

GOLDEN MOMENTS ISSUE 32
Newsletter of
of
SOUTHERN GOLDEN RETRIEVER RESCUE
(Registered Charity Number 1098769)
PO Box 112, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 3RB



2018 ended on a sad note with the death just before Christmas of John Richardson who, with his wife Eileen, had covered the South Surrey area for us for 15 years and done a wonderful job. Unfortunately a few years ago they decided that, because of John's failing health, they should go and live near their daughter in Lowestoft so, very reluctantly, had to give up doing rescue, which they loved. Our love and sympathy go to Eileen and the family.

We re-homed a total of 44 dogs during the year, with ages ranging from 4 months to 14 years. As always there were various reasons for this, including health and temperament factors, change of circumstances for the owners etc. Sadly, three had such serious behavioural problems they had to be put to sleep, something we always hate having to do.

Our website, www.sgrr.org.uk has been updated and we now have a "Donate" button on it. It also gives information about forthcoming events, including the Fun Day which will be on Sunday 26th May, once again at Horton Kirby & South Darenth Village Hall, which proved a very successful venue last year. We hope to see many of you there.

We wish you all a very enjoyable summer.

Ru's Story

Ru came to us over 4 years ago at 18 months of age. After meeting with Rachel and an introduction with our rescue Labrador Sam, we excitedly welcomed Ru into our fold. He started out quite timid and a little unsure of himself but with time (and Sam's encouragement and training) Ru soon found his paws and has grown into the sweetest, most gentle natured boy. Having a high prey drive has meant he's not able to go off lead on walks but the miles we cover daily ON LEAD, make up for that and we're also lucky to have friends with safe fields!

Ru spends much of his time on garden patrol, keeping an eye out for small furies that might land within 50 feet of him or, staking out the log store with dogged determination. He's quite partial to zoomies in the garden followed by a head over heels, bum up, head down and face push along the grass in an attempt to squash as many worm casts as he can to ensure he gets a good muddy covering! The rest of the time is often spent upside down, legs akimbo.

Can't imagine life without him and consider ourselves incredibly lucky to have him.

Jo



Five years with Fozzie - now 9 years old

On the 13th March 2014 (not a Friday!), three months after saying farewell to our beloved 'Drummer', and thanks again to Pat Marchant, we collected 'Fozzie' as our new family member. In the 'Season's Greetings' for 2014 our update was published on Fozzie following our six month trial. The 'trial' being, that Fozzie was hard work and very testing, to the point that we questioned whether we could cope with him. But as stated in our article, 'rose tinted glasses' overlooked any faults that were, even then, very apparent.

Now after five years we can report that he is an amazingly changed Goldie. All of our previous Goldies have been different in character, but Fozzie has been a real challenge. When out walking with him, we still have to watch out for small children's soft toys, walkers with maps or gloves in their hands, or anyone with food,... the food will be eaten and other items taken and destroyed. This sounds as though he hasn't improved at all... you should have seen him five years ago. We are now relaxed when we meet other people or dogs, having looked in advance to see whether they are carrying any loose items! He can be quite amorous (you know what we mean), with other similar sized dogs, but not people anymore (we say with fingers crossed). Most of the time he just wants to say 'hello' and play.



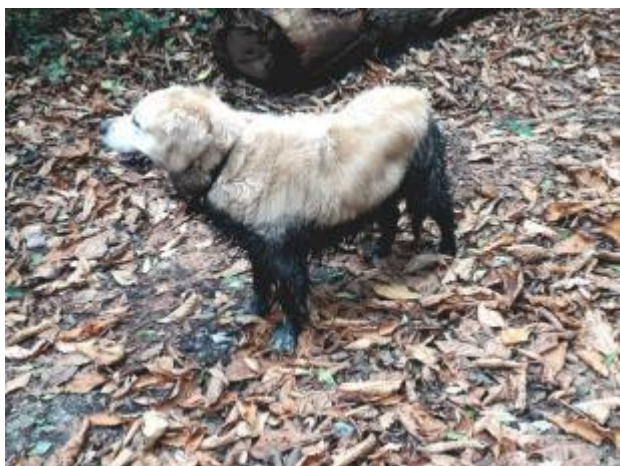
His walks are very important to him, and he will badger us at the appropriate times to let us know it's time for a walk. Contrary to what we were informed by the previous owner, we question whether he was ever walked off a lead as he could only run 50yds and then he would need to lie down...Not anymore! As we don't think he ever required recall, as he was usually on a lead, we accept that he will never walk to heel, but that suits us as Fozzie is allowed to go where he wishes, we just keep walking and we will see him

tracking through the woods nearby until such time as we use our whistle, when he will return. From a dog that stood sideways to you and ducked his head away if you put your hand near him, which would suggest that he was often 'corrected', he is now a very affectionate boy who loves physical contact and is quite possessive, to the point that he objects to us having a hug.

To people who are considering taking a rescue dog into their family, we would advise a lot of thought is given to the fact that your home will be new environment for them, and maybe a new experience for you.

