

Winter 2009

Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.



Message From The President

Dear Friends:

2009 has been an incredibly busy year for all of us at Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue (GGLRR), as the economy and foreclosures have led to more Labs than ever being surrendered by their owners. In addition to directly helping owners who could no longer keep their dogs, we regularly visited shelters around the Bay Area to rescue dogs in danger of euthanasia, and through generous foster parent volunteers and boarding facilities, were able to save countless dogs whose lives were in danger without us.

This year also has brought many changes to the organization. After many years of service, several volunteer leaders retired from GGLRR, including outgoing President Don Richardson, and fellow board members Joy Rabins, Lorene Henderson, Katherine Bryce and Judy Richardson. We thank them for many years of helping Labs and their tireless dedication to GGLRR.

2009 saw many exciting advances for GGLRR as well. With our new web administrator Cyndi Harrell, we enhanced our website with a fresh look, new content and more features such as the ability to show multiple photos and video clips of our available Labs. Cyndi also launched an online store via our website featuring GGLRR "adopt a Lab" logo merchandise including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and more, with profits going to help more homeless Labs.

We expanded our presence on the internet in other ways too, including Facebook and Twitter, where combined we have over 1300 followers and growing daily. In addition, we began listing our dogs on two nationally recognized adoption websites, Pet Finder and Adopt-a-Pet, adding exposure and increased awareness for GGLRR and more adoptions.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jeff Knollmiller, significantly expanded our volunteer outreach, both utilizing our website and Volunteer Match to bring in many volunteers who have provided us with renewed energy, fresh ideas, and countless hours of help to rescue a record number of Labs this year. Over 50 new volunteers joined us, serving as rescue representatives, foster parents, lab transporters, dog walkers, and fundraisers.

As 2009 draws to a close, we will have directly saved and placed over 340 Labs, and combined with our website referrals to other shelters and rescue groups, we will have helped to place 100's more Labs.

However, none of this would be possible without the generous support from our many donors, adopters, and volunteers. As an all-volunteer organization, every dollar we raise goes directly to rescuing and finding loving, forever homes for Labs here in the Bay Area. We thank you for your loyalty, dedication, and support. We could not do this without you.

All of us at GGLRR wish you a Happy Holiday Season and hope that you will continue to support our efforts and spread the word about GGLRR.

With greatest appreciation,
Holly Still
President



These six little lab puppies were born in Utah. We (Golden Gate Lab Rescue) immediately agreed to take them. Against our wishes, the group in Utah gave the puppies their first shots at age 5 1/2 weeks, WAY too young to vaccinate puppies. Several of the puppies had fevers at the time and runny noses and never should have had a vaccine (vaccinations at that age greatly weaken the puppy's immune system.) Then they were put in a crate in a car and driven for 12 straight hours (overnight) from Utah to California. They were not given food or water during the drive.

Needless to say, when these puppies arrived, they were in dreadful shape. They all had parvo. They weren't eating or drinking, they were losing weight and were rapidly going downhill. Lab Rescue immediately took them to our vet. When their little paws got sore, the IV's went into their necks and it was hard to keep finding veins. The vaccines they had received had completely shut down their immune systems and they were all fighting for their lives. Then on top of everything else, they developed giardia (a nasty parasite that causes diarrhea). Little Angel (the black puppy) had it the toughest and actually required blood transfusions from one of the vet tech's dogs to survive.

After FOUR WEEKS at the vet, all six puppies made it. Not only was there a heroic effort on the part of the vet and her staff, but the biggest thanks goes to our very own Darlene Heath. Darlene has been one of our main rescue reps for over five years and she and her family have fostered more than 90 dogs during that time. Darlene was there almost every day to hold each puppy and talk to them and give them the love they needed to pull through. Without her, they never would have made it.

These adorable puppies have all gone on to wonderful homes and all are thriving.



