

# Love a Golden Rescue

## Golden News



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Winter/Spring 2013

Volume 13 Issue 1

## A "Tail" of Two Blind Dogs

Two dogs: Finn and Daisy. One was blind when he came to Love a Golden Rescue. One became totally blind after she had come (back) to Love a Golden Rescue, and after she had gotten adopted a second time. For the vast majority of us who have never fostered or lived with a blind dog, we might consider it a near-impossible endeavor. How could we make a dog comfortable and safe, not having its sight to rely on? What strategies could we use to help "train" a blind dog so that it can navigate in our house and yard?

Although most of us would immediately dismiss ourselves as not being capable of adequately caring for a dog that cannot see, perhaps after you read the following "tails," you might consider being an owner/foster the next time a blind dog needs help.

### Finn

When we first agreed to foster Finn, a 10-year old blind dog, we thought 'this could be interesting as well as challenging.' As the time got closer to get our blind guy, we became more apprehensive. We wondered: could we really take care of him, would he fit in with our pack, could this really work? When we picked him up, we listened closely to everything being told to us. Then it was time to bring him home. He loved the car ride and slept almost all the way home. Great, we made it past our first step.

At home, we walked Finn slowly around our yard to let him sniff and leave his scent. He was very frightened, finding himself in a new place, not able to see. He had no idea who these two new strangers were or what the new smells were all about. We let him "chill out" in the large kennel that we have in our basement. We led him to the water dish as well as his food dish. We also led him around the kennel so that he could get an idea of where things were, especially his new bed.

The next day, we started walking Finn in the neighborhood. We would walk past a few houses and then go back home. Each day, we would walk past another house. It was interesting to see how he would walk faster when he could smell his scent. However, the minute we started walking past a new house, he would slow down. The first night we walked him, it took us twenty minutes to walk by four houses. We kept talking to him, calling his name and clapping. At first, we thought he was hard of hearing, but after a week, we realized that he just didn't know our voices or know how to respond. As Finn became more familiar with us and our voices, he began responding to us. We are now walking him around the block, and he has a cute little trot. He is very comfortable walking and even seems to be very proud of himself.

We also took our time introducing Finn to our pack. We would let him sniff one dog and then walk that one with him. After a few days, we would introduce him to another one, and they would walk together. This entire time, he was still staying in our large kennel in the basement whenever he was not with us.

After a few weeks, we knew it was time for Finn to come upstairs into our house. We would bring him up and hook his leash to us. We also hooked his leash to the banister. We learned quickly that even though he is a little guy, he is strong for his size. That meant no hooking him to chairs. He could pull them around, and we did not want him to get hurt. Finn is now upstairs all the time and loves his smaller kennel where he sleeps at night. We still don't leave him free unless he is in a room with us by himself. We want to keep him safe from bumping into too many things.

Finn has totally amazed us being completely blind for so many years and able to do the things he can do. He found the water dish the first time he was upstairs. Being attached to us, he led us to it and immediately began drinking. He does very well walking up and down stairs; he "conquered" that within a week's time. He likes to play with tennis balls, even though he loses them fairly quickly. He will find them and continue playing with them. He loves to find used tissues in the waste basket (no matter how far back under the counter we have the waste basket). He has really amazed us by finding the fuzzy socks in a basket of laundry. Finn might not have eyesight, but there is definitely nothing wrong with any of his other senses. He has adapted to us and our pack and seems very comfortable. The best thing is that he doesn't know he has a disability. He is a happy boy just the way he is! **An update on Finn:** As this newsletter was being finalized, Finn was adopted into his forever home.

### Miss Daisy

I feel knowing Daisy's past is important to understanding the dog she is today.

Daisy was two when she injured her foot, and although she was taken to a vet for treatment, the family did not want to pay her bill, so they simply left her there. After several months, the vet became her owner, and she then came to rescue in June 2005. A month later, she was adopted.



Continued next page

## A "Tail" continued

All was good for four months; she was very happy, and the family loved her. In November of 2005, we received a call. Her family wanted to return Daisy to LAGR, as she had MRSA staph infection and aspergillosis fungus in her nose. The family did not wait for us to respond; incredulous, we heard she was at a vet to be euthanized. A volunteer rushed to get her, and she boomeranged back to rescue.



