

09-052 Kiera

Foster Home: LR			
Status: Available	Age: 3 years	Weight: 60 lbs	Color: Red
Mix: No	Housetrained: Yes	Crate Trained: No	
Good w/ Children: Yes		Good w/ Seniors: No	
Good w/ Dogs: Yes		Good w/ Cats: Yes	
Special Needs:			

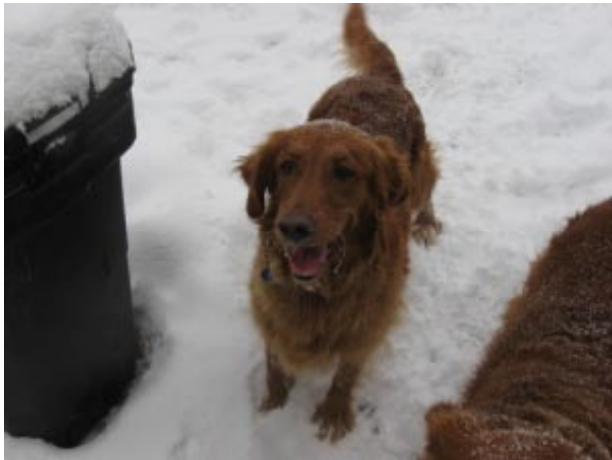
February 11, 2010

Kiera did very well for the week that she was gone. The other foster home has 4 confident Golden Retrievers and Kiera fit right in. She looked for me for a couple of days and then she was fine. She is ready to look for her forever home. She will need a special home with people who can understand her and a confident doggy brother or sister to play with her and give her confidence to face the world.

It may take us a while to find the right family and that's o.k. It has to be just the right home. Kiera is such a sweet girl; she deserves nothing less than the perfect fit for her forever home.

Kiera likes to run around outside in the snow with my other foster and play. I have a knotted ball on a rope that they both like to chase and then they play tug with it. She even brings it back every once in a while! She is a work in progress and continues to grow and blossom emotionally. She's a very sweet girl and will make the right home a wonderful companion.

January 16, 2010



Kiera is getting ready to look for her forever home. We have visited a few new people at their house, so new environments for her and she did much better than I thought she would. We visited another foster home and her 4 Golden Retrievers. Kiera did great there. She got along fine with her dogs, just like she was one of the pack. I'm so proud of this girl. We visited for a couple of hours and Kiera was very comfortable there. When we left there, we went to another volunteer's house and Kiera met their dogs and did great with their dogs. We went inside to visit for a while and she explored some and then went and laid down next to the other volunteer to be petted. She was very comfortable there. She did look for me when I got up to go to the bathroom but she was not upset. All in all, it was a very productive day for Kiera.

Kiera is finally beginning to play fetch. She actually brought the ball back to me twice this week. She and Outlaw like to run around the yard chasing each other. Outlaw likes to grab her tail. Kiera was even chasing her own tail the other night. When she gets excited she does jump on me. I'm working on breaking her of that. Once, when I bent over to pick up the ball, she jumped on my head! She still has some work to do but, she's worth the effort.

Kiera has started coming upstairs in the morning to get petted and steal my slippers. She comes up with my husband when he's getting ready for work. When I get up a little later, my slippers are often missing. One morning, my slippers were missing and I went out to the hallway and there were my slippers, both slippers sitting side by side, (right order) in the hallway like I had put them there. Silly Kiera!

Kiera is going to visit another foster home for a week to see how she settles in to a new environment without me. I think she will do fine. That also means, though, that she will be ready to look for her forever home, which also means that I have to let her go. It's going to be so hard to send her off and say good bye to her. I'm going to miss this girl.

