

# Golden Nuggets

[www.egrr.net](http://www.egrr.net)

Official Publication of Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue

Winter 2017

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



**Zack**

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



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*The Golden Nuggets will be published on a quarterly basis. Articles, questions, photos, etc., should be submitted by the following dates in order to appear in the next quarterly issue:*

February 15, 2018  
May 15, 2018  
September 15, 2018  
November 15, 2018

# From the President's Desk

December 2017



As 2017 nears an end, Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue (EGRR) has continued to experience the national trend of a reduction of Goldens entering rescue with the majority that do enter being seniors and/or special needs. With this in mind, EGRR has been researching opportunities to bring Goldens into our rescue group, both domestically and internationally, and I anticipate that several of these opportunities will come to fruition in 2018. This will provide for many volunteer needs, including transport, coordinating arrivals, cleaning and returning portable dog kennels and fostering, to name a few. We may also have volunteer opportunities to help with fund raising so that efforts to bring Goldens in need into EGRR that prove successful can be sustained – stay tuned!

**A reminder that the 2018 Membership renewal period is now upon us.** 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 2018!!!

As you prepare for this holiday season, please remember that it tends to be one of our busiest periods. We understand how hectic and stressful our lives become at this time of the year and that the idea of bringing in a strange dog may be overwhelming. Unfortunately, this is also the season when people decide to simplify their life by getting rid of their dog. Please consider this thought – that the joy and satisfaction you experience having a Golden house guest for a couple weeks knowing you have changed his life forever may ultimately be the best gift you receive this holiday season.

Happy Holidays!

Tony Bahnick

*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

## Cooper

By Kerry Keller-Ash

We adopted Cooper in 2011. Our youngest child, Taig, was headed to kindergarten in the fall and we decided our two year old golden retriever, Guenevere, would be inconsolably lonely without a playmate. Granted there was generally an adult human around most of the day, and then there were the two cats...truth be told perhaps we just wanted our golden population to double. Two adult humans, two child humans, two cats, and one dog? Clearly we needed another golden retriever to provide balance. We had adopted our Guenevere from a breeder and felt this time around it was important that we give an older dog in need of a family a home.



After doing some online research we found Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue (EGRR). After what felt like ages after we got the “green light” from EGRR that we had been accepted as adopters, we got word that a four year old male was available and might be a good match for us.

Immediately upon meeting each other, Cooper and Guenevere were playing well together. Us four humans were instantly charmed if not a little taken aback by his size (he stands 29” tall and weighs around 100 pounds). His foster mom, Angie, explained that he was a wonderful dog who was a bit laid back and loved to rest on the couch. There was really nothing to discuss. Guenevere and he got on like a house afire, he and the kids got along great and we were willing to let him share the couch—if the cats were.



Soon after, his foster folks brought him to our home in West Seattle, and the rest, as they say, is history. Cooper is an even-tempered, no-nonsense, well-mannered guy. He is eleven now and has slowed down quite a bit. When the hubbub of our household gets a bit too much he gets up from his dog bed, or spot on the heating register (climbing on the couch has been abandoned, likely due to hip issues) and puts himself to bed upstairs in the master bedroom snuggled between the bed and the wall. This spot ensures that the worries of the everyday world are left far behind. This behavior is in line with Cooper’s absolute belief that he is a much smaller dog than his body would have one believe. He spends a good deal of his time moving chairs out of the way to make his way to a spot crammed between said chair and the wall, or under the breakfast bar, or under the dining table. Another favorite spot is directly behind the chair in which you are sitting making it impossible to back your chair out from the table and excuse yourself from a meal.



# Happy Endings

## Cooper

Continued from page 3

Cooper has a great smile, loves his walks around the neighborhood and in his younger days he loved playing with Guenevere and the kids in the backyard. We are lucky enough to have access to a family house on Camano Island, or as we refer to it for Cooper “the swimmy house”. The first time we took him there for a weekend he got out of the car, sniffed the air, bee-lined it to the beach, jumped in the Sound and started swimming. He will swim to retrieve a stick as long as your arm can throw it, and probably even longer than that. A few years ago the current took our daughter Siobhan’s flip-flop out to sea and he lived up to his breed’s name by swimming out and retrieving it. He was our hero that day as neither my husband nor I, the only two present capable of getting the sandal, relished the idea of braving the sound late in the day.



Another time at Camano I let Cooper and Guenevere out early one spring morning and they both headed straight to a patch of long grass in the far corner of the yard. They were pawing the grass and sniffing and wagging. When I called them back to me I saw Cooper had something in his mouth. I asked him to drop it and put my hand to his mouth to discover what he had gotten into. My hand touched his velvety muzzle and something else soft and warm. I was holding a tiny baby rabbit. The bunny was unharmed, apparently in good shape, although likely terrified. I did what I could for him according to advice found online and returned him to the area where the dogs had found him. When I looked later that day he was gone—I like to think he was reunited with his family.

