



HEARTS OF GOLD

Newsletter of Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fall 2000

President's Message . . . ***From Hopelessness to Happiness***

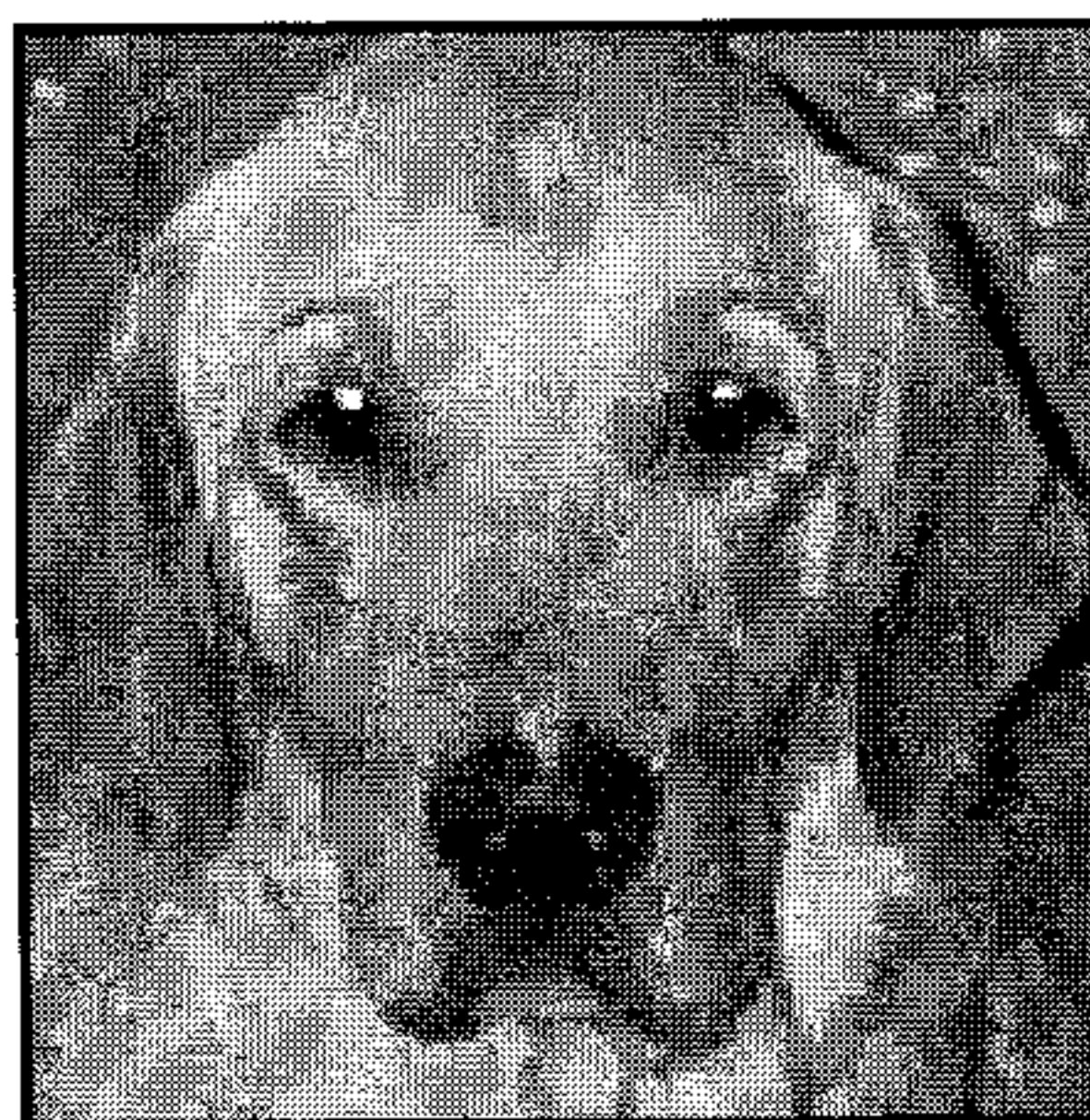
The day-to-day activities of being involved in a rescue organization are demanding. Sometimes, it's just plain hard work. Luckily, Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida has many wonderful volunteers, and we are truly thankful for each and every one of them. It is only through the work of these volunteers, our veterinarians and our donors' financial support that we've been able to help more than 750 golden retrievers to date.

This month, I want to highlight some special dogs that have come into our program. When I consider their stories, I am even more grateful that GRRMF exists and is able to help these dogs.

We are often the only hope for needy goldens. In some cases, the golden's only fault is that it is heartworm positive. Yet, without the donor support that allows us to treat these dogs, they would probably die in an animal shelter – or worse – because of the expense associated with restoring their health.

I hope you're not left saddened when you read the special stories of Devon, Maggie Mae and Nugget on Page 3. Instead, I hope you can feel glad knowing they are now in good hands.

Their stories are heartbreaking, but they really are very



Meet Devon, Nugget and Maggie Mae . . .

"Lucky dogs," to be sure, and three solid reasons why Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida exists. All have had somewhat dubious beginnings. All are hard-luck cases who never deserved the treatment they got ... until they came to rescue. And we guarantee all will win your hearts. Read their stories on page 3.

lucky dogs. They have come into a program where GRRMF volunteers and veterinarians literally pour love into these dogs to make them better. And then, through our great adoption program, they are placed into the best homes possible.

I have first-hand knowledge of this process. Recently, I took in a foster, Monroe, who has some of the worst allergies and skin problems we've seen in rescue. It's always amazing to me that, despite their suffering, these dogs still have all the wonderful traits we associate with goldens: smiles, wagging tails and sweet souls.