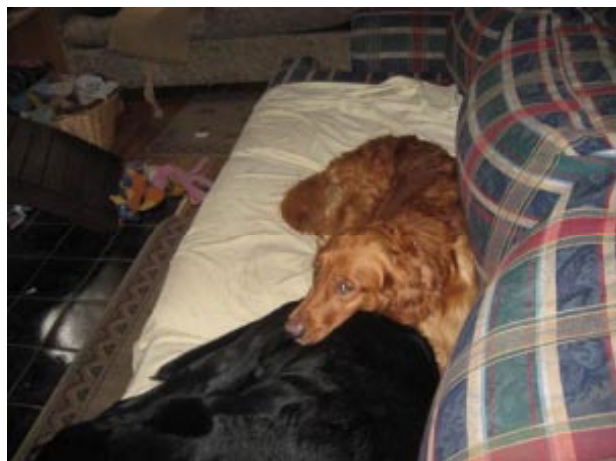
January 2, 2010

Kiera continues to do well. We went on a field trip recently. I have a friend who is a cat person. She has never had a dog in her house before. I don't usually invite myself over to someone's house but Kiera needed to go somewhere new so I called to see if we could visit. She was hesitant but, said, sure come on over. Kiera still doesn't just hop in the car unless another dog hops in first so it takes a few minutes to load her up but I got her in the car. She is usually nervous at first in the car but calms down after a bit. It wasn't a long ride. I had her harness on her as I knew she would be afraid at first. When we got there, she got out of the car and actually wanted to go exploring a bit so we went out to the sidewalk and sniffed around. Then we went through the garage and she wanted to sniff around in the back. Going into the house was a whole different story. NOT thrilled about going inside. We did coax her in and she was afraid. At first just her back legs were shaking, and then she looked like a vibrating dog shaking from toe to tail. My friend and I just let her go and started talking and sat down for a cup of coffee. Kiera did go off exploring and came back shaking a little less each time. She checks in often and goes up to my friend for pets. I was thrilled that she was seeking attention from someone other than me. We just sat and chatted with our coffee and did some stuff on her computer and eventually Kiera laid down nearby and went to sleep. When it was time to go, we went down to the basement to see if she would follow. She wanted to but it was pretty scary. Eventually we were able to coax her down. She ran down the stairs and right back up. Then she came down the stairs again and let us pet her and right back up. She was nervous but she did it. I was so proud of her. She was ready to go home and hopped right up in the car. She is always very easy to load on the way home. :-)



Three out of four of my adult kids with spouse/boyfriend came over for Christmas, the fourth lives out of state. The house was full and Kiera always gets very excited when people come to visit. She loves my kids and always wants to be petted. She gets over excited though so we usually ignore her for a while until she settles down a bit. She is still a spaz and she always will be but she's a very cute, sweet spaz and we love her. She loves to run and play with all the other dogs outside and will go after my other foster to get him to play with her. She really does very well with company, especially people that she knows. If we are in the dining room, she will come and lie nearby and sleep. She likes to be in the same room with us. If someone new comes over, she will bark and run away. If they sit down, she will usually come up to them after a while to get petted. When they stand up, they are scary again but, as she gets to know people that fades.

I think Kiera will be ready to look for her forever home soon. We are very proud of this girl. She has come such a long way from when we got her. It is so neat to see her walking around with her head and tail up. I love to watch her running around playing in the snow with the other dogs. She loves to play with my other foster. Ah, a house full of family and Goldens. What more could a person want?



December 2, 2009

I think I'm a little behind on my update. It's been rather crazy around here lately. Kiera is doing well. I took her to another volunteer's house to see what her thoughts were on her as she is

great with very shy dogs. She thought Kiera was doing great! We think she will be ready to find her forever home soon. Kiera is going to need a VERY special forever home. She will never be a "normal" Golden but she will make someone a wonderful companion. She is a very sweet girl and will always have some issues. I think she will improve over time. My daughter rescued a Great Dane who reminds me very much of Kiera and she is doing much better than when they first got her but it's been several years and she, too, will always be more shy and afraid but, she's a sweet dog also.

Kiera was recently reassessed and at first the assessors thought there is no way she's ready for placement but, as we sat and talked, she warmed up to them and we feel with a little more time and the right person, she will be ready soon. Kiera does good at home with us and the people she knows like my kids when they come over. She is wonderful with other dogs and the house cats. No guarantees on outside cats. She has not had that experience. The one time she saw a cat when we were out walking her ears perked up!! She does have a pretty high prey drive and chases the squirrels and bunnies in the yard.