Her long medical journey began. Daisy had three infusions to remove the fungus, none of which worked. She finally had surgery to remove the fungus. A mass of fungus the size of a golf ball was found in her sinus cavity. All of the fungus was removed. She recovered from the surgery in a few weeks. We also found she is immunosuppressed and would be plagued by frequent sinus infections. Later, her foster home adopted her.

Fast forward to 2010...We noticed Daisy's right eye was looking cloudy. We took her to the doggie eye doctor, and she was diagnosed with glaucoma. Since her degeneration was not text book for a Golden, it was thought the blindness was associated with her surgery and would probably not affect the other eye. It was decided to remove the right eye, thus eliminating pain while trying to maintain the pressure. Again, all was good, and Daisy adjusted.

In 2011, the left eye began to deteriorate, again glaucoma was the cause, and she became blind. We have not removed this eye, maintaining the pressure with eyes drops. This was not an easy decision for us. In the back of our minds, we wondered, 'What if she can see a little?' even though we knew she could not.

As a Golden that went blind while living in the home she knows well, she has adjusted and is amazing. Daisy climbs stairs, always knowing where the water bowl is. When we put ice in the bowl, she loves it. She is constantly bumping into things, because she misjudges the space she is moving through. She walks very slowly with a slow prance, like the Lipizzaner stallions in slow motion. Sometimes we find her stuck in a corner and help her turn around. Daisy gets confused in the yard, but when we call her, she can easily correct herself. We help her by patting our leg, and she follows that sound, which helps her avoid bumping into the door frame.

Daisy goes on two walks a day; we follow the same route, as she has her scent to guide her. If we walk a different route, she gets confused, but the next time we go that way, she is fine. She also gets to go on walks off leash in a safe environment with her siblings and follows right along beside us and loves that.

Her Golden siblings seem to understand when she walks into them—they seem to look and say "Oh that is just Daisy." It is not so easy with new foster dogs, because they have to learn she is different. It is a slow process, but they do learn and accept her.

Although she is blind, she has radar for Lou the cat who lives at the vet. On one visit, Lou got a little too close, and Daisy got the end of his tail. Now he always makes himself scarce when Daisy has an appointment, which happens to be every three weeks for an immune booster shot.

She lives a normal life, is very happy and takes all of her many health problems in stride. Even though she can't see with her eyes, Daisy sees that life is good...when you're a beloved dog in a loving home.

## *President's Message*

Hi,

Thank you to all of you: our loyal volunteers, supporters, adoptive homes and friends. We have completed another successful year helping Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes in need.

In 2012, we helped 55 dogs: 34 were purebred, 8 were Golden mixes and 13 were other mixes. During September, October and November of 2012, Golden Retrievers needing rescue did not come our way. It was very quiet for us and other Golden groups. We took the opportunity to help other dogs in shelters—dogs that had golden hearts but didn't have much hope. Dogs like Hawkeye, Hollie, Tootsie and Hogan were adopted very quickly, because they were young adorable mixes.

We also found more dogs coming into rescue already spayed or neutered. Forty-three of the dogs we took in were already fixed. This is very encouraging. Maybe people are taking pet overpopulation seriously!

We are proud to report that this past year we took in 12 seniors. These dogs are near and dear to our hearts and have few options. We are grateful to those who open their homes and hearts to these wonderful seniors. These old-timers deserve a chance to finish out their lives feeling loved and being well cared for.

Last year, we treated little Jeffrey, who had been hit by a car and left in the middle of the road. He survived and now has a wonderful home. Oliver, a senior, broke his leg. Then, he had an allergic reaction to Rimadyl and went into kidney failure. It was very scary. Thankfully, he pulled through and is now up for adoption. We also treated what has become the norm for the dogs we take in: kennel cough, orthopedic surgeries, heartworms, and tick borne disease. Bryanne had to have nine teeth removed, and earlier this month, Sassy had three teeth removed. Several dogs had to go to the doggie eye doctor for different eye problems. Tessa and Joel both had torn cruciate ligaments and are recovering from their surgeries.