Monroe has been a treasure in our household – he is worth every minute I put into the constant care his skin

Continued on page 2

GRRMF is on the web!

Check us out: www.grrmf.org

You'll find adoption application, info about GRRMF, links to other great sites, COLOR IMAGES and stories of dogs up for adoption.

**Let us know what you think.
E-mail us at: info@grrmf.org
Hotline: 407-332-2840**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

	Page
Volunteer Spotlight: Sandy Sumner	2
Lucky Dogs	3
A Home for Goldens – The Vision	4
Alumni News	5
Recent Adoptions	6
Raffle Update	8
Rainbow Bridge	9
Grooming Article – Clipping Nails	10
Golden Friends	11
Membership Form	Back

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

... Sandy Sumner: "Bringing Rescue Home"

GRRMF has a sweet 8-year-old golden retriever named Molly to thank for introducing Sandy Sumner to rescue.

Sandy came across GRRMF's Web site one day and decided to get involved. After she was approved as a foster, Sandy came home with Molly, whose family gave her up when they decided to have children.

"Molly was my true inspiration for getting involved in rescue," Sandy says. "It broke my heart when I learned her family didn't want her anymore after she had given them 8 years of loyal devotion. She was an exceptional dog who wanted nothing more than to be loved."

When Molly developed a heart condition and went to Rainbow Bridge six months later, Sandy and her husband, Michael, were saddened, but it didn't stop them from remaining involved.

Last year, Sandy became GRRMF's home visit coordinator, providing some much-needed relief for Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt.

"Sandy has been a tremendous help," Betty says. "She's very efficient and enthusiastic. She has made a real difference in the amount of applications we process, which, in turn, means we can get more of our dogs adopted."

Sandy is part of a new process GRRMF designed in response to an increasing amount of applications and an almost continuous stream of incoming rescues. She and a team of volunteers send out and review applications, call prospective owners and assign home visits.

"In the first six months of 2000, we mailed over 300 applications, not including those that come in through our Web page," Sandy says.

Believe it or not, Sandy says fostering is still her favorite. "The part I find most rewarding is what people seem to think would be the most difficult. I love the fostering process. Seeing a dog go to a family that loves and wants it is extremely rewarding. My husband and I usually take in fosters that need some kind of help – housebreaking, crate training, or just learning some basic manners."

Betty notes one example where the Sumners made a significant contribution. "Jaxon was a rescue whom I was unable to set straight. We suspect he came from a pet store, because he messed in his crate, which made him almost impossible to adopt. Sandy took him in and housetrained him, and Jaxon went to a wonderful new home." (See Page 5 for a photo of Jaxon with his new mom.)

Sandy and Michael also provide a home for two permanent goldens, Buster and Simon, both 5 years old. Sadly, they lost their third, Mia, in July due to a sudden illness.



Left to right: Simon, Mia, Sandy, and Buster.

Buster and Mia were littermates and came from a breeder. The Sumners rescued Simon from a family who bought him as a puppy, then no longer wanted or cared for him once the novelty wore off.

"Simon was thin as a rail. He didn't eat the grocery store food they served him, and they were unaware of that," Sandy says. "It took a couple of months to get him on a good food routine and break his bark-at-everything habit. He had been left outside and barking was probably his entertainment."

Sandy's goldens share their home with Miss Kitty, an 18-year-old three-legged cat who also serves as Sandy's home-office mascot. "It's a dog-free zone, and she loves that," Sandy says.

Aside from dogs and cats, Sandy owns a thoroughbred horse, which she rides daily.

Sandy wants to encourage others to get involved in GRRMF. "We can always use volunteers for a variety of things – answering phone messages, home visits, fostering and other activities. All we need is a willingness to participate. We can always find something of interest for anyone."

And what would you expect to get in return? "The rewards are immeasurable," she adds.