Dino arrived at our home last year at about 10 months old. He spent the first few days surveying our yard, sniffing around the oak tree, slowly crossing the wooden garden bridge. Inside, whether it was the sight of a broomstick or the flick of a light switch, his tail whipped between his legs more often than he let out a bark. A couple months of basic training class, and frequent visits to the dog park improved his confidence. Now, he's a bonafide door alarm, little league baseball fan, and an avid squirrel chaser. One of these days he'll actually catch one. What will he do then?

In the past year Dino learned that "snow is just water", "if I wear it, I get a treat", and "peanut butter is the greatest thing since sliced bread." Dino is still in the midst of self-discovery. He swam for the very first time this month at a local park. We took him to Tahoe last summer, but he only managed to immerse himself knee-deep in the lake. This time, there were two other dogs applying peer pressure. After realizing that his webbed paw didn't sink as fast, he went for it. Yay! He is a lab after all. Soon he'll be launching into the water like a rocket. But for now, he's content with a slower decent of a yellow lab submarine.

DINO



With the deepest sadness and regret, we must report that our 16-year old Chocolate Lab, Bea (a.k.a., Brandy), was euthanized on Wednesday evening, April 1, 2009. After waging a courageous battle with cancer, the disease advanced to her spine, making it impossible for her to stay on her feet. While clearly all families love their pets, to us Bea was truly a special creature. Throughout her life, she endured so much. Yet, she was incredibly kind, gentle, courageous, and — even up to the very end -- possessed a wonderful zest for life. With all of her health issues — deafness, poor sight, chronic ear infections, arthritis, bloat, pneumonia, and cancer — she simply powered through them. Bea possessed such a positive spirit. Words cannot adequately express how much we miss her. She will live in our hearts and minds forever. We would like to thank Golden Gate Labrador Rescue for bringing Bea into our lives. -Tim & Sandy Orlando



BEA

Becca gave birth to six puppies in a dismal shelter in Arkansas. She had no prospects for adoption, nor did her pups. Lab Rescue stepped in and pulled Becca and her babies out of the shelter and put them in a foster home. Becca did her best to care for her pups until they were eight weeks old, at which time the airlines allowed us to fly Becca and her babies to California. Her adorable babies were chubby and adorable and were immediately placed in loving homes, but Becca was exhausted. When she arrived at the airport, she weighed only 48 lbs and could barely lift her head. She was totally drained. Lab rescue had her spayed so she would never again have to be a mom, and put her in a loving foster home to begin her recuperation. Shortly thereafter, Becca was placed with a wonderful couple (the Issac's) whose beautiful black lab Hestia looked very much like Becca (only Hestia was gorgeous). Becca is now thriving in her new home and loves her new parents and her sister. She loves to swim and adores all the love and attention she so richly deserves after a life of neglect. As you can see from the before and after photos, Becca (now named Vesta) is also gorgeous and now weighs in at 62 lbs. Her life began when she was rescued.



BECCA



ARLOW

About 6 months after putting down our 14-year old dog, our family was ready to bring a new puppy into our home. Since we wanted a puppy, we knew it could be a long wait, but we were prepared. Just days after beginning our search, we saw Arlow (a 2-1/2 month old lab) on your website. He had a rough beginning. In his short life, a car had hit him and the original owners weren't financially able to treat him and instead wanted him 'put down'.

Well, Arlow has been with us for over a year now and what a funny little guy he is. He was a bit rough around the edges at first, but after some training and LOTS of walks and romping with other dogs, he has become quite an asset to our family. He loves to walk and is extremely social. Life is just one big party for Arlow. We affectionately call him 'Nosey Rosie' because he's always under foot and has to be in the midst of everything. Although not a lap dog, his favorite place to sit is on your lap if you're on the floor. He's come a long way and we're very happy to have him. Thank you for bringing Arlow into our lives.