Please mark your calendar for our reunion picnic on September 21, 2013. We have changed things up this year, hoping our fall is cooler than our summer. We love to see so many wonderful Golden Retrievers and relish the chance to catch up with old friends.

Golden Thoughts,  
Jan

## ASK ELSA



**Dear Elsa,**

I am in a shelter and just heard I will have my own forever home very soon. What will my new family need to know to make sure they are great parents?

Patently pining,  
Lucki

**Dear Lucki,**

That is great news. I will tell you what I have grown to expect from my parents, because they do a fabulous job caring for me.

First on my list is love. You will grow to love your new family, and your greatest wish-come-true would be they love you as much as you love them.

Here are some other things that, as loving parents, they will make sure you have. I'll give them to you in no special order:

Good food and fresh water are important to keep you healthy. Dirty water can make you sick, so do not drink from puddles.

You will have what is called a veterinarian in your future. This person looks after your health needs. They probe and poke, but this is for your own good. The veterinarian's office is a place you go, but there's no need to be afraid. It is important to have annual shots, an annual heartworm test and don't forget to bring in a fecal sample. (That's "poop" to us four-legged creatures.) If you do get sick, the vet will find out what is wrong with you.

Each month you will take a heartworm preventative, which is a tasty treat. You will also need a flea and tick preventative every month. This is to stop those nasty little things from taking up residence on you.

My walks are something I love. You may have another type of exercise that you prefer, such as chasing a ball. No matter what kind of activity you like to do, daily exercise of some type is very important.

It doesn't matter how old you are, training is important for any age. However, if you are young, getting some training is a must. The phrase "training" makes it sound like drudgery, but on the contrary, doing something special with your owner is a way of bonding.

Good luck on your new home. All the attention and love that you'll be getting from your forever home will make you soon forget being in a shelter. I promise.

Love,  
Elsa

## Love a Golden Rescue is on Facebook!

If you have not done so already, please find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Loveagoldenrescue/>)! As of this writing, we have 765 friends. Facebook is an incredible networking tool – here are some of the ways we are using it.

-'Available for Adoption' Album – this picture album features our adoptable dogs. It also occasionally contains the "coming attractions," dogs undergoing heartworm treatment or needing surgery. This can be a way to attract "foster buddies." Each time we post a new dog, a message goes out on our friends' newsfeeds, and often our friends "share" our adorable dogs with their friends. So one simple post of a new dog reaches hundreds or thousands of people.

-'Adopted!' Album – this album features the dogs who have found their forever homes through LAGR, and is a favorite among our friends who love to see a dog moved from the 'available for adoption' album to the 'adopted!' album!

-'Success Stories' Album – this album allows us to feature our alum in their forever homes. If you have a LAGR alum and would like your dog included, please send a picture and story to our Facebook page, or email [juliekhutchinson@gmail.com](mailto:juliekhutchinson@gmail.com). Friends of LAGR are loyal and love to keep track of dogs, even years after their adoptions.

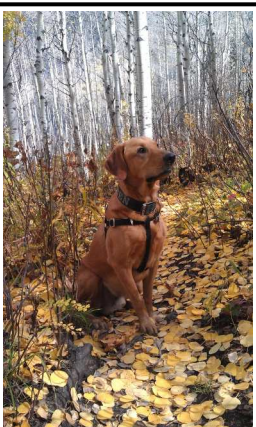
-Lost/Found – because Facebook posts can quickly spread like wildfire (via the "share" function), we often post notices of dogs that have been found or dogs that have gone missing whose families are desperately searching for them. Facebook is responsible for reuniting countless lost dogs and other pets. If you have a need for a lost or found post, please send a message to our Facebook page, or email [juliekhutchinson@gmail.com](mailto:juliekhutchinson@gmail.com).

-Networking for dogs in need – this is one of the greatest assets of Facebook for rescue organizations. Facebook has in some ways revolutionized animal rescue, as it showcases dogs in need of rescue and sends pictures and information to caring individuals and rescues all over the country. A number of LAGR fosters and alums have come to us via Facebook.

