



# Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.

Spring 2011

## Happy 25th Anniversary GGLRR!

Happy 25th Anniversary to GGLRR! Having become a part of GGLRR only two years after it officially started in 1986, I have seen it change and grow to what it is today. Originally Lab Rescue was just a committee... part of the Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club. The Club's mission was to continue to support and better the breed, and they encouraged responsible breeding, as well as being involved in showing Labs for conformation and for hunting. Rescue was not the primary focus, although the Club supported it in spirit. I joined GGLRR in 1988 and we were VERY small. There were about five members and we were widely scattered around the Bay Area. I was the first rescue rep to cover Marin County, as I lived in Sausalito at the time. We had a basic website and we had very few foster homes...if any. Most of our focus was pulling dogs in need from shelters. We would plead with the shelters to keep the dogs there while we posted them, as we had no place for them to go otherwise. And we would take the prospective owners (that we got from our website) to the shelters to meet the dogs. We did have one kennel that would board

inexpensively for us, but that was about it. A lot of our work in "those days" was approaching shelters, telling them we existed, and asking them to call us if they had a Lab in need. It was a close knit group, trying to do the best we could with little or no money. We rescued 25-40 Labs on a good year, compared with the almost 400 a year we're doing now...but each save was a huge victory. But we wanted to save many more dogs. Eventually we decided the only way to do that was to get our own 501c3 status, but it meant officially separating from GGLRC (Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Club). That was accomplished in the early 90s. We were finally on our own and could raise our own donations and spend them ALL on RESCUE. We were ecstatic. We then decided to enlist volunteers as reps for each area code and so it began. We always had trouble finding foster homes, but we had a few and we were so grateful to those wonderful families who helped us out. We had no transporters...the reps ran all over the place trying to pick up Labs from shelters on "their last day," and many of those Labs ended



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## Why We Foster

As we walk around our neighborhood with a new foster Lab, neighbors flock to meet the latest guy or gal. Kids fawn, ooh-ing and ahh-ing, and the lab gets more attention than is probably healthy. “You two must be saints,” someone pipes up. “I could never foster a Lab,” adds another. “Don’t you want to adopt every one?” The answers are no, sure you could, and, sometimes it’s hard.

Our foster Labs come from all walks of life, so to speak. Each breaks the mold of all the others who came before. If they’re lucky, they’ve been surrendered from a stable home, with never a bad day in their life. The unlucky ones have simply been left to the streets, competing for every scrap of food and place of warmth.

They often arrive confused and frightened; in need of more food, more exercise and more belly rubs. By offering safety, security and structure, we try to help them lose some baggage, learn some manners, and go on to their forever homes a little more confident and comfortable with themselves.

From the first, our job is to observe and evaluate. Our neighborhood is a veritable “Hogan’s Alley”. There’s squirrels and cats and sometimes bigger things foraging as we take our walks before dawn. Walkers, bikers, strollers, joggers, birds landing. Dogs being walked, others behind fences and gates, behind

windows. Traffic along this street; lawnmowers and leaf-blowers down that one. Quite a test. Especially if you expect good behavior on a slack leash.



We do. We have to. Because a dog that behaves properly is a safe dog, a fun dog, a happy dog. Off, stay, go to place. Do not cross the threshold—in or out—without the release word. All important. Yet there is still time for fun and play. Fetch and tug. Bring it and leave it. Catch the treat. “Good dog.” Scratch, scratch, scratch.

“How can you bear to let them go?” is the fourth—often whispered—question. Again, sometimes it’s hard. But that is not our role. Ours is to offer comfort, continuity, and help our furry friends move just a little bit down the road from where they are, to where they can be. Until the day their new forever family knocks on our door—that one whose eyes light up, whose hearts reach, and whose lives will be brightened by their new friend. That is our role; that is our reward. Elsie, Dodge, Maui, Darby, Zoey, Bob, Rufus, Kiki, Duchess... each so indelible and unforgettable.

But they don’t have to live in our house, to live in our hearts.

—James Coon

## GGLRR 25th Anniversary Reunion and Walk-a-Thon – Saturday, June 18 –

This year marks GGLRR’s 25th anniversary of helping unwanted Labs find loving homes, so come help us celebrate this milestone at our special event! We thought it would be fun to have a reunion of some of the many Labs we’ve placed and the people who have helped save them through volunteering, adoption, and financial support. The San Francisco-based event will start with a nice short walk-a-thon to help raise money in order to rescue more Labs and continue another 25-years of serving the Bay Area. After the walk, it’s fun time at dog-friendly Crissy Field beach where the dogs can play off-leash and people can visit while sharing Happy Ending stories about rescued Labs. There will be GGLRR logo merchandise for sale and we’ll take a group photo on the beach with our namesake Golden Gate bridge to commemorate the celebration. Please join us on Saturday, June 18th with or without your Lab (depending on how he/she would do in a large group) and meet your fellow Lab Rescue supporters! Visit [www.LabRescue.org](http://www.LabRescue.org) for more information and event registration.



