In May of 2005, my good friend Lynda Williams contacted me about a young male Golden she had been asked to evaluate for Golden Retriever Rescue of North Texas (GRRNT). The rescue was looking for another foster home for this 14-month-old dog as his current foster family was going on vacation for three months. GRRNT were looking for someone who would work with him and try to make him adoptable as they were having a difficult time due to his high energy and ability to climb fences. Lynda kept saying, “You have got to meet this dog – he’s right up your alley. Just go look at him.” I was not in the market for another dog, but agreed to foster him for the summer.

My first introduction to “Sydney” (as he was then called) was as he bounced four feet high and spun in circles all the while carrying a bumper in this mouth. His foster mom said, “He is a bit out of control but loves to retrieve.” We tossed a bumper – he’s right up your alley. Just go look at him.” I was not in the market for another dog, but agreed to foster him for the summer.

As Sydney became familiar with his new environment he showed signs of untapped potential exists in so many of our rescued Goldens and that what is needed is a chance – and a committed and knowledgeable adopter. Thank you, Rita.

**The Amazing Harry Houdini**

by Rita Robbins

Harry (commonly known as “Who” or affectionately as “Whoody”) not only stole my heart, but also continues to capture the hearts of others. Obedience and field competition titles are amaze when adopted. Harry has attained his AKC Senior Hunter title, Utility obedience title and Rally Excellent title, his UKC Hunting Retriever Championship and Utility obedience titles as well as his WCX. He was the recipient of the DFWAMRGC’s Field/Obedience trophy and Utility trophy in 2010; the Open Obedience trophy in 2009, and the Novice Obedience trophy in 2007. He is presently working toward his UDX and MH. Pretty amazing for a dog thought to be unadoptable.

There is something uniquely different about a rescue dog. They seem to know they are being given a second chance. It is extremely rewarding and humbling. It’s not about the titles, success or the breeding – it’s about doing something good for the breed, one dog at a time.

Lynda was right…I did need this dog!

---

**About the author:** Rita has owned and trained Golden Retrievers for over 25 years. Her first Golden was a four-year-old rescue named “Rocky” who introduced her to competitive dog sports and achieved his UD, SH and WCX titles. She has titled multiple dogs including CH UD TD SH HRC WCX one CDHF and VCC. She and her husband, Carry, typically have one or two rescue dogs in their clan and she tries to find an activity the dogs enjoy. Last month, eight-year-old “Buddy” joined their family. “Buddy” is currently on a weight loss and exercise plan so he can join in, too.