

## Golden Moments Issue 34

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



I hope by the time you read this we are no longer wallowing in seas of mud after such a very wet winter. It's not really what you want with long haired dogs who love to roll!

During 2019 we re-homed 36 dogs – a reduction in numbers but the complexity of issues keeps growing. 14 were less than 2 years old. Of the overall total 13 exhibited troubling behaviour which, although not too serious, inexperienced owners were unable to cope with, but sadly one was deemed to be unsafe and was put to sleep.

We said Goodbye to another co-ordinator during the year. Wendy Mercer covered Hampshire for over 30 years and helped a very large number of dogs, and we thank her for all her efforts.

The SGRS Fun Day is to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> May and we hope to see many of you there with your lovely dogs. **Now postponed indefinitely.**

## Buddy

We've done it again. Once again we volunteered to short term foster a dog through SGRR and then have been unable to let the dog go when his time for a permanent home came around.

We contacted Pam at SGRR close to Christmas 2019 and within days Buddy needed urgent intervention as his owner had placed him in kennels expecting a short stay in hospital. Sadly, due to complications she passed away over the Christmas period and her family wanted a permanent home for Buddy.

We live on a farm and assume Buddy had been brought up in a town situation as he was fascinated by the neighbour's livestock. It was not very long before a gate was left open and Buddy, who was then 50 kilos, showed how quickly he could move in his efforts to get into the chicken run! A few days passed and then Buddy decided he could jump a 4 ft. wall into the pond which, because of all the rain, had become a mini lake! He obviously did not realise it was 3 ft. deep and there was no way out other than learning how to climb a small brick wall to get out with the help of Sue, minus a wet suit.

Despite all this we could not bear to put Buddy through another re-homing situation as he was a very anxious dog and needed constant re-assurance from us.

Even now 2 months have passed since we adopted him he is still an anxious and needy boy but hopefully with time he will learn that this is his forever home. He has also lost 5 kilos in weight and everyday he is losing more weight (and coat). Chickens beware!!

Terry & Sue Howell

## Our Benny

We were so fortunate to adopt Benny at a year old. He loved his walks in the New Forest and Lepe Country Park where he enjoyed paddling in the sea. He was more a sniffer dog than running around and had a passion for catching hedgehogs in the garden without harming them of course!!, and finding tennis and cricket balls in bushes.

He also loved going to our caravan in Weymouth and breaks in Bude, Cornwall, going for long walks in the countryside.



From about the age of 11 he couldn't walk so far due to arthritis. We had a ramp for the car so he could still go out. He caught lung worm just before he was 12 but with a lot of t.l.c he recovered. More recently he had a growth removed from his front paw but thankfully it wasn't cancerous.

The last 6mths became a struggle for him walking and we got a pull-up harness so we could lift him in car and take him for short walks. He still enjoyed his food and treats and seemed happy enough in himself!

Sadly on 25th October his legs finally gave up and he didn't want to walk anywhere, so we had to make the heartbreaking decision to say good bye to our beautiful boy.

He was very popular by all who met him and especially gentle with our grandchildren.

We have so many happy memories which will stay with us forever.

Thank you Golden Retriever Rescue for all the hard work and dedication to finding homes for this beautiful breed.

Eileen Painter

### **Izzy's story**

Izzy joined us in 2010 aged nearly 2 years, when we lived in Kent. I am writing this 2 weeks after she died in 2020 and the house is so empty. Izzy was such a gentle soul, she loved everybody she met and wanted to be friends with every dog she met. She had her nose nipped a few times by little dogs who weren't so keen on Izzy.



When we moved to Devon nearly 3 years ago she learnt to love the beach but took a while to get used to the sea. She liked nothing better, after a walk on the beach, to go to her favourite café for a rest and to have a fuss made of her. We have very dog friendly shops and cafes in Devon and all dogs are made welcome.

Thank you Rachel for giving her to us. She gave us so much love and pleasure all the time we had her and we hate arriving home now, she was always pleased to meet us at the door. We think that she was a beautiful one off and she gave us 10 wonderful years, she is so sorely missed.

Eileen & Amy

A message from Rachel

I do remember this lovely dog, renamed Izzy, she was lively but well behaved for her age. She needed a new home because a young family were taking up all of the time leaving none for Izzy. I know that Eileen and her daughter Amy have given her a really super life including a great move to the coast. Thank you very much from us all at Southern Golden Retriever Rescue.

### **Lacey (Fancy Pants)**

It is with profound sadness that we write to update all the readers of “Golden Moments” that Lacey (previously known as “Fancy Pants”...a most fitting name if ever there was one!) passed away, after a really short illness aged 13 (and a bit) on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Lacey, we understood, had a bit of a tough start to her life – and rehoming Lacey to us offered her peace and calmness – lots of yellow toys (had to be yellow!), constant attention and non-stop love from both of us, each and every day. And of course, in return, Lacey provided undying loyalty and love to us both.

