



I'M ADOPTED!

RUDI, our cover dog last issue, had a long road to recovery after she was found by the side of the road. Read about her new life on Page 6.



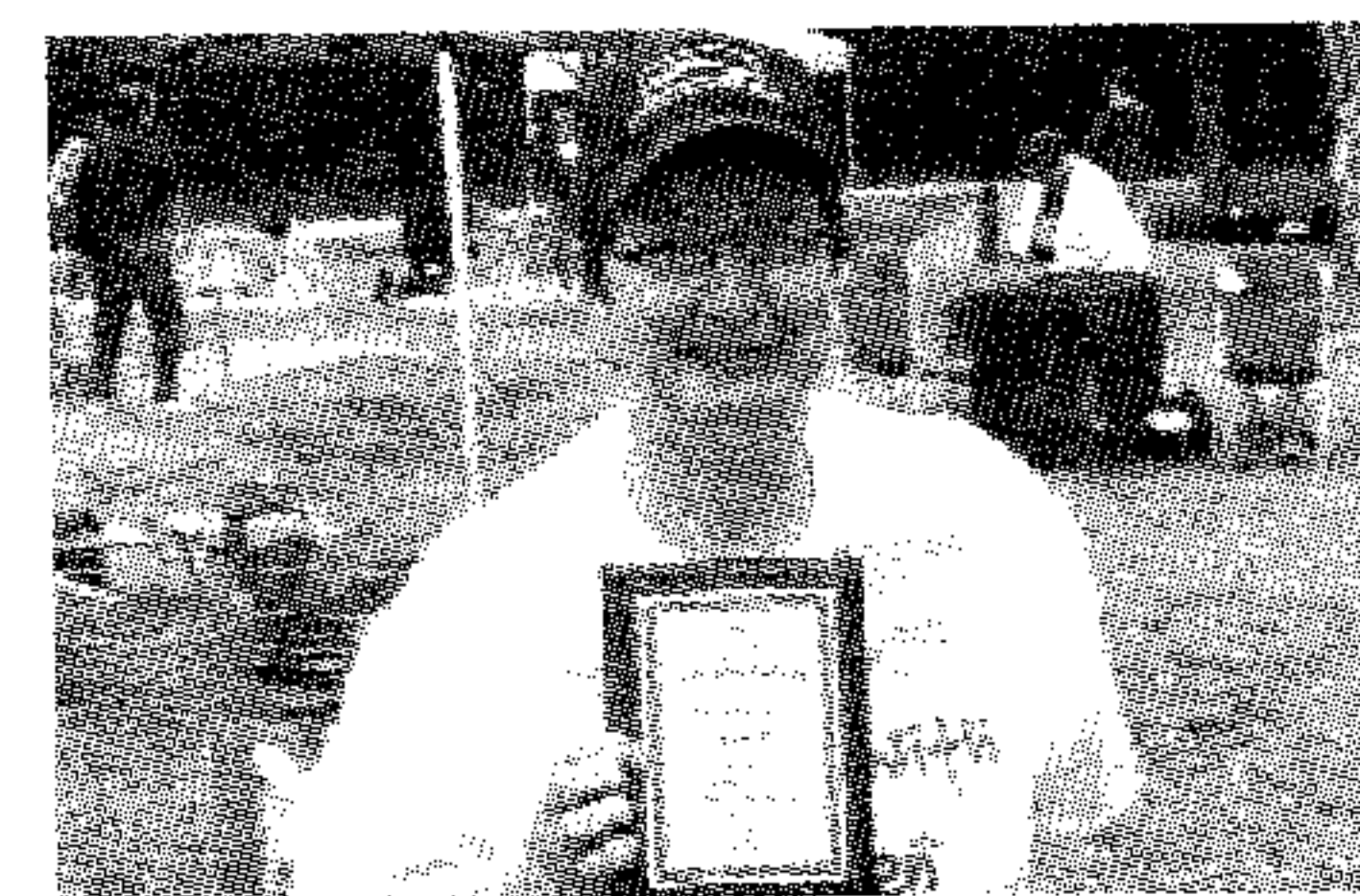
REUNION FUN

GRRMF's 2007 Rescue Reunion is only a memory - but you can preserve the memory with a special commemorative Reunion DVD! Page 4-5.



WHAT DOES RESCUE MEAN?

Just ask Rosie, or Timmy, or Cubbins, or Ella - all featured in this or recent newsletters and on our web site. See Page 17.



GRRMF'S "TOP DOGS"

Twelve dedicated and hardworking volunteers were recipients of the 2006 GRRMF Top Dog Awards. Read about them on Page 3.

Volume 10, Issue 2

SUMMER 2007

Hearts of



Gold

Published by Golden Retriever Rescue

of Mid-Florida, Inc.

By the Numbers

Anyway you count it, 2007 is shaping up to be a busy year for GRRMF

If early 2007 activity is any indication, it's going to be a very busy year for GRRMF! Our volunteers have been working harder than ever to keep up with the dogs who need to come into our program, applications

to be processed, veterinary care needed, transportation to coordinate, growing our foster program so we can take in as many dogs as possible, coordinating and manning events, and managing the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Here's a quick glimpse. Through April, GRRMF:

- Took in 78 dogs. ■ Adopted out 70 dogs.
- Added 2 permanent fosters to the "hospice" program, bringing the total to 10.
- Processed 229 applications and cleared approximately 86 for home visits.

As of this writing, there were more than two dozen goldens waiting to come into the program, mostly owner turn-ins for reasons from moving, to not enough time, to "sheds too much." There are several displaced dogs due to divorce, one who is selling his house and wants the dog gone so he can show it, one bankruptcy and a few owners with health problems, including two with terminal illnesses.

Regardless of how sad these stories are - and trust us, they will break your heart - GRRMF can't take in a dog unless we have an open foster home. Unfortunately, this equates to a never-ending waiting list of dogs needing to come in. This does not count goldens in kill shelters, who likely will be euthanized if we don't help them, or emergency situations such as the "Fantastic Four" featured on our website. The current list is about the longest we remember it in recent times, which tells us that the need for our rescue group is growing, not diminishing.

If you've ever considered fostering, now is the time! Fosters provide a temporary home for a rescue golden while it is awaiting its forever home. Medical care is provided by GRRMF. All you need to provide is food ... and lots of love. The rewards are immeasurable. Just ask someone who has fostered, and you will instantly see by the glow on their faces that the experience is worthwhile.

If you are interested, fill out a foster application from our website: www.grrmf.org. Or contact Marcia McGovern, GRRMF Foster Coordinator: mmcgovern1@cfl.rr.com.

Pet Food Recall - Scary Stuff

You'd have to live under a rock to not have heard about the massive pet food recall under way due to tainted ingredients and pesticides found in some dog and cat foods.

We would like to offer a few words of caution. First and foremost, educate yourself. The recall list - more than 100 brands - is available on the Internet or from pet supply stores. If the brand you are feeding is involved, don't hesitate: throw it out.

Most of the foods on GRRMF's recommended nutrition list do not contain ingredients that are being recalled, especially wheat gluten, because wheat has been shown to be problematic for dogs with food allergies, something that's very common in the golden retriever breed.

We'd also like to caution those who are considering cooking their own food for their pets. This can be a good option, but only if you know what you're doing. There are many resources available, and each recipe is different. It must be stressed that pets, just like people, need balanced diets, and it can be hard to find the right mix. If you prepare your dog's food, you risk missing a nutrient that your golden needs to thrive. You also may cause some digestive issues, such as an upset stomach or diarrhea. Lastly, you must have good information about foods that are NOT good for dogs, such as grapes, onions and others. You could do more harm than good, so please consult with a holistic veterinary professional before going the homemade route.

The one bright spot in all of this is that more people are asking questions and figuring out that not all pet foods are made alike. You may have found that you are more interested than you used to be in reading the ingredients on pet food labels.

continued on page 2

This is very important, and something GRRMF recommends to all adopters. We feel very strongly in the adage: if you wouldn't eat it, don't feed it to your pets! Below are some basic guidelines:

- Goldens are particularly sensitive to dietary concerns, and feeding them a high quality diet can help boost their health and immune system. Goldens are also prone to skin problems, and a poor quality diet usually translates into costly veterinarian bills.

- Feeding a high-quality food is not necessarily more expensive. Price is misleading: cheaper foods require more volume to be fed, up to several cups at each meal.

- DO NOT buy your food from a grocery store. GRRMF does not recommend any brands carried in grocery or discount stores. For a list of recommended foods, visit our web site: www.grrmf.org/care/food.html.

- Do not assume that just because a food is available from your veterinarian's office that it is o.k. Read the ingredients and decide for yourself.

- Always check the "buy by" date on the bag and make sure you have several months before this date.

- Always store dog food in an airtight container in a cool, dry place. If you only have one dog, consider buying smaller bags so the food is fresher.

- Look for food free of chemical preservatives. Do not feed foods with Ethoxyquin, BHA, BHT, propylene glycol, or sodium nitrate/nitrite. Some of these additives are suspected of causing cancer. Look for food preserved with Tocopherols (Vitamins C and E) as well as rosemary and other herbs.

- Look for food that has meat as the first ingredient - such as salmon, chicken, or turkey. Also look for multiple meat proteins in the first seven ingredients. Protein from multiple sources is generally viewed as being beneficial (such as lamb, chicken and fish), unless your dog is allergic to certain proteins.

- Avoid foods that list grain as the first ingredient. Dog food companies sometimes list several types of grains in the first seven ingredients. Beware of this -

your dog needs animal protein in his diet!

- Don't buy food that contains animal digest. These are the intestines of the animal, including what is in the intestines.

- Avoid foods that list meat "by-products." By-products normally contain beaks, feet, feathers, heads and other slaughterhouse wastes - not the most nutritious part of the animal.

- Avoid foods that have sugars, artificial colors or flavors or a lot of added salt. Semi-moist dog foods are the worst - they are loaded with artificial colors and sugars.

- Added vitamins and minerals are beneficial only when applied after the baking process, because heat destroys vitamins.

- The best foods are made up of ingredients that would be suitable for human consumption. Many dog foods contain meat from diseased livestock, condemned material from slaughterhouses (such as tumors cut away from meat) and, as horrible as it sounds, some pet foods actually include euthanized pets sold to rendering plants and even road kill. Is it any wonder so many dogs die from cancer when they are being fed meat from these sources? Don't hesitate to call your dog food company and ask them questions about the grade of meat they use.

- Nearly every dog food contains grains, such as brown rice, barley, corn, wheat, etc. We have found that goldens generally do poorly on a food that contains corn, soy or wheat. There is a big difference in quality of grain products. Look for whole grains such as brown rice, instead of grain by-products such as brewer's rice (leftover from mills). Oats and barley are also good grain sources.

- Beware of fillers - one popular pet food contains peanut hulls - how nutritious could that be?

- Many dog treats are filled with sugars, preservatives and artificial colors. Try buying biscuits at your local dog bakery, making some yourself or go with a premium brand.

The bottom line: do your homework and read the ingredients. Do they sound like something YOU would like to eat?

FOSTER FOR GRRMF

One of the most rewarding things you'll ever do!

We Need Your Help ... GRRMF relies on foster families to prepare hundreds of goldens for their forever homes each year. GRRMF currently has many more dogs that need our help than we have homes to care for them. If you've ever considered fostering, please find out more about it today. Our current fosters will tell you all about the rewarding opportunity to help GRRMF help more golden retrievers start new lives in loving homes. As a foster, the only expense you incur is food. All medical expenses, including supplements and monthly flea and heartworm preventatives, are paid by GRRMF. All you need to add is love!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARCIA MCGOVERN
AT MMCGOVERN1@CFL.RR.COM OR 407-766-9358.
VISIT WWW.GRRMF.ORG/SUPPORT/FOSTER.HTML.**

Fostering -- what a great thing to do!

2006 GRRMF Top Dog Awards

GRRMF's "Top Dog Awards" are given out each year at the annual Rescue Reunion. They are designed to recognize volunteers for their outstanding service to GRRMF in making a difference in the lives of the golden retrievers in our rescue program.

We salute you - you are truly **TOP DOGS!**

INTAKE

Donna Dossing Graves

ADOPTIONS

Gregg Eddie

FOSTERING

Hank & Janice Bogle Tom & Kellyann Goring Chris & Tommy Manley Rick & Cindy Owens

EDUCATION

Jennifer Longman

COMMUNICATION/ADMINISTRATIVE

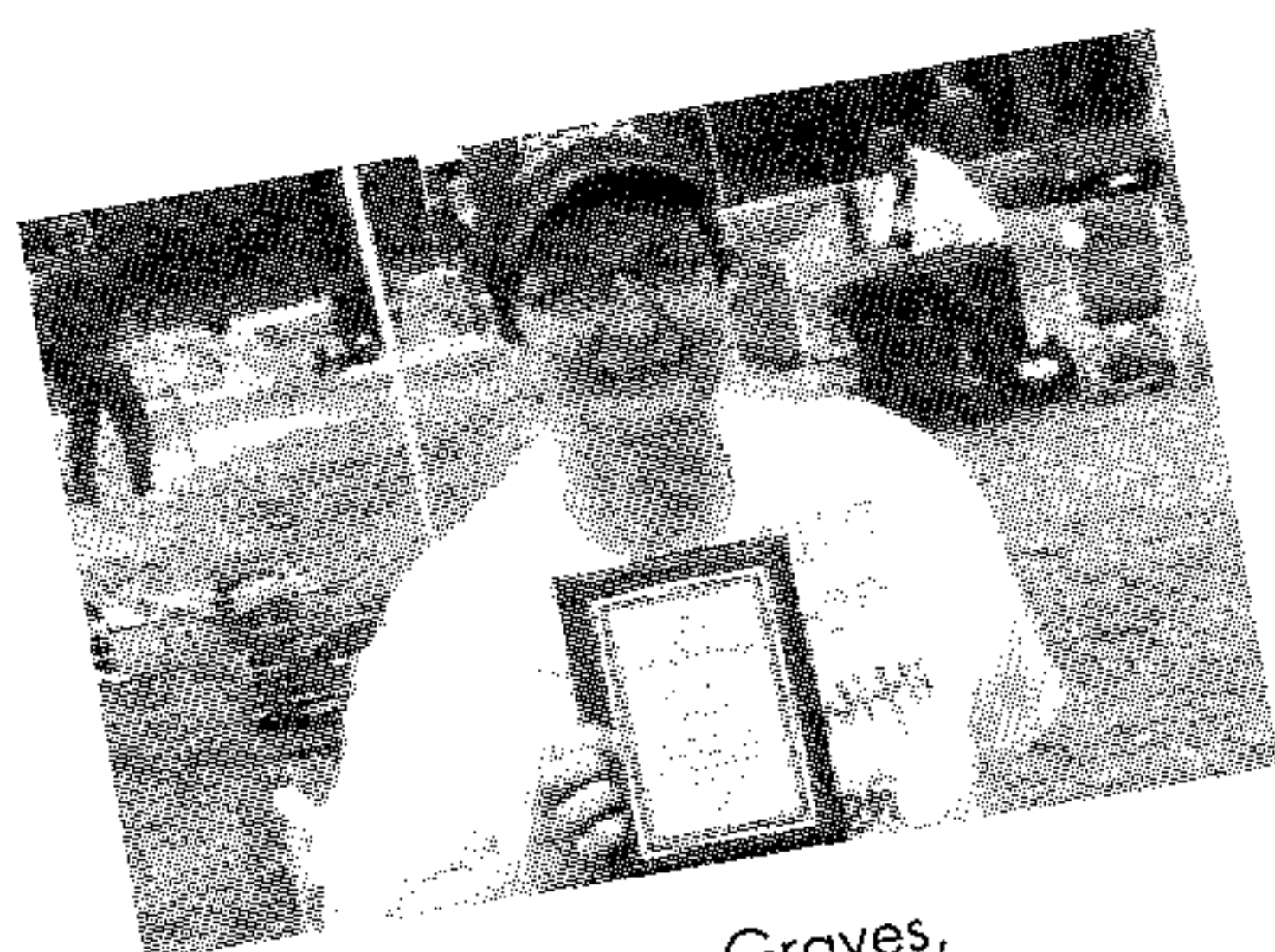
Pat Matthews ■ Deborah Wilson

FUND-RAISING

Aaron Kennon ■ Janet Thompson

TRANSPORTATION

Greg & Jana Garrison



Donna Graves, Top Dog award recipient for Intake, displays her award.



Tom Goring (pictured with foster Nikki) and his wife Kellyann received a Top Dog award for Fostering.