## Happy Anniversary GGLRR!

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up going home for the night, or two with the reps. There were no fundraisers either...we just didn’t have time or know what to do. Gradually the number of dogs we saved grew to 100 in a year and we were all astounded and thrilled at our success. It doesn’t seem like a lot given what we are doing today, but it was a heady experience for those of us who started from scratch. Then we started with our GGLRR newsletter and things started to change rapidly. As our mailing list grew, the donations started coming in. It enabled us to do more for the dogs than we could before. We could actually pull a dog with a broken leg, because now we had the funds to fix that leg...and it has mushroomed from there. Now, with the amazing fundraising we have been able to do, the continued success of our newsletter (greatly expanded and improved from the early days), and the advent of our e-newsletter, we can do needed surgeries on dogs that otherwise had no chance, and save labs with medical needs that were standing in the way of adoption. And we now have so many wonderful foster homes...so critical to our success...so we can take in more of the senior dogs that take longer to adopt, but who are so deserving of our love and attention. It’s amazing to me how far this organization has come and so very, very gratifying. In the 23 years that I’ve been with this amazing group, I’ve seen many people come and go...all wonderful, committed, and all devoted to saving labs. It’s absolutely thrilling to know that we are making a difference and are now saving almost 400 of these incredible dogs every year. With your continued help and support, we will do our best to save even more.

Judy Kreger  
GGLRR Rescue Rep for Monterey/Santa Cruz

## Chance

We lost both of our great Labs within six months of each other and couldn't commit to replace them. But the house was too quiet, so we thought "why not foster?" We have a nice facility (a small horse ranch) and we're both semi-retired, so we have the time and the skills to give these fantastic dogs a temporary home.

As fosters, we have learned a lot more about dogs than we thought we could have possibly needed to know. Labs are so remarkable because no matter what baggage they come with, they are still usually so loving and trusting that they come around in a relatively short amount of time.

Along the way we took in one dog that we just knew we had to keep. "Chance" has made our lives such a joy, and yet he is nothing like our other two dogs, except that he is a Lab and comes with that magnificent personality that no one can resist. He is a great ambassador for the foster dogs because he just loves and gets along with everyone, human and dog alike. We can't imagine our lives without him.

— Noel & Laura



## Molly

Molly, the beautiful 5 year-old black Lab, arrived at our ranch on September 18th, 2010.

Before relinquishing her to us, her former owners brought her up to our home to have a "look see", and we spent a leisurely afternoon getting to know each other.

We kept our visit low-key. We ate lunch, played ball (Molly's obsession), and took the dogs for a ride through the vineyard on our ATV. Molly seemed a bit uncomfortable with this new form of exercise, but it has now become a part of her daily routine. Her then-owners quickly realized that our ranch was the perfect home for their beloved Molly.



Although Molly had our yellow Lab, Lucie, as a loyal companion, her initial transition had its ups and downs. In the beginning, there was considerable separation anxiety; however, with much patience, positive reinforcement and loving care, Molly has made a wonderful adjustment to her new environs.

We are enormously grateful to GGLRR for bringing Molly into our lives and to all the Reps for their counsel and support for the adopters and dogs during the early days of transition into their new homes. Many thanks to all.

— Gaven, Sandra, Lucie and Molly



## Zoey

We adopted Zoey through Lab Rescue in November 2010. As you can see from her picture, she is one special girl! Despite being told she was full Lab, we decided to do a doggie DNA test— not because we cared remotely what kind of dog would wear that crooked smile— but because we were just so darn curious about our vet's question that she may have some boxer or other breed in her. We just received her results from Canine Heritage, showing she is full Lab— half American and half European. The company said that often times if there is a puppy with a defect born to a purebred litter, the breeder will whisk that puppy away to a shelter or rescue before any potential adopters get concerned about the rest of the pack. This is exactly Zoey's story that had been told to us by Lab Rescue. :) Again, we didn't care at all what she is, but were frankly just intrigued that "CSI" did dogs!

As months go on with her in our family, I tend to see more crazy Lab-like behaviors that validate this "diagnoses." Dare I admit out loud that



she is my "favorite" of what is now my 5th lab???? She decorated our yard with an entire case of Costco toilet paper, has pruned our camellia tree, preserving the flowers but not the branches, and I recently caught her snuggled up on my husband's pillow, on our bed, a first even for her. Despite those antics, she is doing amazingly well in her dog classes, a sensitive and intuitive dog. She LOVES the snow and has learned how to swim at a local reservoir. Zoey is the dog that every young boy deserves to our three sons, who have made up a variety of silly nicknames and songs about their undying love for her. She is a joy to all of us and I'm so grateful to Lab Rescue for being the perfect match makers.

— Shannon



## Lars

About 6 months after losing our beloved Lab to a heart attack, our family was ready to bring a new dog into our home. Days after beginning our search, we saw Lars (a 12 ½ year old) on your website. He looked exactly liked our Enzo. He had been put up for adoption as his owner had passed away, and the family could not take care of him anymore.

He spent the first few days surveying the house, and the garden but very quickly got used to his new environment. Today it feels as if he had always been part of the family. He was perfectly trained by his previous owner and is a real delight to have such a well behaved dog at home.