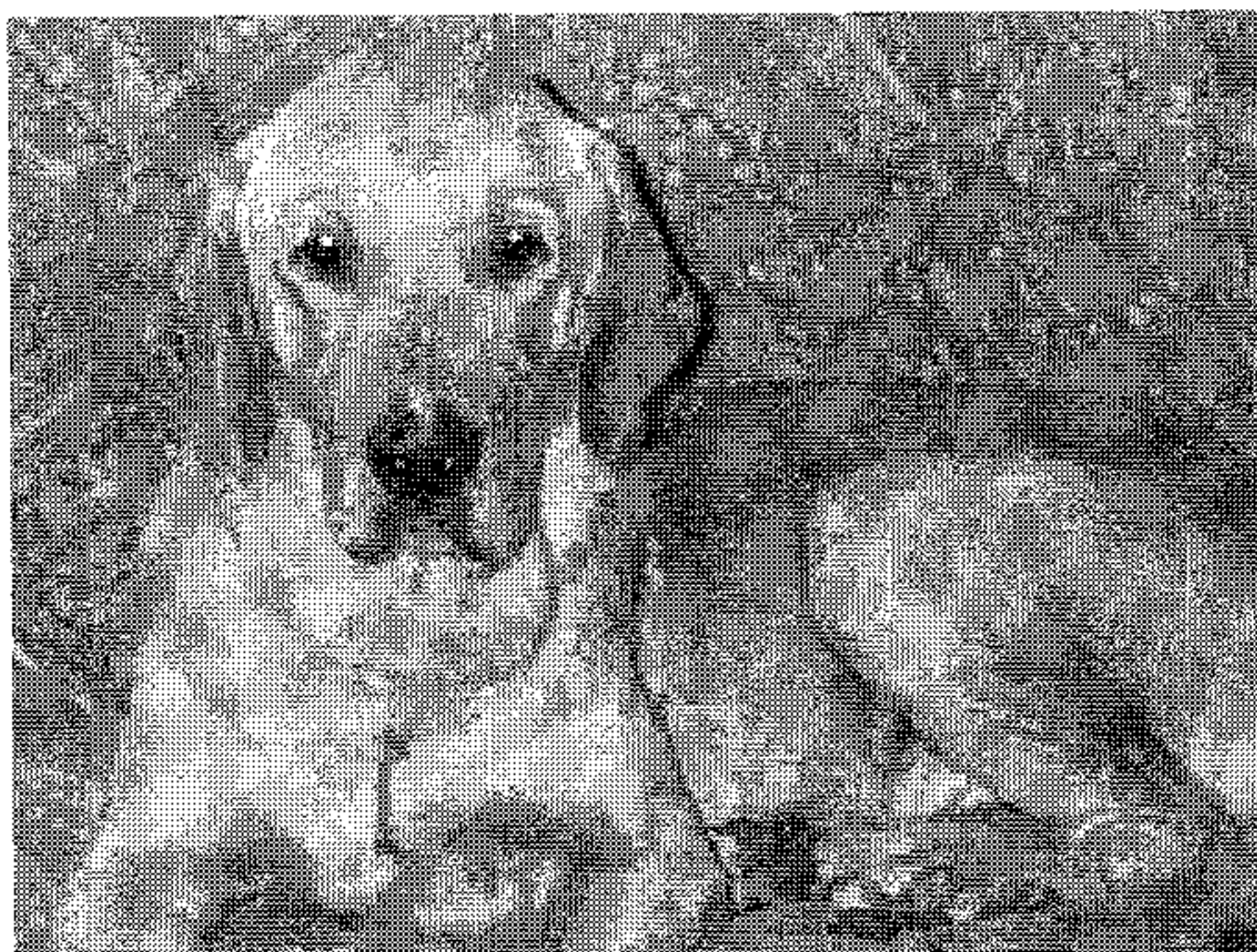
President's Message from page 1

requires. My heart breaks thinking this gentle golden might have been euthanized in a shelter due to his problems.

Consider this: The day these dogs come to us is the best day of their lives – from now on they are in the Ritz-Carlton of "dogland," and we should all feel very happy about that! Every GRRMF member deserves a big pat on the back for supporting us in caring for these precious golden souls.

– Barbara Durham
GRRMF President

Lucky Dogs . . .



Devon

Devon was found tied to a stake in a backyard, a worn, dirty rope looped around his neck, his only protection from the hot Florida sun a dilapidated wooden dog kennel. His nearly hairless body was crawling with fleas and ants, his skin red and raw.

The three GRRMF volunteers who viewed him weren't convinced he was even a golden retriever, although his owner stated he was.

"At that point, it didn't matter. He could have been white with black spots, and I would have taken him," reports John Pfohler, one of the volunteers involved in the rescue.

"We were told he was a sweet-natured young dog who had been relegated to the back yard when he became too rambunctious. But the only jumpy, bouncy thing about this animal were the thousands of large fleas and ants who were using his body for their own personal buffet," adds Sally Anne Rowland.

Nevertheless, this weepy-eyed, lethargic, malnourished and obviously suffering dog, who had no reason to have any respect for humans, "looked at me, wagged his tail and nudged me with his nose to pet him," Sally Anne reports.

Devon's list of maladies is long: heartworms, numerous parasites, eye infection, dehydration, malnourishment... the list goes on. But through the care and generosity of many – from Dr. Neher, who agreed to treat his heartworms for cost, to Sally Anne, who paid for neutering and shots, to John and Gail Pfohler, who agreed to foster him during his lengthy recovery period – Devon survived. Not only that, he is thriving.

"Devon is the most appreciative dog

I've ever seen. You can call me crazy, but I swear he thanks us every day for bringing him into rescue. He gets along with everyone, even cats. He's mellow and quite a Velcro dog. He loves to just lay with his head on your lap to be petted," John reports.

John discussed Devon's situation with the area Humane Society, but was told that unfortunately they are overloaded with so many cases, they didn't have time to follow up or prosecute.

You can check on Devon's progress by going to his Web site:

www.goldenrescue.net/devon.html



Nugget

A new lease on life

One day, while delivering a package, a Federal Express worker came across a similar scene as that of Devon's.

Nugget had been tied to a stake his whole life. Bones protruding, what coat he had was the "consistency of straw," Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt says. He is one of the worst cases she has seen in her many years with rescue.

It took the driver a couple of trips to convince the owner to give him up, but she persisted. A tender-hearted cat lover, the worker has a home full of felines – 30 or more, all rescues.

"When she brought him home, Nugget saw cats everywhere. And he wanted them," Betty says. She means he *really wanted* them.

So back outside he went. His rescuer

spent hundreds on him before she realized she needed to make other arrangements. We're thankful she called us instead of taking him to a shelter, because Nugget is another dog requiring extensive medical care. Even though he is young – about one year old – Nugget would almost surely have been euthanized.

Betty reports he is still thin, but his coat has improved dramatically. His open sores have healed, and his dry fur has been replaced with a glossy, healthy coat. Betty thinks he would make a great pet therapy dog. And those sad eyes in the photo? They've been replaced by a big smile, as Nugget now is a happy boy who loves to dance around for treats.



Maggie Mae

Uncontrolled breeding

Maggie Mae was literally nearly bred to death. Only 5-6 years old, she has the gait and appearance of a much older dog.

She was rescued from a backyard breeder who was going to euthanize the dog when she became unable to produce more puppies. Her rescuer, a kind-hearted retiree who took her in because he couldn't bear the thought of putting her down, said he thought "one more pregnancy would have killed her." He was probably correct.

