayden, Troy and Ladybird; Debra with puppy Chloe and Sassi; Katie with Joe (between Deb and Chloe), Ginger and Jake



Hannah, Mark, Nate and Ben Doseck with puppy Chloe and their beautiful Stella

On Saturday, March 10th, many of the "regulars" who come to the Mayo Blvd **PetSmart** were at **PACC 911's Spring Fling** event at the **Franciscan**



Stephanie and Dash with Maddie Lynn, Cynthia with Tag, Mary Lynn with Hoagie and Winslow, and Denny Myrick with Lexi Spicer and Jake; photo by Pam Spicer

Renewal Center, so we had to make do with a smaller-than-usual group – small but mighty good at collecting donations of \$261.53!



Dash with his new best friend Maddie Lynn

AGR foster **Maddie Lynn**, whom they have since adopted!

The following **AGR** members participated in the monthly Meet-and-Greet: Mary Lynn Ament with **Hoogie** and **Winslow**; Mike Lane with **Bailey**; Denny Myrick with **Jake**; new volunteers Stephanie and Dash Rice with **Maddie Lynn**; Pam Spicer with **Lexi**; and Cynthia Wenström with **Tag**. A special welcome to first timers Stephanie and Dash Rice and their new

Northern Ave – Connie McCabe



Dana with Grizzly, Tony with Rocky and Daisy, Sheila with Tessa, Karen with Caesar, Pat with Sunny and Abby, and Deb with Troy and Ladybird

Many thanks to everyone who joined us at the Northern Ave **PetSmart** on January 8th. Our “regulars” were there: Karen Davis with **Caesar** and **Star**; Sheila Joyce with **Tessa**; and Pat Morgan

with **Sunny** and **Abby**. And of course **Grizzly** to help meet and greet, and Nick, who helped set up as usual. We were then joined by



Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Don and Rusty Krause with **Stormy** and **Sunshine** (photo at left); Michelle Nicholas and her twin sister, Georgia, with **Maggie** (photo at right); and Deb Orwig with **Ladybird** and



Troy. We collected \$144.54 and sold one calendar. Most importantly, we made lots of new friends and will likely have at least two new home visits coming up! The kids were out in force and the dogs got lots of love, what more could you ask for?

Thank you to everyone who came to the Meet and Greet on February 12th. We had a great crew today: Teryl Hall with **Bella**; Sheila Joyce with **Tessa**; Pat Morgan with **Sunny**; Susan Parker with **Ricky**; Michelle Nicholas with **Maggie**; Nancy Woods and Donna Hoffman with **Lilo** and **Simba**; Peter Wong with **Billie**; and of course **Grizzly** and **Winnie** with me. Thanks, again, to Nick for helping me set up and pack up. We collected \$134.81, including 2 calendar sales, and talked to a LOT of people. We gave out a lot of newsletters and brochures too! It got so cold we had to pack up early but still had a fun day. This was **Lilo**



Peter with Billie and Grizzly, Sheila with Tessa and Winnie, Donna with Lilo, Pat with Sunny, Nancy with Simba behind Teryl with Bella, Michelle with Maggie and Susan with Ricky

and **Simba’s** first Meet-and-Greet and they did a fabulous job, so I hope they continue to come visit. **Bella** also seemed very comfortable with the activity and attention.



Pat with McKenna, Connie with Winnie, Kathi, Bob, Grizzly, Dana, Riley and Gail

Despite the crummy weather on March 18th, thanks to Pat Morgan with **Sunny**, Sheila Joyce with **McKenna**, Dana and Gail Haywood with **Riley**, and Bob and Kathi Youhas, we were still able to bring in \$100.94. Thanks, Nick, for helping me set up

and for coming back early to load up, Pat for staying to help pack and **Grizzly** and **Winnie** for being the great ambassadors they



A familiar sight at many of our Westside Meet-and-Greets, even though she lives in Apache Junction, is Gail Haywood with Rocky Cotner on her lap and her boy Riley at her feet; in the background is the beautiful **AGR**-logo afghan Gail crocheted – she has made several of these for us to help raise money for the group



Sheila and McKenna are. We were able to stay outside for awhile, but mid-afternoon gave up and went inside – it was so cold. Made lots of new friends today!

Tempe Marketplace – Angela Palumbo

Attending our Meet-and-Greet on January 21st were Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley** and **Trina**; Deb Orwig with **Hayden**, **Ladybird** and **Troy**; Angela Palumbo with **Belle**; Ruth Pulliam; and Brian Smargiassi with **Nick**.