- The Treccase Family



TIBBY

Duckie, now Tibby, was rescued as a stray from the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho. When our colleague was finally able to pick her up (after months of working with the Reservation for permission) it was discovered that she had a large stab wound on the side of her neck that had become infected. She was taken to a vet and treated for her injury. The stab wound required more than 20 stitches. As you can see from her “after” pictures, Tibby, named for Tiburon (where she now lives), is happy and healthy and enjoying her new life.



MISTY AND BRANDY

What do you do when your Newfoundland is lonely? You adopt a lab or 2 labs via the Golden Gate Lab Rescue! I’m a cat mom in San Francisco, but I went into full doggone great motion when my parents’ Newfie passed away in March and the remaining “little Newfie, 160 lb. guy named Tango” was lonely and in need of a friend (and let’s admit, Mom and Dad were lonely too as they’d always had 2 or 3 Newfies). So, about a month spent on the web and thru many conversations with GGLRR (a doggone great organization that you must tell your FURiends about), I found Misty (black) and Brandy (golden) and this was a true family event.



With my Lab research work done, my brother drove 3 hrs North to pick up “the girls” and upon bringing them home to our parents ranch in Tracy CA – well it’s a match made in heaven and the girls love Tango and Tango loves the girls and should we elaborate on the girls loving ‘in house life’ (prior to this they were solely out door dogs). Dad says they should be named “Salt and Pepper”! I think he’s right. Brandy and Misty are a great addition to our family and thanks to GGLRR for working with us and their input that helped us define the specifics that would work well with our parents age and life style. The girls were raised for 7 yrs by a great couple in Lake County who found their lifestyle changed and they couldn’t give the labs the attention they needed. Their life change is our good fortune. Kudos to them for contacting GGLRR. Misty and Brandy are velcroed to each other – inseparable and where one goes, the other goes – we think we’ve an 8 legged dog with a blonde tail and a black tail! We love them so much and they’re in love with life on the Ranch too!

Moshi was rescued from a local shelter where he was scheduled to be euthanized since he was not considered adoptable because of a LARGE growth on the side of his neck/upper shoulder. GGLRR paid to have the non-cancerous growth removed and Moshi has made a complete recovery.

Here’s what his new family has to say: He’s my daily companion. He goes with me for walks, he sits with me while I sew. He stays as under-foot as possible when I cook and do dishes. He runs to greet my husband at the door when he gets home from work. He’s just the sweetest dog in the world.



MOSHI



One of the six “Utah puppies” is now living with Mike and Lolita Dunlap up in Clearlake. Rascal (now called Milo) was one of the two sickest puppies and Mike and Lolita have done a GREAT job with him. He is now swimming in “his” lake (they have a lakefront property), riding on his ATV, and enjoying the good life.



RASCAL/MILO



LUNA

We have a very special light in our lives, thanks to our Luna. She is a calm, middle aged, beautiful girl. We welcomed her into our family in May after GGLRR pulled her from a full, high-kill shelter where she had been for weeks. Just days after adopting her, she became severely ill with a respiratory infection. We were committed to helping her through her hospitalization, recovery and rehabilitation, which took weeks. She was so loving and easy to treat, even while hospitalized. Her survival meant everything to us so we were willing to absorb the cost of her extensive treatment.

She is now a healthy and active companion for all of us, but especially for our SPCA special “Hailey.” The two of them play, cuddle and snooze together every day. Luna is constantly making sure every one is happy who is around her. Bringing toys to new visiting canine friends, or coming up for a full on hug from us.

We are grateful to GGLRR for the chance to be a part of the organization. The help and support we received from Don, Robin and Donna was incredible. We are appreciative and happy that Luna wanted us in her life. I am hoping to start taking her into the hospitals as a “therapy dog.” She adapts to any situation and has the perfect temperament to help with the healing process for those in need. She has added an unforgettable dimension to our family; the unconditional and genuine love of a dog.