I'm working on getting her out more. She does great in our house and in our yard but, outside the fence is a whole big, scary world full of strangers and different scary noises. Even familiar noises are more scary outside the fence. Inside the house, she is afraid of new people at first. We had a couple of friends come over recently that Kiera has never seen. She was afraid and ran away barking and growling at them at first. Her growl isn't an aggressive growl. I had them go sit down in the living room and she soon came up for pets. Once she figures out that you're o.k., she comes up and wants to be petted and will sit there as long as you'll pet her. If you stand up, well, then you're scary again. She will warm up to people even when they're standing when she sees them enough. She always runs up to my kids when they come over. We were all playing a game and she came into the dining room and laid down and slept nearby.

I have taken her for walks with my daughter and her Great Dane. She does much better on walks outside the fence when she has another dog with her. I always keep her in a NO PULL harness so that she can't back out of it. She would pull out of a regular harness or a collar when she gets scared. We recently took the two girls to the pet store. We started out going to Mound's but they were vacuuming their bins and the new place combined with the noise of the vacuum was just too much and, even with my daughter's dog along, she went back to the car. I wanted to get her out as long as we had made the trip so we went over to Petco. It was quiet there and she walked right in. She even went off sniffing her own way rather than staying with my daughter and her dog the whole time. She went up to a worker there for pets even though her back lets were shaking and she was scared. She did MUCH better than I had thought she would in the store. She got a treat but wouldn't eat it there so I saved it for the car for her.

We went for a walk yesterday and there was a power saw going nearby and a couple of construction workers walking around. Both scary things but she had her buddy nearby. She was doing very well and we came up on the halfway point where we were headed back to the house when a garbage truck came up behind us. It was a ways back but she heard it and was scared. It was stopping for pickups along the way so we were staying ahead of it. Then it had a gap in pickups and was going to pass us. As it got closer, Kiera moved closer to her dog buddy until she was walking so close they were touching, as if she was saying, hide me, hide me. She did stay upright and keep walking even though the big garbage truck monster went roaring by us. Whew! She made it. The garbage truck passed us and Kiera lived through it!! We rounded the corner and, uh oh! There was the garbage truck again and it was stopping right in front of my house! Yikes! Even with her dog buddy nearby, it was just too much for Kiera. My daughter and her dog kept on walking but Kiera just wouldn't go so we stayed back about 1/2 block and waited for them to finish and leave. Once the truck monster left, Kiera pulled me back to the safety of our yard. Boy, was she glad to be home!!! Well, I guess Kiera is not quite ready to go up and meet the garbage man yet but, all in all, she is coming along and has made soooooo much progress from when I first got her. I'm still very proud of this girl. She loves to run and play in the yard with my long haired Chihuahua, my other foster and my daughter's Great Dane.

She has finally gotten brave enough to come upstairs on her own now. She comes up in the morning and steals my slippers and leaves them on the stairs. Silly girl! My husband picks them up and returns them before he leaves for

work sometimes. I often go to put my slippers on and only find one. Hmmmm I wonder where the other slipper went!! Kieeeeeera!!!!

Kiera is a very special girl and will need to find a VERY special person to live out the rest of her life with. She will be so worth the effort someone will put into her! It's going to be very hard for me to say good bye to this girl as she gets ready to spread her wings and fly. I am going to cherish the time I have left with her as we get her ready to leave the nest!

November 6, 2009

Kiera was spayed almost 2 weeks ago. No running around for 2 weeks which will be up this Monday. I'm sure she'll be happy to run around the yard again. She always likes to run laps around the yard and has worn a track in the grass on the corners. :-)

Kiera has come a long way but she sure is a mystery sometimes. She went from not eating when she first came unless I hand fed her, to eating from a bowl about a month after we got her, to eating very well from her bowl, back to not wanting to eat again. I don't know if the spay set her back or what. Like I said, she is a mystery. I have had to put beef bouillon in her food to get her to eat lately. Yesterday I tried something different. I fed her closer to our dog, thinking maybe she just wants to be part of the pack and that seemed to work. She wants to be near the others. If anyone comes near her bowl, she'll just leave, she's so timid. So, once our dog is done eating, it's hard to feed her because ours is a chow hound and will go eat hers. If I lock her up she won't eat, she'll just scratch to get out. So, she really needs to eat with our dog.