Reportedly, Maggie was bred continuously her entire life. As soon as the puppies were a few weeks old, they were taken away, and the process was started all over again. She never knew the comfort of air conditioning or a soft bed, as she was

Continued on page 4

Lucky Dogs, from page 3

tied to a stake in the backyard. Her "owners" cared nothing about her – they were concerned only with the income they received from her puppies.

Maggie Mae is another long-term rescue. Aside from malnourishment and its consequences, she had heartworms, needed spaying and had to have several teeth extracted, a common result of poor care and overbreeding.

Volunteers Mike and Carol McKee, who picked her up, had to lift Maggie Mae into the car. She could barely walk and was extremely listless. Her skin was droopy and had a black, sooty look to it. Her fur had been shaved down to the skin. Yet somehow, through it all, she was still able to smile. Carol said Maggie Mae smiled the whole way to Betty's and seemed to relish being petted. Every time Carol would stop petting her, Maggie Mae would nudge her for more.

– And Betty says she's still smiling – and nudging. "She's the most pleasant dog, smiles and wags all the time and is grateful for every minute of attention she gets," Betty reports. "She is one of the sweetest dogs we've had in rescue."

Maggie Mae currently wears a shining golden coat, which is growing in beautifully.

* * *

Why do we, as a rescue group with limited funds, work so hard to save these dogs? Many would put them down, while we spend thousands restoring them to health. The answer lies in the obvious. We look into their eyes and feel compelled to live up to our mission: to give them the chance they deserve at a happy and healthy life ... regardless of how old they are or how much it might cost to treat them.

As Barbara Durham states in her column on Page 1, GRRMF often is the only hope for these dogs. Without our organization, and the generous people who fund us, these dogs would very likely die.

Watch our Web site and future newsletters for updates on Devon, Nugget and Maggie Mae. Of course, if you are interested in adopting one of these special goldens who have touched the lives of so many, call the Hotline at (407) 332-2840 or visit the Web site for an application.

♥ ♥ ♥

A Home for Goldens – The Vision

by Marcia McGovern, GRRMF Capital Campaign Coordinator

Imagine adopting a dog that has been living in a home environment, is housetrained and has been fully evaluated to behavior patterns such as compatibility with other dogs, cats, men, women and children, as well as good or bad habits he/she has picked up along the way. This is our vision.

Our foster homes are doing a terrific job, and fostering will always be our first choice for temporarily placing incoming dogs. However, we are regularly outpacing our foster homes with the increasing amount of dogs coming into rescue. Our alternatives are to turn dogs away or board them in kennels, neither of which is very attractive from a moral or fiscal standpoint.

The answer is a facility to house dogs temporarily in a homelike atmosphere.

We have researched many options and found a model we intend to recreate here in Florida. The model is the San Francisco SPCA's facility, "Maddie's Adoption Center." A complete description with photos can be found on the Web at www.sfspca.org.

Maddie's Adoption Center features "doggie apartments" shared by 2-3 dogs. All apartments have real walls, windows, throw rugs, toys and comfy chairs for snoozing. Some even have TVs. Specially designed acoustical insulation and an air circulation system keep them quiet and fresh-smelling. Dogs leave their apartments 3-4 times a day for walks, training sessions and play time with other dogs.

Why go to all this trouble? The atmosphere helps the dogs learn proper home etiquette such as not chewing on furniture or using their "home" as a toilet. It also results in improved behavior and less barking. The bottom line: More dogs are adopted because they are already trained and accustomed to a home environment. It's the wave of the future for animal protection facilities. Since it opened, Maddie's Adoption

Center has more than doubled the SPCA's adoption and retention rates.

On the Home Front ...

GRRMF is looking for 7-10 acres between Sanford and Christmas for a building site. The building will be 4,000-5,000 square feet and house approximately 25 dogs with plans for expansion later. There will be seniors' quarters, meeting/training room, offices, grooming room, whelping room, isolation unit for ill dogs, kitchen and laundry as well as a Golden Goods store off the lobby. We anticipate hiring a manager and 2-3 staff members for 24-hour on-site care. Volunteers will make up the rest of the staff. A business plan is being prepared to evaluate these requirements and the possibility of boarding dogs for income.

We recently sent a request for proposal to six architects for bids on a preliminary architectural plan. This will help us go after the big money needed to build the facility.

A feasibility study is also being conducted. This will help us become better known in Florida communities and identify potential donors for future campaigns. Our goal is to complete the entire fund-raising process in 36 months or less. If you have any questions on fund-raising or the proposed facility, please e-mail us at: capital@grrmf.org.

♥ ♥ ♥

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

GRRMF relies on e-mail for periodic important rescue announcements. About 20 messages were returned after the last announcement went out, due to invalid e-mail addresses. PLEASE let us know your current e-mail address by sending a message to:

info@grrmf.org

a l u m n i n e w s



Buddy and 'Dad'

Buddy was untrained, jumped on people with the intent of knocking them down and would have liked to destroy his new owners' home. They almost gave up on him, but chose to keep working with him. Today, Buddy has made a complete turnaround. He has calmed down, learned some manners and is very bonded with his humans. The Bursh family would not take anything for him.

Annie, one of our first rescues, "wrote" us recently, with help from her mom, Joan. Seems Annie and her schnauzer sibling had severe allergic episodes that caused them to break out into bloody sores overnight. Her mom says they think it might have been metallusa trees. Annie didn't enjoy the shot or the baths but says she's "doing fine" now.

This photo of **Scully** was sent recently by his humans. They say he's enjoying his new Kong.



Scully appreciates his Kong toy.



