



“A dog is the only thing on Earth that loves you more than he loves himself.” *Josh Billings*

Dear Golden Bond Rescue Supporters,

Do you ever look into your dog’s eyes and wonder, “How did I get so lucky?” Rescue goldens come into our lives at times as sparkling new puppies and at others as seniors at the end of their lives. They walk in on four legs, sometimes limp in on three, and even roll in on a cart, sometimes with huge smiles but more frequently with a worried look in their eyes. Some rescued goldens have had a wonderful life; they became a GBR dog because they, instead of the other way around, have survived their loved ones. Those are the “fortunate” ones. For the past several years, GBR volunteers have seen more than their share of the worried ones because of the rescue work we have been doing not only locally but in Asia as well.

Our International Work

GBR’s mission “...to rescue goldens and golden mixes” does not mention boundary limits. No imaginary line is drawn that tells us this golden is worthy of a forever home, but the one on the other side of the “line” is not worthy.

Volunteers this past year have aided international goldens whose stories will haunt their dreams for many years to come. Some of our rescued goldens have been subjected to horrors at the hand of Man: burns from being scalded with boiling water; limbs removed for no better reason than “he scratched me;” starvation; severely beaten and left to die in a street; wounds so infected they were filled with maggots; or they have been bred and bred until deemed no longer useful. These gentle, furry souls continue to put their trust in people even after experiencing such terrors. After being in an airline crate for as long as 20 hours, they walk out of the crate filled with anxiety to find a GBR volunteer reaching out to them with kindness, soft words, tasty food and a warm place to sleep.

Since we began rescuing international goldens, we have brought in 395 from China, 152 from Taiwan, 25 from South Korea, 1 from Puerto Rico and 10 from Mexico.

Full Disclosure

We had our ups and downs this year – triumphs and heartaches. In July of this year, we brought over several puppies as well as an unexpected passenger – canine flu. One of the puppies had this highly contagious viral disease, which we discovered the first night they arrived. As soon as we realized something was wrong, the puppy was taken to an emergency clinic and the other puppies were quarantined. We quickly followed our

pre-established protocol and were able to prevent the flu from becoming an epidemic; happily, all of the affected dogs survived. With the help of Oregon's State Veterinarian, Dr. Emilio DeBess, we fine-tuned our protocol and have added two vaccines to the core vaccines given before international goldens arrive in the USA. Dr. DeBess assisted us in purchasing a bivalent flu vaccine that covers the H3N2 and H3N8 strains and a nasal Bordetella/parainfluenza vaccine, all of which were hand carried to China (For some unknown reason, the vaccine is unavailable in Asia.). Canine flu has been in the United States for many years, and we strongly recommend you consult with your veterinarian about vaccinating your dogs.

Meet Three of Our 2019 Rescues

As in past years, we'd like to introduce you to a few of the dogs your generous support has enabled us to help. Your donations from last year's End of Year Letter, plus those given throughout 2019, allowed us to rescue 42 local dogs, 120 dogs from China (we have 68 in Beijing waiting for their turn to come to America) and one dog from South Korea. 360 people sent in adoption applications asking to give these 163 dogs forever homes! Let's meet three of those 163: Zipper, Lexi and Zelda.



Zipper: We heard about Zipper when she was only four months old but it took another 5 months before she was physically able to travel. Her previous owner in China became upset because of some puppy antics and poured boiling water over her. Almost half of her body was scalded. It took months of recovery but eventually she became well enough to fly to the United States and meet her forever family. The fur will never grow back in the scalded areas so she will require special care year-round to protect her skin from

sun-burn, frost bite and scratches. Her care has become a community project in her new home town!



Lexi: Although GBR is primarily a golden retriever rescue, the occasional non-golden does find its way into GBR. Lexi is a silver lab that came from a breeder in Springfield, Oregon, who bred her at least three times a year from the time she could breed until she was six years old. When a vet told the breeder that Lexi was at the end of her breeding career, he gave her away. Like many dogs in breeding farms, Lexi was kept isolated in a kennel in a barn. Her social skills were minimal, and she was very shy with people. Before

attracting the attention of a GBR volunteer, she passed from one home to another. When she finally landed on the doorstep of GBR, we discovered she needed more than just a forever home. She had been bred so often the skin on her abdomen was stretched to the point that whenever she attempted to get up, she would stand on the skin and frequently tear it. GBR paid to give Lexi a "tummy tuck." Lexi's life now includes running on the beach, boating and, of course, love from her forever family.