Jennifer Longman, shown with Rusty, is an award recipient for Education.

Books You Must Read, Films You Must See! Provided by Ellen Lindenfeld, GRRMF volunteer and Broward County Library manager



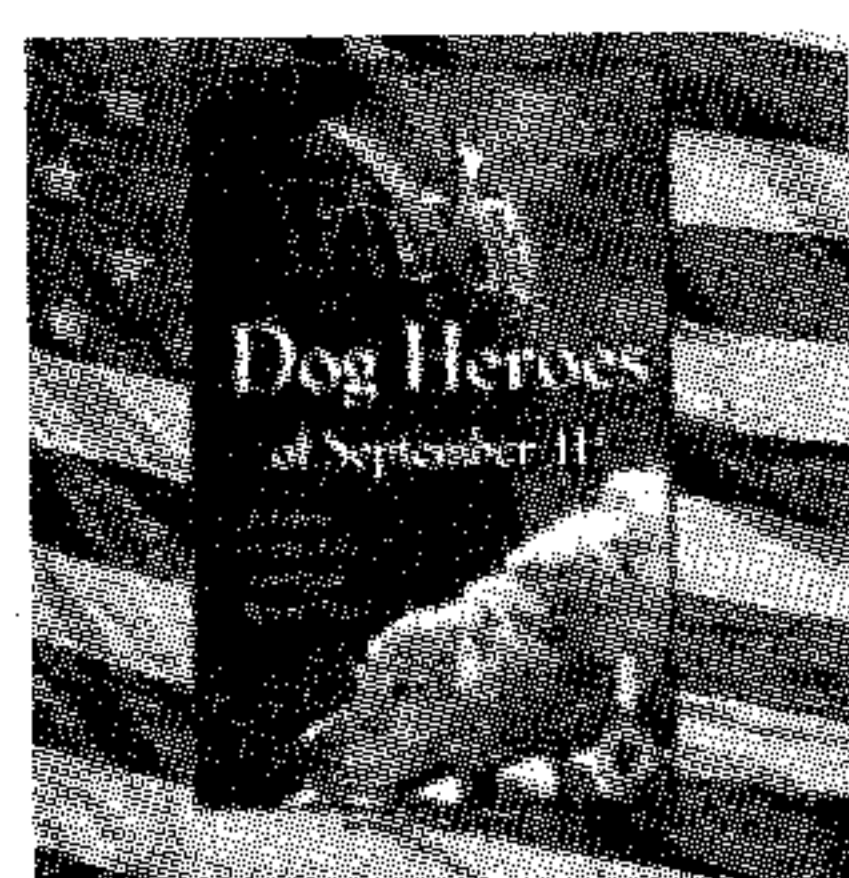
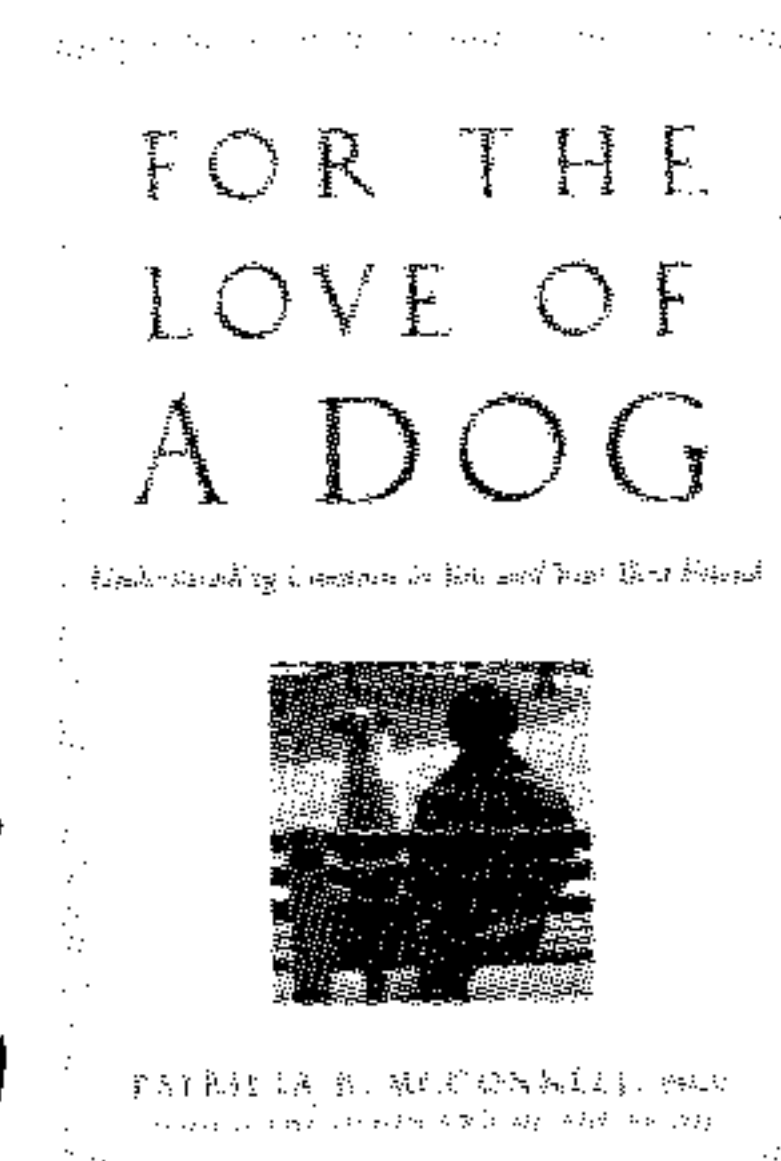
"Best Friend Forgotten: A Documentary on Pet Overpopulation" portrays the compelling crisis of pet overpopulation in the United States. A Humane Society of the United States Genesis Award winning film, it follows the fates of a cat named Oreo and a lab mix named Clover, educating viewers as to the importance of neutering and spaying, and encouraging the public to get involved in education and adoption from shelters or rescue groups. This film both educates and inspires the public to help solve the problem of pet overpopulation. A touching, heartbreaking film which will make all of us involved in rescue want to save all of the dogs who come into shelters, and proud of all the work we do to save unwanted animals. Actor: David Duchovny; Director: Julie Lofton; DVD Release Date: December 15, 2004

For the Love of a Dog: Understanding Emotion in You and Your Best Friend

By Patricia McConnell (Ballantine Books, 2006)

Author of *At the Other End of the Leash*, McConnell's latest book is one of the most informative books I have read focusing on animal behavior and on understanding the behavior our dogs are exhibiting. If everyone who owned a dog read this book, there would be a tremendous reduction in negative interaction among dogs and between dogs and their owners. "Focuses on the signals that humans can read, such as talking eyebrows, wrinkles, body shape and tongue flicks, in order to understand their dog's internal state. McConnell offers sophisticated explanations to account for different types of behavior, as well as insight into how bad behavior can be prevented."