-Announcements – we keep you in the loop about our adoption events, trivia nights, group hikes, collection of Purina weight circles, and general tips for keeping your dog happy and healthy. We also keep you posted about things our group needs like more foster homes (anyone?).

# Happy Endings

Ben says hello to all of his friends back in St Louis. He says he is "living the dream in Colorado!!"



Maggie Moo dug a hole and napped in it.



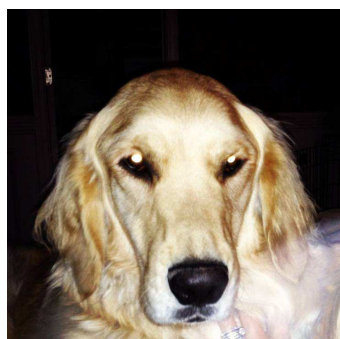
Asia is doing great. She and Wilson have become inseparable. They're so much fun to be around, always playing.



Hogan gives a new meaning for "being a brown noser."



Charlie, formally Montana, is doing great in his new home.



Lucy is an enjoyable companion and a part of the family now. We love her and are grateful for Love a Golden rescuing her.



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# Happy Endings<sub>-continued</sub>

Rosie is having fun in the snow.



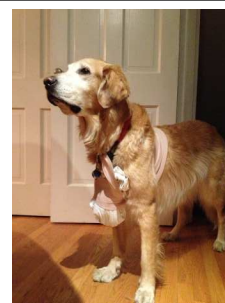
Austin 12-13 years old with his mom.



Hawkeye went to visit Santa.



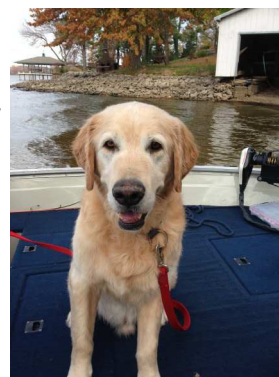
Mister Hank recovering after having a lump removed.



Spike is doing wonderful! He comes to work with me every day and enjoys being "the mascot." He loves car rides and walks.



Tobey has had a lot of fun in the last several months. He goes on walks around the golf course almost every day. He also goes for car rides, goes swimming in the lake and socializes with the neighbors and the neighbors' dogs, of course. His favorite thing to do is to go fishing with me on the boat. As you can see, his fur coat has come in beautifully, and he gets compliments all the time on how handsome he is.



# PIC ME! - Golden currently available for adoption.

All of our adoptable Golden retrievers can be found on our web site at: [www.loveagolden.com](http://www.loveagolden.com)

## Zoey

I am 10 years old, but you would never know it. I like to go on walks or just hang out in the back yard. I get along great with other dogs and kids. I met a kitten at the pet store, and I liked her too. My tail is always wagging because I'm a happy girl...or maybe because I'm a princess.



## Huey

Huey is a well-mannered senior who loves to be petted. The main thing he wants out of life is to be loved. He loves to play fetch and will gallop after a ball, but he doesn't always bring it back to you. He gets along with other dogs, and although he isn't living with cats, he has been around them at events and seems uninterested in them.