He gets along very well with the other dog in the family, chases the cat when he feels like playing but can also cuddle up with him. Thank you for bringing Lars into our lives.

— Sophie



## The Life of Riley

When you rescue a dog, you never really know what you are getting into. But thanks to Golden Gate Lab Rescue, I may well have gotten the greatest dog I've ever known. Riley is a yellow lab mix about a year old. He was injured, abandoned, and thrown in a night drop at an animal shelter. The Shelter staff diagnosed him with a severed femur, or thigh bone. Riley was probably hit by a car.

For five days Riley waited, his injury untreated, for his owners to find him, but they never did. By now, the break was so bad and so old that amputation looked like the only alternative. Then, Golden Gate Lab Rescue stepped in and arranged for this incredible animal to have surgery.

After a long and tedious recovery Riley made his way to me. Today he lives in my home and my heart and sleeps in my bed— did I mention he weighs in at about 100 pounds? :) But Riley is beautiful, kind, gentle, and a joy to have around.

Because Golden Gate Lab Rescue gave Riley a second chance, he now has a pretty incredible life. By night, Riley can be found curled up on his new leather couch watching his favorite TV show, American Idol. By day he attends Diablo K9 obedience school where he is a star student. But Riley can most often be found volunteering at a non-profit horse ranch that works with at-risk children and abused horses. Riley has over 100 acres to run on and he gets to go on long trail rides with horses and romp with his best friend, a mad border collie named "The Murph" Riley's favorite part of his job is loving and greeting the children and volunteers with hugs and kisses. Riley is such a special boy. Thank you, Golden Gate Lab Rescue, for saving his life so he can enrich the lives of so many others...

—Melanie



## Sammy & Joey

Sammy and Joey Kastros are now brothers, but it wasn't always that way. Sammy (now 5 and 105 pounds) was rescued from a back yard 3 years ago. He had spent his whole life in that backyard and came to us obese and with very little muscle development, so he walked and ran "funny." He was adopted by Mitch and Amber Kastros, a fabulous couple from Carmel, who welcomed him into their family (consisting of another rescue dog and 5 cats). Sammy was in heaven. Not only did he love his new home and his new parents, but he got to go to Carmel Beach almost every day. That helped him lose weight and also helped him build muscle. He now runs in the surf, plays with all of his doggie buddies at the beach, and mooches cookies off anyone who will give him one. Sadly the Kastros family lost their other beloved rescue dog to old age and graciously offered to "foster" Joey for GGLRR. Joey is 2 and 70 lbs. He came to Lab Rescue with horribly neglected and infected ears...one required surgery. No one had ever cared for him or loved him and he was scared, emaciated and his ears hurt. But once joining his new "foster" family, Joey thrived. He, too, loved the beach and Joey can fly...and almost does. He chases the sea birds and his feet barely touch the ground. He is positively joyous. He and Sam adored each other from day one and love wrestling together. It soon became apparent that Joey wouldn't be leaving his foster home. He was officially adopted, and so it is that Sammy and Joey became brothers. They both love the cats and often curl up with one or more of them after their beach romp. They also love to get on Mom and Dad's bed. Sam achieved celebrity status by being Mr. September for our first ever Lab Rescue calendar. Mitch is a fire captain with the Carmel Fire Dept and Sam happily agreed to pose, all spread out, on the front bumper of one of the fire engines. Talk about a pin-up poster!! These two boys are so loved and they return that love many times over. Who would ever have thought life could be so good?

—Judy



## Bodhi

When we were contact by Liz regarding a little 8 week old Chocolate Lab/Border Collie mix, we knew that the time had come for us to expand our family. For 7 years we have lived in the city, and since both my husband and I grew up with dogs, we really felt that missing from our lives. However with demanding schedules, and an apartment with minimal outdoor space, we just didn't feel it would be fair for a furry friend regardless of how badly we wanted one. But this past January we moved to



Marin and with a large outdoor space, my husband and I looked at each other, and right away we both knew what the first order of business was going to be!

We started visiting the Humane Society and the SPCA and started researching online. We knew we wanted a Lab mix and so when I found GGLRR, and met Liz, I was confident that we would find the dog for us and within a week, we found Bodhi!

Bodhi was young when she was given up to the shelter and was nervous, very sensitive to noise and wary of people. The first day we saw her, she had on a collar and a leash for the first time, and needless to say she was not happy! However, we have had her for just over a week now, and all three of us are completely in love! She is already very attached to her mom and dad and comfortable with her leash and all the noises as we work on our new home. She has made trips into the city, and has been exposed to many people and many children, and it takes all of about 1 minute, before she is up to them sniffing around and her little tail wagging.