My daughter came over earlier this week with her Great Dane and we took the girls for a walk around the block. Kiera was nervous but walked upright. It helps to have another dog to walk with. We went all the way around the block, past some scary construction workers and a truck even went past us and she was scared but recovered nicely. I think she was glad to get back to her yard but she did much better than I expected. Today we went just outside the fence and walked along the fence and back again. She did well. She was nervous but she was also interested in sniffing the ground and wasn't so nervous that she wouldn't eat a treat. I think we're making progress.

Kiera will still get scared sometimes with new people. I had her out in the yard yesterday on a leash and there were 2 guys over visiting the guy across the street. They were very scary to her and she just wanted to go back to the house, so we went back to the house.

Kiera continues to be a real sweetheart. She can sound quite ferocious when she hears something outside. She'll bark and growl but, she doesn't have a mean bone in her body. She makes a great doggie doorbell and doggie security alarm! :-)

October 8, 2009

I know I just sent an update but I just have to brag on my sweet girl. I took her to my daughter's house yesterday. It was kind of funny because I had just pulled up her number and hit send when my phone notified me that she was calling. :-)

Anyway, I took Kiera over there because she knows my daughter and she knows her dog so I thought that would make the unfamiliar environment easier for her and I think it did. She was a little nervous when she got out of the car but followed us in the house. She went around checking everything out and then we took them out in the backyard. It's fenced so the girls could run around and play. My daughter lives off of any main roads so it was pretty quiet back there today. I really wanted to get Kiera out on a walk. She's been so scared I haven't dared take her out yet. I brought along a no pull harness for her so I'd have a backup in case she pulled out of her collar. She has done that in the past while we were in the yard. She was still safe because the yard is fenced but I sure didn't want to

take a chance on her pulling out of her collar outside of a fenced area so I brought the harness. She tolerated that well and off we went with my daughter and her dog.

At first Kiera was nervous and a bit crouched so we turned around and went toward the dead end and she got more comfortable. We kept it short for the first time and she did great!!! She doesn't pull on the leash and never has so the harness wasn't for pulling, it was just a backup in case she got scared and pulled out of her collar. She walked upright the whole time with her head high and I think she enjoyed it.

After her walk, we went to my house and took the girls out for a walk. She has always been afraid to go outside the gate so this was a big step for her. She was nervous about walking on the road but once we got down to the lake, I think she really enjoyed her walk. Lots of new smells, a few dead fish, what more could a dog ask for? She did great walking along the beach. She was more nervous on the walk back along the road but did very well. She needs to learn manners and that's coming. She's like a brand new puppy just learning everything for the first time but, she's a smart girl and learns quickly.

October 5, 2009



Kiera is such a sweet dog but so scared still. My neighbor across the street wants to pet her but she is just too afraid of him. We even tried having him come into the yard and sit down. Usually she will come up to new people if they are sitting down. When I have new people in the house, I have them ignore her and let her come to them when she is ready. She will almost always come up to people eventually to sniff and then run away, run up sniff and run away and eventually run up and stay long enough to get petted. Once someone pets her, she isn't so afraid anymore.

There isn't much new to report. She is feeling more and more comfortable here and that is progress for her. She gets up on the couch now so is feeling more comfortable. She has started counter surfing and garbage picking, a couple of things I'd just as soon she hadn't. Nobody taught her those, either; she figured them out all on her own. So, I don't leave food on the counter, (I usually don't anyway) and I either block the garbage or put it in another room when we're gone. Other than that, she is a good girl. She gets run of the house and has not destroyed anything. She has also picked up the Golden habit of grabbing the nearest soft thing when we come in. She gets so excited that she has to have something in her mouth; usually it's one of my slippers or shoes.