## Find the Golden!



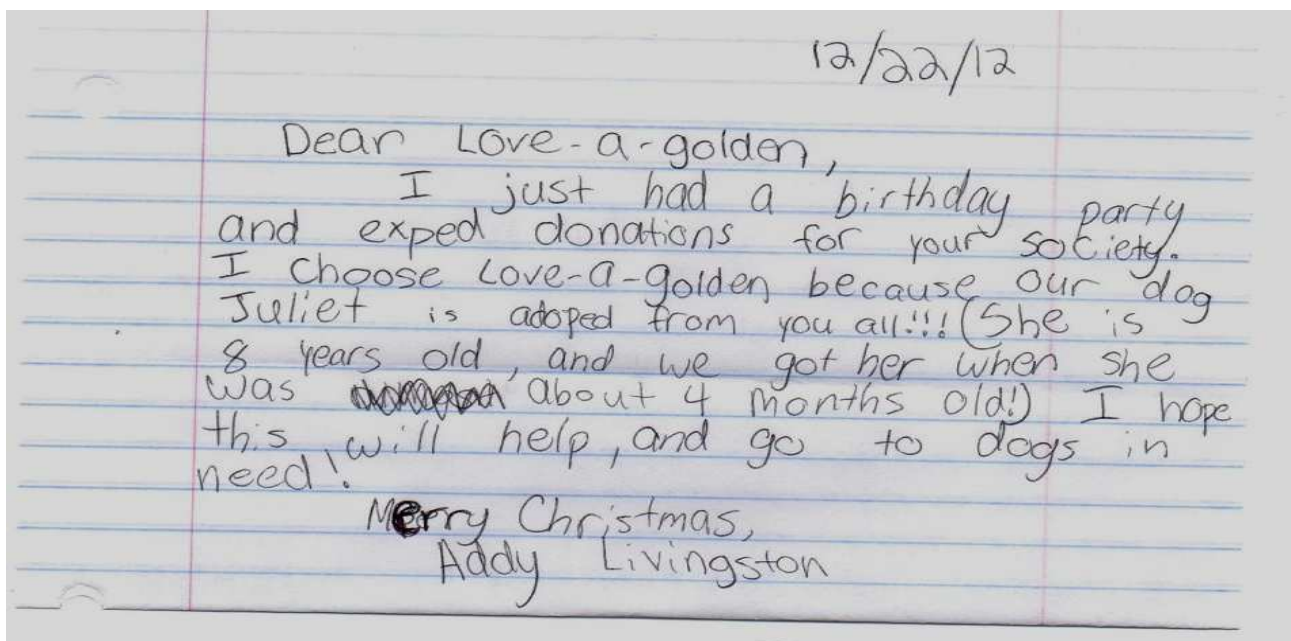
The Golden in last edition was hidden on the front page in the top left corner. Did you find it? The Golden is making its way through the newsletter and will be hidden somewhere in this edition. Have fun, reading through the entire newsletter to find it. The location will be revealed in the next edition.

## Mr Wilson has his 1st birthday

Mr. Wilson celebrates his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday with a party at Petco. Mr. Wilson is on the left with his doggie friends: Zoey, Shelbi and Miracle and human friends: Les & Diane and Michele. Mr. Wilson is a great boy who loves life and is looking for his forever home.



## A letter received from one of our young readers.



# RECENT EVENTS



## Canine Games

Taking a break after a busy day at Canine Games at Purina in Gray Summit, Elke, Michele and Marsha.



## Calendar Sales

Selling our Love a Golden Rescue calendars at Walmart.



Lola busy working at Barnes & Noble.

## Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping

Apollo busy working collecting donations at Barnes & Noble.



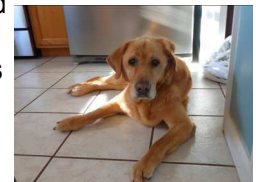
## In Loving Memory

Maddy (Madison) was adopted in 2002 and had a great home. Her dad served our country, and when he was deployed, wonderful people took care of her.

Gretchen came to rescue earlier this year. She was a sweet girl, who was in terrible shape, and her life had not been what was wished for her. She sadly went to the bridge on Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>, something we did not expect. Her foster mom gave her love that she so deserved. See below what she wrote: The first thing I noticed about this sweet dog was her sad eyes. I have never seen eyes like that in a dog. Gretchen was in bad shape...ear infections, arthritis etc. Through it all, she remained sweet. She would constantly follow me into every room in the house. When I was in the shower she stayed at the door, peeking around the corner waiting for me to get out. Gretchen loved her meals and treats. I spoiled her with special foods that I know she had never had in her life. She received many hugs and kisses, and she started to return them. Gretchen got



along so well with my other dogs and loved being around them. When we would play, she really wasn't sure what to do but loved it anyway. The last night of her life, I was downstairs cleaning. I have a closet that has mirror doors. I heard her barking, and when I went to find her, she was looking at herself in the mirror. I have never had a dog notice a reflection before. She stood there for about 30 minutes wagging her tail and barking. It was adorable! I was not ready to let Gretchen go. I figured I had many more months with her, but I guess she was "called" home. I hope she is playing and running with my other sweet dogs who have "crossed over." I will miss you Gretchen. Your ashes will be scattered in my yard with the others. See you someday!