Just last night, she was napping and I saw her suckling in her sleep and it is almost the cutest thing I have EVER seen! We thank GGLRR for Bodhi and Liz for all her help! I work in Autism, and I hope that Bodhi will be a large part of my therapy with these kids who need so badly to connect. Although I will wait until she is over her puppy hyper/nipping stage because as cute as she is, when she gets that puppy gleam in her eye...WATCH OUT! :0)

—Lina & Mark

## Rio

We lost our black Labrador, Bayli in September of 2010 at 10 years of age. We miss her so much! We thought to ourselves there is no better dog out there but knew that we needed to fill our home with a "love". After looking on GGLRR site we knew we needed to adopt. We kept on going back to the success stories and knew this would be a perfect fit to finding our new lab. Within weeks we got word that we were a match for a black Labrador! We were willing to drive about anywhere to get him! The previous owner could no longer care for "Rio" so after talking with her on the phone with tears and laughter, we made the drive to Ukiah to get him. It



was instant love and knew he was the one for us. He climbed in the car and it was like he had been with us for years. The first night after putting the kids to bed, my husband and I were relaxing with Rio and exactly as our late Bayli would do is get up from where she was laying and walk slowly down the hallway straight to her bed. Rio did exactly that! My husband and I looked at each other with this

sad but happy feeling to know he is just perfect! He is such a handsome "hunk of love" as I call him and his disposition is so sweet! We are so blessed to have Rio in our life and we are truly grateful to GGLRR for matching us with Rio!

—Shellie

## Katie Scarlett

Katie Scarlett, a gorgeous black Lab, graced our home on April 5th, 2010. Although she loves her humans, Charlie instantly became the “Love of her life!” Charlie is our beautiful golden retriever, who was already two years old when the 2 month old Katie arrived at our home. He instantly became her mentor, protector, and family member, as Katie snuggled in to his tummy and slept under his care on her first night in our home, and every night since! Katie has been guided by Charlie throughout the joys and occasional tribulations of being a puppy, creating a bond for life.

Katie never ceases to amaze both my mother and myself! One day My mom and I were taking Katie home from the vet, and we ran in to our friend who gave a treat to Katie. We were all shocked when she did not eat the treat! Once we got home to Charlie, and we gave half of the treat to him, that's when Katie proceeded to gobble up her half, in true labrador fashion. Overall, Katie has always astonished my mother and I with her generosity and loving nature!

To say Katie has enriched our lives is a gross understatement! Katie has taught both my mother and myself the true



capabilities of love, by giving hers away on an unconditional basis to every dog and person she meets! To be witness to her happy-go-lucky attitude toward life, has truly helped me realize that life is too short to sweat the small stuff. Overall, we could not be happier with our Katie Scarlett, a true DIVA!

*Forever Grateful,  
– Aaron & Lucy*

## Buddy

My wife and I would like to thank Sylvana and Joan of GGLLR in helping us find “Buddy” and bringing him to his “Forever Home” (September 2010). Buddy is the sweetest Chocolate Lab with enough energy to power a small city. He can go from a deep sleep to chase the ball in two bounces, smiles all the time (especially for pictures), loves to play, and speaks to us through various grunts and growls. We believe that he is part cat from the way he pounces on tennis balls. Buddy takes me for walks every day and supervises me around the house during the various “honey-do” projects. Pictures of Buddy can be found everywhere throughout the house, work, and on our computers. He’s quite the percussionist too, since his tail is constantly wagging and pounding away on walls, floors, furniture, legs, etc. We’re looking forward to swimming, camping, and hiking during the warmer summer months. We are extremely grateful for the work your organization does, and for bringing our Buddy home.

*– Kevin, Liz, & Buddy*



## Chamois

It has been approximately one year since Chamois joined our family. She was called Harley and then briefly Carly during her rescue. We decided that she was as soft as a chamois cloth and the same color so we changed her name. She was anxious in the beginning, which was the biggest obstacle. She needed to be everywhere we were at every moment and had a few accidents in the house. Over time and with the use of DAP collars, she has settled into our family, knowing she is part of it and has a home with us for the rest of her life. She is walked daily and gets to be a jogging partner 2-3 times a week. She loves riding in cars now, which originally made her very anxious (likely because she was taken by car and left somewhere by her first owners) and is a true Labrador who is in the water every chance she gets. We have a local park with a stream where she gets to run off leash and swim multiple times a week. We have a pool and she is in it most days, no matter the weather.