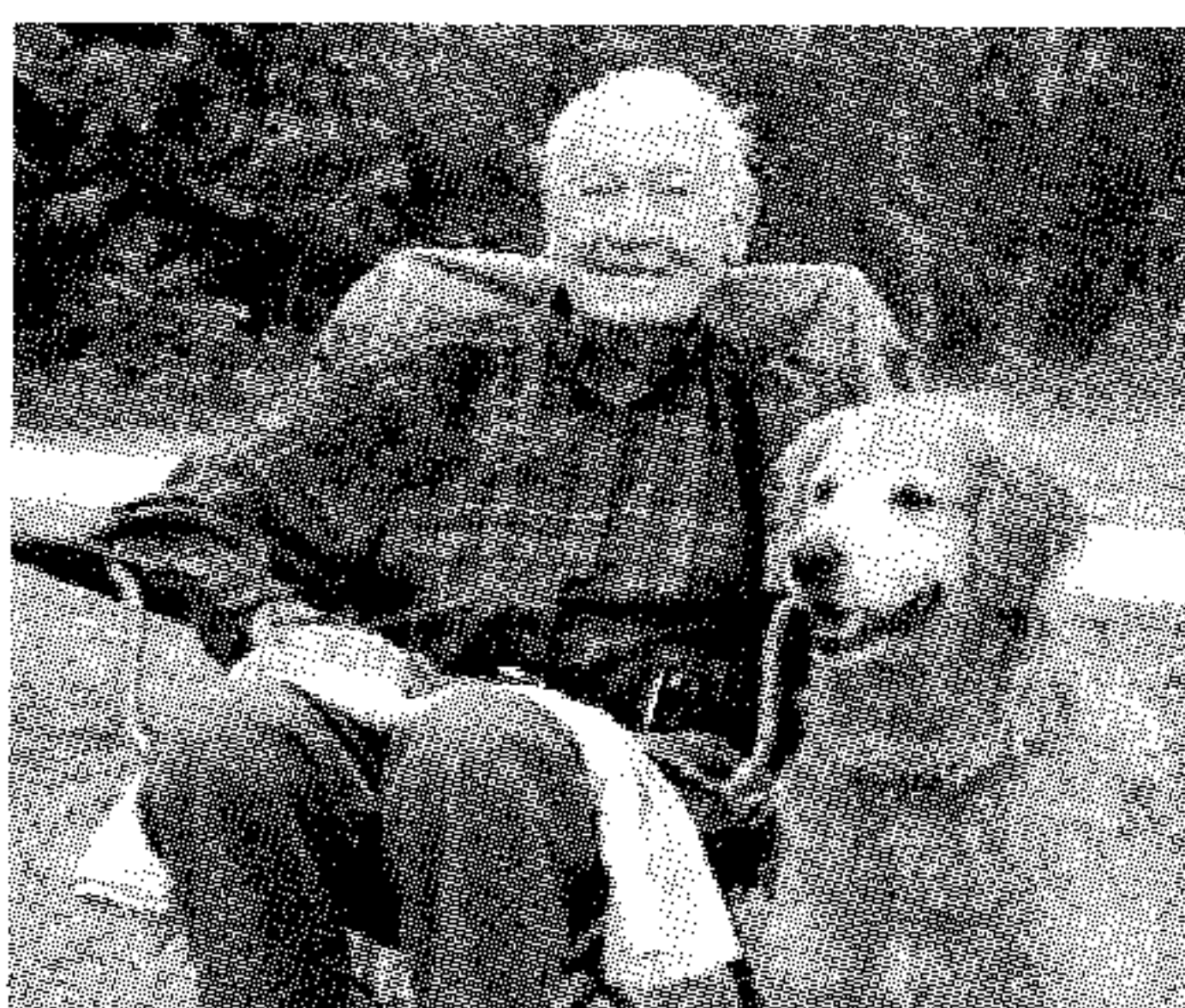
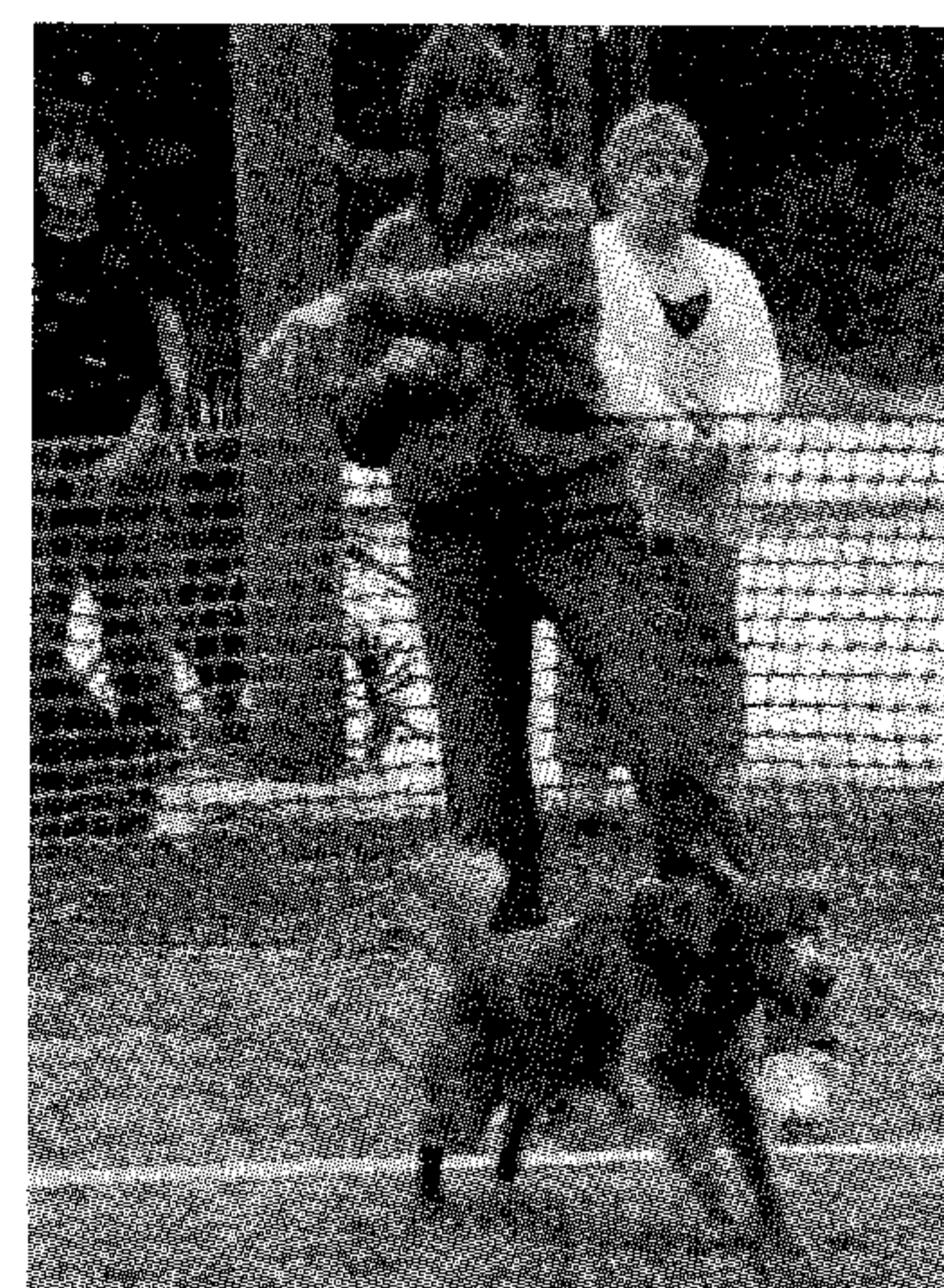
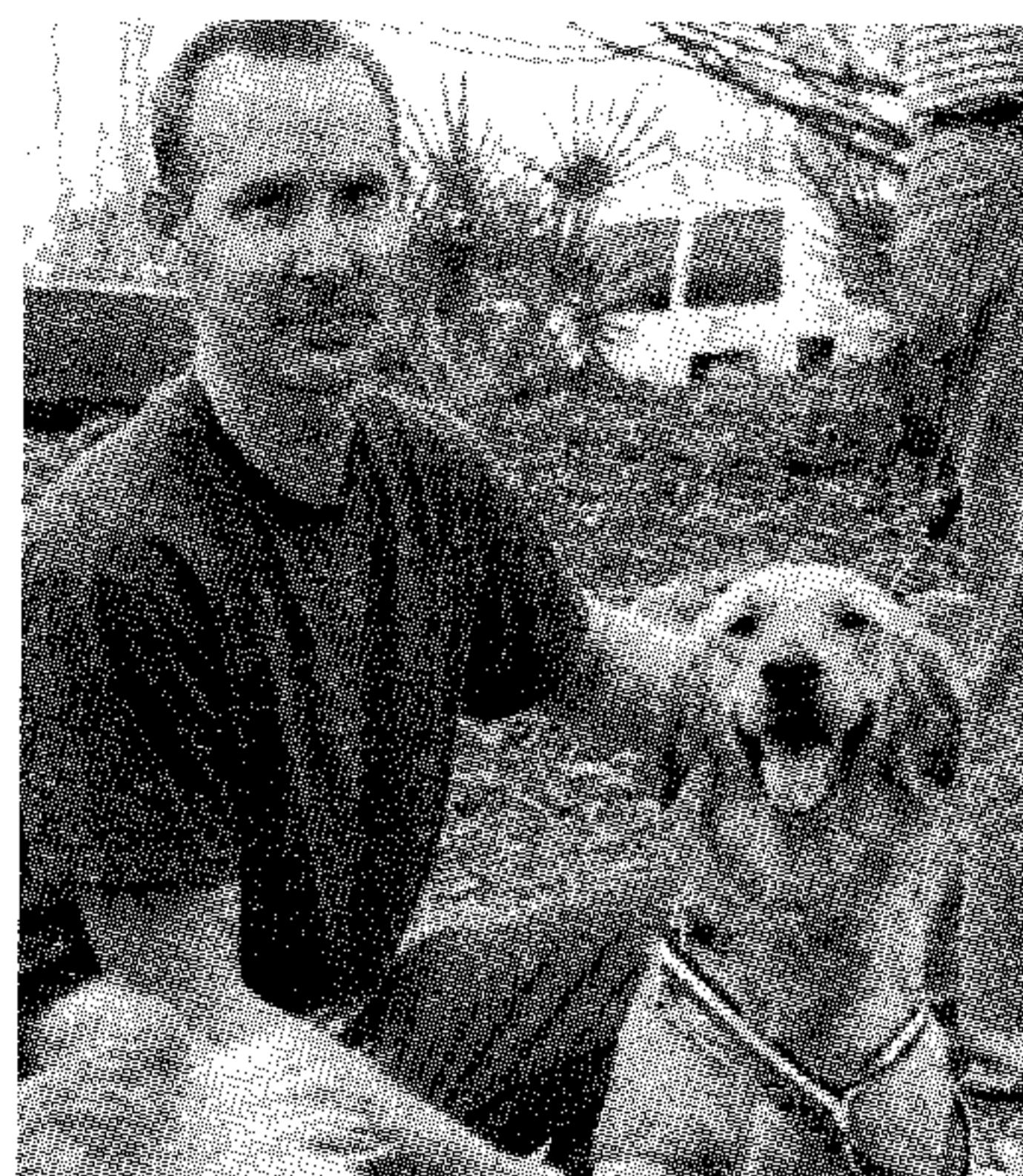
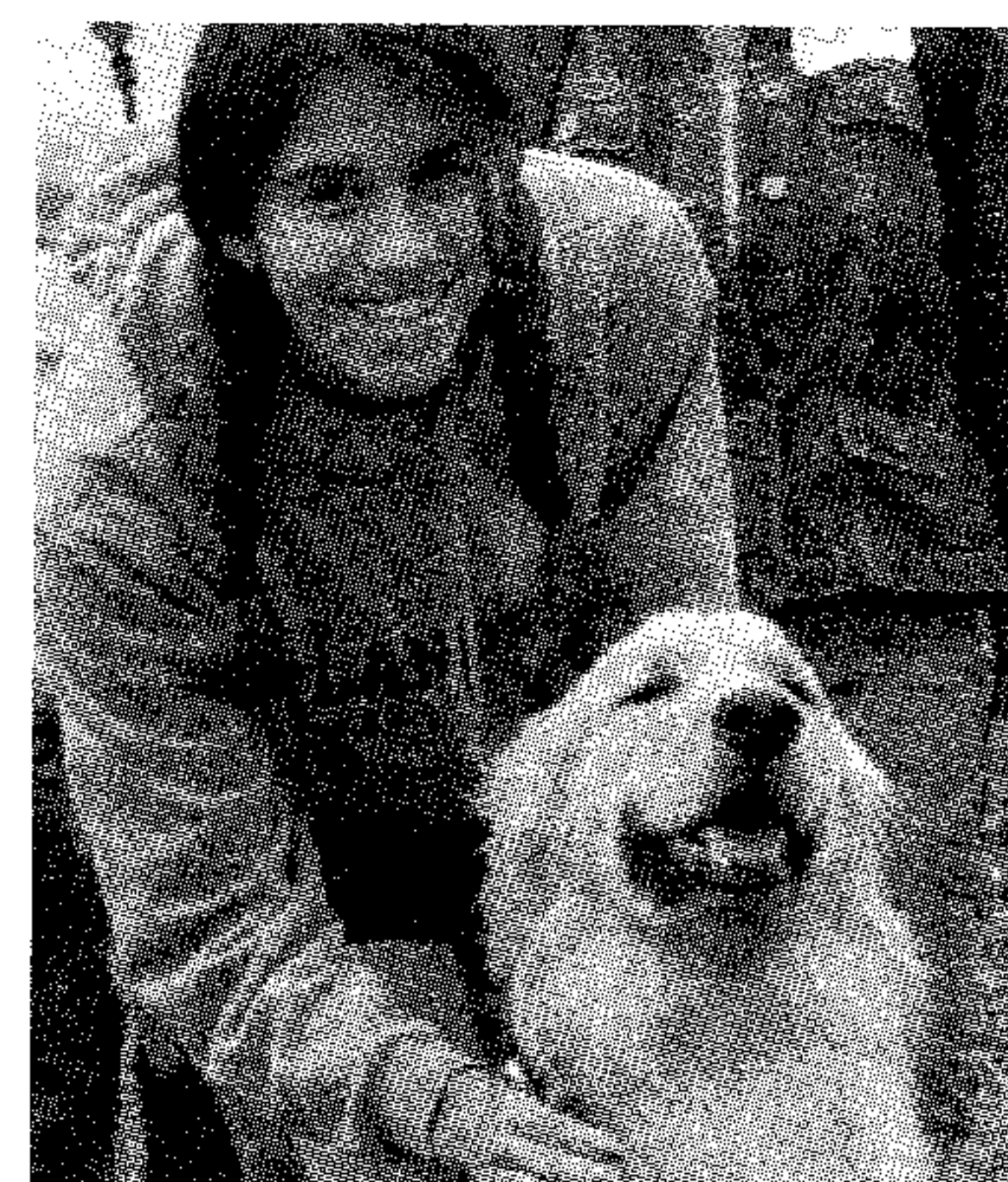
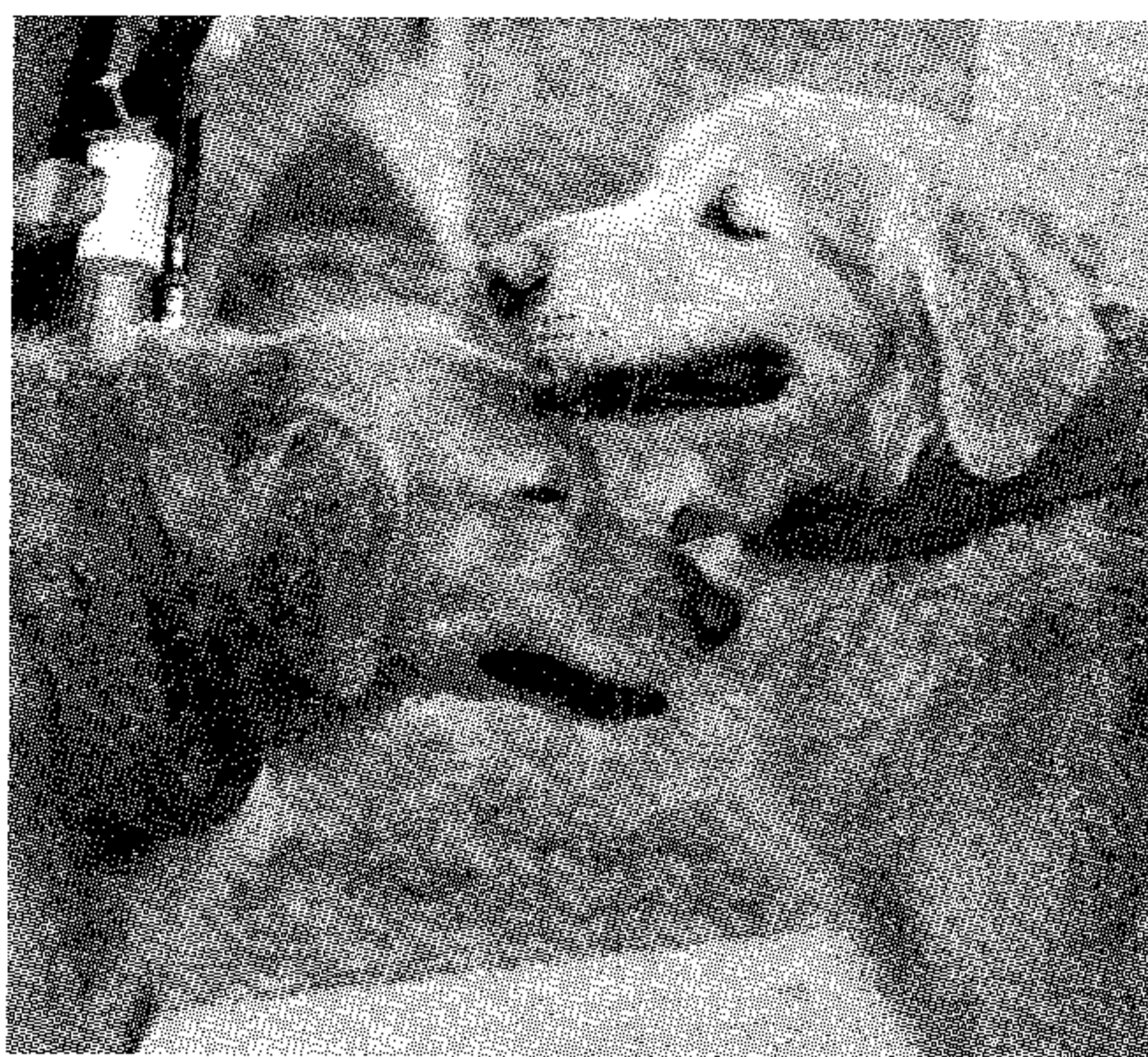
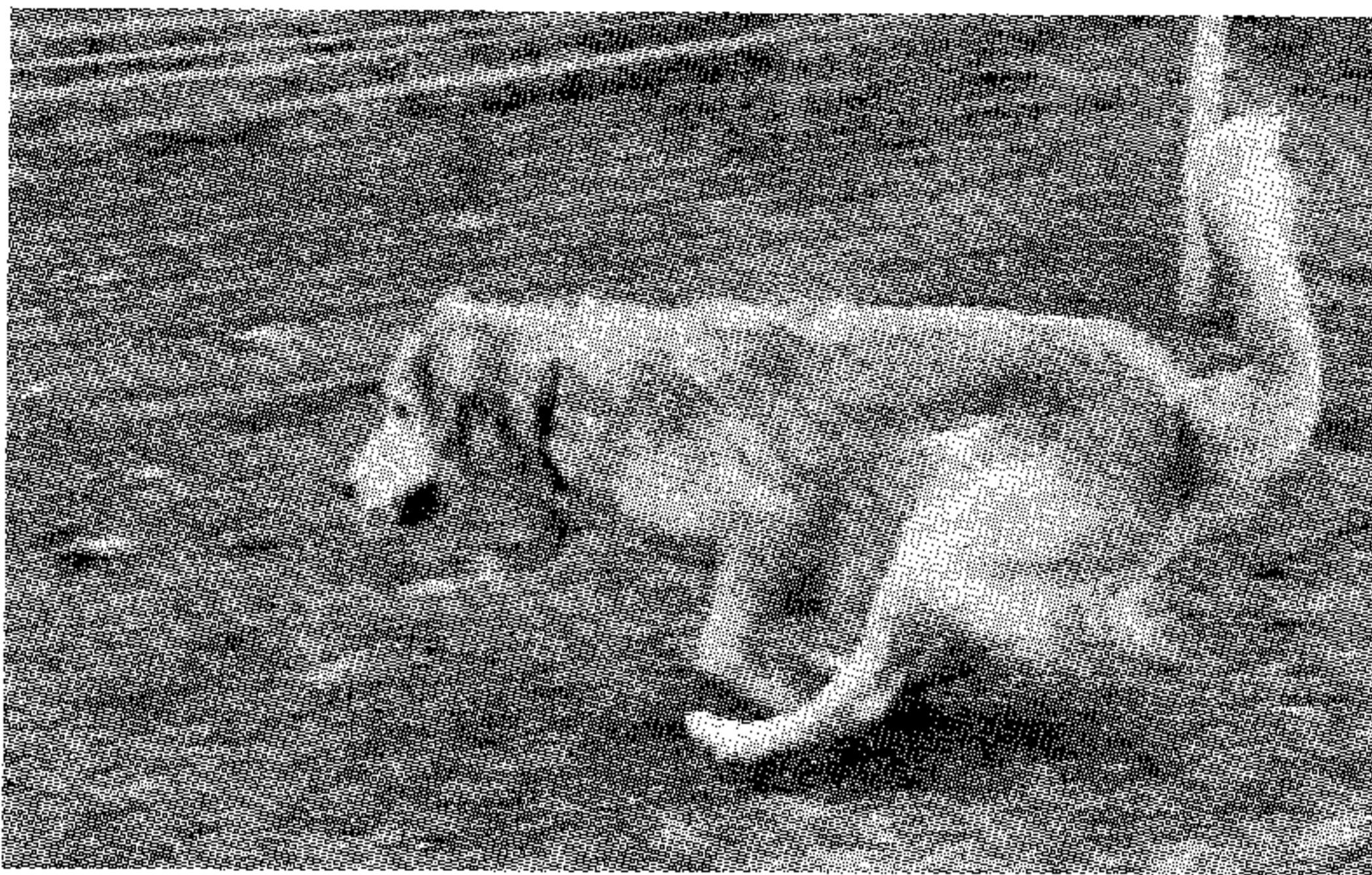
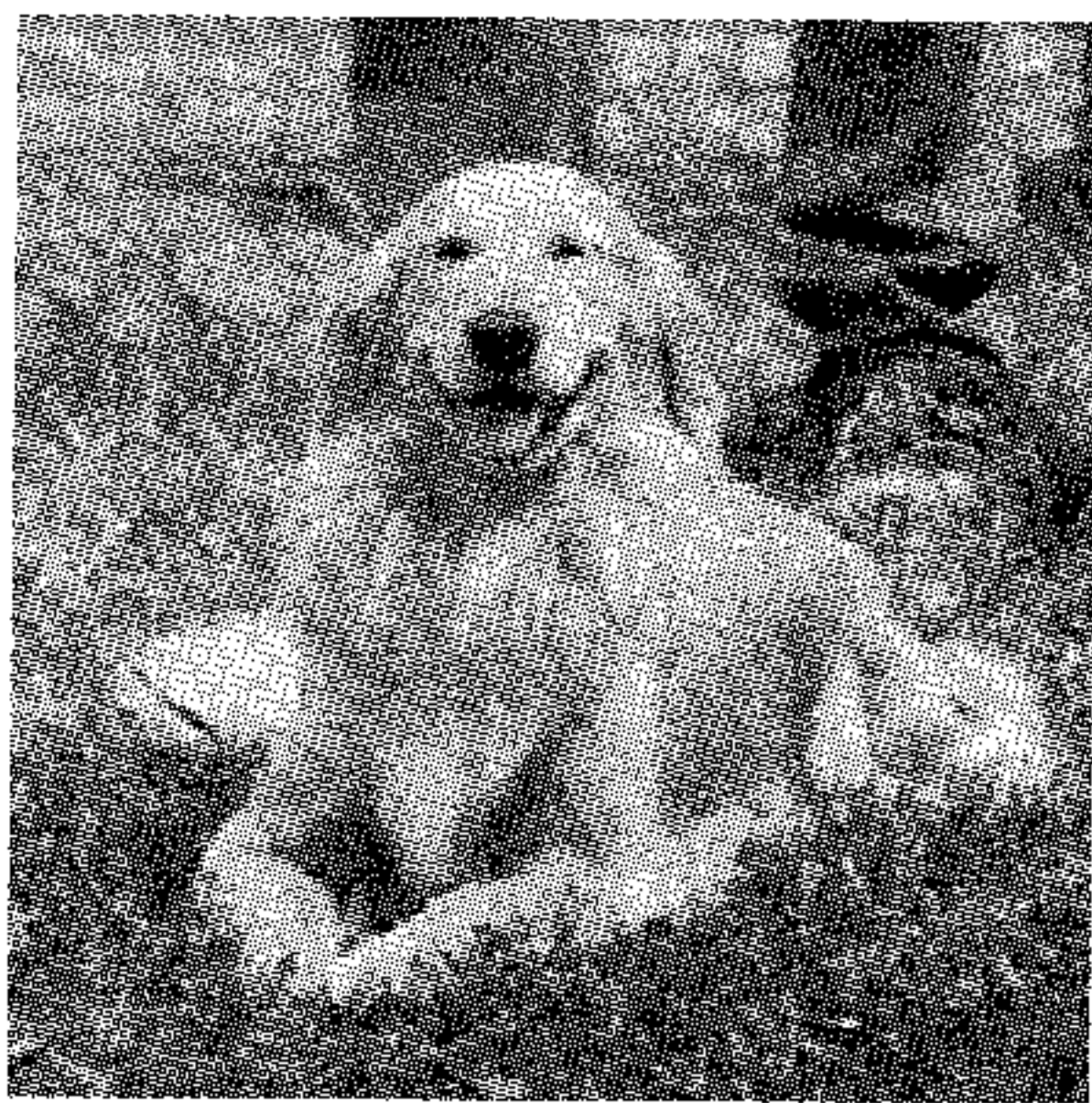
(Library Journal, 2006)



Dog Heroes of September 11th: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs

By Nona Kilgore Bauer (Kennel Club Books, 2006)

A poignant glimpse into the work of the 77 search and rescue/recovery dogs and their handlers who participated in the 9-11 crisis. This is one you will want to keep ... an awesome book! "Each of the 77 canine heroes featured appears on a two-page spread, with a narrative of the dog's contributions and accompanying color photos. There are explanatory chapters on the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation, FEMA certification and the search and rescue canine." (Library Journal, Sept. 1, 2006)



**And a good time
was had by all!**



2007 GRRMF Rescue Reunion Commemorative DVD Now Available!

Well, it's the news you've been waiting for – we now have a complete DVD "movie" of the 2007 GRRMF Reunion, held March 3 Lake Parker Park in Lakeland, Fla.

