



# Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies Gets a New Home

By Judi Servoss



For years, Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies (GRRR) envisioned having a facility to accommodate dogs in need as they wait patiently to be adopted. Many of these rescue dogs require training for behavioral issues or rehabilitation after surgeries or injuries. The organization's goal was to secure a home for dogs, not only those found as strays or in shelters, but also to help dogs in transition from good homes. The new facility would also support dogs that had lived their lives tied up outside, in puppy mills, or in other inhumane situations. This new home would be a place where all dogs could experience what it's like to feel secure and loved...a place where they could learn to play and prepare to one day join a forever home.

And it happened! Phoebe's Place, GRRR's permanent new home, is now open for business—thanks to a generous lead donation from Mitchell Graye and Pam Hollister in honor of their first GRRR dog, Phoebe. With their support, along with many other donations and the hard work of numerous volunteers, GRRR raised the necessary funding and purchased five acres of land with several buildings in Arvada. Phoebe's Place is 100 percent owned and paid for by GRRR, a very important step toward assuring the organization's long-term sustainability.

Phoebe's Place provides a safe, loving and nurturing environment where dogs can literally live underfoot while learning how to become house dogs. Each morning, many of the dogs are transferred to a new kennel facility on the property where the fabulous Volunteer Interaction Team, VIP volunteers, come daily to walk, exercise and groom the dogs in GRRR's care. At night, the dogs are moved back into the house and resume their house training under the constant care of GRRR's caretaker and former president, Mary Kenton.

Phoebe's Place includes an adoption center, merchandise store, caregiver home and kennels for intake, isolation and rehabilitation. The grooming center and feeding station are now complete, adding to the efficiency of caring for these dogs in one location. Events are also held at Phoebe's Place, including two annual parties each year for GRRR members and their dogs. Work continues in play areas, landscaping, home renovation and much more. This initial phase will be completed before moving on to other aspects of GRRR's vision, which includes building an events center.

The move to Phoebe's Place reduces the overall costs of kenneling and provides a place to help socialize and prepare dogs for foster care or adoption. It also provides assistance for dogs that need extra physical or behavioral help during their healing process. A central facility also helps to control costs and manage unpredictable expenses, which supports the goal of assuring GRRR's future ability to serve its constituents by controlling its own destiny. GRRR places between 300 and 400 dogs per year in forever homes and still utilizes foster homes for many golden retrievers awaiting adoption. They have never had to turn down an incoming dog due to a lack of a place to house them.

GRRR board members and volunteers agree that the journey from being a rescue group that utilized outside resources to becoming a rescue group with its own shelter facility has not been an easy road. In addition to all the costs of renovation, many new policies and procedures had to be developed. Numerous volunteers gladly provided assistance, and fundraising efforts ramped up significantly through a concerted effort on individual donations, grants and events.

All those involved with GRRR agree it was well worth the effort. At a recent open house, members, neighbors and other friends saw Phoebe's Place filled with dogs that benefitted from a new life in their new home. Stone benches and plaques bear the names of large donors who helped provide funding to open the doors at Phoebe's Place.

Taking care of the precious pups that find their way to GRRR and maintaining Phoebe's Place are tremendous responsibilities. As a result, expenses are high for this all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. To help raise funds, you are invited to attend GRRR's fundraiser, **"Diamonds in the Ruff,"** on August 25 at the historic Turnhalle Room at the Tivoli in downtown Denver. GRRR's second annual gala will be emceed by Channel 4 weatherman, Ed Greene, and features stand-up comedy by local veterinarian Kevin Fitzgerald. In addition, the event will host live and silent auctions, a catered dinner and much more. Tickets are available at [www.goldenrescue.com](http://www.goldenrescue.com).

GRRR's tagline is "A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life" and their volunteers, members and adopting families know just how true this is. If you're interested in changing your life and becoming a member of GRRR through adopting, volunteering or donating, please visit their website at [www.goldenrescue.com](http://www.goldenrescue.com).