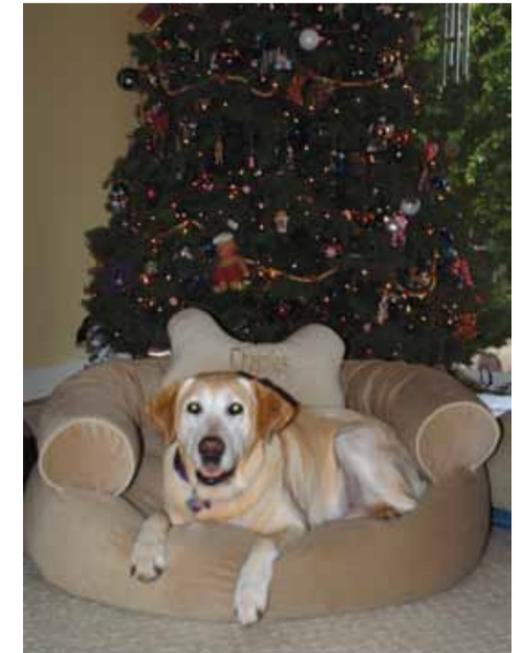


At first we wondered if her vocal cords were removed and noticed she cowered when we put her collar on. We assumed a barking collar was used with her. We wanted to make sure she knew using her voice was ok. Now, she will come to us and bark when she wants attention and to be petted and loved. And she is a dog who can never get enough love. Luckily, we have a lot to give her. Chamois is very motivated by food and we have had a challenge breaking her of some bad manners (stealing food off the counter) but she is learning and doing better every day. She also has made great progress in decreasing her show of enthusiasm by not jumping up on people when they arrive. When she first came to us, she did not like cats. She barked and growled at ours every time she saw them (which is how we figured out she did indeed have vocal cords). With consistent training she learned to coexist with them after a month. Now a year later, they rub against her, sniff her ears and lay on top of her kennel. She tolerates it all, sniffing back at them and at times waiting at the back door side by side to come in the house.

Chamois celebrated her first Christmas with us and Santa brought her a beautiful bed and toys. She loves to play with her toys, often rolling around on her back, using her paws to hold the toys while she rubs her back, wiggles and makes satisfied groans. It’s quite a sight to see.

She now is comfortable in our house and does not have to follow one of us at all times, instead opting to sleep in her bed or lie on the floor somewhere near. Adopting her was a true gift and blessing for our family. Families who adopt a rescue dog need to understand that while it isn’t the same amount of work as a puppy, it does require patience, understanding of the dog, lots of unconditional love and consistent training to help heal the trauma from moving to a new family. But the joy of adding this loving new family member is unmatched.

*– Kristin*



## Darby

On October 9, 2010, four months to the day our previous Lab mix passed away from cancer, we adopted Darby Doo of Devonshire. More aptly shortened to "Darby," this sturdy English Black Lab has brought us nothing but joy and tries very hard every day to fill the hole our old dog left behind.



I don't really know where to begin with Darby. She is the quintessential Labrador. She is goofy, messy, loving, tolerant, a creature of comfort, rolls with the punches, food obsessed and fits in so nicely in our chaotic household. Darby is lucky enough to have spent the first 6 years of her life with a loving family, full of kids and a day job as a caregiver in a children's daycare center. She is unlucky enough to be a victim of the housing crisis and her previous family had to give her up during their traumatic home foreclosure.

Knowing Darby had a history with children, we leapt at the chance to adopt her. Our son, Finn, is 1 ½ and Darby's

relationship with him is enough to bring tears to my eyes. To say they love each other is a bit of an understatement. Daily, we are witness to make-out sessions between Darby and Finn which make you both cringe and laugh at the same time. Darby waits patiently outside of the kitchen "in her spot" for Finn to be done eating until we tell her it is "okay!" and she runs in to clean up the floor. Finn, in his toddler way, is often a little too overzealous with his affection toward her no matter how much we try to supervise. Her response? Lay on her side and take the pats, the hair pulls and the toys piled up on her. Her tolerance of Finn, knowing he is a "puppy" is remarkable. She has a readily available escape route through her dog door to the yard but, to this day, I have never seen her use it. Every night, she disrupts Finn's "going to bed" routine with some extra hand licks and visits into the nursery and if Finn begins to cry, Darby is right there to tell us we need to be doing something. I look forward to watching these two grow up together.

Darby came to us a little on the heavy side. Her wonderful foster home had done much to bring her weight down and we continue to help her "battle the bulge." She loves her daily excursions with her dog walker and on weekends, her trips to Tahoe and Sonoma where she swims and chases birds. Jumping into Lake Tahoe in the dead of winter doesn't phase her in the least.

We are so lucky to have found Darby. Thanks so much to GGLR for making her available to us.

— Kelly

## Bones

A Happy Belated Valentines Wish to all at GGLRR. Bones came into our lives August 1, 2010. He seems to be quite well adjusted. He LOVES living in the forest on the Russian river and the family really LOVES him. He is a great addition to our Family, Thank you so much for your WONDERFUL Work !!!

—Mabalo, Victor & Laura



## Bubba



According to his wonderful foster mom, Daine Androvich, Bubba was a stray dog and taken to the San Jose Animal Shelter. In Diane's care, he was diagnosed with a thyroid condition which was easily treated and soon he was ready for a new permanent home. We initially had been looking for a younger dog, however, we fell in love with Bubba after seeing a short video of him doing what Diane called the "Bubba Shuffle," which basically was his attempt at moon walking. Bubba is approximately 10 years old and incredibly strong and healthy. He has fit into our family extremely well, and I would highly recommend other people consider adopting an older Lab as they are wonderful companions, already house-broken, and don't require puppy-level energy from the family.

Bubba is a beautiful yellow lab with a grey heart-shaped face. He loves to sleep, go for walks, and is amazing with all other animals and children. He settled into our home very quickly and has brought us so much happiness. We soon learned that he will do anything for food, as he is constantly sniffing the kitchen floor for crumbs or nosing around in the pantry. He is the kind of dog who will lay down beside you on a day you don't feel well, and provides so much warmth to our home.

Thank you GGLRR for bringing Bubba to us! He will be a loved and pampered member of our family for a long time to come.