The DVD contains MORE THAN 350 captivating and professionally done photos, all set to music that you can pop into your DVD player and watch on TV or your computer! It plays itself - no technical know-how required! And we're not kidding about the number of photos - it is about 25 minutes long, maybe even longer. You will see many folks you now, maybe even yourselves and your precious golden retrievers!

For those who have enjoyed these in past years, you will not be disappointed! This year's DVD is even better than before, with lots more photos of hundreds of beautiful and happy golden retrievers, plus their smiling humans. There are 360+ photos on this year's DVD, including some amazing action shots from the Golden Olympics!

The best part is, 100 percent of the proceeds benefit GRRMF. Volunteers Tom & Kellyann G. donated their time and the DVD stock, and Carol M. donated the shipping and handling. What a deal - GRRMF RECEIVES 100 PERCENT OF THE PROCEEDS! Last time, we raised enough to treat six or eight heartworm-positive dogs, so you know that your donation will go to save more precious gold this year.

We wish we could share a sampling of it, but you'll have to trust us when we say - it's worth it! If you ever find

yourself wanting to demonstrate to someone "why" you volunteer for GRRMF ... or "why" you are nuts about your golden ... or "why" you think it's really fun to go to a picnic with hundreds of other rescued golden retrievers and their owners ... this DVD is sure to convince them. And for those who do education days or visit classrooms, if you have access to a TV/DVD player, this would make a great conversation starter.

Only \$10 - it won't take too many orders to raise enough money to spay or neuter one precious golden ... or pay for heartworm treatment ... or defray the cost of a hip surgery ... So far this year, we've taken in at least 7 heartworm positive dogs, and we've also had more than our share of rescues with complex medical problems. This is a great way for you to make a difference in the lives of these golden retrievers who need us so badly - and get something fun in return!



To Order: Send your \$10 check per DVD, payable to GRRMF, to:

**Carol McKee
15922 Hanson View Drive
Tavares, FL 32778**

Or visit www.GRRMF.org and order via the PayPal link provided in the Reunion DVD section.

Questions? Contact newsletter@grrmf.org.

More than 100 humans and their canines converged in Lakeland on March 3 for 2007 GRRMF Rescue Reunion. Despite predictions of rain, reunion-goers remained comfortable and dry, and the cooler weather was a real breath of fresh air for all.

We all enjoyed picnic fare, a grooming booth, raffle for great doggie items, the always-popular Doggie Olympics and tons of Golden Goods. A caricature artist was on hand to create golden portraits and there were candle, food and treat vendors. Special thanks to the volunteers and professionals from **Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club** who staffed the grooming booth. Due to their efforts, many former rescues left the reunion looking like show dogs (well, almost), and feeling like a million bucks.

For our hard-working GRRMF volunteers, this is one of the highlights of our year.

We reconnect with former rescues and their proud human families, and we see firsthand the fruits of our labor, so to speak, as we watch the smiling faces and enjoy the wagging tails of dogs once sad now happy and healthy again. For our adopters and members, it's a chance to meet others with a common interest ... golden retrievers and the rescue cause. We've made some great friends at the reunions over the years.

In all, this year's reunion **raised more than \$7,000** in much-needed donations and proceeds from reunion events - a new record!

**We thank all who participated,
and very much look forward to next year.**



**Thanks for
the Memories!
2007 GRRMF Reunion**



RECENT ADOPTIONS



SAHARA was one of the Fantastic Four, featured on our web site. These four dogs came in to GRRMF as an emergency. When her owner was rushed to the hospital, a family member was sent to his unoccupied apartment, where she found these emaciated, flea-covered and parasite-filled golden retrievers. Sahara is a beautiful cream-colored gal who is quite active and playful for her estimated 9 years. She was lovingly fostered by Kathy R. and adopted by Lisa R., who needed a buddy for her other rescue golden named Higgins.

Five-year-old **BUDDY** was turned over to GRRMF and was reported to have seizures. He was fostered by Rob and Aimee and adopted by Lin and Dennis W. who were able to look past the possible seizures and welcome him into their home.



A few months later, after Buddy got settled in his new home, he welcomed a new GRRMF brother named **BEN**. Six-year-old Ben was one of the Fantastic Four who hadn't been taken care of by his former owner. He was horribly thin, infested with worms and in real bad shape. Ben started his new leash of life with foster parents Cindy and Rick O. and was adopted by Lin and Dennis. Lin reports that "Ben is just adorable and we love him to death! He is so trustworthy after being shifted around and abused like he was. He just sits there at times and looks at you with his adoring eyes. I can hardly believe we were so lucky. He is enjoying sleeping in bed with us each night. We have very little room left with both Ben and Buddy ... but we manage!"

MORGAN was returned to rescue when his folks could no longer keep him. He found his forever home with Lisa & Carlos L. who say he loves his two new human sisters.

MIDAS came in when he was diagnosed with hip dysplasia. This little guy needed hip surgery badly. He was fostered by Bill & Dianne C., who have another GR rescue named Coda who also went through hip surgery. They helped Midas through his surgeries and rehabilitation, with lots of love and pool time when he was ready. And then, when he was all better, they made him a permanent member of their family. He is now called Mikey and has the very best life a golden could ever dream of.

MORTON was a shelter dog whose owner no longer wanted him. Apparently, he became bored when left alone in his backyard and learned the old Houdini trick of escaping his confinement. A quick neuter surgery and a loving home makes this boy want to stay at home with his new family, Ruth & Warren H.

CARSON came in with his canine brother Teddy as a young puppy. His owner didn't realize what she got into and turned them over to us when she tired of the hard work a puppy takes. **CANE** was a young guy who played too rough with his former family's children. Janis & Peter M. decided that the



two together could roughhouse to their hearts' content and chose to adopt them both. These are some very lucky golden boys!

DONNA was left by the side of the road after being hit by a car. She was flea infested, matted and anemic. Some TLC and good food, combined with time, healed her wounds and heart. Adopted by Larisa & Derek D., Donna is loved and spoiled - as every golden should be!

Nicknamed the "Happiest Dog in the World" by his foster mom, 12-year-old **RIPLEY** does not know the meaning of problems - even though he had eye entropion, ear hematomas and a tumor the size of a human head on his rump. Amazingly, the tumor turned out to be benign, and our veterinarian Dr. Wiseman gave him a clean bill of health after surgery on his eyes and the "tumorectomy." Ripley was spotted by the Santinos, who already had a GR rescue golden named Tess. They fell in love with Ripley on our web site and decided they wanted to be the ones to make the rest of his life happy and healthy. At the reunion recently, you would never know that this wonderful guy had ever been so neglected.

JULIE, age 11, was quite popular on the web site. Mark & Christine M., who adopted April last year, thought that adding an older lady to their house would be a great idea. Julie agreed and now she lives in a loving family who appreciates the value of old gold.



CLIPPER was a shelter dog. We were asked to take him, as they felt we would have a better chance of finding a suitable home for this young and energetic boy. And we did. Kevin W. saw his web page and felt Clipper would

be a great fit for him. Based on the smiles in the picture, we would agree.

DAISY came in with her golden brother Sunnie when their owner decided to move to a smaller home. No room at the new abode for two adult goldens, apparently. Both were heartworm positive and intact. Daisy's foster mom could not bear to part with her and adopted her. And Sunnie? Read on ...

Wanted: Forever family who likes to play ball. After heartworm treatment, 7-year-old **SUNNIE**, who came in with Daisy (above) was waiting for that special someone willing to play all the ball he wanted. He has taught his new mom how great it is just to hang around outside and enjoy the fresh air. Sunnie and Cheryl were a match made in heaven, and guess what his new address is? SunnySide Street! How cool is that, to have a street named after you!

ELLA was turned in due to an eye condition. GRRMF got her the surgery she needed and soon she was off to her new home with Pat B. who also has rescue golden boy named Laddie. GRRMF volunteers enjoy

etting regular photos and updates via the GRRMF volunteer web site. seems our little "Cinderella" truly found her Prince Charming.

INKIE LEE was returned to the breeder when it was discovered that he had hip dysplasia. The breeder did not want her so GRRMF took her in. She does not need surgery - in fact, many goldens who have dysplasia do not need surgery. Cindy and Brad C. had adopted two dogs from us in the past and wanted to add a younger lady to the household. She is now loved and spoiled and will never be unwanted again.

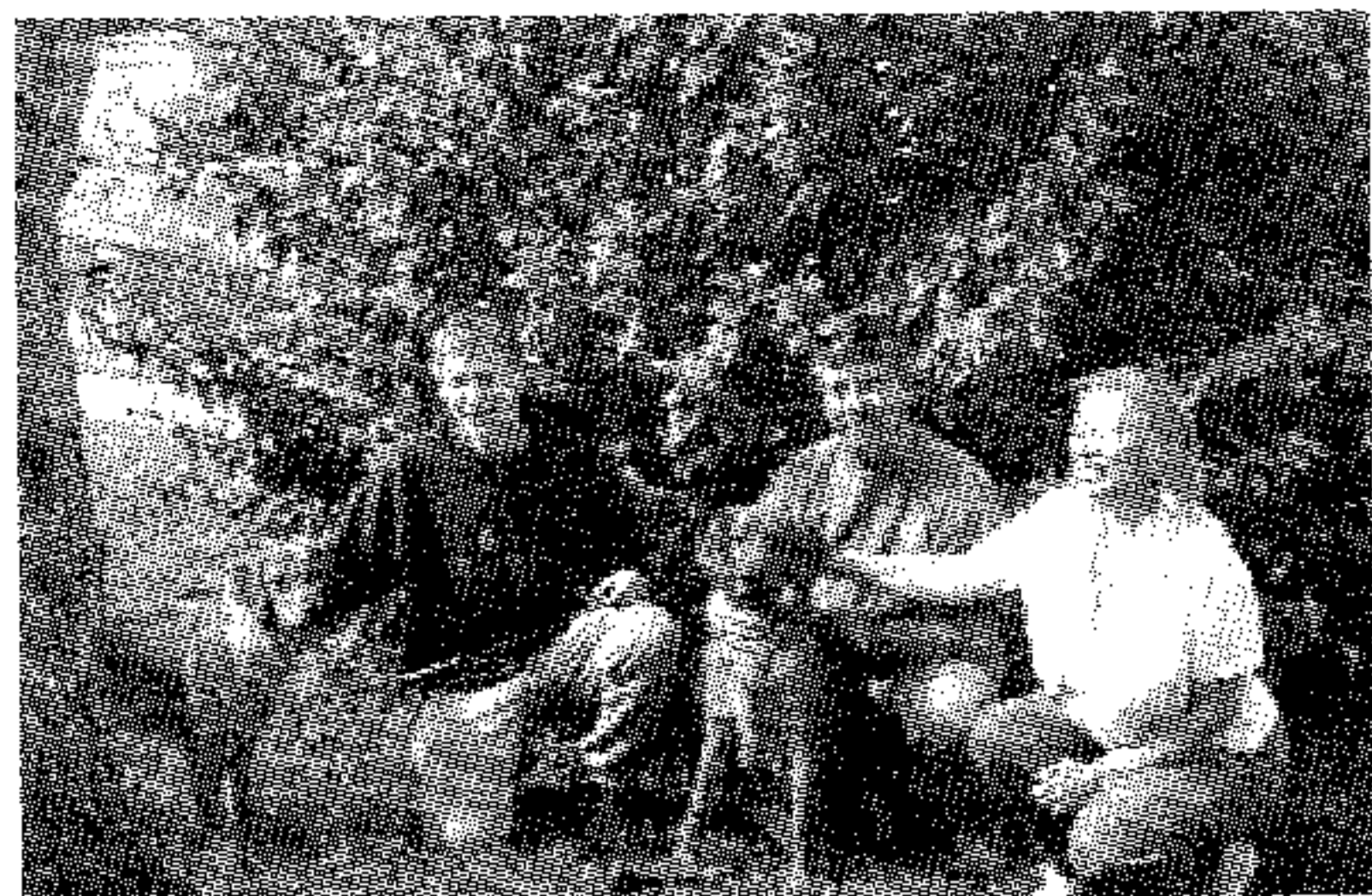
HASTA was quite the looker even though she was a shelter dog, and we knew we could find her a home quickly. First thing was to get her spayed so that no unwanted puppies are accidentally added to the pet overpopulation. Finding her a home was easy - Noreen L. & family thought she was as sweet as she looked and adopted her right away.



AMBER and **ONYX** were turned in by their owner, who was in poor health. Ginny & Bob S., who adopted Ginger from us last year, snapped Amber up in a second. As you can see, the theme lately

seemed to be repeat adopters. Kind of like potato chips - you just can't stop at one. Onyx was snapped up by Jim & Linda D., who fell in love with him on our web site. Both Onyx and Amber found wonderful homes where they will be loved.

IVY was too much for her former owner who got her for his grand-kids. **STEWART** was given up when his owners had no time for him. Both are very common reasons young goldens end up at GRRMF. As we often say, puppies are a lot of work and they



don't train themselves! Ivy was not housebroken but in no time flat, with a little encouragement and routine in her foster home, that hurdle was cleared. Richard & Linda H. thought adopting two young goldens would be a lot of fun and convinced us they were up for the challenge. Fostered in the same home, both dogs got along famously and now have each other to channel their puppy energy.

SAMSON our "gentle giant" was adopted by Ann F. who adopted two goldens from us in past years. She still has 16-year-old Baron and thought he might want a buddy. She called recently to say that Samson was the best dog ever and to thank us for doing such a great job with the dogs. We can't ask for more thanks than a golden smile and wag of the tail!

CELO's owners were moving and he was not invited. So GRRMF took this boy in. He was lovingly fostered by Amie, Robert and their two boys, and in no time found his true forever home with John & Roberta O.



REGAN and **BAILEY** were adopted within weeks of each other by Kerriane & Mark C. Regan was a shelter dog who needed our help. She was sick and required an extended stay at our veterinarian in Oviedo, but as soon as she was well she went to live with Sandy S. and Bailey, was turned in by his owner. They said the house was not big enough for him.

Both now have a big and loving home and a play buddy when mom and dad are worn out.

FAYDEN's owners were moving and not planning on taking him. No problem! He was fostered and adopted by Jeane K. & family, who think he is the most handsome and sweet boy they have ever known. Jeane is a GRRMF volunteer in the Jacksonville area and couldn't get her application in fast enough. It makes us very happy, indeed, to know that Fayden found such a wonderful home.

CISCO came in with a lot of attitude and some health problems. She was going to be put down by her former owners - the vet asked if they could find her a home instead. Vyoma N. & family were looking for a dog who needed them and were unconcerned that she was a senior with recurring urinary tract infections, among other issues. Vyoma thought Cisco was perfect. And we're pretty sure that Cisco agrees - she enjoys home-cooked meals, her own massage therapist and a family who believe there is nothing in this world that she does not deserve.



BO was a rough-and-tumble guy with energy to spare. His owners were moving and not taking him. Sound familiar? We think it sounds like a broken record! At first, Bo was shy but then realized that human hands were for petting and not hitting. A cuddlebug and playful as can be, he was the right solution for former adopters

Marilyn & Stewart Z., who renamed him Rustee.

