



Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue, Inc.

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Dear Golden Friends,

Thank you, thank you, one and all, for continuing to support Yankee in its work providing adoptive services for Golden Retrievers within the United States as well as varied areas abroad.

There has been a rush of activity at Riverview this past year with bringing in a sizeable number of local and international Golden Retrievers who have needed our help. In particular, the last large group of rescue dogs from China has just completed their journey to Riverview. They are now settling in and starting to experience the delights of kennel life. A life that instead of consisting of crowded crates and little opportunity to even stretch their legs, includes their own private kennel, comfy bedding, special meals, toys to play with, walks in the woods with doting humans, yards to run in and explore, and wonder of wonders... a swimming pool!

Last year in our annual letter, Anny, one of the earlier rescues from China, told you all about her experiences before she came to America and how she eventually got here. She had many physical issues that needed addressing, all of which have been taken care of. She is loving every minute with her new family and they could not even consider their life without her. A perfect fit to a perfect family.

In many ways we tend to focus on the animals only and not consider the other part of the story...the families who welcome them into their homes.

This year we asked an adopter family to tell us what it has been like to bring one of these neglected dogs to live with them and how the dog's life itself has not only changed, but that change also enriched the family as well. This special letter comes to you from Oscar's family.

Our most recent fiscal year has just ended and although we are delighted with our successes, we have to note that financially we are facing increasing challenges.

Expenses continue to rise, most especially in transporting the dogs from great distances, both in and outside the United States. In addition, we need to prepare for the costs of the medical treatments many of the Golden Retrievers require. We never know the status of an animal until they are already with us and we have them carefully examined. We continue to stand by Yankee's commitment to accept Golden Retrievers in need regardless of age or medical issues.

Golden Retrievers like Oscar are depending on you. Your donation can bring love and safety to more of these beautiful dogs. Don't keep them waiting. Please donate today!

In Golden Spirit,

Christy Monahan
President



The Rescued Family

There is an aura about Oscar. Yes, he is a striking shade of pale iridescent yellow. He is the softest dog to pet. His eyes are brown and deep and searching. He wraps his front paw around you as all Golden Retrievers do. But that is not it. Not what draws people to him or calms and soothes them. Oscar is not a therapy or companion animal. He has no training. And yet, he has become genuinely beloved by our family and the larger

The Rescued Family continued on back

The Rescued Family continued...

community. Could his life trauma have infused this lovely dog with a radiating empathy that he freely shares with others? We think so.

In many ways Oscar is “just” a goofy Golden. But there is his history. Flown from a far away place. Perhaps alone in a shelter. On the streets. We do not know how he was cared for. Was he abused? Did he need to scavenge to survive? **We are certain he lost a family, sometime and somewhere. To be abandoned for any living thing causes trauma that may take years to resolve.** It causes us much sadness to wonder about this, and guides us toward patience and unconditional love in every interaction with him.

With Oscar in our home we move to a different rhythm. We learn from his exploration and marvel at his gradual acceptance of a safe and predictable life. **We help with the unlearning of his anxieties and this brings meaning and value to our lives.** Fires in the fireplace are now a comfort and not to be feared. Metal objects dropped on the tile floor do not cause him to panic and bolt. Stairs once insurmountable are now more easily climbed. Food is no longer guarded. **Oscar knows he will never go hungry for food or for love.** He now has the luxury to be, well, just a dog in a family, with a



bed, a full belly, fields and woods to sniff and roll in, crows to chase, cows to bark at, and rubs aplenty from gentle hands. **To be loved and cared for is what all dogs deserve.**

He has brought such richness and delight to our home. This sweet spirit. This gentle and understanding simple soul. And **we truly feel that while we have rescued him, he has rescued us, as well.**