Lacey had the most beautiful temperament – so well behaved – she didn't like mud nor puddles and was most content whilst sleeping right beside me (or on the feet of either one of us if she could manage it). She was the ideal companion and Simon and I are, now nearly two weeks later, finding going on so extremely hard.

The house seems so empty, the floors so vacant, and even though I am nearly deaf I still think I can hear her clip-clopping to take a drink from her water bowl, or hear her when she let out one of her remarkable sighs (of contentment we hope) when she would flop down beside one or other of us.

Lacey is the third Goldie we have been lucky enough to have shared a piece of our lives with. The previous one (called Lucy) was also rehomed via SGRR, whilst our first Goldie (also called Lucy) came to us via the RSPCA. We have been truly blessed to have had such wonderful companions, such gentle and loyal “friends”.

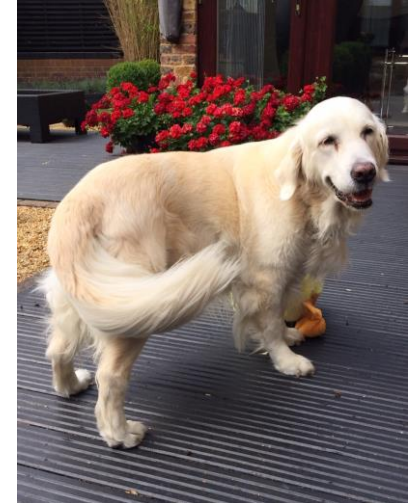
I have never wailed before in my 55 years...”blokes” I am told don’t do that...well I can say not a day has passed when my hubby and I haven’t wailed or cried until we cannot cry any more. Oh, what I would do for just one more walk, one more meal time, one more hug!

(pause for tears..my eyes are welling again). Plain and simple, we loved Lacey with all our hearts.

As a Goldie who, we understood, had had several litters before joining us, she was drawn to any toy “yellow” in colour and indeed when out walking particularly to small/miniature of similar colouring. Was it she longed for her “babies” or just her restrained but curious nature? Lacey was described by others as being perfect, immaculate, a princess and the most beautifully behaved dog ever. To us she was, and will always remain, “our baby”.

Sleep well little darling. Sleep well (and thank you!) we will miss you forever! X

Lacey – born 15<sup>th</sup> November 2006, joined our family on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2013, passed away at 7 am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.



### **TEDDY'S STORY**

Rita and Teddy were growing old together following the death of her husband 10 years earlier. She was no doubt hoping that Teddy would go first but circumstances changed when her health deteriorated just before Christmas 2018 and had to make the agonising decision to find a new home for her beloved companion. In the meantime, Carol took him in with her own dogs until Wendy from the SGRR came to the rescue.

Following our home check, Wendy contacted my sister and I and asked if we could take Teddy in and, of course, we said yes. This was no doubt a very upsetting and bewildering time for 12 year old Teddy but with the help of Wendy and our vet Helen Chatteris, we were able to get him feeling much better and over the next few weeks he settled in with us.

As his strength improved we were able to more and more. So much so, we managed to send a lovely video of him walking on Wilmington common on a beautiful fresh, snowy and sunny morning to Rita via Wendy and Carol which she saw before she died. We hope she gained some comfort from it.

It seemed unlikely this would be an adoption as he hated our cat Moritz with a passion. Over time, this resolved itself and they rubbed along quite nicely, although Teddy sometimes forgot himself in the garden! We did adopt him and he was welcomed into the wider family. He loved his days out once he has chosen his fuss buddy for the day.

His favourite hobbies include late night bush pruning, eating worm casts and searching for tissues in any shape or form, even if they were in handbags! Plus lying in doorways.

Teddy was a kind and gentle soul – no matter how much pulling and prodding he had had to endure, he took it all in his stoic stride and we were proud he found his new forever home with us, however long or short that may be.

After a short illness in May 2019, Teddy was strong enough to attend the SGRS fun day at the end of May and he did us proud entering various classes for the elderly and rescued. Sadly, he became ill again shortly after and my sister, brother and I had to make the awful decision that we all dread and on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 he was put to sleep to end his suffering. Teddy was a stoical handsome gentleman to the end and we scattered his ashes on Dartford Heath where he most enjoyed his last few months with us.

We can't thank the SGRS for covering his veterinary bills. We had the home, time and love to give him but it could well have been a struggle financially had they not done so. All of you at the SGRS, please keep up the good work!



### **ALFIE'S STORY**

Almost two weeks later Wendy rang and asked us if we were ready to take in another rescue but would understand if we needed more time but she and Rachael thought we may be a good fit. We didn't need to discuss it for very long. We loved having Teddy and hoped it wouldn't be too long before someone else needed a home so we arranged to meet Alfie and his family at Rachel's on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019. Alfie needed a new home because the owners realised they were unable to give him the time and attention that he needed since having their two young children. It must have been heart rending to come to that decision after having him from a puppy.