TRUDI was another sad intake tale. She was found on the road in a torrential down-pour by a man who couldn't rescue her because he was physically disabled. He called GRRMF and a volunteer literally dropped everything to go pick her up. And oh my, what a sight Trudi was! She looked like an overstuffed sausage and was missing most of her hair, with open sores all over her body. It was obvious that her previous "owners" hadn't taken care of her at all - for a very long time. Trudi went to stay with supreme fosters Donna & Chuck G., who began by putting her on a strict diet - she was over 100 pounds and should be about 55 - and treating her skin infections. Slowly, the pounds came off, and eventually her bare legs and belly began to sprout golden fuzz. She was sweet as anything, with amber eyes that would melt your heart. We put her up on our web site, but no one seemed interested in her. We updated her web page and talked some more about what a sweetheart she was. And still, no takers. Until Lynda & John A. applied. They saw her on the web site and told us: "Trudi needs us." We couldn't have agreed more. Donna was overjoyed that Trudi would be going home with such wonderful folks, and there were happy tears all around the day of her adoption. Trudi is one special girl, and we're very glad that she found her forever home at last. On her adoption day, Donna said:



Go Gold!

"Trudi did what she was supposed to today. She made up to Lynda and John, came back to us upon occasion as an obligatory gesture, and then went right back to them, as it should be. Like I've said on many occasions, adoption day is one of my favorite parts of rescue. What's not to be happy about an ending like this?"



Called the "perfect dog" by all in rescue who met her, **KEERA** was just 18 months old when she was turned in to rescue. So, why would a perfect golden retriever be given up by her family? They told us that she was ill-behaved and liked to jump on people. Could've

fooled us, as thus far she has not shown any of this behavior. Keera's foster family, Linda & Jack N., knew a good thing when they saw it and quickly asked if they could adopt her. We happily obliged.

At just 3 years old, **CHESTER** came very close to being put to death. A shelter dog, he was pulled by a GRRMF volunteer literally on his last day. He was filthy and had ear infections, hookworms and other classic signs of neglect. After two baths at the clinic, a beautiful, light-blond, curly-coated golden retriever emerged. Chester definitely suffered from the harsh end of human hands, as he flinched anytime a hand came near him. Soon, however, his true loving nature was revealed. He was so starved for love that he'd whine if you stopped petting him. Fosters Gregg & Tom provided plenty of encouragement and positive reinforcement to help build his self-confidence. GRRMF volunteers Sue K. and Bob A. saw Chester on our Web site and fell in love. They adopted their new golden boy and named him Ryder. He is fitting right in with GRRMF Alumni Saxon (of Sarasota 23 fame) and Keegan, plus two other canines, Kaleigh and Rocky.



After getting hit by a car, 18-month-old **CUBBINS** laid in a shelter for days, without medical care or even pain medication, waiting for his family to come get him. When they arrived and learned that he needed surgery to repair his shattered pelvis, they no longer wanted him. Thankfully, GRRMF was ready to step in and help this sweet, laid back guy. What a catch he is. After a few major surgeries to help repair his broken pelvis, his luck changed. Mike S, a human orthopedist, came to Cubbins' rescue and decided to foster him. As if fostering Cubbins and getting him well again was not enough for Mike to do, he decided that Cubbins was going to stay and keep former GRRMF dog Benson company. How lucky is that!?!

Bob and Ana M. received a call from their groomer that someone had dropped off a 2-year-old stray at the shop. Leave it to Bob to quickly take a trip down to the groomer's and check out the homeless pup. Guess what, she was a golden! GRRMF took her in and named her **CHARLOTTE**. During this time she stayed with Bob and Ana who, no surprise, decided that she was just too sweet and loving to let go to any other home except theirs. They officially adopted this sweet girl and renamed her Ginger. Ginger is one lucky gal!

Fifteen-month-old **TALLULAH** was picked up as a stray by a helpful Samaritan. Unfortunately, this person could not find her

rightful owners, nor could she care for her, so she turned her over to GRRMF. She was named after the outrageous and outspoken redheaded Tallulah Bankhead, an early 1900s era actress and socialite. The starlet was also known for having lot of energy, which no one could keep up with, and no inhibitions. Well this name sure was appropriate, as Tallulah Goldenhead is all that. Luckily, her foster parents Rick and Cind O. helped channel her energy and worked on her manners and Tallulah will continue to get that guidance and energy outlet with Nancy L and her canine kids Swiper and Buddy. Nancy reported that Tallulah is also very sweet and fits in well with her new canine siblings.

At 8 years old, **CHELSEA**'s family came upon rough times and were losing their home. Unfortunately, so did Chelsea. According to her foster mom, Kim H, Chelsea is one of the sweetest, most adaptable goldens and an absolute doll. And you certainly would not know that she was 8. Patricia and family happen to agree and have provided Chelsea a forever home.

MAGGIE, 4 years, was turned in to animal services due to a divorce and financial troubles. GRRMF was called, because Maggie became very stressed in the kennel environment. At first, Maggie was very nervous and had a hard time settling in at her foster home with Jeff and Rita. But with time and patience, Maggie began to relax. Paul and Marsha W. were able to look past her initial timidity and see a special gal who would soon flourish into a confident golden beauty. Marsha reports that Maggie is wonderful and already almost has her humans trained. Marsha also wanted to thank GRRMF "for adding laughter and a warm homecoming to our home"!



The following is something we at GRRMF can never hear too much: "**MEGAN** is the best dog ever!" This comes straight from her new adoptive mom. Megan was turned in to GRRMF during the best years of her life. At 8 years young, she was faced with having to settle into a new home. That didn't seem to be a problem, as she quickly settled in with her foster family, Jay, Kathy and Kristy and even settled in quicker with her new forever home with Kathy W and family. Kathy W said that from day one Megan was a good girl and wants nothing but love and attention. She gets along with the pugs and couldn't care less about the cats. Most important is that in a very short time she fit into the family routine, and they say it feels as though she has been with them for years.

Young **JOLEY** was turned over to rescue because she was a high-energy, high-maintenance gal ... nothing out of the ordinary for a 16-month-old puppy. She was fostered by Rob and Aimee, who helped Joley with her transition into GRRMF. She was adopted by Betsy and Kelly W and Mena. They reported that "things are great and Joley is adapting well. She is very sweet and lovable and must know where you are at all times ...we love her dearly, what a wonderful addition to our family." This is definitely music to our ears.

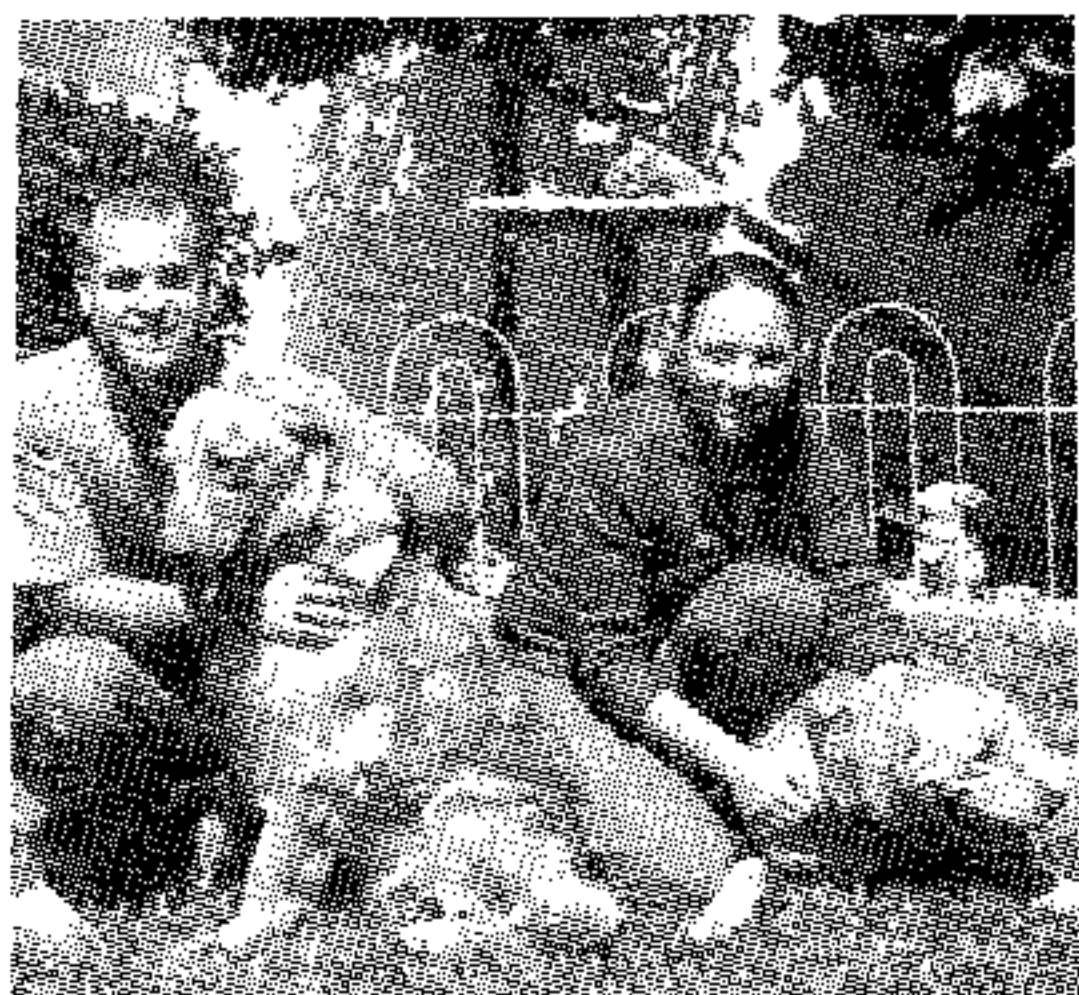
At 10 months old, **BARKER** and his brother **BROCK** were turned over to rescue. They were very well cared for and trained but, unfortunately, the golden hair was a problem. Yep - these two wonderful goldens were turned over to rescue because - egads! - they are golden retrievers and shed! Barker was fostered by puppy gurus Tommy and Chris Manley and adopted by David and James. Barker is now named Oliver and gets along great with his new GRRMF sibling, Arthur, as well as his new feline friends. Guess what? His new family doesn't care about the hair ... that is why some genius created a vacuum cleaner. Brock was fostered by Chris H. and adopted by Vicki & Chris M., who adopted from

RMF previously. He also is doing great ... and you guessed it, y could care less about the dog hair!



ANDY came to GRRMF at just 2-3 years old. We don't know much about his past, but he blossomed in foster care with Tom & Kellyann Goring, who treated him as one of their own and helped prepare him for the day when his ever home would come. Andy's only fault was that he thinks cats ate like chicken, so we knew he definitely needed to go to a home without cats. Other than that, he was a perfect gentleman. He waited patiently for his family to come along, and waited ... and waited. We scratched our heads, because he was such a beautiful and well-behaved boy. It just proves that truly wonderful things can be worth the wait, because Andy found his perfect match with Tracy & David N. and their young springer spaniel Sydney. He and Syd hit it off immediately and have become instant play buddies. Tracy tells us that we couldn't have found a more perfect match - oh my, we never get tired of hearing those words!

ANGEL came to us at age 7. She had lived her whole life with one family, and when she developed blindness they turned her in because "she bumps into things." Angel went to live with Char B., who nurtured her and assured her that everything would be just fine. And Angel realized this when she met her new family, Frank & Betsy L., and GRRMF alumnus Prince. Betsy said they fell in love with Angel's story on the web site and felt that her blindness would be no trouble for them. It was love at first "sight" for all involved, and Angel is now settled and very happy in her new home.



SHANE came from a shelter. He was dumped off by an older couple - apparently he was the son's dog, who no longer wanted him, and neither did they. No problem, Shane went to live with Tom & Gregg E. while he waited for his forever home. He was adopted by Jennifer & Kevin K., who were looking for a companion for their young golden, Mattingly. Now called Maris, he is doing very well in his new home and is very much loved.

PETEY came to us from some folks who said they were moving and couldn't take him. Like we've never heard that story before ... He was on the chubby side when he went to live with fosters Hank & Janice B., but they said he was as sweet as they come and would make some lucky family a wonderful new companion.



Around the same time, we received an application from Amy B. and Keven T., who were looking for a fun-loving golden who would like having a few human sisters to play around with. Petey was perfect for them, and he is now having the time of his life with his new family. The girls adore him, and the feeling is totally mutual! What a great match!



BISCUIT was adopted out several years back but returned recently. He has some arthritis in his hips, but supplements such as glucosamine and MSM took care of that. His foster folks, Hank & Janice B., said he had no trouble at all keeping up with their young goldens and would

make someone a great companion. Ken & Dell H. saw his cute little mug on our web site and said "forget about adopting him out to anyone but us!" They snapped him up and tell us he is a wonderful addition to their home and hearts.

PRECIOUS, age 6, was unsprayed and heartworm positive. She went to stay with Sharon S. during her treatment and was quickly adopted by Elizabeth & Brian H., who waited patiently while GRRMF found a volunteer to do a home visit in their remote area south of Sebring. They were looking for a companion for their active Labrador retriever Maddux, and Precious fit the bill. She is now called Morgan, and Elizabeth tells us she is a big hit with everyone.



MERCEDES was turned in by her owner, who received her as a gift and didn't want her. She was a young puppy and quite a handful. Fostered by Bert & Charlie H., Mercedes learned where to go potty very quickly and was, naturally, all about playing. Along came Karen & Curtiss C., who were

thrilled at the challenge of adopting a puppy. They renamed her Sadie, and tell us she is keeping them busy but doing very well. They adore her.

AVA was just 4 years old when she was dropped off at Animal Control by her elderly human who could no longer care for her. She was unsprayed and skinny but otherwise in great health. And the best part, Ava was sweet, affectionate and just a gem of a golden. GRRMF veterinarian Dr. Bill Ehlers, who lost his former GRRMF dog Tasha a while back, said he and his wife were ready for another golden to love. Ava was perfect for them. Not only is she very much loved, but she gets the best in medical care, to boot! Congrats, Dr. Ehlers!

Don't see your adoption in this newsletter?

GRRMF had a record number of adoptions over the past couple of months, many of which occurred as this newsletter was going into production. Watch for your smiling face in the next issue.

HEARTS OF GOLD is published for members of Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc. All material is copyrighted. For newsletter submissions, or permission to reprint information from this publication, please contact GRRMF Hearts of Gold editor at newsletter@grmf.org, or call: 407.332.2840.

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Education - Intervention - Spay/Neuter - Adoption
P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733-1449
For info call: 407.332.2840 E-mail: info@grmf.org

Membership dues: \$25 All Donations are Tax-Deductible.
Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grmf.org
GRRMF History: 1,989 total Golden Retrievers rescued to date!
2007 rescues: 78!



GRRMF alumnus **ZACHERY** showed off his, er, "musical" talents during the Canine Christmas event in Manatee County. The event raises money and supplies for local humane

societies in the area. Zachery's mom Donna entered him in the costume contest, during which he paraded his talents while his rescue story was shared with the crowd. He was the crowd favorite, and was awarded First Place for his Elvis impersonation. Congrats, Zach/Elvis!

(Photo: courtesy of *The Bradenton Observer*)



Speaking of Elvis, here is another nice picture of GRRMF alumnus **SAILOR**, AKA "Lampshade," with his new feline bro, Elvis, the Cat. Mom Lila G. says Sailor is doing very well and keeps her laughing

with his goofy antics.



We recently received this photo of **SHELBY**, formerly Lily, with a nice note from her folks, Mike & Beth. They tell us that "Shelby is doing great. She has really come out of her shell and developed

quite a personality. I would dearly love for her to be able to talk and tell me what happened to her prior to coming to live with us. She was so sallow and sad when she first came home. As my wife, Beth, said she seemed to have an old soul. She was deathly afraid of the garage and especially the garage door when it opened and closed. She would play with a towel (tug-o-war) but you could tell she was just not getting into it, always seeming to be afraid she would do something wrong and be punished. Through lots of love and patience, she has finally realized that she has a forever home, and that we may leave to go to work but will always come home. Every day we go for a short morning walk and she loves to bark at squirrels and the neighbor's chickens at the end of the road. When Beth comes home in the afternoon she gets a long walk and sees her friends around the neighborhood. She literally would rather go for a walk than eat her breakfast. She LOVES to go for rides, especially to the beach. She loves to get her feet wet and play in the waves. She will go swimming if someone goes in with her. Thanks so much for all you do."