Jaxon and his mom

Jaxon loves going on walks with his new mom. Thanks to obedience training, he's now quite well behaved on his walks. And he loves his mom, too!



Bronson

Jack and **Bronson** thoroughly enjoyed a long weekend at the beach recently with Mom and Dad. While Bronson loves to retrieve his water toys and tennis balls from the surf, Jack prefers the more laid-back approach to beachin' it.



Jack

Congratulations to **Jordan**, one of our puppy farm dogs, who passed his canine good citizenship test and is on his way to becoming a pet therapy dog. Good boy, Jordan!

Parker, a beautiful light-colored golden, is adjusting very well to his new home. His mom, Theresa, says he thinks he rules the house. He's currently attending obedience classes, mainly to show off his socialization skills. He loves everyone he meets and thinks the neighbors' children are his personally.



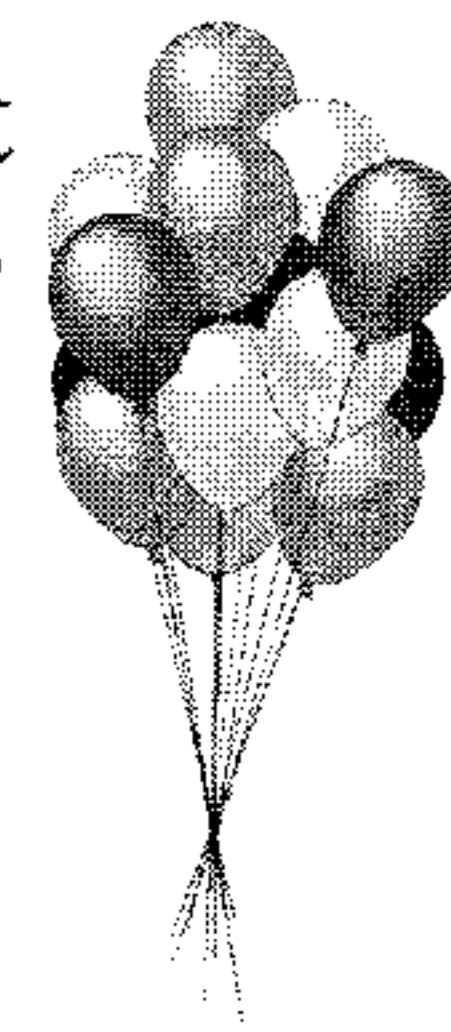
Parker

Nine-year-old **Brady** is now an official pet therapy dog with Hospice. Besides his "official" duties, Brady and his two canine sisters have become "GRRMF goodwill ambassadors." They "always draw a crowd around town," according to his owners, Ed and Marsha. "Brady has slimmed down quite a bit and has a wonderful bounce to his walk when he's out with his 'women.' And, believe me, he has been vocal when it comes to letting the neighborhood dogs know they're all his," Brady's humans write.

Happy first birthday to Spirit,

the puppy who was turned in to rescue by a puppy mill when a rat chewed off one of his feet. We received many inquiries about adopting Spirit, and he went to a wonderful home last

year. Spirit is a happy boy who loves to play and never destroys his toys. He awakens his family early every morning by squeaking a toy. He keeps his humans laughing, too. He can pick and hold in his mouth all at one time: a red squeaky ball, tennis ball and Nylabone. He is a shining star in his obedience classes.



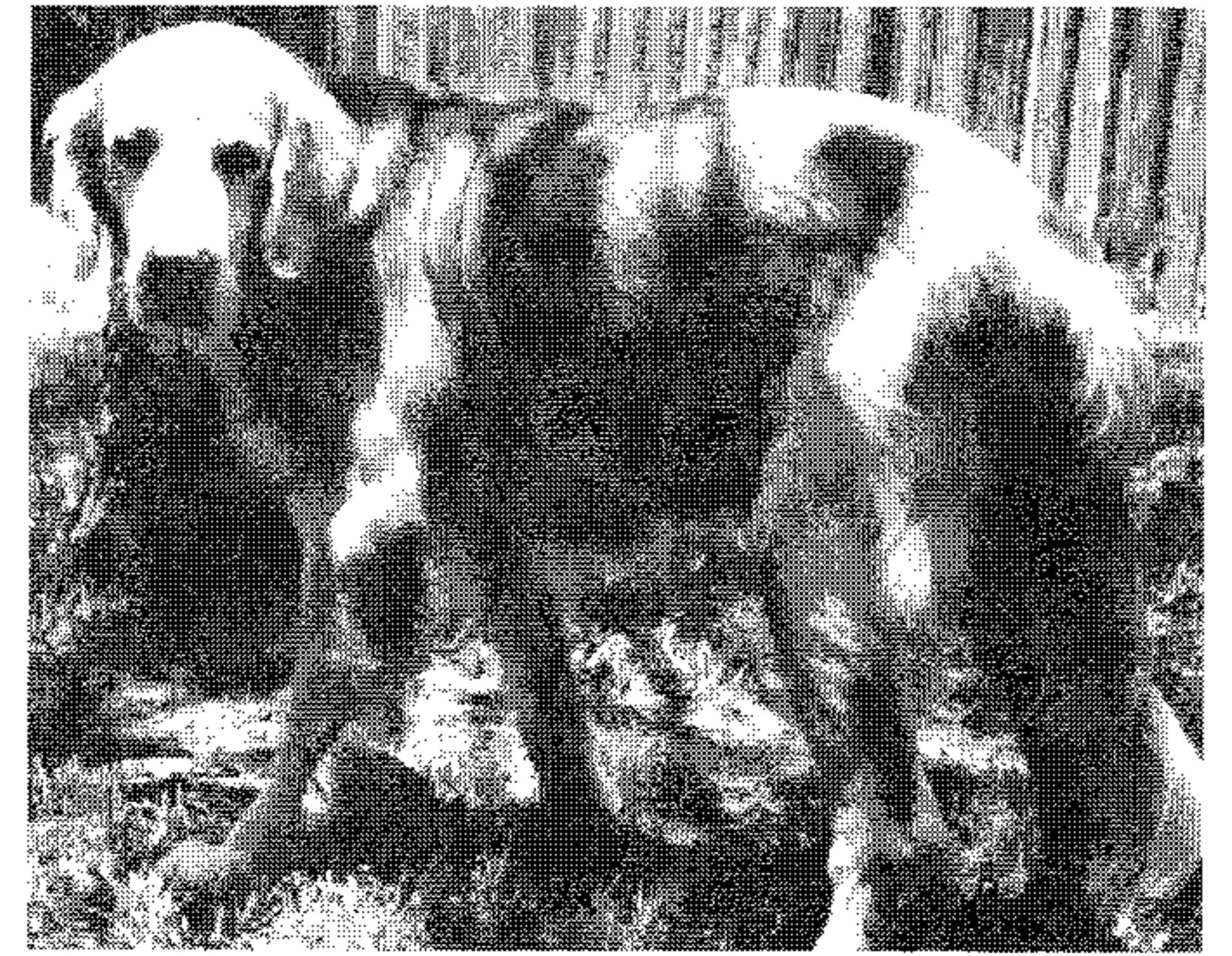
Spirit enjoys the good life now.