—Jim, Sandy, Mia and Abby



## Trinity

Trinity is our 1 year old black lab puppy. She was an unexpected addition to our family right before Thanksgiving thanks to Golden Gate Lab Rescue. We had been hearing about the stories and looking at pictures of dogs up for adoption on GGLRR for awhile. One day, both our daughter and our good friend said to take a look at this cute "little girl" named Trinity. We contacted GGLR to find out more.

Trinity was being surrendered by her young family because of sad circumstances involving losing their home. They were not going to be able to take her with them when the family left their home. They had a hard decision to make, but made the right one by calling Golden Gate Lab Rescue. We got to go and meet her, thanks to Liz with GGLR, and offered to help them out just for the weekend as foster parents. It was right before the Thanksgiving holiday and there was no time for finding her another foster family.

Liz allowed us to take her home and help and the rest is history! We made an instant connection with her and felt like she had a place in our home. She enjoyed the holidays with us and looked really cute in her jingle bells collar. She is enjoying her daily walks with her lab friends and home time with my husband and myself. She even gets invites to lab birthday parties where she is the life of the party with all of that puppy energy. We have been working with her to break some of her old habits, like counter surfing. With the time and energy we have to offer her, Trinity is becoming a well-mannered part of the family.

Thanks Golden Gate Lab Rescue for doing such great work to help dogs that are waiting for adoption.

— Tamara Lynn



## Cody

We adopted Cody in October 2010. We had been told he had anxiety issues, but had made lots of improvement. However, we certainly were not aware of how anxiety makes a dog behave until we got him home! He immediately started bounding over the furniture, pulling off cushions and pillows from the couches and racing through the house! A few evenings later he opened the bathroom door on our overnight guest who is 78 years old! After a couple of weeks we realized as a semi-retired couple that we just couldn't



keep up with his antics and called to return him. Somehow we were convinced TWICE that we should be his permanent owners. Four months later he has improved so much and walks right beside us on his leash, never pulling us along. He sits well, does "high five" and his own specialty is being a "squirrel boy", sitting back on his haunches to look ever so sweet for a treat. A behaviorist was initially sent to help us with his anxiety behaviors and told us he is really smart. A few weeks later we realized just how smart he is. I had just had foot surgery recently and my husband was helping me up the stairs after returning from a doctor appointment. Cody was being very impatient waiting in the garage and barking. As my husband got me settled into the recliner, the doorbell rang and he headed back downstairs to answer the door. When he opened the door, he raced Cody! He had opened the garage door and then went to the front porch and rang the doorbell! He already knew how to open any doors in the house that opened inward, but we were so surprised that he figured out the garage door opener AND rang the doorbell! He is an energetic and full of energy boy, and ever so loyal to my husband especially. He is right at his heels whenever he goes!

Here is a recent photo where he has dropped his "Kong" ball into the deep end of the pool for at least the third time, waiting for my husband to retrieve it and throw it across the yard.

—Joy and Terry

## Tucker

Last year we adopted Tucker (aka Bo) from the GGLRR. We changed his name to Tucker because we had just lost our 12 year old yellow Lab Beau in August and couldn't have another dog with the same name...so he became Tucker. He is a 4 year old black English lab with the sweetest face and disposition. Didn't know too much about him, except that he came from Idaho. Once we met him, we fell in love as he is such a mellow dog. He just wants to be near you and follows you everywhere. He fit in right away with our household, even getting along with our cat although took her a while to warm up to him.

He loves his toys and always has one in his mouth...even when he goes for walks. We have learned to take them out of his mouth before going out of the gate as he has lost a few of his treasures. When we take him to the local dog park, he will greet everyone and then roll over for a belly scratch.

He is constantly on guard for squirrels in our neighborhood and keeps them up in the trees where he thinks they belong! He is also our "guard" dog for the car. After running errands with him, he likes to stay in the car with the back open and keep an eye on things. In fact getting him out of the car is a challenge.

He's a great find and we're so grateful to the GGLRR team for bringing us together.

—Carol



## Casey (Casanova)

Casey was born with a solid pedigree and went home with a couple in Sonoma county. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, the owners were unable to care for him, and asked an acquaintance nearby to take him. Unfortunately Casey learned to bark more than the neighbors liked and so he was sent off to a K9 training facility in the south bay. Casey did not pass the initial tests and the barking behavior around other dogs continued. The owners decided that it would cost too much to continue keeping Casey in school, so they contacted GGLRR to have him put up for adoption.



Meanwhile, David and Annie were searching for a new "family member" and found the Golden Gate Lab Rescue organization. They had overnight visits with a few puppies

and although adorable, they didn't seem to be the right fit. Then, Liz sent a photo of Casey, who was at a foster home in the South Bay. Just one look at his photo and the decision was made. They told the foster parents, "This is the one we want to adopt!" David picked up Casey from the foster home, and then picked up Annie arriving home from a business trip at SFO. Casey instantly brought joy, laughter, and love into his new home in Novato.

Casey is learning how to socialize with other dogs, and is becoming a very obedient and loyal dog. There are no issues with barking unless instigated...not even when the doorbell rings! David's son Jason (14) took photos of Casey the first night they met, and he promptly posted the news of Casey's arrival to all his friends on Facebook. Casey will continue to be a very welcome addition to the Christianson family (pack) for years to come. David and Annie wish to thank Liz, GGLRR and the incredible service they provide.

