

Golden Nuggets

www.egrr.net

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

Summer 2017

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SUMMER IN PUGET SOUND



“Saving one dog will not change the world, but, surely for that one dog the world will change forever.” - Unknown



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May 15, 2018

From the President's Desk



Tony Bahnick – President, Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

After our rather cool and damp spring, it's been nice to welcome some warmth and sunshine back to the Pacific Northwest. Please remember with the heat comes dangers to our four legged friends, even walks on the street as an air temperature of 77 degrees can cause asphalt to heat up to 125 degrees, which can cause tissue damage, and it only gets hotter from there.

I'd like to again thank Kathy Hobson for her 5 years of service to the EGRR board, and welcome Gloria Kaczmariski who was elected to the Board during our recent Annual Members Meeting. I'm not sure why I didn't register this, but I overlooked that Vicky Smith also reached her 5-year term limit for being on the EGRR board; thank you Vicki for your service to the EGRR Board! Thank you, Maddy Wiley (who is also our Volunteer Coordinator) for agreeing to join the Board in Vicky's place; Maddy was unanimously approved by the Board, and I would like to welcome Maddy as our newest Board member.

I'm sure many of you who attended the Annual Members meeting were as astonished as I was during Kathy Hobson's excellent and eye-opening presentation on her (and Tate's) involvement with search and rescue for lost cats and dogs and as to just how many dogs are reported lost (200 to 250 per month in Snohomish County, alone!). For this edition of Golden Nuggets, Kathy was kind enough to provide a summary of the pro-active steps, as she described during her presentation, that we all can take before our dog goes missing to improve the chances of being found, along with steps to take if your dog goes missing. As with all 4th of July Holidays, there will be a dramatic spike in the number of dogs and cats who go missing; the information Kathy provided is well worth sharing to all of those concerned about the well-being of their canine and feline (and other) family members.

A related item that Kathy also enlightened us with is a number of social media sites dedicated to the reporting and reuniting of lost pets, including but not limited to Facebook pages such as:

Lost Dogs of Snohomish County #1
Lost and Found Pets of Thurston County
My neighborhood Facebook pages

Lost Dogs of King County
Lost and Found Pets of Washington State

Many of these pages have dedicated administrators and volunteers who will cross-check postings of lost pets with those who have been found, and with all of the additional local eyes and ears that social media can put on alert, the chances that a lost pet will be reunited with its owner are substantially improved. Last week I was working out of town and looking at some of the lost dog posts, one of the found dog pictures looked very familiar to me – it was my backyard!! My wife and daughter brought home a very friendly Ponski (Pomeranian-husky) named Mila that was wandering next to a busy street and was almost hit. Thanks to posts on the Lost Dogs of King County, Mila was reunited with her distraught owners the same day!

A reminder that there is still time to renew your EGRR Membership for 2017. It is wonderful to think of all those that have kept their memberships going year after year, and we kindly ask everyone to do so again for calendar year 2017!!!

The primary focus of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue (EGRR) is on rescuing Golden Retrievers in need. Driven by our belief in responsible pet ownership, we are dedicated to ensuring for dogs such as these a future of care and affection.

Happy Endings

Maggie

By Laura Strehlau

I believe in destiny and synchronicity or whatever you call it when it appears someone or something has intervened on your behalf. We had lost our beloved Pono, (nicknamed Red Dog, by our caretaker) an EGRR rescue Golden, only a few weeks before when I got the EGRR newsletter. It reminded me to write and tell EGRR about Pono's death. I also mentioned that should another Golden come up for adoption sometime, we would be very interested. From recent newsletters I knew there weren't any Golden retrievers available, but I had to put it out there anyway.

Surprisingly a few days later, Nancy Kiesler called and asked if I was ready for a new family member. She related that her foster dog required certain things in an adopter and no one on the waiting list met these requirements. We, she said, fit them to a "T". We knew we'd never replace Pono in our hearts but the house seemed lonely and Pele, our other rescue Golden, seemed depressed. We drove to Nancy's house to see the dog named Red, no doubt named for her coloring. I felt this red dog was meant to live with us. She was "pre-approved" by Pono.

Nancy didn't know much about her past. She knew her previous owner was seriously ill and kenneled Red for four months, hoping to get better and have her return which didn't happen. We brought Pele along for his approval and he quickly perked up once he met his new friend. After being cooped up for months, Red, now named Maggie, was excited to be "free". She was obviously trained, but seem to have forgotten most of what she knew.