We reconnected with **AUGIE** (formerly Fortune) recently at a new dog park in Tavares. Augie was adopted in 2001 by Barbara W. & husband and have since relocated from Boca Raton to Mt. Dora. Our volunteers who frequent the dog park ran into Augie and his folks and during the course of the conversation, we discovered that Augie was an alumnus! He is approximately 8 years old now, and is doing very well. Barbara says he causes quite a stir when they walk him in town, and he has made lots of friends since moving to Lake County. We're not surprised - he introduced himself to everyone at the dog park, canine and human alike, and was quite the happy golden.



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida set up a booth at the 2007 Kennedy Space Center All-American Picnic on March 10. The dogs were like magnets, and quite the crowd pleasers. From gorgeous Gracie and beautiful Lady to honorary golden Bart, all were great spokesdogs for rescue. Everybody wanted to meet them and hug on them! An astronaut came by and had her picture taken with the dogs by the official NASA photographer. Retired shuttle astronaut

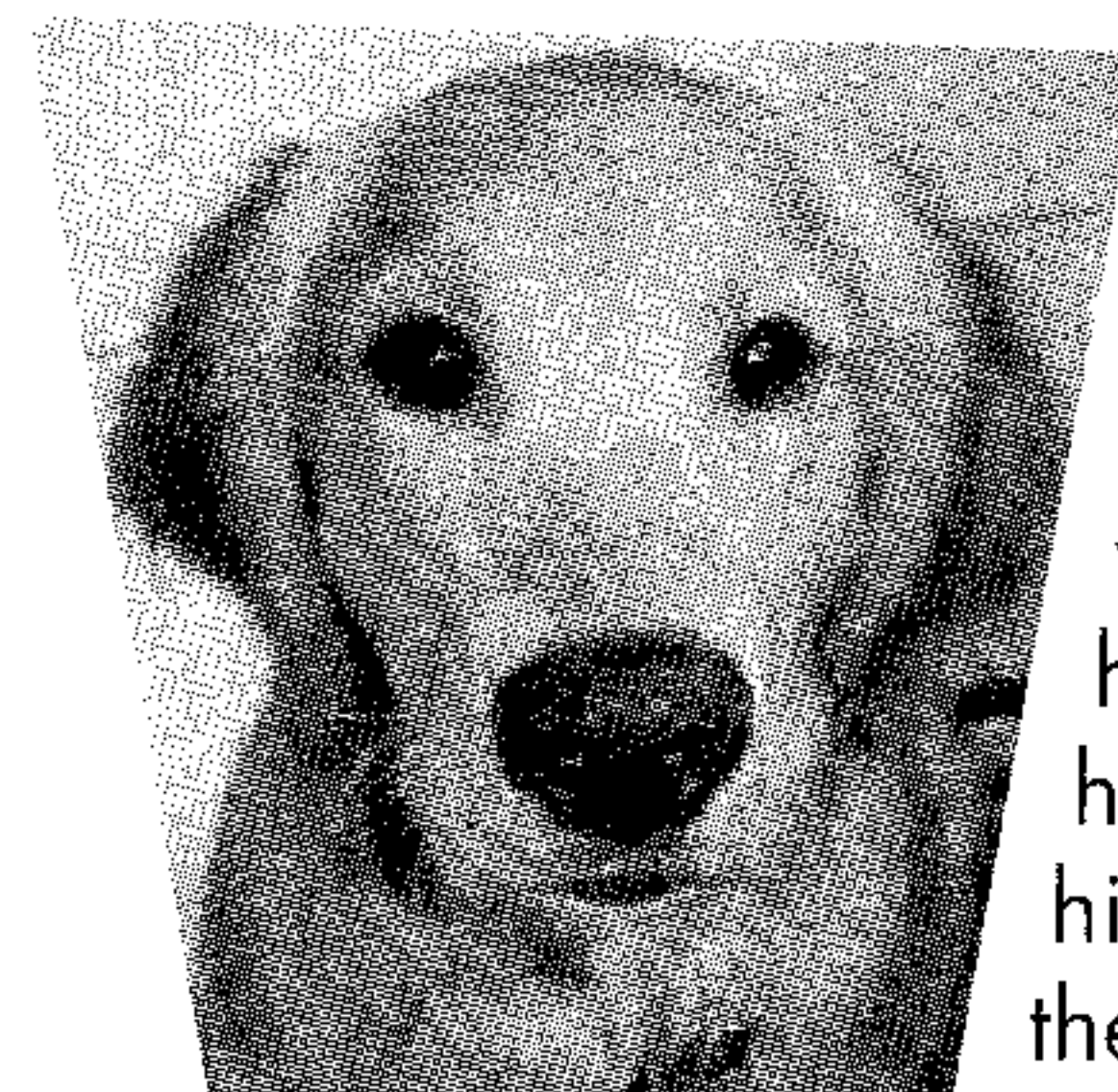
Robert Springer donated a signed picture and decals that flew with him in space, and he also volunteered with his golden Gracie during the NASA event. Also in attendance was Lori Cooper and Lady, and more than \$350 was raised for GRRMF.

Alumni News



We received this photo from Jan Glock, who adopted Junior. She writes that three GRRMF alumni recently became friends while enrolled in the St. Luke's Canine Crusader classes for Canine Therapy Training. GRRMF alumni Shelby, Junior, and Mandy recently completed the 12-week course and following

a graduation ceremony, complete with a special canine cake for the dogs, were commissioned as Canine Crusaders during a church service at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Twenty dogs completed the class. They and their human partners will now visit local nursing homes joining those who have been trained during the past six years. Left to right in photo: Fran B. & Shelby, Jan & Junior and Stephanie S. & Mandy.



Dear Golden Retriever Rescue Mid-Florida, I am sending this for the "Alumni News" section of the Hearts of Gold newsletter. **TEDDY** was fostered with his brother Carson by Chris and Tommy in Orlando. Chris and Tommy are wonderful fosters, and we were at their house for over three hours with all their dogs. We chose Teddy and brought him home that very same day. Teddy is doing great...he has passed his Puppy Kindergarten class with flying colors and is ready for the "big dog" class. He has come to my school for The Great American Teach In, he is a great running partner and, best of all, he is Rufus's buddy (Rufus is a golden rescue we've had for 4 years). Teddy came 3 months after we had to put our first golden rescue Lambert down at the tender young age of 16. Our heart and Rufus's heart was broken, and after looking long and hard for another dog we found Teddy. We are so thankful to Suzanne Rider, Chris and Tommy for giving us the opportunity to add another great golden to our family. Keep up the great work!

- Lisa Beamer





Thanks to Emily Rowe for providing this photo of Sharon Stockman and her dogs **HONEY** and **BEAR** with Emily's **LOLA** (formerly Ava). Bowser Games were put on by the Pinellas Animal Foundation and featured agility, Frisbee, doggie contests and lots of rescues and vendors. "It's one of the many education events the West Coast group participates in," Emily says. "GRRMF has been in every Bowser Games event since it started five years ago. Recently, we set up a booth at the Florida International Museum - the exhibit is Wolf to Woofs: the History of Dogs. The golden retrievers were such a hit they have asked us back for another date. We have a very busy group of volunteers!"

"This is an email to keep those who know **MURPHY** (formerly Ramsey) informed about his new life. It has been about 9 months since Murphy joined our family and it just keeps getting better. Murphy has made many new friends in our neighborhood and elsewhere. It seems as though Murphy can't get enough of people and other dogs. We haven't had a cat experience yet. I'm sure Murphy will get along just fine. His health is excellent and his socialization skills are the best. After a little vacation from his freshman obedience class, Murphy started and successfully finished his sophomore sessions. Murphy also passed the Canine Good Citizen program which is the initial step to becoming a therapy dog. We think this will be a good thing for us to do to give back to the community and share Murphy with people who may benefit from his wonderful personality. To everyone involved with our adoption: A big thank you for bringing Murphy into our lives."



Sincerely Yours,
Geoff & Donna

GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check one:

☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Golden Friend \$50 ☐ Sponsorship to help special-needs golden \$100

☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund \$ _____

☐ Boarding Fund \$ _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____ ☐ In Honor Of: _____ \$ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733
GRRMF Inc. 501(c)3 Charitable Organization - Donations are Tax-Deductible

Official registration and financial information can be obtained from Division of Consumer Services: (800) 435-7352.
Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

RAINBOW BRIDGE



Baby Steps: **OPIE**

Nothing came easily for Opie. Surrendered to GRRMF in June 2005, he weighed over 130 pounds, was heartworm positive, severely depressed and

was afraid of everyone and everything. I knew when I began fostering him that he had a long road ahead of him. I also knew early in the game that he had already found his home. There are no words to describe how he touched a part of my soul. He was so broken in body and spirit, but I knew he could make it. In a few months, he was at a healthy weight of 70 pounds and had completed heartworm treatment. Every day, he took another yet baby step. "You're fine, Opie ... be brave." And he was. Everything was such a challenge for Opie. I've told many people that one of the happiest days of my life was the day that he awkwardly ran to me rather than away from me. He loved my blind GRRMF alumnus, Gracie. He taught her how to play, something she had never done before. And what fun they had! They bonded to become brother and sister in every sense of the word. Opie was diagnosed with cancer in April 2006 and began chemo treatments at Florida Veterinary Specialists in Tampa. Because of his fearful nature, my friend's little golden retriever Poppy would accompany us on the 2-hour drive from Orlando. I was told by Opie's oncology team that Poppy's presence during his treatments seemed to calm him. They were quite a sight...the big red boy and the little blonde girl. They didn't play....they were content just to be in each other's company. Little did I know, though, just how connected they were. Opie made his journey to the Rainbow Bridge in the early morning hours of September 23, 2006. Poppy joined him two hours later. Soul mates for eternity, never to be apart again. Godspeed, my big red boy ... until we meet again.

- Pam, Gracie & Carson Strickland

GINGER: Adopted August 24, 2002 - to Rainbow Bridge January 27, 2007

Ginger (Daphne) came into my life August 24, 2002. She was 6½ years old. For 4 1/2 years she has been a true companion. She has brought so much sunshine in my life. We took walks together and went to the doggy park. She loved to go for a ride in the car with her head out the window. You could see her smile. She had the best disposition; she loved everyone. She developed kidney failure and after dialysis and medications failed to help, I had to make the difficult decision that the time had come. I miss her so much; I am lost without her. She was always there for me with so much love. My thanks to Dr. Bill Ehlers, 434 Animal Hospital, Longwood, for all he did for Ginger through the years. I am grateful for the time we had together. I can't praise Dr. Ehlers enough. He has been so kind, compassionate and gentle with Ginger. Ginger had surgery and was on IVs when Hurricane Charley came through. Dr. Ehlers took her to his home and kept me informed as to her status. She came thru with flying colors. Thanks to all of you for all the work you do to bring joy in our lives.

- Angeline Kaplan



A perfect golden in every way. **HEWEY** was one of those dogs who was definitely adored and loved by everyone who met him. He was one of those irresistible, fun-loving, laid back, go-with-it, once-in-a-life-time "heart dogs." Hewey had a way of making everyone his pal, but he became especially fond of Bob. Hewey and Bob were made for each other, and it was evident in the glances of adoration the two of them shared. Hewey loved to take long walks with Bob ... or shall we say Hewey loved to take Bob

for long walks as Hewey proudly carried his leash and Bob followed. He was a very outgoing Golden and was the neighborhood favorite. He would actually stop traffic. People just couldn't get enough of him, they just had to stop to pet "Mr. Social." Whoever was at the end of Hewey's leash didn't matter as he was the crowd pleaser and "THE Center of the Universe." He even had his own reoccurring spot on the Home Shopping Network as one of the GRRMF spokesdogs for the Furminator. It also helped that he had a LOT of typical golden hair. Hewey's "crossing" came quite suddenly after a diagnosis of GI Lymphoma. Every chance was given to try to prolong his life and give this sweet boy a little more time on this earth. During his chemotherapy he didn't let up his Golden personality and gave all he could; unfortunately, he couldn't give enough to fight through this. Hewey lost his battle at the young age of 8 on February 12, 2007. He has left a huge hole in many of our hearts. Hewey, take care of all our past fur kidz that were waiting for you at the Bridge. Wait for us, we will meet you there. You will be forever loved & missed. "If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you back again."

- Bob, Sue, Suzanne & Tony



We adopted **CODY BEAR** from GRRMF when he was 7 years old and he lived with us for another 6 1/2 years. John Pfohler rescued him at 150 lbs and Linda Fike was his Foster mom. She helped him slim down to 132 lbs by the time he was ours. With ongoing regimen of diet and exercise, he slimmed down to an average weight of 75-80 lbs. Sadly, Cody went to the Rainbow Bridge on Saturday, March 24, diagnosed with bone cancer. He was our baby, a wonderful companion (smart, loving, loyal) and a truly

majestic golden - we loved him so much and miss him terribly. We are extremely grateful for the dedication and hard work that you and other volunteers put into rescuing goldens. To everyone who helped to bring Cody into our lives, thank you. We are blessed for the time we had with him.

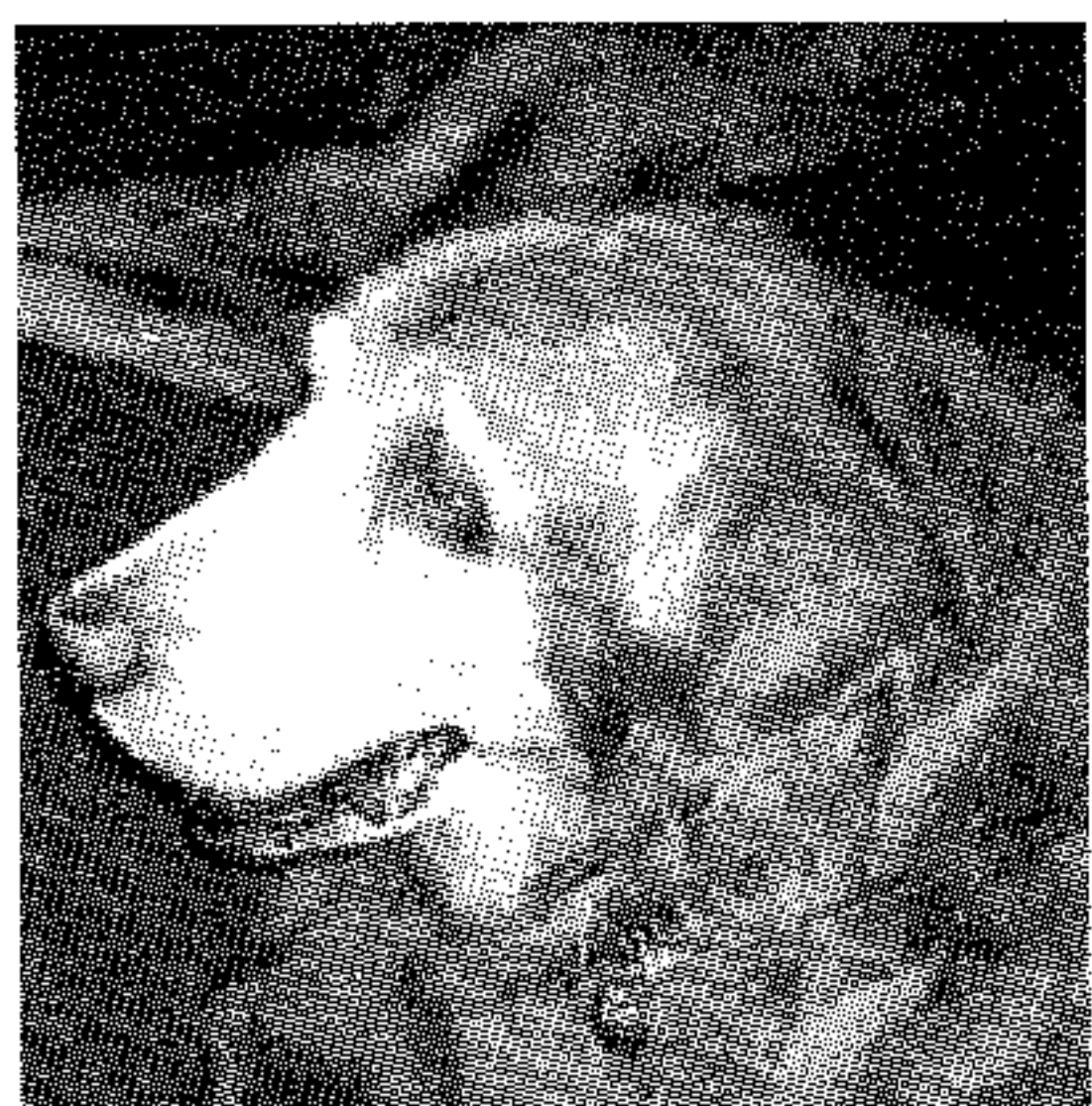
- Kim & Mike Gratz

On January 29, 2006, I became the proud mom of **MOSES**. He was also the sibling to Nugget. Moses lived with Charlotte Bauer, who is the best foster mom I have ever met. Today, April 7, 2007, Moses went to Golden Retriever Heaven. The emergency surgical vet said Moses had a ruptured spleen indicating sarcoma was the culprit. At best, with conservative management before any invasive surgery, Moses might have lived 3 months or a few days. Moses succumbed gravely to his illness. All the while he was being given his heaven medication he was wagging his tail. I cried profusely when I got into the car, crying into his towel. He was the best thing that happened to me, giving me hours of pleasure talking to him. He never left my side, following me into our garage where I worked out. Once he tried the treadmill and did fairly well. The cats are lying in the spot where he had his sleeping blanket. Moses let them walk on him, groom his face. Moses was the kindest man I ever knew.