—David and Annie

## Ryan

We adopted our Labrador in May of last year; he is eight years old. It is as if he was dropped from heaven into our laps, all complete and ready to fit into our lives. Except of course, for a few little details. In order to finish up the day we take him and our other rescue dog out into the yard around 9:30 for a last stop. She does her business promptly and he, after these several months of dutiful training, does his version, which is: "I'm supposed to go when my master says pot-ty, so I wait until my friend finishes, then quickly leave a tiny sent mark on hers, and then my master gives me a treat. I think this is a pretty silly game but it makes my master happy." And yes, master is so happy to have this wonderful, loving, and humorous friend that he has to say, "Oh well. What a smart dog you are to have learned so well."

And more about Ryan, our wonderful eight-year-old chocolate Lab: he loves to eat, as most Labs do, and has become our sous chef in the kitchen; always attentive whenever there's anything to do with food. In his former life he developed the habit of getting his front paws up on the kitchen counters, so we have learned to "clear the decks" on a regular basis, so there's nothing for him to get. We are so happy with him, and grateful for GGLRR for rescuing him for us!

Attached is a picture of the 3 of us :)

—Bruce and Harriet



## Marley



Another day in Marley world. Today we have snow on the mountain. We are not sure if this is Marley's first snow but he acted like he wasn't sure what it was. He was funny, as he likes to run out full blast from the basement door to announce himself to the world, but when he saw this strange stuff on the ground he was hesitant to go out. Once outside he would run around a little bit in it then would

go to a place under the upper porch where there was no snow. Here's a pic of him in the snow. Hope to get more later when he has decided it's really not so bad :) He is such a sweetheart. He really knows how to pull on the heart strings. If he feels he hasn't had enough loves (which believe me he gets tons) he will come up to me and sit on his hind legs and beg. Of course he then gets lots more hugs and scratches and loves so he is happy. He knows it's all about him...

He knows my routine in the a.m. as I have to go and test our water up here everyday. He stays very close and doesn't let me

out of his sight because he knows it won't be long and we will be off to the water room. He loves to go everywhere with us.

He loves to play tug a war and will get his toy and bring it to you when he decides it's time to play. He'll drop it in front of you or tap your hand with it to let you know. If he drops it he is always ready to grab it first before you can get it. He loves to have you throw it up in the air so he can catch it too. He is a super strong boy.

Our lives have been greatly blessed to have such a wonderful boy given to us. He makes me happy all the time. I find myself smiling more and more. He gives unconditional love and we love him all the more because of it.

He really has a great time checking out all the squirrel holes up here. We put a 75 foot extension on his leash and allow him to run up and down the hill side following the trails. We have no trees in that area so he is free to check out all the cool places. Daddy (Donnie) and he will run out real fast to try to catch them off guard, Marley loves it. Our love for him has no bounds nor it seems does his for us. Thank you again for such a sweet and loving boy.

– *Donnie and Michele*

## Fur Kids

Both of my "fur kids" were rescued from dire circumstances, one from Hurricane Katrina with GGLRR and the other a puppy mill. They were treated by vets, but brought back to health and life by loving foster families. Without this care and kindness they would have never been adoptable nor would I be able to enjoy and love my dogs the way I do. It's only natural that I now return the favor and help deserving dogs find their forever home and help other families find their very own "fur kids".

Thanks!

– *Laura*



## Lilly

We adopted Lily in July of 2010 after her first adopters returned her to GGLRR because they couldn't handle her. She was an off the street stray picked up by the Bakersfield pound, and was pregnant to boot. When I first met Lilly I noticed she was a handful, pulling and darting every which way and when she saw another dog – well I'm not a small guy and she could almost pull me over trying to get at them.

When we adopted the cats that live with us, we asked at the pound for the cats that had been there the longest. We wanted the hard to adopt animals. Lilly fit right in. We started with long walks (5+ miles) everyday so she and I could get acquainted. She was very distractible - especially when another dog was around. We finally went to a pinch collar as that was the only way to get her to pay attention.

My intent with Lilly was to train her as a service dog to assist me with my post traumatic stress disorder. I knew it was a tall order, I knew she would never qualify for any of the formal training programs, I knew it would be a struggle for both her and myself. We called one trainer about her difficulty



with other dogs and came to one class and were thrown out because of her behavior before the start of the first class. We regrouped, and found another trainer who works with service dogs and police dogs (Incredible Canines in Santa Rosa) and put her in doggy boot camp for three weeks.

She came home on Feb 4th. On Feb 12th, Lilly accompanied me to a diabetes conference with over 1300 in attendance and acquitted herself admirably. She was calm, obedient, and attentive. She has accompanied me grocery shopping, at the mall, and at the doctor. My wife tells me that since Lilly came to be with us, she has seen a change for the better in me.