Happy Endings

Maggie

Continued from page 3

The first evening at home, she jumped on our bed and immediately fell asleep on her back with all her paws spread eagle. I am sure she was thinking "I'm home!" This has been her spot at night ever since. Pele and Maggie have an acre to run and play though they both stay close to the house once they have made their rounds. Pele runs off to find misplaced tennis balls while Maggie heads to the pasture where she greets the goats and chickens with a bark. Maggie loves toys, the fluffier and squeakier the better. She quickly collected a basket full of rubber pigs, a purple dachshund which she flings around, running after it and then relaxing with it between her paws happily squeaking away.



Our dogs get a daily walk adhering to the motto, "If your dog is too fat, you aren't getting enough exercise." Maggie wasn't happy to be on a leash and within a few days of bringing her home, I was at the doctor's office with bruised ribs and a sprained wrist. She pulled me down a hill before I remembered to let go of her leash. Training time started shortly after my recovery. A friend going through the "Positive Dog Training" course made Maggie one of her first students. She is progressing well but she still loves to greet all guests with a sloppy kiss on their face. We are working on the behavior though who doesn't love to be kissed?

Maggie has been with us ten months now. She has filled out now and looks more like Pele every day. Sometimes it is hard to tell them apart. They often curl up together for afternoon naps. A few weeks ago, we took her to the beach. She was free to run all she wanted. It was joyful watching this wonderful dog enjoying her new life. I know Pono would have approved too .

More Happy Endings

Hunter

By Sue Schmidt

On October 2, 2012, a new dimension to our family's life began. Our family has had dogs in the past and I loved them all, but I have always been more of a cat person. Hunter is the dog that turned me into a dog mom. The family calls him my "Velcro boy." When he first came home with us, he followed me everywhere! Now he will sometimes let me go downstairs for a few minutes without him. He was afraid of almost everything. I couldn't sweep or carry a grocery bag near him without him flinching. Over the years, he has come a long way from that. It is wonderful for us to see how we can sweep near him while he lays there contentedly. He is also our barky boy! Squirrels, bunnies, other dogs—all require him to talk to them...loudly. In the first couple years, he loved taking long walks and running with my husband. He always looked so majestic running on the beach with his tail held high. And in March of 2014, with Hunter's very strong approval, we added a Chihuahua mix named Bella. They spend all their time together, and he is so sweet and allows her to think she is the boss.



In late 2014, we noticed Hunter limping and being hesitant to sit. His left knee looked swollen. Our vet said it looked like he injured his CCL so we decided to try and treat him non-surgically. We found an awesome swim therapist, Gretchen, who worked with him. Before long, the swelling left his leg and he couldn't open his mouth very far. After another vet visit and testing for triple M (editor's note: Masticatory Muscle Myositis) they found that wasn't the answer either. Gretchen recommended Dr. Sperlich, who did acupuncture, and that helped some.

More Happy Endings

Hunter

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He wasn't eating; I had to hand-feed him. Soon, he was barely able to move and only went outside to go potty. No one had an answer for us. We finally found an internist who did a huge battery of tests, and the results came back as immune-mediated polyarthritis. Thankfully, with medication...lots and lots of medication, he is able to get around fairly well. His walks are now slow and only about a half mile, but he loves getting out and sniffing everything.

Unfortunately, a year after his first diagnosis, we found lumps on his left hip. It turned out to be spindle cell sarcoma. One of his vets, Dr. Comer, performed surgery to remove most of the cancerous tissue and he is now on chemo pills. So far, so good. He has swim therapy once a week and acupuncture twice a month. They both help so much to relieve his pain and keep his energy levels high.

He is our special boy and we are so glad he is part of our family! It wouldn't be the same coming home without his wagging tail and whatever he can pick up in his mouth. Hunter isn't just a dog to us; he is family.



2017 Annual Meeting

By Nancy Kiesler

May is the month for EGRR's Annual Member's Meeting and this year it was held on May 7th. Board members were elected and as usual, volunteers and adopters had a good time reconnecting. EGRC members were there to sell t-shirts and other nice clothing items with logos from many of their past events.



At every annual meeting we try to include an educational presentation and this year was no different. Kathy Hobson gave a very interesting and well-received presentation on how to be prepared should your pet go missing. She has provided a summary of her presentation in this newsletter (see page 9).

Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

Fantastic Late Summer Picnic

The date of this year's picnic has been changed in the hope that the weather will still be sunny but cooler. Everything else remains the same. We hope to see you and your canine friends there. Here are the specifics:

Date: Sunday, September 17th
Time: Noon to 3 pm
Location: Lions' Day Camp, 21230 SE 184th St.,
Maple Valley WA 98038

What to bring: A side dish or salad to share and your own beverages. (non-alcoholic, of course). EGRR will provide the ever-popular hamburger, hot dogs and garden burgers plus plates and eating utensils and dessert. You'll also want to bring a little extra cash since we will have a raffle to help defray the cost of the picnic plus t-shirts available for sale. We can always use donations for the raffle such as that birthday present that didn't fit or the gift you ended up not giving. It does not need to be dog related.



RSVP by September 5th to Michelle Bahnick at mbahnick@gmail.com and tell us how many are coming and what they would like to eat ie hamburger, hot dog or gardenburger so that the chef can plan.

Dogs, please, should be on a leash. If there are dog to dog introductions, the doggie courtesy is that there should first be a request from the other owner and then done very carefully and slowly on a short, controlled, leash.

Volunteers will be needed for set-up, cooking, selling raffle tickets and the always fun clean-up. If you can help with one or more, please let our Volunteer Coordinator, Maddy Wiley know at mwiley@familycareofkent.com

Thanks! Be there or be square!!



Group Picture From The 2016 Picnic

My Worst Fear My Dog Is Lost

By Kathy Hobson



What to do “before” your pet goes missing

Micro-chip you're pet. Most important and reunites the most pets. Make sure your information is always up-to-date (i.e. if you move, change phone #'s, etc). If you are not sure if your micro-chip information is current, or have forgotten the micro-chip provider contact information, you can have the micro-chip read at your vet; once you have the chip number, there are several websites (such as www.petmicrochiplookup.org) that you can enter the micro-chip number to obtain the contact information of the chip provider.

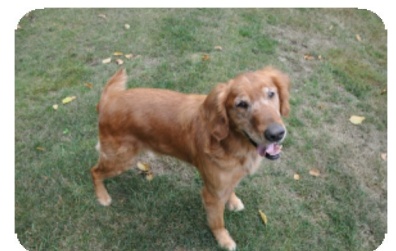


Collect scent article. To make the scent article, you start with a sterile gauze pad. You should have rubber gloves on when you do this, to avoid adding your own scent to the article. Rub the sterile gauze pad all over your dog along the mouth and ears, between the toes, all over the body, and in the area of the hind quarters. If your gauze pad ends up covered with fur, that's even better. Place the pad in a Ziplock-type storage bag. Mark the outside of the bag, using a Sharpie, with the dog's name and the date the sample was taken. Store it in your freezer. A scent article stored in this manner should be useful for up to six months



Collar with name and phone number on it. Tags can come off.

Take a picture, for 2 reasons. A) for identifying your dog B) for “lost” dog fliers



My Worst Fear My Dog Is Lost

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What to do “after” your pet goes missing

Take a quick scan of your area. Drive around looking but also asking people if they have seen your dog.

Get signs up ASAP. Signs mean sightings, sightings mean direction of travel your dog went. Use the 5-5-55. 5 words you can see from 5 feet going 55 mph.

Contact chip company and let them know your pet is missing.

Contact local vets, pet stores and businesses with flyers.

Check your local shelter daily (or at least every other day) and fill a “lost pet report”

Lost



Golden Retriever REWARD

Lexie (female, 12 years old)
Last seen by QFC
near Hilltop Rd, Kirkland.
Brown collar with name tag.
425-226-1446



Post on social media,

FB, Craigslist. My neighborhood FB page (Lost Dogs of Snohomish County #1) reunites an average of 220-250 dogs a month!

Tag your car



Intersection alert:

-Coordinate and schedule a group of volunteers, family, and friends to help you for several hours.

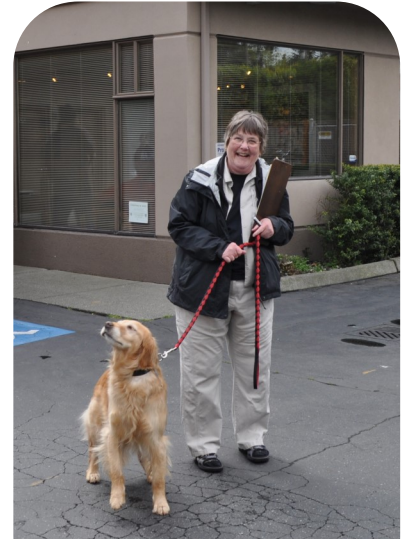
-Make 4 to 10 large, neon signs and hundreds of 8.5" x 11" flyers (handouts)

-Choose an intersection location and time based on local traffic and based on the circumstances of the dog's disappearance.