This last summer we had to say goodbye to our sweet Guenevere, too young at eight years old. Afterwards Cooper seemed more lethargic than normal, and more unsteady on his already shaky back legs. My husband, daughter, and son relied on Cooper as our therapy dog over the next few weeks. And although we had always called Guenevere the nurse in the family, as she seemed to instinctually know who needed a little extra attention and would seek them out and provide it happily, Cooper rose to the occasion as much as his somewhat reserved nature allowed. He was always best as the protector, the alpha dog taking the lead when he felt Guenevere or we needed someone with a deep bark to stand between us and danger.

# Happy Endings

## Cooper

Continued From Page 4



We welcomed eighteen month old Cosmo in September, an energetic but submissive Bernedoodle (Bernese mountain dog poodle mix) who understands that ours is Cooper's house.

Between Cosmo's exuberance and our veterinarian's recommended food and various vitamins and prescription pills, Cooper has regained a lot of his vim. The dogs can be found wrestling or sleeping near each other. Cosmo sometimes licking Cooper's muzzle for reassurance. Cooper retains his place between the master bed and wall where he nestles when it's all a bit too much. However these days he allows Cosmo to step over him each morning to make sure the human sleeping there is aware that the alarm has gone off which means time to get up and get moving.

We are thankful every day to EGRR for our well-loved sweet and dignified golden, Cooper and hope to make more memories with him for years to come.





# The Big 4

## GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY'S CANCER MILE MARKERS

Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, with more than 3,000 dogs enrolled, is a groundbreaking effort to shed light on cancer and its causes, giving veterinary researchers valuable insight to chart a course for future studies.

The study, now in its fifth year, is designed to identify risk factors for cancer and other health problems. The four major cancers targeted by the study are:



### LYMPHOMA

- Most common type of blood-cell tumor
- Similarities to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in people
- Several breeds pre-disposed to lymphoma: bulldogs boxers and bullmastiffs
- Classified into 2 types: B-cell and T-cell
- To date, 15 diagnoses and 7 deaths due to lymphoma in study dogs

### HEMANGIOSARCOMA

- One of the most aggressive tumors of dogs
- Three common sites: spleen, right atrium of the heart and skin
- Strong breed association with German shepherds and golden retrievers
- Affects older dogs (average age 10 years)
- To date, 1 death due to hemangiosarcoma