“SPICE UP YOUR LIFE WITH A LITTLE PEPPER”

“My kids (4 and 8) had been moaning for months, “Oh please Mom, can’t we get a dog? We promise we can help take care of her!!” Secretly, they were stacking up wishes secured with a coin toss into a fountain or pool. Our saying is that the wish must remain secret unless it comes true, then you can tell. On a gray day in October, the wishes came true with a blast. The dog my daughter named “Pepper” arrived.

A black lab puppy was found on the side of the road with a broken leg. She was 6 months old and was taken to Animal Control. X-rays showed that all four long toe bones on her right rear leg were broken and the leg was very crooked. Lab Rescue found her on death row and saw her potential.

Pepper was driven to Veterinary Surgical Associates in Concord, California for evaluation and repair. Time had passed since Pepper had been originally splinted, so when the splint was removed, it was determined that the bones had started to heal, in fact the fracture was so solid the surgeons could not budge the repair. The splint had helped straighten the bones so they were only a “little” crooked. She looked a tad odd but probably would not suffer much arthritis if any as a result.

As I looked at her in the cage, she seemed calm, self assured and interested in everything around her. I have always owned pets that needed some special care. I took “Pepper” home as a foster to get her through the rest of the healing time and to see if she would mix well with our family. Once away from the clinic, “Pepper” turned out to be very spirited and energetic. Her arrival was a surprise for the kids as we exploded into the house one evening after dinner.

The next 6 weeks were long. The kids learned evasive maneuvers when she approached them (My mantra was, “Hug the wall”). Once she healed and I could take her for morning jogs, life settled down some. She cleans the floor of food droppings with lightning speed. She loves to graze on everything outside. My four year old son says she is half goat, half vacuum cleaner, half human and half dog. Her favorite game is grabbing a shoe or doll and playing keep away. She greets all new comers with exuberance, though more than is appreciated. She still needs intensive schooling but I feel she has tremendous capacity to learn and grow.

-Lissa Richardson, DVM... and family (and Pepper!!)



PEPPER

WE EXTEND OUR THANKS TO YOU....

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors. Without you we would not be able to continue to help the Labs that need medical care and/or new homes. Your donations make it happen!

\$5 - \$50 "SHOTS AND FIRST EXAM"

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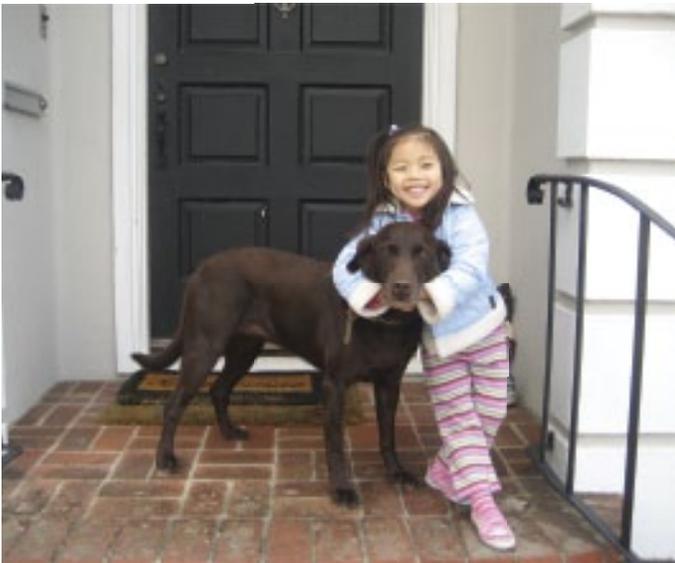
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Libby...a 5 yr old female chocolate lab was found at a very high kill and rural shelter in northern Nevada. She was on the euthanasia list because the shelter felt that she was not adoptable due to a medical issue the shelter could not afford to address: she was passing large amounts of blood in her urine. Since she was an incredibly sweet dog... Lab Rescue agreed to pull her from the shelter and hopefully resolve her medical issue. Libby was very fortunate because a foster couple in Reno agreed to take care of her during her medical care which ended up being very complex. After a urinary tract infection was ruled out an ultrasound exam of her bladder revealed that she had a very large bladder stone... and once surgically removed (it was huge!! as large as a baseball). Her recovery took several months... and during this time ... her very devoted foster family managed her care beautifully. She leaked urine for about 5 weeks... but finally this stopped... and she was adopted by a family who had been following her progress from the time of her surgery. Now happily in her new home, Abby is doing very well and very grateful to GGLRR for saving her. GGLRR spent about \$1600 for Abby's surgery and follow-up care.



