



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Rescue A Golden of AZ

What is Rescue A Golden of Arizona?

RAGofAZ is a 501c(3) non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue, evaluation, and placement of Golden Retrievers who have lost their homes through no fault of their own.

How long have you been in business?

RAGofAZ was incorporated on October 15, 1998, with 15 members. During this time, we have rescued and rehomed over 3400 Golden Retrievers.

What area do you cover?

Our rescue efforts cover the entire state of Arizona. We have volunteers throughout the state that cover various aspects of rescue

How do people contact RAGofAZ?

You may contact us via the following:
ragofaz@golden-retriever.org
602-404-WOOF [9663]
P.O. Box 71987, Phoenix, AZ 85050
www.golden-retriever.org

How can I become a member?

Membership is open to anyone desiring to support our rescue efforts. Membership dues are \$35 per individual or \$45 for a family; memberships are good for one year. The Membership Application Form can be completed and submitted on line or downloaded from our website at www.golden-retriever.org and mailed to our post office box. Membership is required for adoption.

As a member, how can I help RAGofAZ?

Members can help by joining any of our various teams: Intake, Home Visit, Placement, Transport, Follow-up, Shelter Walking, Vet Care, Fundraising, and Event Planning. Donations in any amount are gratefully accepted for the care of the dogs. Donations are tax-deductible.

What activities are available for members?

Members of RAGofAZ do gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble Bookstores and at the Reid Park Arts & Crafts Fair in Tucson during the holidays. This is a fun and profitable event with many opportunities for public education. We have educational booths at various pet related events all around Arizona. In

February, we have an annual member's picnic called Karsten's Bark in the Park, with dogs, of course, and our Tucson contingent hosts a Bark in the Park in November. Our Prescott contingent's main activities are Woof Down Lunch in June and Dogtoberfest in October. We sponsor raffles and fund raising events to raise money to pay for the significant costs of vetting our dogs. All in all, there is a little bit of everything for everyone and every dog.

How can I learn about what RAGofAZ is doing?

Members receive e-news letters (Golden Tales), regular e-mail messages, telephone calls, and board meeting Minutes upon request. An Events calendar and our Golden Shop items are featured on our website.

What groups or clubs is RAGofAZ associated with?

Some of our members belong to the Golden Retriever Club of America. We cooperate with Maricopa Animal Care and Control Services, Pima and Yavapai Animal Care & Control, the Arizona Animal Welfare League, the Arizona Humane Society, and other shelters around the state. Because of the Golden temperament, many of our rescued dogs are used in hospitals for pet therapy. Many of our members also belong to the Companion Animal Association of Arizona and to Therapy Dogs International.

Why would anyone need to rescue a Golden Retriever?

There are numerous reasons why some Golden owners give up their dogs. The most common reason is because the dog is sick or injured and needs expensive and/or long term care which puts a financial burden on the family. Sometimes it's because the dog is too old. Occasionally, people move and can't take their pets with them, or the owner dies and the family can't take the dog. Reasons are varied. The reasons we will not accept a dog if it doesn't get along with other dogs or it has a biting/aggressive history.

Where do you get your Goldens?

About 80% of the Goldens that we rescue come from private owner turn-ins. Some are also rescued from county shelters or from the Humane Society. A few have come to us through veterinary referrals, others from Good Samaritans who have found wandering dogs. Additionally, we have now gone global and have received dogs from Korea, China, and Mexico.

Are all rescued Goldens healthy?

No. When first accepted by RAGofAZ, each dog routinely receives our Gold Standard of Care which includes a comprehensive physical exam by one of our contract veterinarians, spay/neuter as required, vaccinations as needed, a RAGofAZ microchip, fecal test, and a senior panel blood test for dogs age 8 years and above. We also provide any required surgery or medical care. About 28% of the Goldens we have taken into Rescue have Valley Fever, to varying degrees, a common disease caused by spores in Arizona soil. Since the medication for this treatable condition is expensive, we provide it for three months following adoption. Potential adoptive families are always told about any medical problem that is known about a rescued dog.