Absolutely the opposite to Teddy except he is big too! Alfie was 5 ½ years old, overweight, strong, and had more than enough hair for 3 dogs. We decided there and then that we would like to take him home, even though he was quite strong, on the provision he got on with Moritz, our mad cat.

Before meeting Alfie we had re-arranged the furniture so the cat could escape if needed so when we arrived home and took Alfie in, Moritz sat up on the dining room table and looked at him as if to say “not another one!” and promptly laid back down again. Alfie sniffed him and then turned away to carry on inspecting his new home and Moritz gave him a quick tap on the head as he walked past to make sure he knew his place!

Alfie went on a diet immediately and we exercise him daily so his weight gradually decreased and he's not got much more to lose now. In fact, we joke that he should have been called "Forest Gump" as he loves chasing somewhere (not too far) so he can run back again. He didn't like being brushed at first but after about 5 weeks of making a fuss and regularly touching him, plus a Pet Teezer comb (very helpful tip from Pam) he finally started to enjoy our brushing sessions and now offers his belly to us, although the back end is still only allowed in short bursts with the obligatory treats. He has a special blanket that he loves to suck and sleep with – it's also the favourite go to present for us and guests as they arrive and looks longingly at the washing machine when it's being washed.

It was immediately apparent that all birds and planes MUST be told NOT to pass over our garden and, because they oblige every time and fly away, he feels he does his job well. Breaking him of the habit is therefore proving difficult. We were warned that Alfie didn't like their cats near him when he ate which I forgot about once at the beginning. The result was me and the food flying through the air, me landing on the threshold of the door to the garden and Moritz disappearing at a rate of knots up the garden with a very bushy tail!



But Alfie does love Moritz, especially when he lets him sniff him. He also quite likes to try and get a lick in from time to time (if he's quick enough). The ultimate is if he can get to lay so close as to touch him which Moritz does allow from time to time with quite a disdainful look.

He is definitely not a morning dog – in fact we can feed the cat and make tea before he'll wake up yawning his head off and stretching. He does like to have his mind occupied so we decided early on to take him training once a week. We are pleased to report that he now walks beautifully on the lead except, that is, when we go to his favourite pet store where the staff are his friends and give him treats and then he can't be late for a very important date! He then calmly walks out like butter wouldn't melt! He has, however, passed his Bronze Citizen Award and is working on achieving the Silver.

Alfie loves chasing a ball so his favourite pastime is a walk where he can chase a ball, roll in the dead leaves and such and, of course, lay in his favourite puddle. Puddles are a new thing for him and it takes ages to get him clean when we get him home as his fur is like velcro. Mostly, he looks like a ragamuffin as we're still a little restricted on the amount of time we can spend brushing him, but Rome wasn't built in a day.

He has made many four legged friends but his favourite playmate is our brother Marc, the ultimate being when he is finally allowed to get onto the settee for a cuddle and then he daren't move in case he's asked to get off!

We can't thank Rachel, Wendy and Pam enough for considering pairing us with Alfie, who we now love, and for the continued help and advice we receive.



## HUGO AND DUSTY

The next 6 months.....

Well 6 months have passed since Hugo and Dusty became part of our family and came to live with us in Wadhurst together with Aunty Hazel, who is now 13. It's been quite a journey! They are very well and very happy.

They have both had the Op. and since gained 10 kgs and immense strength. However, lots of training and all the experience from 30 years of Golden Retriever ownership and we still have days of being dragged through the mud horizontally!

As many will know, despite the best training, it's impossible to dilute the pack instinct of two young male dogs as they tackle the adventures of the town and countryside. Whether it is meeting new canine friends or squirrel and bunny alert, it's the charge into the unknown and the thrill of the chase, often cheered-on by the revitalised Staffy, Hazel. The old granny leading the charge waving her umbrella !

And there we are, re-visiting Slithering-in-the Mud in these dreary, wet walks that we must all endure for our love of these beautiful creatures, and nature itself. And after the walk, the return home, exhilarated and exhausted (us, not them of course) as we tackle the vain attempt to clean the mud off them before chucking towels in the wash and most of our clothes as well....Then the treats for their brave actions in the field, as we slump creaking into our chairs.....We take the opportunity to recover with a hot drink before trying to summon-up the energy to start work.

We cast an eye over them as they finally relax from an exuberant play-fight, re-arranging all the furniture as they go in a cloud of golden hair, and we melt under the spell of their innocence and beauty, lying asleep happily paws entwined around each other, and realise how much we love them, how much happiness they bring, which far outweighs the pain, and how it will always be worth it.....

Now Matron, about my back.....



## Amazon Smile



Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support SGRR every time you shop at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

It is exactly the same as normal Amazon but they donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the SGRR charity.

You can also raise funds for us via [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and [TheGivingMachine.com](https://www.thegivingmachine.com) You just have to log on, click on "Find a cause" and select SGRR, fill in the quick form to register, find the retailer you want to shop with, click to visit the retailer and shop as you

normally would. The donations vary from retailer to retailer.