Zelda: We don't know Zelda's background, only that she was found abandoned on a street in Beijing, China. She may have been beaten or hit by a car which resulted in injuries that went unattended so long that the wounds were filled with maggots. She was also suffering from malnutrition, dehydration, pancreatitis and

pneumonia. Zelda spent several months isolated in a vet clinic before she was well enough to be moved to the "Together for Animals in China" shelter. Although she is an adult golden (about three years old), her foster mom reports Zelda's inner puppy has come out and she's making up for lost time!



Bra\$\$ Tack\$ Time

As you read this, you may be thinking something like, "Boy, here they go asking for money again." Well, the reason we keep asking for money is simply because we keep needing money. Rescuing goldens (local and international) is expensive. Bringing in the lucky dogs from Asia is a costly proposition: about \$1,500 per dog, which includes getting them in good physical condition and vaccinated so they can make the long flight to America. So, if you can dig deep again (or for the first time), and help us with a tax deductible, year-end donation, we will be most grateful. If you can't, we still thank you ever so much for your support of our organization and its work.



Once you make your End of Year donation, Golden Bond Rescue, like other non-profits, would love it if you would consider becoming a recurring monthly donor. We have a suggestion for you: Think about how much you spend on a guilty pleasure, such as Starbucks coffee or fast food meals, and make that amount your monthly donation.

You'll probably be surprised by how small this number is, so we have another suggestion for you: round it up - way up!! Just as a guideline, let's say the number you came up with is \$7.45; just round it on up to \$10. Or, if the number is \$13.59, round that baby on up to a nice even \$20. (Have you noticed how we're trying to make the math easy for you?!!)

Seriously, we would be most appreciative if you would consider making monthly contributions. You can do this in a couple of ways:

1. Most banks have free automatic bill paying. This can be done online or by asking your bank for help. Just tell them the amount you want sent monthly and provide our mailing address: Golden Bond Rescue, PO Box 25391, Portland, OR 97298.
2. Use the *Donate Now* button our Home page, select "PayPal/Credit Card" payment, enter the amount you want to donate monthly, check the "make this a monthly donation" box, and finally click either the "donate with debit or credit card" or "Pay Pal" button.
3. Payroll deductions: You can ask your employer or retirement institution to deduct a certain amount every month and automatically send it to GBR.

Easy peesy, you no longer have to think about it!

How to Donate

Below are several methods of making your End of Year donation. Choose the one that best fits your donation “style” – better yet – try them all!

1. Send a check to: Golden Bond Rescue, PO Box 25391, Portland, OR 97298
2. Donate via a credit card: Click on the “Donate Now” bone button on our Home page and click on PayPal/Credit Card and follow the instructions.
3. Donate via Venmo (@goldenbondrescue): Click on the “Donate Now” bone button on our Home page and click on Venmo.
4. Mail us a VISA or MasterCard gift card to: Golden Bond Rescue, PO Box 25391, Portland, OR 97298. We’ll use it to purchase food, beds, leashes, treats, etc., when we need those items.

Volunteer Anyone?

Just as important as donations are our volunteers. We could have a million dollars (sigh) in the bank but without volunteers, no dogs would get rescued. If you have a bit of time you’re willing to donate to GBR, please contact us via our Volunteer link on our Home page (<https://goldenbondrescue.com/volunteer-application/>). We ALWAYS need those volunteers who are willing to open their homes to foster a rescued golden for 3-4 weeks and then help the Adoption Team choose the right forever home; however, there are many, many more volunteer jobs needing your time: Adoption Manager, transport, airport assistance, dog evaluations, home visits, newsletter articles, meet & greets, fundraising, event planning, etc.

In Closing

As always, we truly appreciate every one of you who have donated, volunteered, and supported GBR over the past three-plus decades. Without all of you, GBR would not be where it is today and, more importantly, the 3,300 dogs you’ve helped us rescue over the years would not have found forever homes.

Here’s wishing you a happy and safe holiday season.

Golden Bond Rescue

“Dogs have a way of finding people who need them, and filling an emptiness we didn’t ever know we had.” *Thom Jones*