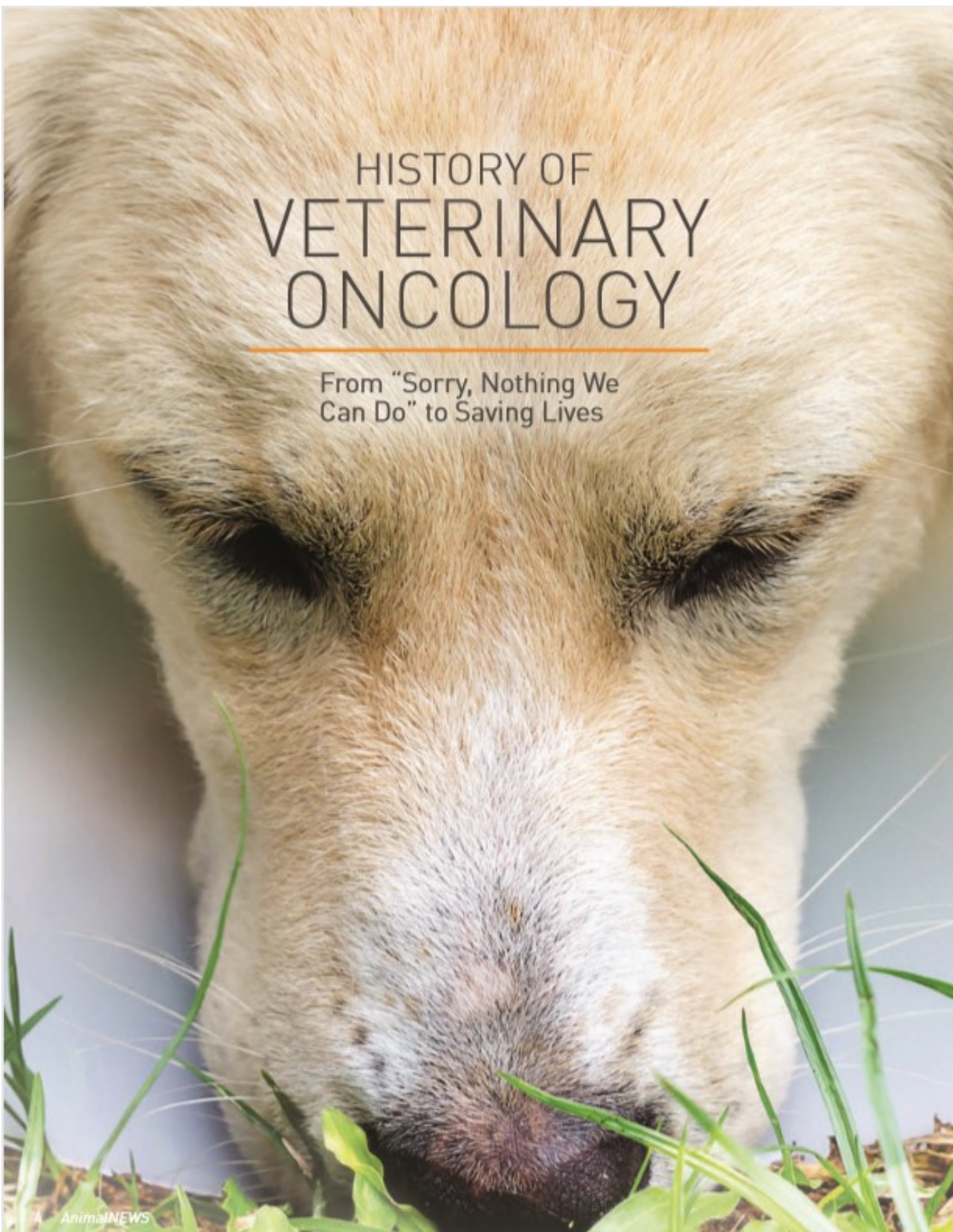
### OSTEOSARCOMA

- Most common primary bone tumor of dogs
- Affects primarily large and giant-breed dogs
- Height is more important risk factor than breed
- Occurs most commonly in dogs 7-9 years of age, and 1-2 years of age
- To date, no study dogs diagnosed with osteosarcoma

### MAST CELL TUMOR

- Most common skin tumor of dogs
- Many breeds at risk; highest incidence in brachycephalic breeds
- One of the most commonly cured cancers in dogs
- Surgery is first and best treatment choice
- To date, 1 study dog diagnosed with high-grade mast cell tumor





# HISTORY OF VETERINARY ONCOLOGY

From "Sorry, Nothing We  
Can Do" to Saving Lives

Thanks to advances in veterinary medicine and animal care, our pets are living longer than ever. The bad news is that age brings a greater risk of developing cancer and other diseases. In fact, cancer is a leading cause of death in dogs and cats, with some 12 million new cases diagnosed annually.

Given those numbers, it's hard to imagine a time when cancer treatment was almost non-existent for our companion animals, but that used to be the case.

Up until the early 1900s, veterinarians were focused on treating working animals. As small animals moved from working animals to family pets, their owners sought a different kind of care. Some veterinarians became small animal experts, including Dr. Mark Morris Sr. who was one of those early pioneers seeking to advance the science of small animal veterinary medicine.

From those early forays, specialties began to evolve, with the first two being pathology and public health in 1950. Today, veterinary oncology is a subspecialty of veterinary internal medicine, one of 40 distinct specialties in veterinary medicine. The evolution of veterinary oncology paralleled advances made in the treatment of human cancers.

"Lymphoma was one of the first cancers we started treating in dogs," said Dr. Al Legendre, a Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and one of the nation's first veterinary oncologists. "People saw that children and young adults were being successfully treated for the disease, and began to ask their veterinarians about it. A lot of interest in treating cancer in pets was driven by owners at first, not by the veterinary community."

This began to change in the late 1960s and early 1970s when a few veterinarians based at veterinary teaching hospitals started applying methods used to treat cancer in humans on pets.

"In the beginning, there were just a handful of us sitting in a small room chatting about our experiences," said Dr. Legendre. "However, in just a few more years, these rooms would be overflowing with veterinarians interested in what we were doing. These gatherings were the beginning of the Veterinary Cancer Society, formed in 1976."

## "TODAY, NEARLY 400 VETERINARY ONCOLOGISTS ARE IN PRACTICE..."

In the 1980s, formal residency programs in veterinary oncology took shape. Today, nearly 400 veterinary oncologists are in practice around the world, treating both small and large animals with cancer.

Morris Animal Foundation has played an important role in advancing veterinary oncology, funding more than 300 cancer studies for a total investment of \$34.4 million. That work continues today with the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, Osteosarcoma Initiative, and more than 40 other active cancer studies.



# Time To Renew Your Membership



It's that time of the year again! Time to renew your membership in EGRR for 2018.

Despite our reduction in intake numbers, your support is needed even more because almost all dogs coming into our program have significant veterinary health problems.

Need a last minute holiday gift idea? For only \$10.00 per person, you can give a Golden Retriever-loving friend or relative a membership in EGRR and we will send them a Holiday Card telling them of your thoughtfulness. You can do the same for your dog or your friend's dog since we have a canine supporting membership. We even have memberships for non-canine friends and family!!