ROSIE

Rosie and her 11 puppies (left in a Tupperware container) were abandoned outside a closed shelter in Texas on a 104° day. Luckily, workers were at the shelter and brought Rosie and her litter inside. Rosie was in terrible condition, suffering from malnutrition, heartworm and a multitude of other ailments. (It wasn't discovered until Rosie saw a vet in California that she was also riddled with buckshot!). Rescue was informed of her plight and a foster home was found. When Rosie was well enough to fly, she was flown to California and adopted by a wonderful family who live on the beach. She gets to go swimming numerous times a day and has live-in doggie playmates.



LIBBY



CODY

In December, I had just returned to my home in Half Moon Bay, from a family tragedy in NC. It was just before Christmas. Getting back into my routine, part of which is feeding, watering and caring for all our animals, I noticed Cody, my son's Chocolate Lab, had lost weight and his appetite. I kept a special eye on him over the next few days trying to get him to eat and diagnosing his problem. The only source I could think of is that he'd swallowed something, as he loves to put things in his mouth. As the days went by Cody got worse. He became lethargic, non responsive, and thinner. It was time to go to the vet. It was Christmas Eve, and a three day Holiday, when we took Cody to Linda Mar. They took x-rays. That's when we discovered Cody had swallowed a golf ball, which was lodged between his stomach and intestines. It looked like a full moon in the x-ray. It would require surgery and as much as \$5,000.00. We didn't have the money to fix Cody, but we didn't want to lose him. My son had some hard decisions to make. As a last resort, the Clinic told us about GGLRR and gave us the contact information. We were told that GGLRR will pay the costs, if certain criteria were met. I called them right away. Cody was dehydrated, emaciated, and within hours of death. GGLRR agreed to pay all costs and work started immediately to save Cody. The final bill was approximately \$3,000.00, and they picked up the entire cost. We were so grateful that we successfully pursued full reimbursement to them, although they never asked for it. Cody is with us still. He is my son's companion, hunting dog, and playmate.

I had never heard of GGLRR, until we needed help. Had it not been for GGLRR, we had already agreed to put Cody down; not easy to do, but our only realistic choice. GGLRR was there for us, helped us, and saved Cody. He still puts things in his mouth all the time. Although he's going on seven years old, he still acts like he's a pup. We are very happy to still have Cody with us and are very thankful to GGLRR for making that possible.

Cheeto, the newest member of our family, is a three-year-old yellow Lab. He loves living with us on our property in the redwoods, chasing raccoons, blue jays, and FedEx trucks with even-handed enthusiasm. The thing about Cheeto is, he has been almost completely blind since birth.

Although we knew that adding a blind four-legged family member would bring us a big challenge we decided it was what we needed to do. You see, in addition to two young boys who longed for a big friendly dog, our family has two adults who cope with their own visual impairments every day. So we had a special empathy for Cheeto's disability, and thought we might have a little extra patience for the special help he would need.

The biggest question in our minds was whether he could live here safely. The house has stairs. The yard features both steps and a fairly steep hillside leading down to a year-round creek. Could a blind dog avoid falling down the stairs, or drowning in the creek? Yes! And very handily, too, as it turns out, through a combination of brains, compensatory senses, great balance, and—on our part—the patience to show him the lay of the land once or twice.