However, the dog didn't ask to come to you. You will be taking the decision to take this bewildered animal into your home, where you will owe it to the animal not to take this decision lightly and not to reject him or her if they conflict with your lifestyle. What effect will your rejection have on this poor animal? One of our previous Goldies had been with three families prior to us, and yes he did have 'hang ups', but again he turned into a super dog.

We added the last paragraph as we nearly came to the point of returning 'Fozzie'.... we are so glad we didn't. As OAP's, should we have taken him on? Most likely not, but having the time to be with him (previous owners worked fulltime), we were able to give him the time, love and physical contact that was missing over his first four years, and he has repaid us with all the joy, love and affection he is so able and willing to give.



Fozzie, we accept, will always make huge demands on us. He is stubborn, impatient, boisterous, demanding and will come when he's ready. If he wants to go out into the garden he will tell you... loudly, and continue until we comply, including early hours of the morning. But we would rather let him out than have a mess in the house, or hours of barking. But that is part of Fozzie being part of our family. You may say we have let him rule our lives and you are most likely correct, but that is, for us, all part of life with dear Fozzie.

PS. He still chases the cat, not our original two, but a 9 year old 'rescue' Burmese who deserves more respect from Fozzie. It is so apparent that Fozzie wants to play, but he doesn't know how... rushing up to Ollie (cat), and barking or squeaking is not the way to make Ollie stay to check whether this large hairy beastie with large teeth is indeed friendly.

Peter and Arlene Lendon.

Next report in 5 years time.

Barley

Little Barley was handed in aged only 14 weeks having been purchased in haste by a family. They quickly realised that there is a lot involved in caring for their bundle of fun, much, much more than they were expecting and they sensibly made the right decision and asked us to find him a loving and knowledgeable home. I fostered him for a few weeks enjoying all the antics of this young Golden. I was very happy to give him to Sheila, knowing that she would care for him and give him a home of love, fun and activity. Activity has been an understatement and I have enjoyed watching, often via Facebook, Barley become a very successful agility competitor.

I got Barley from Rachel at the Southern Golden Retriever Rescue when he was 4 1/2 months old and he has always been a delightful dog and is a very dedicated and loyal friend. Our agility journey hasn't been straightforward or easy but that has made it even more rewarding when we finally got to Grade 6 last year in the late summer. He won out of Grade 1 on 3 jumping wins and out of Grade 2 into 3 on three jumping wins and has since gone on to reach Grade 6. I am so proud. He is very fast for a Goldie but that sometimes means he drops a pole as he's so keen.

I'm lucky to have him for my best friend as he's as devoted to me as I am to him and he enjoys his agility as much as he does food!!!!

Sheila Hinch



A Walk I will never Forget

I have had Golden Retrievers (plus one little Cavalier King Charles) now for just over 40 years. They have been such a great part of my life and I often wonder how many thousands of miles I have walked in those 40+ years. I have also met some wonderful people along my way and made so many new friends that are still part of my life. One walk that I will never forget and still gives me nightmares happened 30 odd years ago when I lived up in Surrey.



At the time I had three Goldens, all bitches and related. The younger two were terrible hunters and spent most of their time looking for rabbits. I decided on this particular day to walk near Banstead Downs, an area I was not very familiar with but I wanted a change. Luckily for me I met an acquaintance of my parents with her very well-behaved Labrador so she showed me the way along a series of footpaths. All of a sudden my two younger dogs got the scent of rabbits and disappeared under a fence, down an embankment which led to the main railway line into Sutton. You often read about people risking their lives to save their dogs and I was now faced with a terrible situation. I called and called their names but only Holly came

back – Bonnie was nowhere to be seen. Then I saw her, she had crossed the rail tracks and was up the other side of the embankment! I left Pepper and Holly with my walking companion and, yes I know I was stupid, but I crawled under the fence, went down the embankment, crossed the railway line and climbed the embankment after her. I was torn to pieces from brambles, but I managed to get hold of her. I was then confronted with a 6 foot wire fencing covered at the top with barbed wire. How was I going to get her over that and how was I going to get myself over it. Someone “up there” was obviously looking out for me that day as suddenly this lovely man appeared the other side of the fence. I will never forget his words to me as by then I was crying. “Don’t worry dear, I was a prisoner of war, I will get you over that fence”. He told me to throw my coat over the fence to cover the barbed wire and lift Bonnie over to him. Well Golden Retrievers are not exactly light-weight are they but I found an inner strength and I managed to lift her over the fence to him but of course I then had to climb over myself which was not easy as it was diamond shaped linked fencing but I did it and collapsed in a heap the other side. Would I do it again, probably but one thing for certain I never went back to that area for a walk and to this day I never walk near a railway line.