I want people to know that it is important to keep an open mind when it comes to adopting an animal. Rescued animals have history – history that isn't always good. I was told that Lilly will never be a service dog like the specialty service dog programs produce. My response was, "I know she isn't perfect. I know she has problems. But so do I." Yes, I rescued Lilly with the help of GGLRR and Judy, but, in turn, Lilly is rescuing me.

– *Allen*

## Laika

We have had Laika now for 24 happy days. And every morning he wakes us up with his sweet face planted on the bed looking at us. He is so sweet tempered and fun. He really has captured our hearts. He has been to the beach and loves the water and rolling in the sand. In the evening he loves getting on the sofa with us and enjoying a nice fire and some T.V. Thank you for choosing us to be Laika's family. We will be sure he knows how much he is loved everyday.

– *Bengt and Nancy*



## Letters to the Editor

**We welcome letters and pictures!**

Please send to:

**GGLRR Editor**

**268 Bush Street, #4322**

**San Francisco, CA 94104**

or e-mail to: [liz@labrescue.org](mailto:liz@labrescue.org)

You may also use the above e-mail address to notify us of an address change or if you would no longer care to receive this newsletter.

## 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! (Donors listed through June 2010- April 2011; we do our best to recognize all of our generous donors.)*

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Donald Rhoades Family Foundation  
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**Jewel**

Jewel is a remarkable dog. Her blindness doesn't compromise her ability to navigate the house, go for walks, or to make me laugh. She and my one-eyed dog, Sweetie, are sorting out the rules and becoming fast friends. We're working on obedience training with our walks, and Jewel improves daily. I'm enjoying the challenge of finding appropriate toys for a blind dog, and teaching her how to play with them. Jewel is such a sweet-natured, gentle girl. I feel she would make a perfect therapy dog. Perhaps that's a goal to work towards. Currently she's busy helping to fill the void of the recent loss of my husband and of my Lab mix...and she's doing a great job. I fell in love with Jewel when I first saw her on the GGLRR website. I am so blessed to have her in my life. Thank you for rescuing her.

— Linda

**In loving memory...  
Duke, March 2011**

*Thank you everyone who helped rescue Duke. He had a nice life!*



**Current Board:**

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**More Thanks:**

*To all the fosters and dog transporters - we would not be able to save as many dogs as we do without your help!*

- Animal Hospital of Sebastopol
- Bishop Ranch Veterinary Hospital – San Ramon – Dr. Gillman
- Carmel Holistic Veterinary Clinic – Carmel
- Country Vet – Novato
- Designer – Greg Flejtuch
- Designer – Michelle David
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- Dog Boarding / Dog Training – K-9 Country Club – Petaluma
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- Puppy Awareness / Dog Training – Beth Peterson
- Whole Pet Vet Hospital & Wellness Center – Los Gatos

**2012 GGLRR Calendar**

Is your Labrador Retriever the most gorgeous dog in the world? You've probably shared photos of him or her with friends and family, and on Facebook too. How would you like the chance to make your Lab an even bigger celebrity? We are asking for submissions for the 2012 calendar, with lucky Labs to be chosen to grace the pages of the calendar, while raising much needed funds for Lab Rescue. If you would like a photo of your Lab(s) to be considered as one of the 12 months of photos in GGLRR's 2012 Calendar, read more about our guidelines and submission process on [www.labrescue.org](http://www.labrescue.org), review your existing photos or take some new ones, and enter for *your* Lab's shot at fame!



## 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.

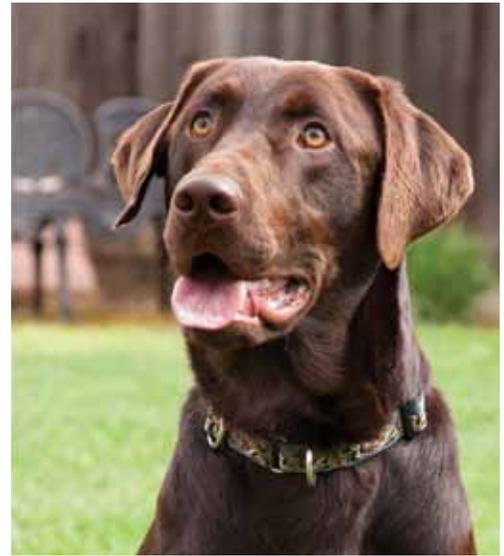
GGLRR facilitates the placement of unwanted Labrador Retriever dogs into new homes. We are sought out by concerned individuals and humane organizations who come into contact with Labrador Retrievers. We have a spay-neuter requirement for all dogs that we place. Families residing within our Northern California service area who desire to adopt a Labrador Retriever complete an application form and are introduced to potential pets. Our purpose is solely to provide 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 donation (currently \$300) for prospective families wishing to adopt from us.



If you prefer, you can also use PayPal to make a donation. Log onto [www.labrescue.org/donate](http://www.labrescue.org/donate) and click on the PayPal icon.



### Foster Care Needed

We are always looking for short-term foster homes to care for our Labs until permanent families can be found to adopt them.

This is an extremely rewarding job, and a very important one.

For more information about fostering a dog, please contact: Liz Frome – [liz@labrescue.org](mailto:liz@labrescue.org).



## Golden Gate Labrador Retriever Rescue, Inc.

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