The “Eyes” Have It

By Honey Kiesler, roving reporter

This year's Pigmentary Uveitis (PU) screening clinic filled up very quickly thanks to some serious publicity and included quite a few non-EGRR or EGRC dogs. Reaching Golden owners not familiar with the condition was the goal so the effort was clearly successful. I attended again this year and again the staff appreciated my help. They also appreciated how smoothly the clinic ran thanks to the assistance provided by Donna Day early in the morning and later by my Dad, Allan Kiesler. Fifty dogs were checked and consistent with previous clinics, seven dogs or **almost 15% were diagnosed with PU**. These dogs will now receive daily eye drops and occasional checks with Dr. Sullivan or another ophthalmologist. Fortunately, I was not one of them. But that does not mean I don't have to be checked again.



Donna and me greeting people

I had the opportunity to interview Dr. Sullivan during my exam and he told me that he feels **every Golden should be checked annually until about age 12 or when told it is no longer necessary**. Since this screening clinic is pretty unique, I asked him how it got started. He told me that

many years ago, he got tired of having Golden retrievers come in for the first time and all he could do for them was remove their already blind and painful eye. If diagnosed and treated early, the risk of progression is significantly less and the clinics are a way for this to happen. What a guy!!



Dr. Sullivan checking me out.

The "Eyes" Have It

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If you were not able to attend this clinic for any reason, there are other ways to get your dog checked. **Remember that all Goldens age 4 years and older, should be checked annually.**

Eye clinics are often held at dog shows so that is one way. Another is to make an appointment for a Genetic Eye Screen at the Animal Eye Clinic with Dr. Sullivan or his equally nice colleague, Dr.

Landry. This appointment is less costly than a regular appointment and will screen for PU and other genetic eye problems. That's what my parents did with my brother, *Tracer*, because he is too naughty to attend this group clinic. Fortunately, he also got a good report which was a relief to my parents who have been dealing with PU for over 9 years.



My fellow Goldens excited for their exam!



Me helping the wonderful eye clinic staff

For those who do not know it, *Mandy*, my sister, is now blind due to Glaucoma which developed as a result of the Pigmentary Uveitis. She is a very good example of why this condition needs to be taken very seriously. If the Animal Eye Clinic is not convenient for you, please make an appointment with another animal ophthalmologist nearer to you. Your dog's sight could depend on it.

Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who are hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they miss someone very special to them; who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. The bright eyes are intent; the eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster. YOU have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart. Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together.....

Shelby - Jean Thies and Laura Keim (2016)

Shelby was an absolute joy to share life with! We knew from the moment we picked her up at the Edmonds Ferry dock that her favorite place was the car! We opened the door and she jumped right in. We could take her anywhere and everywhere. And we had to! For fifteen months our lives were brightened because of her presence with us. She lifted everyone's spirits...from those of her clients who visited in our home to the folks at the assisted living facility where we frequently took her. Shelby was a real "shot in the arm" for all who met her. We are grateful to have known and loved her. Thanks, Shelby!



Rainbow Bridge



Zack - Rose Barg (2011)

Zack was a gentle dog and greeted everyone with a big smile after which he would sit on their feet. My husband was working overseas and Skype is how Zack got acquainted with Daddy so he became very good watching monitors, especially our home security monitors. No one, human or animal, could walk past our front yard without Zack warning us. He had fear issues which he overcame. He had no idea what to do with toys but eventually he learned. In October 2015, we adopted PuaLani, (now Gracie), whom we had fostered through knee surgery, because she and Zack had bonded through her long recovery. They played together a lot and shared toys. Every morning Gracie would hug Zack and they would kiss each other. Although we all, including Gracie, have adjusted to Zack being gone, he has left a permanent hole in our hearts. RIP, Zack.