We adopted Honeybee in 2008 from Love a Golden Rescue. I wanted to let you know that Honey passed away yesterday, January 31st, one month and one day shy of her 16th birthday. It was peaceful, and she did not suffer. I will miss her dreadfully, as she has been my great companion these 5 years, and a sweeter dog never breathed.

Thank you for Honey and for your loving care of dogs who so need it.

**Continued next page**

## In Loving Memory-continued

Mia was adopted in 2008. She came from a breeding facility where life was not so good. She had a wonderful home where life was very good.

Darby was born in rescue in 2003. Luckily, the volunteers at Love a Golden Rescue selected me to adopt Darby. For the last 9 years, Darby has been a wonderful companion for my husband and me. In 2009, we welcomed our first child, and Darby became her instant best friend. Despite horrible allergy problems, liver issues and arthritis, Darby was always a happy, active boy who was an integral part of our family. He loved his car rides and watching all the activity in our neighborhood. He was so gentle and well behaved and was loved by all who met him. He is missed horribly, and we know we were so very fortunate to share his life with him. Thank you to Love a Golden Rescue for allowing us to welcome a rambunctious 5 month old puppy into our home and share his love with us over the last 9 years.



Our beautiful Cali crossed over the bridge in October. She was 13-1/2 and such a joy in our lives. It was unexpected and sudden. She did not want to eat or drink or even try to get up Sunday morning. She began to have very labored breathing and died pretty quickly. We miss her terribly, and so does Jazz. We appreciate the 5 years we had with Cali and thank Love a Golden Rescue for letting us be in her life. Here is a photo of Cali this summer, looking as beautiful as ever.

Libby:

I know that everyone says that their Golden is the best Golden ever - but Bob and I know that Libby actually holds the distinction of Best Golden Ever. Libby passed away in November, a little over a month after her 10th birthday. She had cancer, and we opted for palliative care to ensure focus on her quality of life. Libby and Bob were inseparable, and together they were both my joy.



Bailey, known as Bailey Boy while in rescue, went to the bridge in November. He was adopted in 2008 and had a great home that took care of his medical problems during his life.



Jack lived life with vigor and a sense of adventure. He loved the outdoors, swimming, patrolling the back yard, hunting and most of all letting golfers know when they were too close to the fence. He loved wrestling with Bosco and taught Priscilla how to be a dog and showed her what it meant to be part of a pack. He was a constant terror to birds, rabbits, mice and frogs alike! Jack greeted everyone with a smile and a wag. With him now gone, we are so grateful to him for everything he gave. Jack was a companion, a protector, a leader, a gentleman and a dear friend, and he will be missed.





# Love A Golden Rescue - Supporters

Love a Golden Rescue would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who, since the publication of our last newsletter, have given new "forever homes" to our homeless Golden Retrievers and who have generously helped our Golden Retrievers with their financial support, gifts in kind and donated services.

## Adoptions

Anne Higgins	Aero
Name held on request	Asia
Name held on request	Bryanne
Name held on request	Bud
James & Cindy Monahan	Carmel
Katie Fitzgerald	Conner
Julie & Phil Parker	Hadley
Name held on request	Hawkeye
Donna & Howard Smith	Hogan
Bob & Mary Rasp	Hollie
Dennis & Debbie Papke	McKenna
Jim Wright	Sassy
Gina & Bryan Pantukoff	Tootsie
Peggy & Dwain Springer	Trek

## Foster Buddies

Paws Care	Hollie
Paws Care	Ike
Colle & McVoy	Jeffrey
Laura Cutler	Joel
Mari Graham	Joel
Sue Hall	Joel
Janet Musick	Joel
Name held on request	Sassy
Valorie Guanella Erion	Walker