Old Gold

Proud of his pedigree, **Blake**, 9 years, was given up due to financial problems and a human who worked long hours. He is a descendent of Liberty, the golden retriever owned by President Gerald Ford during his White House years.

Blake loves his leash, carries it around like a toy and sleeps with it at night like a security blanket. His foster mom, Ellen Schnabel, loves him very much. Blake is available for adoption. We're sure someone would love to give this handsome guy a permanent home for his remaining years ... Is it you?



Blake

r e c e n t a d o p t i o n s

Jakob was given up when his owner became seriously ill. This sweet boy was adopted by John and Debbie S. Their entire family, including four children, think he's the best. He walks well on a leash, is good with the kids and is currently in obedience classes.

Scooby came into rescue when his owner fell on hard times. He lost his job and moved into an apartment. Scooby, now called **Murphy**, was adopted by B.M. and J.N. They are enjoying their first experience with a male dog.

Mica, an adorable little fellow, was given up by a man who proba-



Cody and his new golden pal, Murray

bly could have afforded him – he was driven to a boarding facility in Lakeland in a BMW. The gentleman said he was disabled and could no longer care for Mica. Now called **Murray**, he was adopted by P.H. He is a fine companion for **Friend/Cody**, whom they also adopted from us.

Rusty was given to his fosters, Gregg Childs and Tom Eddie, by someone they knew. He was no longer wanted, although he was well-trained and beautiful. Rusty was adopted by K.S.

Remember **Saharah**? She was the cute, little honorary golden who came to us when her owner ran into financial problems. She was fostered and later adopted by G. and J. Mink.

Molly's owner was walking her down the street one day when she walked up to a neighbor and said, "Here, I don't want her any more." The neighbor called us when she discovered Molly was heartworm-positive. A pretty dog, she happily went to her permanent home with H. and R. H.