She still doesn't have much interest in fetch. She'll run after the toy, sniff and leave. Or she'll run after the ball, grab it and run away and drop it somewhere that I have no clue where she left it. I figure we'll find a lot of balls once the grass all dies off. She likes to leave stuff in the "garden", which is a glorified weed patch.

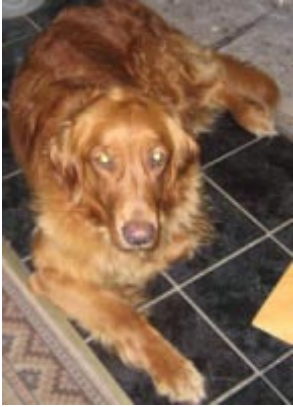
We went to the vet's office today just to visit and socialize and she did well. It just took 3 tries to get her in the door and once she got in there she was reasonably comfortable. She was panting heavily but wasn't trying to get away. She even stepped up on the scale again for me. I was talking to the office manager about my Chihuahua and Kiera actually laid down next to me. She wasn't totally relaxed, still panting but she is obviously feeling much more comfortable there than when I first took her. She even took a treat from the office manager's hand today. To get her in the car before we left home, I had to get in first. When we were leaving the vet, she jumped in the car all by herself.

I tried working some more on getting her outside my gate today and today was not a good day for that. I had a leash on her and we started walking to the gate. She walked along o.k. for a while but then there were a couple of loud cars

nearby so she put her brakes on and didn't want to go any further. Some days are better than others so we'll try again another time. After we got back from the vet, I put a chair in the driveway near the gate and just sat there with the mail to see if she'd come up to me and she wouldn't. Today it was just too scary. I moved the chair back a little ways from the gate and she would come up to me and get a treat but didn't want to hang around that far from the house. The funny thing is, she will often walk right up to the gate on her own, especially if my Black Lab is up there. She'll even go up to the gate and bark sometimes at people and dogs passing by.

We'll keep working on it. She is such a beautiful, sweet girl; she will be so worth the work in the end.

September 6, 2009



Kiera went into heat recently so we still haven't been able to get her spayed. Her heats before were questionable and even the vet wasn't sure but this time there was no question about it. I don't know what she's gotten into but she's pretty stinky. We haven't tried a bath yet because she was so afraid of everything but I think we'll try it this weekend. She has a skin thing going on too. Not really an infection, from the way the vet was talking, it seems more like a dandruff kind of thing going on so she really does NEED a bath. The weather is beautiful and she's feeling more comfortable. She seems to love water. We haven't ventured down to the lake yet because she's too afraid of the "outside world" still. Our last trip to the mailbox, which is just across the street and down a few feet proved waaaaayyyy too scary when we had an encounter with a big scary garbage truck monster!!!! So, we'll take it in much smaller steps and work at just getting comfortable with being outside the gate first.

She doesn't hang around in her room anymore, in fact, if we try to close her in there, even for just a few minutes, she starts pawing at the door and the floor. She doesn't like being locked away from the family now. She spends a lot of her time hanging out by the fireplace. There are two couches by the fireplace and Ginger often hangs out on the one with the cat bed. Ginger likes sleeping in the cat bed but, of course, the cat doesn't. Magnum often hangs out on the couch in front of the fireplace and Kiera likes the floor nearby. I think she likes being part of the pack. She still prefers to be off by herself rather than with people but she does like people and likes to be petted. I think she just doesn't really trust us completely yet. Sometimes we're o.k. but sometimes she's leary.

Outside, she loves to run laps and has been doing playbows with the other dogs. She isn't real interested in fetch although I keep trying. She isn't bothering the fence as much anymore although she does still run the perimeter. She's kind of funny in that way. She's afraid of the outside world, which is basically anything outside the fenced yard but, if the gate was open or she were to find a hole in the fence, I'm guessing she'd take off.