So join or renew now - it is very easy. Here's how:

Go to the membership page on our website:

<https://www.egrr.net/membership-application/>

If you are a renewing member, just send an e-mail with the name(s) of those who are renewing, the type of memberships and how you are paying. You can pay via Paypal from our website or you can mail a check. (address below)

If you are a new member, please fill out a membership application and include the Paypal number or write "sending check" on your application.

If you prefer, you can, from the same page on the website, download a membership application and send it in. Our mailing address is:

Evergreen Golden Retriever Rescue  
P.O. Box 3088  
Renton WA. 98056

Remember to indicate what type of memberships you are requesting. The 4 types of memberships available (remember it is only \$10 each person, dog, etc.) are:

**Full membership** for those who want to actively participate in EGRR and vote at the annual meeting

**Supporting membership** for those who purely wish to express their support

**Supporting membership S-G** for the savvy Golden Retriever who supports EGRR

**Supporting membership S-O** for other dog, cat, mouse... don't leave anyone out!!

# 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.....*

## **Herc – Angie and Nick Thain (2010)**

In the all-too-brief 7 years that Hercules was with us, he touched an incredible amount of lives. He went everywhere with us and had devoted fans all over Puget Sound, even those whose lives he brightened for a moment while stopped at traffic lights hanging out the window. Following his leukemia diagnosis, Herc lived his final week as he had lived the rest of his life; stoic, happy and strong to the end. As all golden owners know, he completely filled a hole in our lives that we didn't even know needed filling and has left a huge void with his passing.

Love you Doodle.. enjoy your well earned rest big guy.





# Rainbow Bridge

Although not adopted from EGRR, the following dog was owned and loved by one of our volunteers so is part of the EGRR family.

## Josephine – Barb Hale

Josephine came into my life as a crazy 6 year old from a poodle rescue group. She needed love and attention and I'm a sucker for a pretty face and a sad story. She loved to go walking, hiking, or riding in the car in the car with me. She was a tireless and busy Standard Poodle who always had fun, even if she had to create her own. She was infamous for removing all the pillows from all the furniture. And when that got boring, there was always toilet paper to chew on. While she was not a fan of many dogs, she loved her Golden Retriever brother, Jack and tolerated Golden Retriever foster dogs who came through our house. Her enthusiasm for life made me laugh every day and I'm so grateful she came to me. She will be missed.



**With the holiday season rapidly approaching,  
remember that you can donate to EGRR  
at no cost to you by using these online sites.**



You shop. Amazon gives.

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- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



**Want to help your favorite  
cause at no extra cost to  
you?**

1. Choose Your Cause
2. Use the iGive Button at Over 1,600 Online Stores
3. Your Cause Gets Money - Free

# Where are they now???

By Sue Randall



*Tucker; Age 5 years old neutered male*

*He came into rescue following a mixed up start for a young dog, with more than one owner in his short life. His latest owner listed him with rescue. Following a temperament test he came into foster care & was placed easily with an appropriate new owner.*

*Lucy: Age 7 years old spayed female.*

*Her owner left Lucy with a family member & then her whereabouts became unknown. After about a year Lucy was listed with rescue & joined her foster family. There she became a true family member having a great life with her dedicated foster 'parents'. She became a permanent part of this family with the adoption*



*by them after a short few months. Now, life is good for Lucy!*



# Where are they now???

By Sue Randall

Mandy: Age 3.5 years old neutered female.



*This young dog had elderly owners that relinquished her to a younger family member. There she became a dog that lived mainly as an outside dog. She showed signs of having some separation anxiety as she frequently attempted to break into the house. She became part of the rescue family once listed by her owner who recognized that they did not have the time to spend with the dog.*

*Having spent time with her foster family her new family was found who were familiar with dogs having the anxiety issues that Mandy exhibited. Thanks to their familiar aspect of caring for a dog like Mandy, she will now gain confidence with the positive training ahead.*



**Christmas sure is tiring!!**

## General Donations

### General Donations

Marilyn and Sandford Hargraves

Frank and Deb Pampiks

Ann Mosley

Marvin Wolfson

Patricia Stuart

Ginny Partridge

June and David Akizuki

Susan Clemen through the CFD

Howard Jacobs through the CFD

Howard Stephan through the CFD



## Honorary Donations

Tira Villanueva

In appreciation of her EGRR dogs  
**"Rusty" and "Sammy"**

## Memorial Donations

John Chapman

forever missing his girl  
**"Buffi"**

Jane Williams

In loving memory of her good friend,  
**"Rusty" Hosang**

Steve Wessel and Krista

Mendelman-Wessel

In memory of their EGRR dog  
**"Kona"** – the "best dog ever"

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