Champ - Sandy Alexander (2012)

I adopted "Champ" Thanksgiving weekend 2012. I told him and everyone else how appropriate that was because I was thankful every day to have him in my life! He was a timid guy when I first got him....afraid of noise, sudden movements, stairs, doors, entering rooms, and big people. He didn't know what a tennis ball was, let alone show any interest in one. In the 5 years that we were together he became the love of my life and of everyone at work. That was a lot of love since work is a gym full of children. He became a lover of life, adventure, people, and yes, even the tennis ball. The most loyal friend ever! In early Feb. he was diagnosed with a difficult systemic cancer. We fought the good fight, but March 18, 2017 it became evident we weren't going to win that fight. Thank you EGRR for giving us the best years ever!!



Rainbow Bridge

Barley - John Busch (2011)

I wanted to reach out to all who may have had the chance to share a smile, pat, hug or maybe even a trail with Brandy aka Barley. Barley shocked our world by passing before any of us had an inclination that she was not feeling well just a few months short of her 12th birthday. Barley spent the last 7 years of her life as the greeter, friend and companion of everyone at Lithtex NW in Bellingham. What an incredible loving, patient and respectful golden she was. Never a bark, a jump or interaction that wasn't received with the biggest smile from whomever may cross her path. While the front door was literally always open, Barley would never wander as she knew there could be no place with more love than where she was. Amazing to think I even hesitated in taking her to work with me for never would I have imagined the number of lives one Golden could have touched on a daily basis. Thank you EGRR giving us a gift we will cherish the rest of our lives.



Gifford - Chris Enrico (2008)

Gifford came to me via EGRR. He had a previous (provoked) bite history which precluded him from the normal adoption route. He ended up briefly at PAWS in Lynnwood with his dog sibling (a Lab who was adopted) where EGRR collected him. I, having no kids, little interaction with kids, and previous experience with aggressive dogs, was Gifford's only option at life. So he came here to live out his days. And never once did he show any aggressive behavior. At one point he had up to five other dogs to interact with including aggressive ones. He was a great dog and friend.

Rainbow Bridge

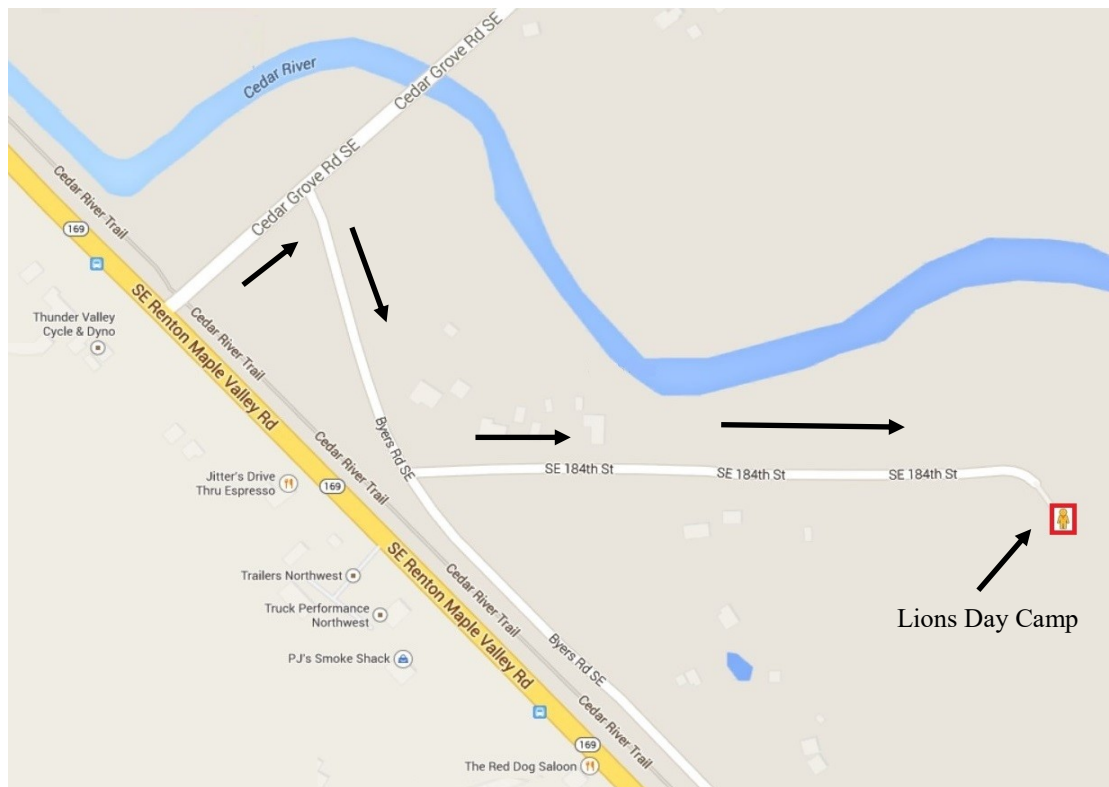
Hunter - Sheila Fiepke (2011)