Another concern was the country road a few hundred yards up the driveway. There's not much traffic in our neck of the woods, but on the other hand there's no way to fence the property. How could we keep him from being hit, up on the road, by drivers who would assume that he could see and avoid their cars? Well, we were able to set up a wireless electronic virtual fence, based on radio waves, and train him to stay inside it.

So, as it works out, we have a blind watchdog. It sounds funny, but it works great. Cheeto likely would not be able to actually chase down and bite an interloper, but that's not his job as we see it. We're just happy that his keen senses of smell and hearing combine with his throaty voice to warn non-friends away.

It's not all easy. Taking him for a walk up on the road can be tough; drivers don't see the problem when they come too close, and—unlike our grounds, which he has memorized—in public there are always new obstacles we have to help him avoid. We are his “seeing eye humans”, and as there is no white cane for him, passersby are not always forgiving of Cheeto's somewhat wayward ways.

If you know Labs, you will not be surprised by the strong bond that this gentle, calm, content beast has forged with our family. His disability raised the stakes, but—it's true—love found a way, and our boys have learned some valuable life lessons in the bargain.



CHEETO

More thanks to:

A Doggies Dream - Reno, NV
Bayshore Animal Hospital – San Mateo
Bishop Ranch Veterinary Hospital – San Ramon
Blue Oak Veterinary Hospital - Jackson
Carmel Holistic Veterinary Clinic – Carmel
Susan Fox
Robin & Greg Gibbs
Robin Kelly, DVM
Linda Mar Veterinary Hospital – Pacifica
Marina Pet Hospital – San Francisco
Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital – Menlo Park
Kelley Moore
Margie Mullan
Pet Food Express, Redwood City
Pooch Hotel, Sunnyvale (10% off if you mention GGLRR)
Renee of Excel K9 Diet - Jackson
Scout's House - Menlo Park
Shamrock Ranch Kennels – Pacifica
The Pet Place, Menlo Park
Veterinary Medical Specialists
Veterinary Surgical Specialists
Veterinary Vision - San Carlos
Whole Pet Vet Hospital & Wellness Center, Los Gatos

And, all of our wonderful fosters and transporters, without whose help we would not be able to save as many Labs as we do.

Board of Directors 2010

Holly Still, President
Rescue Coordinator
hollystill@sbcglobal.net

Judy Kreger, Vice President
judykreger@sbcglobal.net

Liz Frome, Treasurer
liz@jobshopsf.com

Donna Clark Blatman
donna614@gmail.com

Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.
P.O. Box 2646
Menlo Park, CA 94026-2646



About GGLRR Inc...

Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc. (GGLRR) is organized under the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable and educational purposes. We have been granted nonprofit tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GGLRR is a private, nonprofit, all-volunteer organization.

GGLRR facilitates the placement of unwanted Labrador Retriever dogs into new homes. We are sought out by concerned individuals and humane organizations who come into contact with Labrador Retrievers. We have a spay-neuter requirement for all dogs that we place. Families residing within our Northern California service area who desire to adopt a Labrador Retriever complete an application form and are introduced to potential pets. Our purpose is solely to providing good homes for Labrador Retrievers who might otherwise be abandoned or euthanized by their previous owner.

Our service area is Northern California and covers seven telephone area codes: 408, 510, 650, 707, 831 and 925. GGLRR has more than 30 volunteers. None of our volunteers receive any form of compensation for their time and effort, other than the pure satisfaction of matching a displaced Lab with a loving family.

GGLRR relies upon placement and adoption donations, fundraising events, and charitable donations for its funding. We suggest a minimum donations (currently \$200.00) for prospective families wishing to adopt from us. Special consideration is given to older and special needs dogs since our goal is that our rescued Labs are loved and well cared for.



FOSTER CARE NEEDED

We are always looking for foster homes to care for our dogs until permanent homes can be found. This is not an easy job but it is very rewarding.

For more information on fostering a dog, please contact: Holly Still 650-322-9888.



If you prefer, you can also use PayPal to make a donation. Log onto <http://www.labrescue.org> and click on the PayPal icon.