February 18th was chilly and it looked like rain, but that didn't stop the donations from pouring in! There to help me were Tony Cotner with **Daisy** and **Rocky**; Diane and Jim Henkel with **Bella** and **Winston**; Gail and Dana Haywood with **Riley**; Darrell Marshall with **Shadow**; and



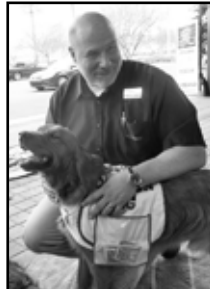
On 1-12-12, Angela with Belle, Tony with Rocky and Daisy, Ruth with Riley, Gail with Trina, Dana, Hayden, Brian, Nick, Ladybird and Troy



Maggie and Melissa talk with lady interested in possibly adopting from AGR

Maggie Muller with **Benzo**. Also, Dana brought a new intake – **Puppet** – what a cutie she is! Her new foster stopped by to meet her also. We took in \$150.

Faith and begorrah... although it was chilly on March 17th, the angels held back their tears





Tempe Marketplace PetSmart store manager Don Tatarelli always comes out to say hello and pet the dogs


for another day and the sunshine stayed with us for a beautiful day in Tempe. Thanks to Maggie, **Benzo** and **Elsa** Muller; Dana, Gail and **Riley** Haywood; Tony, **Daisy** and **Rocky** Cotner; Deb and **Mufasa** Orwig; Dave, Jackie, **Sage** and **Rex** Engelhardt; **Belle** Palumbo (and her mom, Angela), Michelle Palumbo; and our new member Melissa Beceiro with **Abby**. Oh yes, did I mention the \$287 we took in? Great! Thanks to everyone!

Membership Matters


By Deb Orwig

 Congratulations to Michelle and Jared Miller on the birth of their son Lucas on February 4, 2012.

 Congratulations to Maggie Muller on the completion of a degree in nursing.


 Congratulations to Dave Evans and Prince who are now working as a drug-detection team for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.





Golden Hearts

Since we formed **AGR** in March 2009, many members as well as nonmembers



have been extremely generous in helping us financially. There are lots of costs associated with animal rescue in caring for the dogs that we take in. We are so grateful to everyone who 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 January 16 and April 16, 2012. We sincerely apologize if any donors have been omitted.

General Donations from the Heart

- Elaine and Martin Battock
- Tony Cotner
- John Donahue and Mary Murray
- LaBelle (Cricket) Forstrom
- Andrew Jones
- Jane and Gerald King
- Jack and Cheri Landers
- Pat Morgan
- Sonomi and Keiji Narihara
- Denise Padavano
- Hiran Raichura
- Michael Rousculp sent by Jeffrey Kapis
- Janet Smigielski
- Pam Spicer
- Rusty Ward

Honorary Donations

- In Honor of **Bela Selznick***
Hannah and Mitch Selznick
- In Honor of **Arizona Golden Rescue** to thank you for your quick response and tender care for the very scared little **Razzy** found behind my **Razmatz Outlet** store*
Heather Stanaford
- In Honor of **Teryl Hall** for behavior training consultation*
Annie and Ron Wilkins
- In Honor of **Deb and Larry Orwig** for pick-up and delivery of garage sale merchandise*
Liz Tataseo
- In Honor of **Kathi Youhas** for placemats she made for us*
Teri and Jeff Guilbault

*Memorial Donations**In Memory of **Whiskey Erickson***

Teri and Jeff Guilbault
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Liz Tataseo

*In Memory of **Riley MacDonald***

Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Liz Tataseo

*In Memory of **Rocky Orwig***

Beth and Jon Chaffee

*In Memory of **Preston Pirtle***

Shana Pirtle

*In Memory of **Debbe Begley** – donations deposited in
 The **Debbe Begley Memorial Fund** since January 15, 2012*

From **Beetle Bailey**
 Barbara Connoyer – tennis ball lottery winnings at
Paws At The Park

*In Memory of **Mary Fortuna***

Teri and Jeff Guilbault
 David and Carol Lambert
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Stephanie, DBA Stephanie's Stylin Salon
 Liz Tataseo
 Walter Rogers

*In Memory of **Mary Grainger***

Katie Garro on behalf of **JCrew Arizona Market**

*In Memory of **Ethel Guilbault***

Deb and Larry Orwig
 Liz Tataseo

*In Memory of **Ralph Tucker**, who loved his Golden **Shadow**,
 from his aunt and uncle*

Mary and Clifford Barnes

*In Memory of **Elinor Raymer***

Carolee Clifford
 Patricia Craig
 Rose M. Mula
 Mark and Judy Nussbaum
 Deb and Larry Orwig
 Priscilla Plotkin