Pam Murphy



Bear’s Story

A couple of weeks before Christmas 2018 I received a phone call from a rather distressed young lady who had a 9 month old golden retriever pup that she need to rehome. Bear, the pup in question, had been bought to help her eldest son who was autistic but unfortunately the bond between Bear and the son had just not taken place and she was finding it all too much. She had two other dogs, both spaniels, another son and her husband had sustained a rather serious head injury and was still not 100%. Obviously that close to Christmas it was virtually impossible to sort out a new home for Bear but his owner was quite willing to hold on to him until the New Year when everything would be back to normal and we could start the process of finding him a new home.

Once Christmas and New Year had passed I went down to Seaford to visit Bear and assess him for temperament and behaviour. I was greeted by this very exuberant and leggy pup who was at that gangly stage. He was also extremely under-weight and really needed to body-up but apart from that he was a lovely chap, very friendly, affectionate and quite obedient! I spent an hour or so with him and discussed all the preliminaries of getting him rehomed. His owner was very tearful about the whole procedure but

knew it was the best thing for Bear as he needed the attention that she just could not give him plus she found the walking very hard as she could not walk all three dogs together. I promised that we would find him a lovely forever home where he would be loved and well looked after.

I had a couple in mind for Bear that lived in a village on the Romney Marshes, not far from the sea and in a nice country area where he would get lots of walks. They had had a Golden Retriever before and their children also had dogs so he would have lots of fun plus there were grandchildren and Bear loved children. I paid Laurence and Martine a visit and found them to be a lovely couple, their house was perfect with a nice, safe garden for Bear.

It was agreed that Bear would be fostered for a couple of days with Martin and his wife in Maidstone and then his new owners would drive up to meet him. So on a rather grey and chilly Saturday afternoon we all met at Martin's house so that Laurence and Martine could meet Bear. Bear had settled in very well over those 2 days with Martin, his wife and their dog and had certainly made himself at home. Laurence and Martine thought he was adorable so the "deal was done" and Bear went off happily with his new owners in their car to start his new life in the Romney Marshes.

I have had several updates and Bear has settled into his new life with gusto. He is attending obedience classes and is very loved. His adult coat is coming in now and all his feathering. Hopefully he will also put a little weight on. As you can see from the picture of him on the beach he looks very happy. A very happy ending for a sweet boy.

Pam Murphy



All our volunteers take pleasure hearing news of the dogs that we give a little assistance to. Please keep in touch and sending us stories.

Rachel Clark

Darcy

Mr Darcy was described as a loner, not seeking company and always escaping and disappearing for the day. The relationship with his owner seemed to have broken down, and we feared the worst consequences could result from Darcy's escapology. We fostered him for a while and tried to help with his non-existent recall, but he has the most extraordinary reaction when out and about. There is absolutely no access to him and his brain, the adrenalin takes over and he just bolts, running to the point of complete exhaustion and collapse. Even after 7 years we never, ever, ever let him off, anywhere. Darcy has to be walked on a lead using the excellent and extensive network of footpaths and national trails around us.



This is not to say that Darcy cannot be trained, after graduating from his Good Citizen Gold class in the hall at Wrotham we attempted to get him to return from the 'call of the wild'. But on our last attempt, he recalled well 6 times and then went into 'bionic rabbit' mode covering 100m in 4.5 seconds and disappearing out of sight. Two hours later we found him on the verge of heat exhaustion, we hosed him down to cool him as much as to remove the mud and brambles from his coat. An hour later we had pulled

all the burrs and rusty barbed wire from his tail and he had calmed down sufficiently to give him his lunch – to our amazement he refused it and just lay down. Two hours later he awoke from the 'sleep of the dead' and ate his lunch in three mouthfuls. The following day Rachel noticed his eye was inflamed

and took him to the vet who found the remains of a thorn in the cornea of his eye. A very large vet bill, to save the sight of one eye helped us decide that we would keep him on lead from then on!

At home and in the house and garden Darcy has a wonderful temperament, coping with all the visiting dogs. He is often one of 6 or 7. He is gentle with pups, careful with the oldies and loves a rough and tumble with the hooligans. He is really sociable with people and always greets visitors with Golden enthusiasm. Darcy is good natured with Captain Digby our parrot who regularly marches round the house, threatening to peck his nose.

In summary Mr Darcy you are as handsome as your name suggests, a nightmare to walk and a joy to have in the family. We are glad that you stayed with us.

(Darcy on right of picture)

Noel Clark
Assistant to Co-ordinator



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Registered Charity No 1098769

ROLLING RAFFLE

To be drawn on Wednesday 29th May 2019

For an A4 single portrait of your dog

by artist Sophie Frake.

£1.00 per ticket

***with all proceeds going to the SGRR support
fund***



Sophie Frake lives in Kent and is a portrait artist who draws commissioned portraits of loved pets from a picture supplied by you.

Every portrait, which is in coloured pencil with a high attention to detail, expresses the personality and unique characteristics of your pet, creating a memory that can be cherished forever.

Take a look at samples of Sophie's work at

www.sophiesportraits.com

If you would like to buy a ticket please email rachelclark@sgrr.org.uk or telephone on 01474 815486