- Judith Heston

I adopted **STAR** from GRRMF a little over 10 years ago, and we named him Franki. Betty was wonderful to work with and we were so happy when we brought Franki home. Unfortunately, we lost Franki on April 25. He was 12 1/2 years old. He had been ill with severe inner ear and lung problems that we believe were cancerous. Franki was such a great friend to us and our other golden, Tricksi. He was very good at opening pantry doors and stealing treats and you didn't dare leave any food on the counter or he would have it! He was a tough guy and definitely ruled this roost. We miss him so much and will cherish the smiles that he brought to our faces. Thank you for bringing us together.

- Vicki Ballinger



We adopted **SAM**, formerly Hunter, from GRRMF about 11 years ago. He joined Sadie who was also a rescue of sorts - we were her third home before she was 6 months old. Sam became known as Silent Sam because Sadie did all of the talking. Where Sadie was exuberant, Sam was calm. He was a gentle and loving boy who loved to have his tummy rubbed. When we

lost Sadie to cancer Sam became the king of the roost. For the first time, he actually barked. He gave us so much more than we ever gave him. If anyone ever doubts the existence of God, just look into the eyes of a dog. Sam gave us the purest kind of love. He will always have a special place in our hearts.

- Blair & Sharon Howard



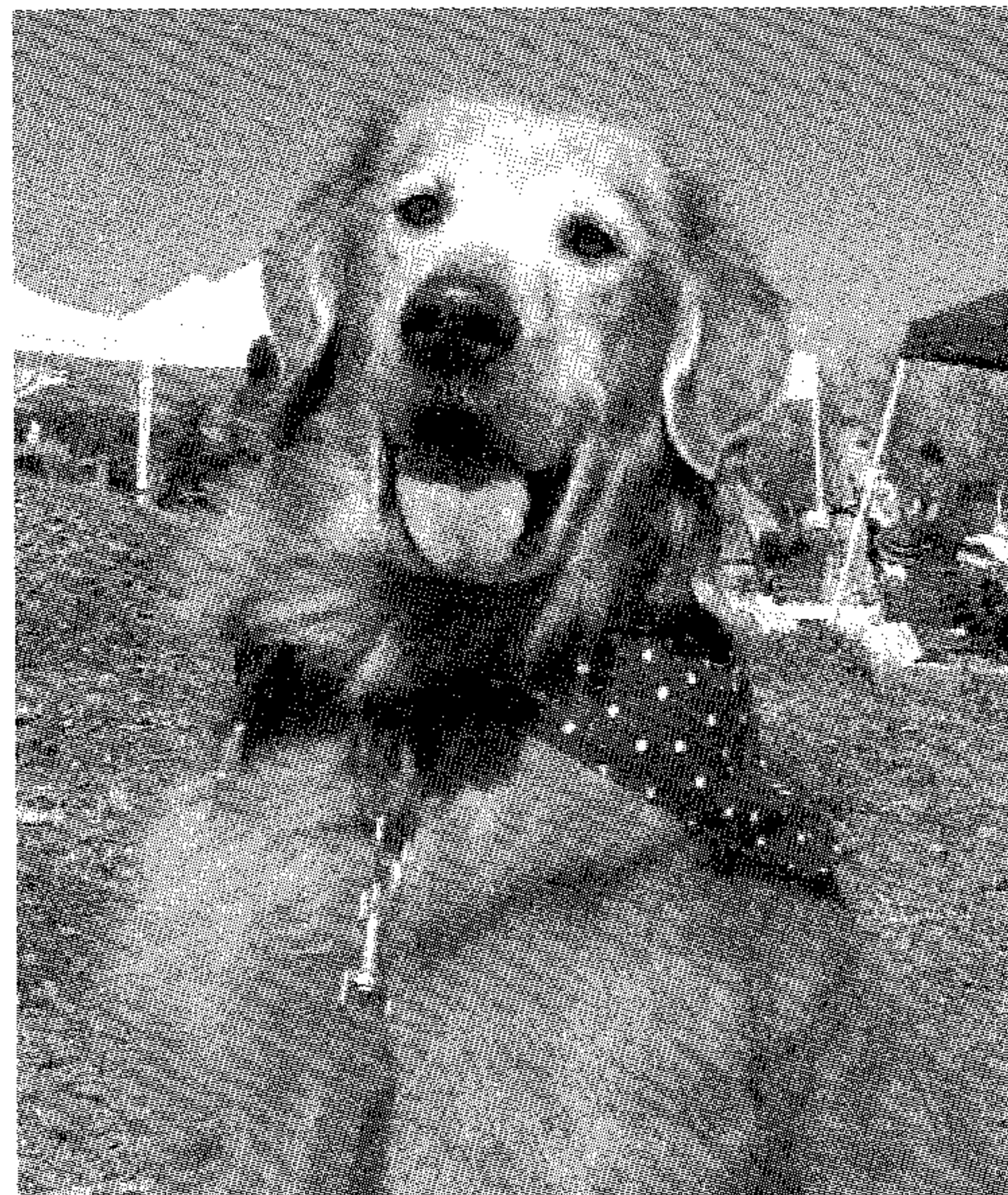
Our daughter recently lost her wonderful golden, **CHAMPAGNE**. She adopted Champagne with Toby 10 years ago, and the three of them have been devoted to each other ever since. Both dogs were 12 at the time of Champagne's passing. She was the sweetest golden you'll ever meet, and in her later years she became

quite the couch potato. The one exception was when water was involved. Champagne would knock you over to go swimming. She is missed by her human and canine family, who loved her dearly.

- Margo & Melissa MacKenzie

HOME SWEET HOME

MESSAGE FOR GRRMF'S HOME VISIT VOLUNTEERS: You're the Greatest!



I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to visit homes to verify that they are the kind of homes we would put our golden boys and girls in.

I know everyone is busy and it can be difficult to find the hour or two it takes ...

but GRRMF's wonderful home visit volunteers do it because they believe in rescue and love goldens.

You all should feel very proud to be a part of the rescue effort! It might be easier to say "no" because you really don't have the time - but you don't! Our dogs thank you, the people who adopt the dogs thank you, and I thank you!

I also want to thank the wonderful "better halves" that go on the home visits, as they sometimes aren't mentioned.

We appreciate you, too!

If you know of anyone else who would like to be added to our master list of home visit volunteers, please email us at info@grrmf.org.

This way, we can spread the joy of home visits around to more people, and I won't have to pick on some of you as much as I do now.

I think you are all Golden Gems!

We are especially in need of volunteers in the Gainesville, Orlando and Lake County areas.

Peggy Litt, GRRMF Home Visit Coordinator

Donations

Friends of the "Fantastic 4":

To all who donated to help the four special goldens we took in from a severe neglect case - Sahara, India, Ben and Sandy, AKA "The Fantastic 4" - THANK YOU! With your help, we were able to take these dogs in, get them the veterinary care they needed and nurse them back to health. At this writing, 2 have been adopted, and all are recovering very nicely! For more info, go to GRRMF.org.

Robert & Connie Adams
Heather Aiduck
Bernadette Alers
Lynda Alfson
Patricia Anderson
Leonard Appling
Ronald Banks
Koran Bergdahl
Michelle Bertolini
Janice Bogle
Patrick Brady
Nancy Brown
James Bryan
Judith Burgess
Gayle Burns
Deborah Clark
Kelly Clemmons
Roberta Cown
Robert Culbert
Dave Dillman
Deborah Drapo
Ted & Maggie
Duncan
Daniel & Sharon Ebbert
Sara Fletcher
Patricia Fredo
Denise Garczynski
Lyda Graser
Susan Greene
Barbara Gurlek
Jeffrey Herbek
Linda Hibbits-Helm
Stephanie Holmes
Rene Howell
Julie Iribarren

Lisa Jakobsen
Deanna Johnson
Linda Johnson
Donna Johnston
Marcus Juliano
Tracy Kicklighter
Nancy Kubelka
Jeff Lipkes
Stephan Maldony
Carole McGary
Leta Medina
Mid-Florida Golden
Retriever Club
Larry Miller
Patricia Mitchell
Kristine Molina
Terry Nieder
John North
Shelby Otway
Lorena Patti
Jacqueline Pio
Katharine
Poniatowski
Don Pressler
Professional
Recreation Corp.
Rabbles, Inc.
Patrick Real
M.R. & Vicki Riseling
L. Ben Roberts
Dawn Rodriguez
Gordon Roe
Sandra Roos
Chester & Edna
Sanczyk
Patricia Sarano
Debra Sheridan
Cathy Schultz
Betsy Sposetta
Ellen Stark
Julia Stege
Jody Straher
The Papillion Web
Shop
Tommy & Barbara
Tucker
Paula Veibl
Karen Yuschak

In Memory Of

Judy Anderson -
in memory of Jeffrey
Kent Fowler
Cindy Andrews -
ROCKY Durham
K. L. Bergdahl -
TIMMY/OLIVER

Jeffrey & Lynn Boyle -
BLAKE
Vesta Breakstone -
SAVANNAH
Donald & Beverly
Butz - AMBER,
MORGAN & BUFFY
Elisa Dionne - ABBY
Richard & Rosemary
Doran - DELILAH
Debra Finch -
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 Donna Weitzel, to the team"!

Golden Friends continued on next page

**If we failed to mention you. please let us know - (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor
 at newsletter@grrmf.org - and we'll try our best to list it next time.**

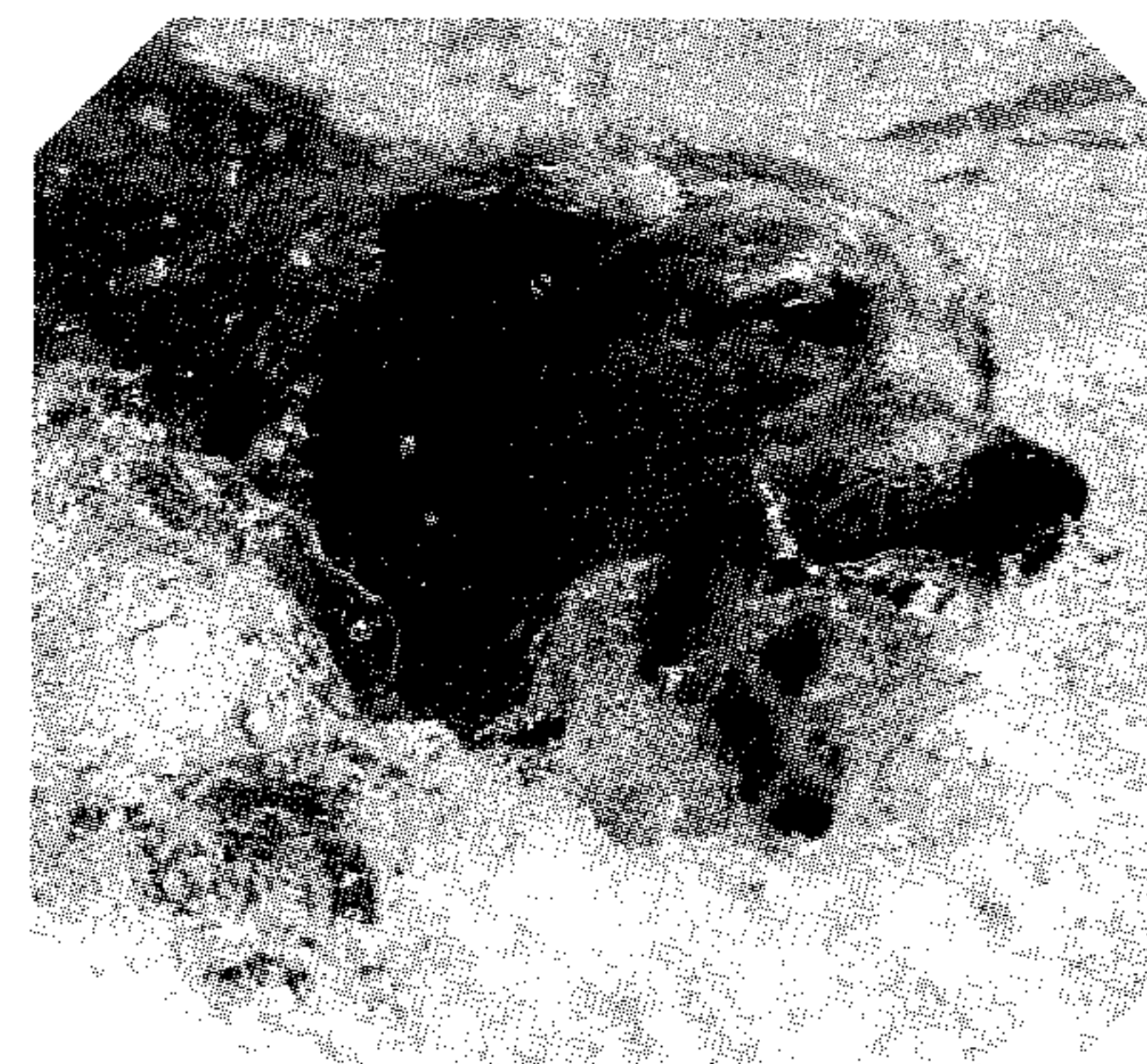
We couldn't operate without your help - you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of golden!!

Swimming Safety

With the "dog days" of summer upon us, you may be thinking of taking a dip with your canine companion. Just like kids, dogs require supervision and an eye toward safety while they take in some fun in the sun.

First, if your dog has never been swimming before, don't expect him to automatically know how it's done. NEVER force your dog into the water against his will, and definitely do NOT drop him in deep water to "sink or swim." Your traumatized pup may decide that water is very scary, indeed, and want nothing to do with it! Instead, focus on the positive - be patient and provide plenty of positive encouragement. When your dog ventures in deep enough to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.

Some dogs take more easily to swimming from a beach - where they can wade and gradually build up their nerve to take the plunge. If your dog likes to fetch, try tossing a toy in very shallow water for a while, very gradually going a little deeper each time.



At the beach:



- Leashed is loved - At the beach, if he catches a current or becomes imperiled, the leash is your lifeline to him. Also, retrievers are known for chasing birds - will your dog give up the chase if a bird flies out to sea or heads down the beach? Or will he go with his instincts and go for it? You can never be 100% sure.

- Watch where you go - Florida's lakes are home to alligators and snakes. Many people don't let their dogs swim in lakes at all, but if you do, never let your dog swim in weeds along the shoreline - stick to cleared beaches and populated areas, where you're less likely to come across wildlife.

- Rip tides, red tides and strong currents can affect your dog, too! It's best to stay away from the beach on days when there are tide warnings.

- When swimming at the beach, try to keep your dog from drinking the water - you both will pay for it later, as the saltwater will cause vomiting and diarrhea. It's not a pretty sight - trust us on that one!

- Select swimming toys wisely. Make sure the toy floats and will easily fit in your dog's mouth.

- Don't let your dog overdo it. Swimming is strenuous exercise, and he may not know when to quit on his own, which puts him at risk for sudden cramps, heat stroke and exhaustion. Provide a shady spot, plenty of fresh water and make him rest up periodically.

In the pool:



- When introducing your dog to a pool, make certain she knows where the steps are. You will probably have to show her over and over again until she gets the hang of it.

- If you have a pool, NEVER let your dog access it unless you can supervise. If she falls in, will she know how to get out? What if she's swimming and gets a cramp or has a seizure? We've heard stories before of loving owners losing their precious golden to drowning accidents. Always supervise, to make sure this doesn't happen to your golden baby.

