

True Love Rescue

2022



Maji adopted March 2022



Sadie adopted July 2022



Basil adopted October 2022

What a year! This past year has brought us many more dogs compared to the past couple of years. We were able to welcome over 170 dogs into True Love Rescue in 2022. We have had dogs from Taiwan, locally rescued dogs and surrenders. We have seen an uptick in dogs needing new homes as “Pandemic Dogs” are more work than people anticipated after returning to work. Because of you, we have been able to welcome each of these dogs with open arms. Accepting dogs into our rescue takes both financial support and volunteer support. We are grateful for ALL of the support we receive each year.

How can you help? Please consider giving an end-of-year donation to True Love Rescue, any amount is greatly appreciated. We know times are tough but anything you can give to True Love Rescue goes directly to saving more Golden Retrievers and finding them new loving homes. Following you will find a story from an alumni of TLR. Your donations and our volunteers make stories like this possible.

A Perfect Home for Sunny *by Sarah*



In Fall of 2020, my husband Dave and I vowed that we'd take a long break before adopting another older Golden Retriever. Frankly, we weren't sure we'd ever adopt again. We'd just lost our beloved Ani - our fifth Golden - to cancer. Ani came to us through TLR from Taiwan in 2014, and like most Taiwan pups, she had a sweet, loving temperament and was loved by everyone who met her. We adored her, and her loss left a huge hole in our lives.

Almost exactly a year later, Jill Morgan sent me a photo of a beautiful, twelve-year-old white Golden Retriever named Sunshine. We were immediately captivated by her smile and her friendly, big brown eyes. Sadly, Sunshine's owner Dorothy, (featured in the Spring 2021 TLR

newsletter), had recently and very suddenly passed away. Dorothy had adopted Sunshine (then known as Ida Rose) in June of 2020. The veterinary records in her file show that Ida Rose originally came from somewhere near Lodi. Dorothy had lived in a tight-knit neighborhood on a cul-de-sac in Felton, and the neighbor kids were so taken with Ida Rose that they decided she needed a new name. They all voted and agreed on the name Sunshine, because she brought so much sunshine into their neighborhood and their lives.



Although Sunshine was staying with Jill at the moment, a more permanent foster family was needed. Jill thought that she needed some stability and consistent love and care, since she'd been passed around between different family members and fosters since Dorothy's death. After a quick discussion, we decided we'd offer to foster her. On September 30th, 2021, a year to the day that we'd lost our beloved Ani, we drove to Lodi to go get Sunshine, our very first foster dog.

After taking a few minutes to roll around on her back on Jill's front lawn, Sunshine hopped into the back of our station wagon and made herself comfortable for the drive back to Palo Alto. From then on, she quickly adapted to our daily routines and seemed to slip effortlessly into our lives. We spent the month of October getting to know each other, and introducing her to our neighbors and our local dog community. Besides the fact that her

tail was constantly wagging, we discovered that Sunshine was sensitive to certain sounds, like the "ding" of my phone's text notifications, and the beeping of our oven's timer. When she heard these sounds, she would run outside and bark. It took a fistful of treats and a lot of coaxing to get her back inside the house. We figured that these sounds might have reminded her of a past traumatic experience, or she might have been stressed because of all the different homes she'd been in recently.

Our friends and neighbors immediately took to Sunshine, amazed that she managed to befriend even the most cantankerous dogs in our close-knit group. She even made friends with a pair of neighborhood cats. Everyone we encountered raved about her friendly, gentle demeanor, and would say, "You should keep her!" We would laugh, but assured them that we'd find the perfect home for Sunshine. We knew it would be hard to give her up, but we steeled ourselves for that eventuality.

At the end of October, Jill put me in touch with a potential adopter in Napa. This woman was a previous TLR adopter, and in fact, had rescued many different kinds of animals over the years. At the moment she had birds, a cat, even turtles. It seemed like an ideal environment for Sunshine, who, so far as we had seen, had not met a person or animal she didn't like. After a great phone conversation, we decided to take Sunshine up to Napa to meet the woman. We packed her bed, food, and toys, thinking that if it all worked out, this could be her new home.

It was a very quiet drive up to Napa. We didn't say anything, but we were both thinking about saying goodbye to Sunshine, and wondering if this was the right thing to do. When we arrived in Napa, we took a fun tour of the household menagerie, and then took Sunshine on a short neighborhood walk, during which she took the opportunity to roll around on her back on a neighbor's lawn. We took that as a good sign: this seemed like the perfect home, with a lovely adopter in a great neighborhood with families and kids, and lots of other critters in the house to keep Sunshine company. After signing the adoption paperwork and leaving feeding and care instructions, we wished everyone well and said goodbye to Sunshine. As we pulled away, I made the mistake of looking back, and saw her white face at the screen door, watching us go.



It was an even quieter, very sad drive home. I already missed Sunshine terribly. The following week, I thought about her constantly, wondering how things were going. Our house seemed very empty and way too quiet. But at the end of that week, I got a call from Sunshine's adopter. Sunshine was out in the rain, refusing to come into the house, barking constantly. The woman was at her wit's end, wondering what was wrong, and worried that Sunshine wasn't comfortable with her in her home. After several conversations with Jill and the adopter, we reluctantly concluded that this home was not a good fit. Dave and I didn't hesitate: we dropped everything and drove back up to Napa to get Sunshine.

We arrived to find her peering at us through the same screen door, sopping wet, looking exhausted. The woman said that the minute Sunshine heard our voices, she came through the house to the front door to greet us. After assuring the woman that we would find her another dog, and a tearful hug goodbye, we set up our car's dog ramp and Sunshine immediately clambered up into the back of our wagon. She slept the entire drive back to Palo Alto, occasionally lifting her head up to look at us and get scratches.

During the drive home, Dave and I speculated that Sunshine may have reacted to the woman's birds. One of her larger birds could even mimic the sound of the doorbell, and very loudly. Given her sensitivity to certain sounds, like the beep of our oven, it made sense that in a new environment Sunshine may have stayed outside to escape the sound of the birds.



When we got back to our house, Sunshine pranced around our dining room with her favorite toy, ate dinner, and promptly curled up in her bed and fell asleep. The next morning she was back to her usual self, insisting on her regular morning walk around the neighborhood. Our friends and neighbors were overjoyed to see her again, and we were thrilled to have her back. Once again, Sunshine slipped right back into our lives. It seemed like she'd never left.

On Christmas Day, we made it official, and told Jill that we wanted to adopt Sunshine. She's thirteen now, very active, and remains in excellent health. She still occasionally reacts to our oven timer, but with a little comforting settles right down. We can't imagine life without her. Her journey, which began somewhere in the Central Valley in 2009, was made possible by a dedicated team of TLR donors, volunteers, foster families, and adopters. And, of course, there's no such thing as a Perfect Home. Just people - like you - who love and care about dogs, who do the best they can to understand them and their histories, and provide safe, loving environments for those pups who, usually through no fault of their own, need rescuing.

Ways to Donate

Donations by **Checks** Payable to:

True Love Rescue
1040 Kettleman Lane
Box 140
Lodi, CA 95240

Donations through **Paypal**: tlrgoldens@gmail.com

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