## Donations and Grants

Barbara & Bill Dennis  
 Barbara & Gracie Blue Hughes  
 Bob & Roberta Pater  
 Carlos Deloach  
 Cathy Cleveland  
 Cheryl Crays  
 Colleen Nolan  
 Connie & Eric Coleman  
 Deb Kinscherf  
 Deb Schwarz  
 Ernestine & Donald Jensen  
 Fred & Alison Bauer  
 IBM  
 James & Jamie Ragan  
 Jane & Jeff Taylor  
 Jane Peacock  
 Jean Hirsch  
 Jean Lopez  
 Jon & Barbara Meline  
 Joseph Scanlon  
 Kathy & Dave Noce  
 Kent Holcomb  
 Kristine Sutliff  
 Lisa Pental  
 Lori Gibbons  
 Lynn & Robert Berry  
 Lynnae Partridge  
 Maureen Mazurek  
 Michelle Koenig  
 Nancy Williams  
 Patricia Rushing  
 Petco – Chesterfield  
 Ray & Linda Maciejewski  
 Ronda Cramer  
 Russell & Barbara Crowder  
 Sandra & Doug Turmail  
 Tim & Christine Brzycki

## In Memory and Honor

<b>In honor of Addy Livingston</b>	Jennifer McKean
<b>In honor of Burke</b>	Angela O'Neil
<b>In honor of Deb Kinscherf</b>	Bill & Pattie Paxton
<b>In honor of Ruby Blair</b>	Donna Barth
	Linda Larson
	Bonnie Ash
	Judy Hope
<b>In honor of Violet &amp; Harry</b>	Janice Pule
<b>In memory of Buddy</b>	Ron Edwards
<b>In memory of Jeannie Hayes</b>	Ed Gamon
<b>In memory of Madison</b>	Nagesh Chelluri
<b>In memory of Marianne Howell</b>	Christy Bowman
<b>In memory of Patrick O'Leary</b>	Ron Edwards
<b>In memory of Poppy &amp; Granger</b>	Randall Rushing
<b>In memory of Rufus Slattery</b>	Gail Meili
<b>In memory of Tucker</b>	Linda Roberts

*The Golden Retrievers Thank You*



## TRIVIA NIGHT

Night of Food, Fun & Trivia  
April 27, 2012

7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

**Eagles Club**

**424 E Broadway**

**Alton, IL. 62002**

**(Parking is available on the top level.)**

**Table of 8 players: \$120.00**

Includes Popcorn & Soda

(It is OK to bring food & other drinks, but the hall does not allow outside liquor to be brought in. Mixed drinks & beer will be available at bar prices.)

**Silent Auction, 50/50, Raffle Baskets**

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### Trivia Night Registration Form (Sign up early)

Team Captain.....Captain's Email.....

Phone #.....Amount Enclosed \$.....

**Please mail this form by April 16, 2012 along with  
payment (checks payable to LAGR) to:**

**Love a Golden Rescue  
C/O Marcia E. Berry  
33022 Crystal Lake Road  
Jerseyville, IL 62052**

**Any questions email: [goldenberry111@msn.com](mailto:goldenberry111@msn.com)**

# upcoming events

## Trivia Night

Saturday, April 27th 7:00pm  
Eagles Club  
424 E Broadway Alton, IL. 62002  
See flyer on page 10

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## Reunion Picnic



**Save the Date: Our Reunion Picnic will be September 21, 2013.**

**Love a Golden Rescue**  
**P.O. Box 27621**  
**St. Louis MO 63146-0621**



address correction requested



## About our newsletter....

The Love a Golden Rescue newsletter is published three times each year, in the months of February, June, and October. The deadline for submitting stories, photos, announcements etc. is the 1st of the month in which the newsletter is published.

We reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication.

The newsletter is published in full color in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format on our web site and can be accessed at:

[www.loveagolden.com/newsletter.htm](http://www.loveagolden.com/newsletter.htm)

To have the newsletter mailed to you, please drop a note to one of our addresses listed below.

**Are you interested in volunteering with Love a Golden Rescue?**

Complete a volunteer application form on-line at: [www.loveagolden.com/volunteerform.htm](http://www.loveagolden.com/volunteerform.htm)

or send an e-mail to [volunteer@loveagolden.com](mailto:volunteer@loveagolden.com)

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Articles must be submitted by  
June 1, 2013  
to be considered for our next newsletter.  
[newsletter@loveagolden.com](mailto:newsletter@loveagolden.com)