AGR Wine Label Sponsors

Barbara Bell in Memory of **10-034 Whiskey Erickson**
 Jerry Brummer and Janet Albrizio in Honor of **09-032 Casey**
 Katie Donahue In Honor of **10-040 Joe Donahue** and
10-035 Brother Erickson
 Teri and Jeff Guilbault In Honor of **09-030 Fresno**
 Teryl Hall In Honor of **12-008 Summer** and **12-010 Bella**
 Sandra Hansen In Memory of **09-018 Duke** and
 In Honor of **11-053 Tatum**
 Gail and Dana Haywood In Honor of **09-033 Riley**
 Joyce Hubler In Honor of **10-057 Ripley**
 Pauline Kearney In Honor of **11-048 Trina**
 Marsha and Steve Kleinz In Honor of **11-078 Duke**
 Rusty and Don Krause In Honor of **11-007 Sunshine** and
11-096 Stormy
 Connie McCabe and Nick Dodson In Honor of **10-060 Grizzly**
 Deb and Larry Orwig In Honor of **11-056 Mufasa**
 Susan Parker In Honor of **10-045 Ricky**
 Jaclyn Pfeiffer and Kurt Kuchenmeister *In Honor of*
12-009 Katie
 Jackie Sigafoose In Honor of **11-026 Colby**
 Liz Tataseo In Honor of **10-032 Augie** and **11-062 Trip**
 Cynthia Wenström and Mike Lane In Honor of **11-011 Prince**
 Kathi and Bob Youhas In Honor of **11-097 Carter**

Paws At The Park Donations

Anonymous (many)
 Jan and Joe Baselice
 Barbara Connoyer
 Tony Cotner
 Maureen Hawkins
 Linda Den Beste, **Hug N Pups Pet Grooming Salon & Dog
 Training**
 Pauline Kearney for nail trimming
 Anne and Dan Kowalski
 Bernie Quick
 James Schunn
 Liz Tataseo
 Sharon and Ed Whitt

Corporate Donors and Sponsors

American Express Charitable Fund
American Express Company Employee Giving Program
Anchor Embroidery & Silkscreen
Choice Pet Market
Event Wines-Benefit Wines for AGR wine purchase

GRC Wireless, Inc. for Cell Phone Recycling

PetSmart Charities for 1st Quarter 2012 Adoption Rewards

Diamond Donors

Diamond Donors for all the February Diamonds in the Ruff
Karen and Phil Davis

Diamond Donors for 11-056 Mufasa
Deb and Larry Orwig

Diamond Donors for 11-079 Jackson
Mary and Bert Engstrom

Diamond Donors for 12-012 Razzy
Stacy Bolia
Heather Stanaford

Diamond Donors for 12-026 Odi
Jeannette and David Morrocco

Diamond Donors for 12-035 Lucky
Marty and Kim Bradshaw

Diamond Donor for 12-039 Natasha
Jon Graham

Special Thanks

To Marsha & Steve Kleinz for donating two super-extra-large airline crates

To Shirley Miller for donating a large airline crate, an extra large orthopedic dog bed, a medium Furminator, dog toys & treats in memory of her dog **Olive**

To everyone who donated something for our garage sale, with special mention of Emily Raymer and Wendy Nelson, who made donations from the estate of their mother, Elinor Raymer, and Beverly Host, who made donations from the estate of her mother.

To **PFX Pet Supply** for the donation of 37 40-pound bags of IAMS and Eukanuba dog food

To Linda Den Beste, Teri Guilbault, Joyce Hubler, Cynthia Wenström, Sharon and Ed Whitt and Kathi Youhas for item donations that were used in the *Paws At The Park* raffle

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 the Board members and several others as well. Thanks to all of you!

Special thanks to Liz Tataseo for helping to get the February issue of *The Golden Paw* ready for mailing.

Proofreading before publication is essential. For that daunting task, I thank Jude Fulghum, Teri Guilbault, Larry Orwig, Liz Tataseo and Carol Thompson.

BULK RATE MAIL

You will notice that your address label on the back cover contains the verbiage "OR CURRENT RESIDENT." The U.S. Postal Service now requires that verbiage on anything sent out by bulk rate mail. We qualify to use bulk rate mail because of our nonprofit status and because we send out more than 225 identical pieces of mail in each mailing. It is very cost effective for us to use bulk rate mail – the November issue of *The Golden Paw* cost about 33¢ each, as opposed to the \$1.68 it cost to send one copy by first class mail. However, there are some drawbacks to using bulk rate mail. First, sometimes copies do not get delivered at all (who knows why?), or they may take a week or more (especially to out-of-state recipients) to get to their destinations. Bulk rate mail is not forwarded, nor is it returned to the sender if the intended recipient no longer resides at the address on the label, which is why it is so important for you to notify us if you move.

CHANGE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Please send us a message from your new address!

Cell Phone Recycling

AGR participates in a cell phone recycling program sponsored by **GRC Wireless Recycling** that will bring us some cash. They will pay us \$2 - \$10 for a regular phone and up to \$50 for a Smartphone, Blackberry or the like. If you get a new phone, save your old one and turn it over to us at any of our events or membership meetings. Thanks!

There are several symptoms that may indicate a problem with your dog including lack of appetite, decreased activity, weakness, changes in water consumption, bad breath, sleeping more, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, trouble breathing, frequent urinations or bloody urinations. If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian as soon as possible.



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