- Many dogs have a tendency to drink as they swim. Provide plenty of potty breaks so she isn't forced to release her bladder in undesirable places!

- Watch out for those claws! Dogs can't judge distances as well in the water and are liable to scratch humans who may be sharing the pool. Also, if you teach your dog to swim to you when she wants to rest, chances are she'll think all humans are fair game!

- Don't overdo the chemicals. Strong chemicals can harm your golden's skin and coat, among other things.

- As with swimming at the beach, don't let your dog overdo the fun. Mandatory rest periods should apply!

After swimming:

- Ear wash is a must to keep your golden from developing ear problems. You can purchase this at any pet supply store, or make your own using a solution of ½ alcohol and ½ vinegar in a squirt bottle. Apply liberally into the ear canal, and allow your dog to shake out the excess. Dry with a soft cloth. Keep an eye on your dogs ears - if they develop an odor or become inflamed, seek veterinary attention.

- If swimming in a chlorinated pool, consider hosing your dog off to remove any excess chlorine.

- Brush your dog regularly to minimize shedding (and filter cleaning) and reduce matting, and keep nails trimmed to spare your body from scratches.

Golden Friends continued

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What does "Rescue" Mean?

by Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

Not a week goes by that someone does not ask me about what I do with GRRMF. Tell them that we rescue golden retrievers that people either cannot keep or no longer want. The first response is, "How can someone not want a golden?" And my answer is usually that you have to love hair and togetherness to really appreciate a golden. I usually add that they don't entertain themselves 24/7, they don't train themselves and they don't just sit in a corner waiting for you to call them to play when you have the time. They are members of the family who have daily needs and wants. You have to make time for them every single day.

That response applies to many of the dogs that we take in. Then, I started to think about what "rescue" really means. It means truly RESCUING dogs. Not just young, healthy, pretty ones, because shelters and many rescues do that. I started to research some of the rescues around the country - specifically, ones for golden retrievers. What does "rescue" mean to them? The answers surprised me. Many of these places have restrictions. One rescue says it will take no golden over 6 years old. To me, this so-called rescue organization is little more than a healthy-dog adoption agency.

Some rescues will not accept shelter dogs or strays. I do not understand the reasoning behind this. Likewise, many shelters euthanize dogs 7 or older because they are deemed "unadoptable." Some places euthanize dogs that are heartworm positive or sick in ways that are treatable because they, too, are deemed "unadoptable." In this youth-oriented and disposable world we live in, it shouldn't have surprised me. But it shocked and saddened me.

So I looked back at GRRMF's history of dog intake. I did not have to look far to see the wide variety of dogs that we take in. In fact, our only limitation is that we don't take in people-aggressive goldens, and we don't take in dogs whose health compromises their ability to live a somewhat normal life. An example of this would be a dog that has multiple seizures every day despite being on medication. In this case, the dog has no quality of life, and that quality would not improve even in permanent foster care. On the other hand, we have taken in seizure dogs whose conditions are controlled with medication, meaning medication reduces the frequency and severity of seizures so that the dog can enjoy at least a semi-normal life.

We took in Rosie, a stray who is 12 years if she is a day. She shuffles along with her gap-toothed smile and ears that show the scars of many infections over the years. We took in Timmy, who at barely 2 years old has an inoperable tumor in his jaw. He has outlived initial projections for his life span - much of that due to the loving care of his foster family who care for him and treat him like one of their own. We all know the story of young Cubbins, who sat in a shelter for days with two broken hips and not even as much as a pain pill while they tried to see if his owner would take him back. Once we got the o.k. to get him, he received the treatment he needed and is now happy and healthy in his new home. Baby Ella would have been put down since her owners were told she had an eye condition that would be expensive to treat. We took the puppy, got her the surgery she needed and she is now in her loving home.

Ryleigh has some issues with her bowels due to nerve damage, but we got her the treatment she needed for both and she is doing wonderfully as she waits for her forever home. We even took in a young dog that had a terminal disease. He had never lived inside since he tended to have accidents due to his illness. We had him for only a couple of weeks before he passed, but his last memories were of living inside, getting lots of love

and snoozing on the couch all day. We take in lots of heartworm positive dogs (7 so far in 2007) - we call them our "slam-dunk" dogs, since the treatment for them is available and the outcome (nearly 100 percent chance of a cure) is predictable.

Of course, none of this is possible without the continuing generosity of our donors. We don't have one or two big donors but literally hundreds who contribute what they can, when they can. Whether it's \$5 or \$50, every dollar counts. We try not to worry about where the money will come from - and thankfully, it just does. It enables GRRMF to keep on "rescuing" - in the truest sense of the word - dogs who really need our help.

This reminds me of the Starfish Legend (I have it hanging in my entryway so every day I can read it and remember why I am involved in rescue). A man is going along the beach and sees a boy stopping every few feet and throwing a starfish back into the sea. The beach has hundreds of starfish on it, and there is no way that the boy can throw all of them back in. The older man says, "I have been watching what you are doing, son."

You have a good heart, and I know you mean well, but do you realize how many beaches there are around here and how many starfish are dying on every beach every day. Surely such an industrious and kindhearted boy such as yourself could find something better to do with your time. Do you really think that what you are doing is going to make a difference?"

The boy looks up at the man, and then he looks down at a starfish by his feet. He picks up the starfish, and as he gently tosses it back into the ocean, he says, "It makes a difference to that one."

We cannot save every golden out there that needs help. But for the Rosies and Cubbinses and Ellas of the world, we can make a difference. And what better reason can there be to volunteer for GRRMF?



Green Cove Animal Hospital, Green Cove Springs; Animal Hospital of Seminole; Drs. Randy Jacobson & Steve Beecham, North Orange Animal Hospital, Apopka. **EDUCATION DAYS/EVENTS:** Many thanks to all who participate in educational events around the state - our dedicated volunteers and their goldens are out there almost every weekend spreading the word about rescue, which is invaluable in finding homes for our goldens! For schedule and locations, see back cover or log onto our Web site: **GRRMF.org**.

STAFFS OF: PetSmart, Pet Supermarket, Petco, Border's Bookstore and other businesses across the state, for letting GRRMF set up educational booths. We are grateful for all their support of our organization.

TRAINING: Courteous Canine, Lutz; Best Paw Forward, Sanford; Oviedo Dog Training Club; 3J Dog Training, West Orlando; Babette Haggerty's School for Dogs, Jupiter; John Pfohler, Sarasota; JaVic Dog Training, Melbourne; Jeff & Cathy Drier, BarkBusters Tampa; Susan Kendrick, Bowser College, Bowsercollege.com; Cynthia McCollum, *TrainWithCynthia.com*, Pinellas/Pasco/Hillsborough Counties.

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ASPCA's 'Top 10': Poison Control Center Releases Top 2006 Pet Hazards

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recently announced that of the more than 116,000 calls to its Animal Poison Control Center hotline in 2006, an increasing number were related to common household items.

The ASPCA advises pet parents to stay alert to the possibility of poisoning from these common household items:

1. Human medications:

For several years now, this category has been number one on the ASPCA's list, and 2006 was no exception. Last year, more than 78,000 calls involving common human drugs such as painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants and dietary supplements were managed by the Center - a 69 percent increase over 2005. Just one extra-strength acetaminophen can be deadly to a cat, and four regular-strength ibuprofen can lead to serious kidney problems in a 10-pound dog.

2. Insecticides:

The center handled more than 27,000 cases pertaining to products used to kill fleas, ticks and other insects, up more than 28 percent from 2005. Says the ASPCA: "A key factor in the safe use of products that eliminate fleas, ticks and other bugs is reading and following label instructions exactly. Some species of animals can be particularly sensitive to certain types of insecticides, so it is vital that you never use any product not specifically formulated for your pet."

3. Veterinary medications:

Surprising as it may seem, last year the APCC managed more than 12,000 cases involving animal-related preparations such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements - a 93 percent hike in volume.

4. Plants:

The number of cases involving plants also shot up by more than 111 percent to more than 9,300. Some varieties that can be harmful to pets include lilies, azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, kalanchoe and schefflera. Just one or two sago palm nuts can cause vomiting, diarrhea, depression, seizures and even liver failure. Also, lilies are highly toxic to cats - even in small amounts they can produce life-threatening kidney failure. While poisonous plants should certainly be kept away from pets, it is also a good idea to discourage animals from nibbling on any variety of plant, as even non-toxic plants can lead to minor stomach upset.

5. Rodenticides:

Last year, approximately 8,800 calls about rat and mouse poisons were received, representing an increase of more than 27 percent. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestions can lead to potentially life-threatening problems for pets including bleeding, seizures or even damage to the kidneys or other vital organs.

6. Household Cleaners:

In 2006, approximately 7,200 calls pertaining to cleaning agents such as bleach, detergents and disinfectants were received - up 38 percent. Depending on the circumstances of exposure, some household cleaners can lead to gastrointestinal irritation or even severe oral burns for pets. Additionally, irritation to the respiratory tract may be possible if a product is inhaled.

7. Chocolate:

Always a common food-related call, more than 4,800 chocolate calls were received by the APCC last year, an 85 percent increase from 2005. Depending on the variety, chocolate can contain large amounts of fat and caffeine-like substances known as methylxanthines, which, if ingested in significant amounts, could cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst and urination and hyperactivity. In severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures have been noted - and it could even be fatal. Typically, the darker the chocolate, the greater the potential for poisoning. Baking chocolate contains the highest amount of methylxanthines, and just two ounces could cause serious problems for a 10-pound dog.

8. Chemical Hazards:

A newcomer to the top 10 category, this includes such harmful items as volatile petroleum-based products, alcohols, acids and gases. In 2006, the APCC received more than 4,100 calls related to chemical hazards - an astronomical jump in call volume of more than 300 percent. Substances in this group can cause a wide variety of problems ranging from gastrointestinal upset and depression to respiratory difficulties and chemical burns. Commonly used chemicals you should keep your pets away from include ethylene glycol antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals.

9. Physical Hazards:

While not necessarily all toxic, items in this group consist of objects that could pose a choking hazard, risk for intestinal obstruction or other physical injury, and in 2006, the number of physical hazard calls grew a staggering 460 percent to over 3,800. Said the ASPCA: "We've managed cases involving the ingestion of several common objects - from pet collars and adhesive tape to bones, paper products and other similar items. It is important to make sure items that could be easily knocked over, broken, chewed up or swallowed are kept out of the reach of curious pets."

10. Home Improvement Products:

In 2006, approximately 2,100 cases involving paint, solvents, expanding glues and other products commonly used in construction were managed by the APCC - up 17 percent from 2005. While the majority of water-based paints are low in toxic potential, they can still cause stomach upset, and artist paints sometimes contain heavy metals that could be poisonous if consumed in large quantities. In addition, solvents can be very irritating to the gastrointestinal tract, eyes and skin, and could also produce central nervous system depression if ingested, or pneumonia if inhaled. of the reach of curious pets.

About the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: Since 1978, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center has been the premier animal poison control center in North America. It's the only facility of its kind staffed by 25 veterinarians, including 9 board-certified toxicologists and 14 certified veterinary technicians, and provides assistance to pet owners as well as analysis and treatment recommendations to veterinarians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To reach the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, call (888) 426-4435. For more information, visit www.aspc.org/apcc. This information was reprinted with permission from ASPCA.

Take the heat out of summer fun!

There is one word to describe Florida in summer: **HOT**. You are feeling hot and bothered by the sun and heat, chances are your dog is, too. Please keep the following safety concerns in mind as the temperature rises.

- Avoid strenuous exercise during the heat of the day. Take walks in the early morning or late evening when the sun's heat is less intense.

- Avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt, concrete or sand, which can burn your dog's paws. Consider slowing the pace a bit in summer months, so neither of you gets overheated.

- Don't expect your dog to "tell" you when he is too hot - your dog is loyal to you and wants to please. If he thinks you want him to keep up, he'll try his best to comply - or die trying.

- Be especially cautious if your golden is a senior citizen or puppy. Old and young dogs have a harder time regulating body temperature and are at greater risk for overexposure.

- If you jog with your dog, use extra caution during summer months. While you may be able to run for miles in the heat, dogs can only sweat through their tongue and paws, so they can easily overheat.

- Frequent rainstorms may leave puddles in the roads, which can quickly become contaminated with motor oil, antifreeze, parasites (such as giardia, a nasty intestinal parasite that causes severe diarrhea) and other unsafe substances. Don't let your dog walk in or drink from puddles.

- Hopefully, you've not fallen into the trap of letting your dog become overweight, but if he's carrying around a few extra pounds, please use extra caution. Extra layers of fat act as insulation, which traps heat inside the body and restricts breathing capabilities. The same principle applies to humans!

- **DO NOT SHAVE YOUR GOLDEN!** A dog's fur acts as an insulator against the heat and sun. If you remove that layer of insulation, the dog will be less capable of regulating

its body temperature, and more vulnerable to skin cancers. You're doing more harm than good by shaving your dog - even if he is overweight or a senior!

- Summer is often a time when people fertilize their lawns and work in their gardens. Plant food, fertilizer and insecticides can be fatal if your pet ingests them. In some cases,

dogs can ingest these through their paws, so keep him off just-treated lawns.

- Check your golden's ears more often, especially if he or she swims. Golden Retrievers are prone to ear infections, and heat and humidity can cause them to flare up. Check with your veterinarian for a good ear wash solution.

- If you go to the beach or park, make sure your dog has a shady spot to rest and plenty of cool, fresh water.

- Limit your dog's exposure to the sun - dogs get sunburn, too!

- If swimming in the ocean, watch the currents and remember that dogs are easy targets for sea lice and jellyfish. Also, do not allow dogs to drink seawater - it will make them sick!

- Don't assume that your golden will love the water - or even know how to swim. Introduce him gradually in calm, shallow water and coax him in by calling his name in a positive, upbeat, "let's play" voice. Encourage him with toys or treats. Or let him follow another experienced dog he is friendly with. Never throw your dog into the water or force him to swim. If your dog begins to paddle with his front legs, lift his hind legs and help him float. He should quickly catch on and keep his back end up.

- Don't let your dog overdo it. Swimming is very hard work and he may tire quickly. Dogs can suffer heatstroke from overexertion, even while in the water.

SIGNS OF TROUBLE:

Heat stroke is serious business and is often fatal.

Watch for the signs and take action:

Early stages

- Heavy panting
- Rapid breathing

- Excessive drooling

- Bright red gums and tongue

- Standing with legs spread out in an attempt to maintain balance.

Advanced stages

- White or blue gums ■ Lethargy ■ Unwillingness to move

- Vomiting ■ Labored breathing ■ Shock

- Uncontrollable urination or defecation

If your dog exhibits any of these signs:

- Immediately take him out of the sun.

- Immerse him in lukewarm - NOT COLD - water.

- If immersion is not possible, use the hose or another water source to cool him down.

- If water is limited, cover his torso in wet towels and keep them fresh and cool.

- Offer ice chips, Pedialyte or Gatorade mixed with water.

- Monitor him closely and call your veterinarian or take him to an emergency veterinary hospital.

Note: Provided for informational purposes only. Consult a veterinary professional for guidance.



Help Us Spread The Word About Rescue!

GRRMF is in need of volunteers to spend a few hours a month "preaching the golden gospel" at our educational days across the state. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, spread the word about rescue, and you can even bring your dog, if he or she is people and dog friendly!

EAST COAST

Jacksonville - PetsMart - every 2nd Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PetsMart, Melbourne - every Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER

PetsMart, Citrus Park/Tampa - Every first and third Saturday, 10 a.m.- noon

PetsMart, Countryside/Clearwater - Every second Saturday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

PetsMart, Tyrone/St. Petersburg - Every first Saturday, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

PetsMart, Trinity - Every third Saturday, 10 a.m.- noon

SARASOTA

PetsMart, The Landings/Sarasota - Every first Saturday

PetsMart, Bradenton - Every third Saturday - noon - 3:00 p.m. for both

ORLANDO

PetsMart, Waterford Lakes/East Orlando - Every second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Borders Bookstore, Oviedo - Every third Saturday, 7- 9:30 p.m.

SOUTH FLORIDA:

Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park/Palm Beach - Every fourth Sunday - noon to 4:00 p.m.

If you are interested in helping, stop by at one of the above times/locations!

Or call 407-332-2840, or e-mail info@grrmf.org

and we'll hook you up with the Team Leader for that location.

Check our Web site (grrmf.org) under "events" for the latest schedule in case of last-minute schedule changes.

Hearts of Gold

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
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