Why are the dogs spayed or neutered?

From the ASPCA: Your female pet will live a longer, healthier life. Spaying helps prevent uterine infections and breast tumors, which are malignant or cancerous in about 50 percent of dogs and 90 percent of cats. Spaying your pet before her first heat offers the best protection from these diseases. Neutering your male companion prevents testicular cancer and some prostate problems.

And behavioral benefits:

Your spayed female pet won't go into heat. Your male dog will be less likely to roam away from home. An intact male will do just about anything to find a mate, including finding creative ways escape from the house. Once he's free to roam, he risks injury in traffic and fights with other male animals. Your neutered male may be better behaved. Unneutered dogs are more likely to mark their territory by spraying strong-smelling urine all over the house. Your dog might be less likely to mount other dogs, people and inanimate objects after he's neutered. Some aggression problems may be avoided by early neutering.

Are rescued dogs housebroken?

Many rescued Golden Retrievers are housebroken. However, sometimes a puppy or a dog that has been kept outside for an extensive period will not be housebroken. In such cases, some housetraining will probably be necessary. Even a dog that has been house trained may have "accidents" when placed in the unfamiliar environment of a new home.

How do you match the dogs with a potential adopter?

RAGofAZ is the match.com of Golden Retrievers; there is no alphabetical or numerical list. Questions are asked during the Home Visit and during interviews with people surrendering a dog. All information is entered into a database. When we receive a dog, its characteristics are compared to all waiting families' requests in order to make the right match for each family as well as the dogs. The process of adopting a dog from RAGofAZ is structured to match the dog with the best home we can find. By design, the process is measured and involved.

What happens when a Golden is matched with my family?

The matched Golden will be brought to your home by a RAGofAZ Transport Team member; the Foster/Adopter Adoption Contract will be signed and the adoption fee is given to the Transport Team member. You will have a 3 week transition period for your family and the dog to be sure it is a good match. During this time, a member of the Follow Up Team will periodically call to answer questions or offer advice as needed. If the dog has not yet been vetted, a member of the Vet Team will contact you with instructions to take the dog to the nearest contracted vet for evaluation and our Gold Standard of Care. While in this transition period, all vetting expenses are paid by RAGofAZ as long as you use our contracted vet until the adoption is finalized.

What happens after the transition period?

Once the Golden has been medically released and you feel this is a good fit, the adoption will be finalized. If you do not wish to adopt your dog, the adoption fee you have already paid will either be refunded or will be applied toward the adoption of another rescued Golden. Once the adoption is

final, you may choose any veterinarian for your adopted Golden's medical needs. The RAGofAZ contract specifies that should you not be able to care for the Golden for *any* reason, the dog will be returned to RAGofAZ.

What are the Membership and Adoption fees?

The adoption fee is based on the Golden's age. All dogs up to 3 years, 11 months are \$400; dogs from 4 years to 7 years, 11 months are \$300; and dogs 8 years and older are \$250. If a pair is adopted together, we will charge the full fee younger dog and half for the older dog.

Why does it cost so much to adopt a dog?

RAGofAZ incurs significant veterinary costs with each dog. What little money we collect on adoption fees, it will never cover all of our expenses with rescued dogs. The average cost to RAGofAZ to rescue a Golden is \$800.

Can I get a puppy through RAGofAZ?

Although puppies under 6 months of age are not often surrendered to Rescue, each year we do take in several puppies, and we have even taken in pregnant females. Their puppies are available for adoption after they are 8 weeks old.

Where can I go to see your rescued dogs?

All of our Golden retrievers currently available for adoption can be viewed on the website. Since we do not have a kennel or boarding facility, most of our rescued dogs come directly from the owner- turn-in, and go immediately to its new home. This is the best situation for the dog as moving them from one home to another over a couple of weeks can be very stressful for the dog.

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