Hunter came to me as my foster dog after spending his first years as an outside dog in a kennel. He quickly set up camp at my house loving the life of an indoor companion, and stayed on as a family member. He was a very handsome and happy guy rarely seen without a stuffed animal or two in his mouth, rolling in the grass with them or tossing them in the air. In his younger years, he was a great tennis ball chaser and hoarder, loved to swim, "needed" 3 walks a day, but, most of all, loved his home and yard and being close by my side. The one memory I will always have of Hunter was his great zest for life. He greeted every day, every walk, every full food dish like it was his first and last. He was healthy until diagnosed with advanced lymphoma, he spent his last days at home with me- just as he wanted. I miss him dearly.

Directions to Lion's Day Camp—site of our Annual Picnic

Address: 21202 SE 184th. St. Maple Valley, WA 98038 (approx. 8 miles from Renton) From I-405, take exit 4; take SE Renton -Maple Valley Rd. (WA-169) south toward Maple Valley. Turn left onto Cedar Grove Rd. SE. (stop-light). Immediately turn right onto Byer Rd. SE. Left onto SE 184th. St and take it to the end.



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17**

**EGRR
7th Annual
Picnic**

Where are they now???

By Sue Randall



Rex Age 1 year old neutered male. This young dog came in as a poorly socialized dog that was showing lack of confidence with people & children. The family decided he did not belong with them due to his supposed poor behavior. My how he loved the company of other dogs though.

He was such a sweet young dog that gained confidence in his foster home(s). He delighted in the appropriate attention from people, also gaining confidence in their presence. Now he is adopted & apparently allows his new owner to say "I can't imagine the home without him".

Dog Food Recall Website

By Nancy Kiesler

Dog Food Advisor

Are you concerned that the food or treats you give your dog could be recalled and you would not know it? If you are, then you might want to consider signing up for free email recall alerts of dog foods and treats from the Dog Food Advisor. You can do so by going to their website.

<http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recall-alerts/>



General Donations

Bob and Pat Miles

Arlene McLaughlin

Tim Randall

Sharon Muza

Ginger Simons

Kathryn Warren

Elizabeth Hextall

Marv Wolfson

Ann Mosley

Carol Mackin

Michael and Susan Krieger

Phil and Lee Cummings

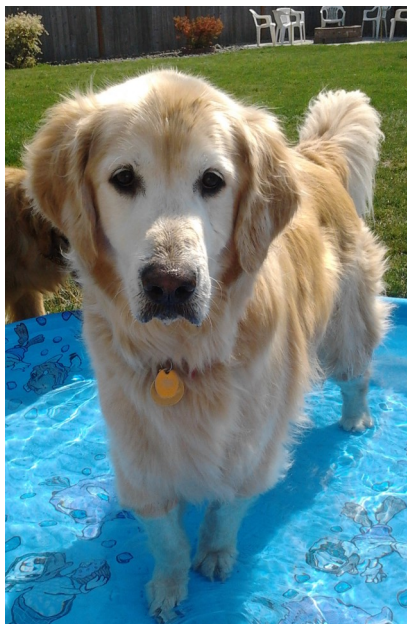
Linda and Paul Johnson

Tom and Karen Jones

Greg and Vicky Smith

Dr. Thomas Sullivan

EGRC members who donated with
their EGRC membership renewal



Honorary Donations

Allan and Nancy Kiesler
In appreciation of June and David Akizuki

Memorial Donations

The staff at Lithtex NW in memory of their buddy,
“Barley” Busch

Sheila Fiepke in loving memory of her special boy,
“Hunter”

John Chapman in memory of his sweet
“Buffi”

Ann and Jim Gibson in memory of
“Finlay” Randall

Donations given via I-Give, Just Give, GR Foundation, Benevity or United Way of King County are very much appreciated but they arrive without donor information which means we are unable to thank or acknowledge your generosity.

EGRR is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax deductible so please consider helping us in our efforts. If your employer will match your donation, consider EGRR in your charitable giving.

Send a check, payable to EGRR to:

Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue
PO Box 3088
Renton, WA 98056