She has shown some new behaviors lately. She gets VERY excited when we come home or when people come over and she's taken to grabbing shoes and slippers in her excitement. One of our last fosters would do that. I'll go to put my slippers on and find only one. The other is usually over in Keira's area somewhere. She doesn't chew them, just grabs them and runs. Another funny thing she does is when we play with Ginger, the Chihuahua, who does like to fetch, Kiera will want to play too. Ginger gets all excited and barks and play growls and then Kiera comes over and wants to get in on the action so we'll toss a toy for her. She'll run and get the toy and take it over by the fireplace, to her area and drop it. Then she comes back for more. She ends up with a pile of toys in her space. I guess she's got half of the fetch thing down. :-)

Somebody has been getting into the garbage lately. I, of course, blamed our old black Lab because he's famous for getting into trouble. Tonight made me rethink that. I was sitting at the computer when in runs Kiera with a stick of butter in her mouth! She had gotten it from the counter in the kitchen!! I could not believe my eyes. First of all, she wouldn't eat ANYTHING when she first came here. It took a lot of coaxing just to get her to eat her dogfood. Then she would spit out the treats I would offer, she wouldn't eat cheese, liver sausage, peanutbutter, nothing. Now she will eat cheese, she likes cheese, she likes scrambled eggs and she likes milk bones and Charlee Bears but she likes the milk bones better. I get the tiny milk bones for Ginger and they work well as training treats for Keira as well. She

has been so afraid of everything that I never thought she would actually get into trouble, like getting into the garbage. After seeing her run in here with a stick of butter in her mouth, though, I've had to rethink the garbage picker. So, it would seem, Kiera is beginning to be a counter surfer and possibly, a garbage picker.

Ginger and I went to a GRRoW sponsored clicker training seminar recently and Ginger picked it up very quickly and loves it. We do some clicker work at home and Kiera is picking up on it very well also. She hears the clicker and often comes running. It's funny because I'm trying to get her to calm down to get a treat. She gets so excited she spins around and knocks down anything within about 5 feet of her. So, I'll just stand there by the treats and wait for the behavior I want. She'll come over and spin around, stand and dance, lay down and finally sit. Depending on how quick I am with the clicker, I'll click for either a down or a sit. She's getting to where she'll offer different behaviors to see which one she gets a click for. I often just say good girl to Kiera and Ginger and that has become a marker for them as well, like the clicker. Whenever I say good girl to Ginger, Kiera comes running, looking for a treat! Even the lab comes running (as much as he can run these days) and he's a boy!

Kiera is eating from a bowl, just dog food, I haven't been adding the scrambled egg anymore and she is eating without me having to hand feed her first. She has found her bark and uses it quite frequently, barking at people or other dogs outside. There are times at 2 and 3 AM when I wish she would lose her bark again. I don't know what she hears unless she hears the dog across the street. We leave the windows open all the time since the weather has been so nice so I'm sure she does actually hear something when she barks. Most of the time she's quiet at night but every now and then. . . .

The bowl thing may seem trivial to you but, for Kiera that is HUGE! It took her over a month to finally eat from a bowl consistently and without us having to hand feed her to get her started. We had another breakthrough recently. We went to the vet and she stepped up on the scale by herself. Cars are still scary so we're still working on that. Sometimes when I'm out putzing around in the yard, I'll leave the car doors open and sometimes she'll run through the van, in one door and out the other. I did take her with me to the post office yesterday and she was nervous but she did finally lay down and relax a little more. She actually rides pretty well. She is nervous and pants but she does sit or lay down most of the time. She may get up and pace some but she's not obnoxious in the car.



We're shooting for end of October now for her spay. I'm thinking about flying out to AZ for my daughter's first baby so would get her spayed when I get back home. Kiera is still a work in progress and a bit of a puzzle. Sometimes she comes in the house very well and sometimes I have to put a leash on her to get her in. Sometimes she runs up to me to be petted when we're outside and other times, it's hard to get her to come. We have also discovered that she has a pretty high prey drive. She took off after a squirrel one day when I let her out to potty. The squirrel just barely made it up the tree before Kiera got there and then Kiera kept rooting around in my hostas looking for it.

I think that bring us up to date on the Kiera saga. Check back in a couple of weeks to see how's she's doing.