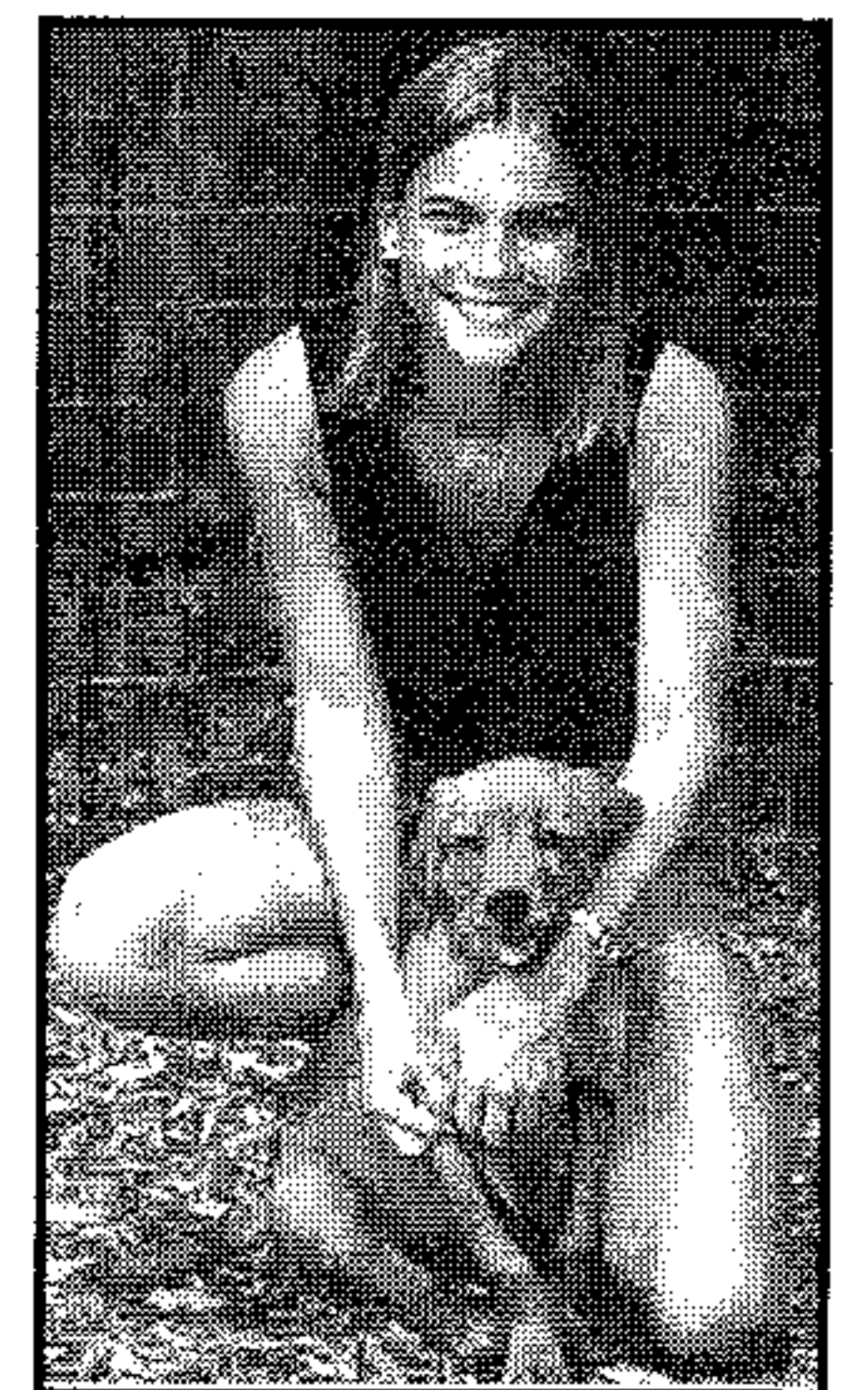
Hope with her new mom

You probably remember the story of **Hope**, who came to rescue from Animal Control. Formerly owned by a backyard breeder, Hope gave birth to a litter of pure-bred goldens shortly after her arrival at GRRMF. She is a pretty, red girl and was adopted by Dee S., who only had some cats for room-



Freddie, one of Hope's puppies

mates. Hope and Dee are having a good time going on walks together. Hope had no difficulty learning how to live inside with a human, especially after her foster mom, Vali Welhoelter, lavished Hope and her puppies with love. Special thanks to the Welhoelter family for going above and beyond in fostering Hope and her eight puppies.



Casey, one of Hope's puppies, with his new owner.

Hope's eight lovely puppies also went to wonderful new homes:

- **Daphnie** – Alan And Sherry H.
- **Casey** – Linda A.
- **Mr. Magoo** – Christine B.
- **Sadie** – Brian and Heather R.
- **Lee** – Theresa and Bob B.
- **Shaggy** – John and Jennifer C.
- **Freddie** – Andrew K. and Brooke C.
- **Daisy/Brandi** – Patrick and Coleen R.

Winnie was a backyard dog until someone felt sorry for her and gave her to us. Adopted by P.E., a schoolteacher, Winnie, now called **Hannah**, turned out to be quite a clown. She loves to swim in the pool and will dive to the bottom like a seal to retrieve objects.

Continued on page 7

Recent Adoptions, from page 6

Flash was purchased for training in obedience and agility competition. Before making her jump, the owner wisely had Flash's hips x-rayed. She had hip dysplasia and was given to rescue when the owner realized she wasn't well suited for agility training. Lucky for Flash, because she hit the jackpot in finding her new human, P.R., who knows how to spoil a sweet dog!



Meet Mickey – Is this dog living the 'life of Riley' or what!

Mickey's owner was moving to Georgia. He called to let us know there was no room for Mickey, who had lived his life tied up in the back yard. To complicate matters, Mickey had lost one eye when a kitten swatted him. You can see by the photo that Mickey's sad days are over – he's living the life of a king with J.H. and B.O.

Callie lived in an apartment until her owner realized she was not getting enough exercise. She had been well cared for when she was turned into Dr. Rachel Beckett of St. Augustine to foster. Callie was adopted by M. and C.B.

Brittany, our 700th rescue, came to us when her owner went to jail. It was a nice break for her when J. and L.W. adopted her.



Brittany

Brandi and **Buster** were turned into the humane society in Melbourne when a child developed an allergy. Both were very much loved but were forced to live outside. Brandi was adopted by Bill and Celeste W. And when

Buster met his new family, Stephen and Constance B., he made it known they would be perfect for him.

Pandabear was turned in when he passed the cute puppy stage and his owner grew tired of him. He was adopted by J.H. and T.G. of Lakeland. Pandabear is getting ready to go to obedience classes where this bright and beautiful boy is sure to excel.

Hannah was given up because her owners thought she would be better off with someone who had more time for her. Two days later, they rearranged their schedules and wanted her back. Another happy ending!

Sabrina came to us following a divorce. She is now being spoiled by S.M. in Sarasota.

Bravo was a stray in Eau Gallie Humane Society. When Kathy Spilker went to see him, he put his paws on the gate and looked into her eyes, as if to say, "It's about time to see a golden rescue person around here." Fostered by Dave and Nancy Loerhouse, owners of adopted rescue dog **Brady**, they fell in love with him immediately. Nancy says the older ones are the best. Nancy presented Bravo, now called **Rusty**, to Dave as a birthday present, ribbons and all.



Bravo, now Rusty

Ryder was in rescue a long time. This perky pup was nuts about playing ball and generally obnoxious when people came to visit. P. and S. Jones looked past all that and decided he would be a wonderful companion for their 1-year-old female. Great choice! The dogs run and play and wear each other out. Ryder's new humans wouldn't give him up for anything.

Amber was turned in to John Pfohler in Sarasota. What a good day it was for her. She was adopted by M. and M.C., and her life took a turn for the best.