July 29, 2009

Kiera has been with us for a little over a month. She has made a lot of progress in that time but is still not ready for adoption. She still scares easily. She is afraid of new places and things. We still have trouble getting in the house from outside sometimes but not all the time. We are working on some manners and basic commands, come, sit, stay, etc. She has to learn to accept grooming and even just being touched all over. She does well with being petted on her front half but isn't so sure about the back half. You can hold her tail and that doesn't bother her but she isn't thrilled with having her paws messed with so we're working on that too. I can brush her some but she, again, isn't thrilled with the

brush on her back half. We are also still working on getting in and out of the car, going in and out of doors other than home, like the vet's office, getting up on the scale at the vet. She still won't do that. Many things are still scary for her.

Things we've accomplished so far are eating from a bowl. Yay!! That was a biggie. When she came she would only eat off of the floor and only if I hand fed her first. Now, I still have to sit in a chair next to her but, she will eat, on her own, from a bowl. I can brush her some, she is learning to sit, she is eating dog biscuits which she wouldn't do before and she is even pushing the other dogs out of the way to get them! She is not spending much time at all in her safe place anymore and spends most of her time out in the living room in front of the couch which is in front of the fireplace. Magnum sleeps ON the couch and she sleeps right in front of it on the floor. Her personality is beginning to come out and she is getting pushier. She will push in front of the other dogs for attention and treats. She LOVES attention, even though she is scared. One funny thing that she does is she spins. When she gets real excited, she'll spin around and almost knock poor Magnum down. He is old and his backend doesn't work real well anymore so when she gets excited, look out! I have to let him out and down the ramp first or she'll knock him down.

Kiera will challenge a fence so I have to watch her when she is outside. She tries to go under and is pretty sneaky. She loves to run laps around the yard and play, human fetch. I throw the ball; she runs after it and sometimes picks it up, runs around the yard a couple of times and drops it somewhere for me to go fetch. Sometimes, she'll get the ball, run a lap around the yard and drop the ball nearby as she runs past me. She is getting much braver and is getting more comfortable with meeting new people.

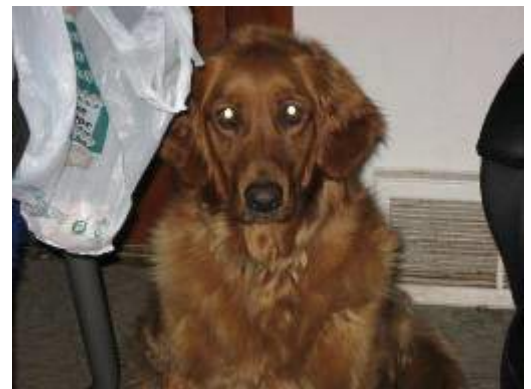
I still haven't been able to get her spayed. We had it scheduled but then she went into heat, or at least we think she did. She seems to have a strange heat cycle so now we have to wait a couple of months to get spayed. I'm sure it will take that long to deal with some of her behavior issues anyway but I'll feel a lot better when she is spayed.

Kiera is a real sweetheart. Even though she came to us scared to death of everything, she never growled or offered to bite at us. She allowed us to handle her even though she was afraid. She tolerates my little long haired Chihuahua quite well but hasn't learned how to play with her yet. Ginger keeps trying, though. She's trained several Golden retrievers before Kiera on how to play with a Chihuahua. She's met my cats and just sniffs them.

Some days she will do really well and come to me when I call her, wagging her tail and looking like any other normal Golden retriever and some days, she will retreat back more and not want to come to me and spend more time off by herself. She is a work in progress but she is going to be very much worth it and, I think she is going to be a great dog one day soon.

June 16, 2009

Kiera is a very sweet dog who is afraid of the world. She will go outside but only if we go with her. She runs and runs around the yard. I'm still not sure if that is because she enjoys so much being free to do that or if she's looking for a way out. She lived in a kennel so didn't have that freedom to just run and run. She still pants a lot outside. She still isn't comfortable being out. She will run up to my dog and sniff quick and run off again. She'll be sniffing around the yard and a car will come by and she'll run back to the house, behind all the brush and sit right up against the house. She also gets scared if people walk by and she runs back up to the house and wants in. She's getting used to the hammering going on in the neighborhood. There's a lot of construction going on here because of last year's flood.



I took her outside tonight and opened up the car doors. I sat in the front and left the side door open. She jumped in and out of the car several times, which is good. We didn't go anywhere, I just want her to get used to the car and see that it's safe and it doesn't always take her to a bad place.

Kiera still hides the ball when I throw it for her. There is one in some weeds that I probably won't find until fall! Kiera has met my cats and didn't think twice about them. Just sniffed and that was it. She is really pretty mellow about all the other animals she has met so far, yet dogs outside the fence scare her and she runs back to the house. She spends most of her time in her safe place and still won't eat from a bowl. She will only eat off of the floor.

I started this update about a week ago and in that time I've seen more progress. She went up to the fence tonight and "met" another Golden through the fence. They sniffed noses.

If you haven't seen Beverly Hills Chihuahua, then this won't mean as much but Kiera has found her bark! She didn't bark for the first couple of weeks she was here but she does now! She barks at 2 in the morning, 4 in the morning, and 5 in the morning. She barks at things outside now and she barks when my dogs bark. When she barks at 2 in morning, I'd just as soon she lose her bark again! :-)

I actually even made a little progress with the eating thing. She and her sister won't eat from a bowl, tray, plate, you name it. They only eat off of the floor and only a little at a time. I have gotten her to eat cooked ground turkey from a bowl twice lately and scrambled eggs once. That's progress but still not dog food. I have to coax her to eat.

Medically, she is being treated for Anaplasma and she's had a high fever. Her presurgical bloodwork came back good, though, so I'm hoping the antibiotics for the Anaplasma will take care of the fever. Her ear is all better but we put off her shots and spay because of the fever.

It's hard to get a good picture of Kiera because she is still so shy.

June 21, 2009

Kiera came to us on 6/14/09. She was outside all the time and hasn't had much socialization so she is afraid of everything. She is going to be here for a while before she will be ready for adoption. Her first night here, she was belly crawling everywhere but still wanted petting. As long as you move slowly, she does pretty well. She has been here for a week today and is doing much better than when she first came. She is standing up more and running around the yard but only if I go out with her. If I don't go with her, she won't go off the ramp. She has met both of my dogs and has been fine with them. She will go up to them and lie down on her belly and lick their noses.

Today was Father's Day so 3 out of 4 of the kids and spouses and boyfriend came over for a cookout. Two of them brought their dogs. My second oldest daughter has a Great Dane that she and her husband rescued from a Dane rescue several years ago who was also very scared. My son and his wife have our adopted GRRoW Golden mix, Duncan who we adopted almost 8 years ago. I closed Kiera in her room until everybody had settled in and then when the house was quiet, we took her outside with Sweet Pea (the Dane) first so they meet and that went well. Then she came inside again and after a while, we went outside and she met Duncan. That also went well. She took all the activity much better than I anticipated and actually wanted to come out and see people so I opened up her room. She seemed to like my son and followed him a little bit. Then she would get scared again and run back to her safe place.

Kiera is a very sweet girl who will need a lot of time and patience to come out of her shell. She went to the vet because as I was petting her one day, I felt something by her ear and lifted the flap and it was black under there. She has an ear infection so I clean her ear twice a day and put drops in. She also has some pills which she doesn't like to take. She also has a hotspot on her elbow that bothers her some.

She likes to chase tennis balls and her Jolly Ball and she runs back towards you and then goes off to the side and hides the ball in the bushes. So rather than fetch, we play treasure hunt. She isn't spayed yet and I want to let her settle in a little before we schedule that. She was watching Ginger, my longhaired Chihuahua play with a stuffed, or maybe I should say, destuffed soft toy, and when Ginger put it down, Kiera picked it up and ran off to her room. Ginger went after her and took it back but, it was good to see her try to play.

June 14, 2009

Kiera 09-052 came to GRRoW.