Celeste was a stray from the Eau Gallie Humane Society. She came with Bijou and Avery, all picked up while wandering together in a park. Celeste was initially critically ill with a uterine infection, heartworms and parasites. With appropriate veterinary care and medications, she quickly recovered, was spayed and then adopted by B. and K. A. They can't understand how anyone could have abandoned her.

Celeste's pretty companion **Bijou**, who also had heartworms, went home with Pastor Anne G. to play with her young male golden, Buddy, and complete the family circle for Anne and her son.

Levi, a senior golden, came from an animal shelter. He was adopted by his fosters, Robin and Dennis Williams of Amberwood Kennels.

Charlie was visiting Winter Park when his owner called Betty Wyatt saying he was en route to his home in Tampa. He had two more goldens, and his mother kept them when he traveled. Charlie knocked his mother down, and the owner said if we didn't take the dog right then he would drop him off at an animal shelter. Arrangements were made to board Charlie with Amberwood Kennels. Soon, Charlie was helping Dennis Williams with kennel chores. He knew how to open gates, and when Dennis had his hands full, he would send Charlie ahead to open a gate for him. Finally, Dennis decided he had a good thing going and decided to adopt his helper. Now Charlie earns his keep doing what he enjoys most – opening gates.

Max was an 8-week-old puppy when a breeder called and said she had three "leftover" puppies she needed to get rid of. We had no room, but Theresa H., who had been on vacation when Hope's puppies were adopted and missed out, was called. She and her family adopted Max.

Continued on page 8

Recent Adoptions, from page 7



Monte

is settling in nicely. He likes to cuddle up and sleep with his humans.

Montana/Monte, 5 years old, was taken out of a Melbourne animal shelter by Merrill Lochmeyer. His owners gave him up because he would dig out of the backyard pen that was his home. Monte loves to run. One day, while in foster care, he spied a neighbor unloading groceries from her car. Lickety-split, Monte grabbed a sackful and took off through the neighborhood with it. A curly-coated, apricot-colored golden, Monte loves to put things in his mouth and run around. Dr. and Mrs. Bill B. decided Monte was the one for them. They took him home and report he

Sandy I's owner didn't want her anymore and turned her over to us. She was adopted by V.S. of Satellite Beach.

Vanna, now called **Savannah Marie**, was a stray. No one could understand why her family made no effort to find her. A beautiful light-colored golden, she was adopted by her fosters, R. and C. S. She keeps them and their other two dogs laughing.

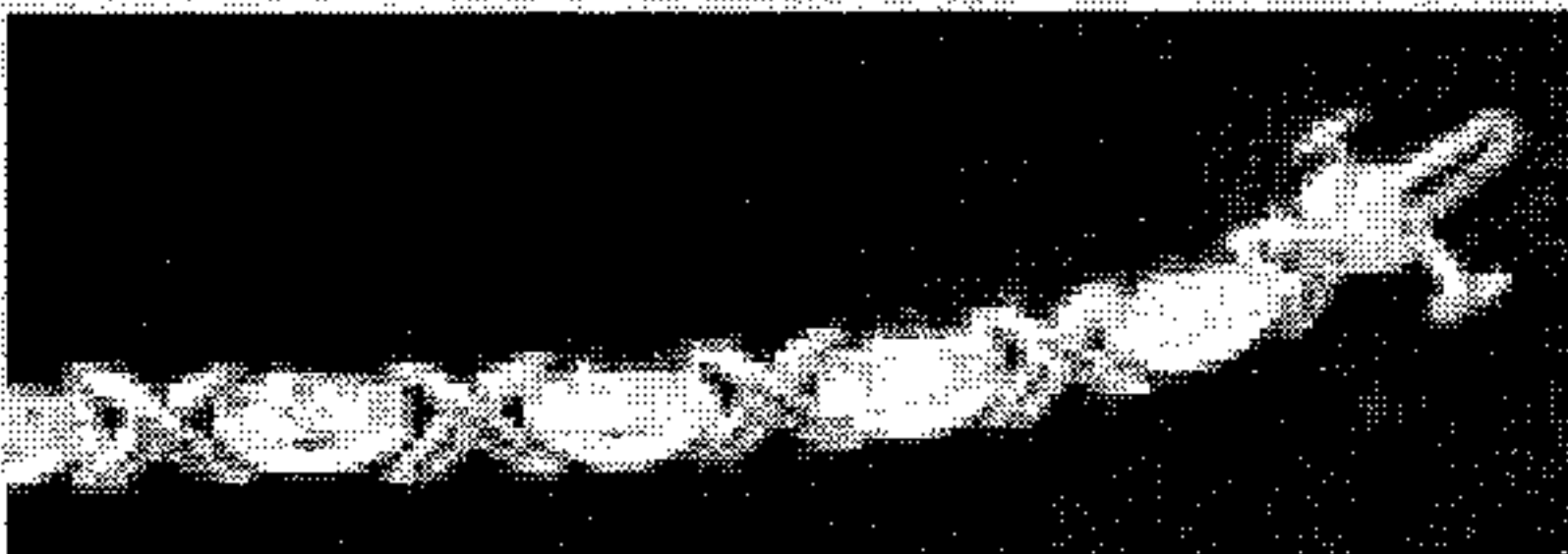
Sandy II was rescued by Joanne Hell and quickly adopted by D. and M. G. of Largo, Fla.

Abby lived her life in a pen. She became afraid of thunderstorms. The children no longer played with her. Kathy Spilker arranged Abby's adoption with R. and R. Drury, who love her very much and are making up for those sad days when no one wanted her.

Raffle Update . . .

The diamond bracelet raffle to raise funds for our freestanding facility kicked off with people making EXCELLENT strides in selling tickets.

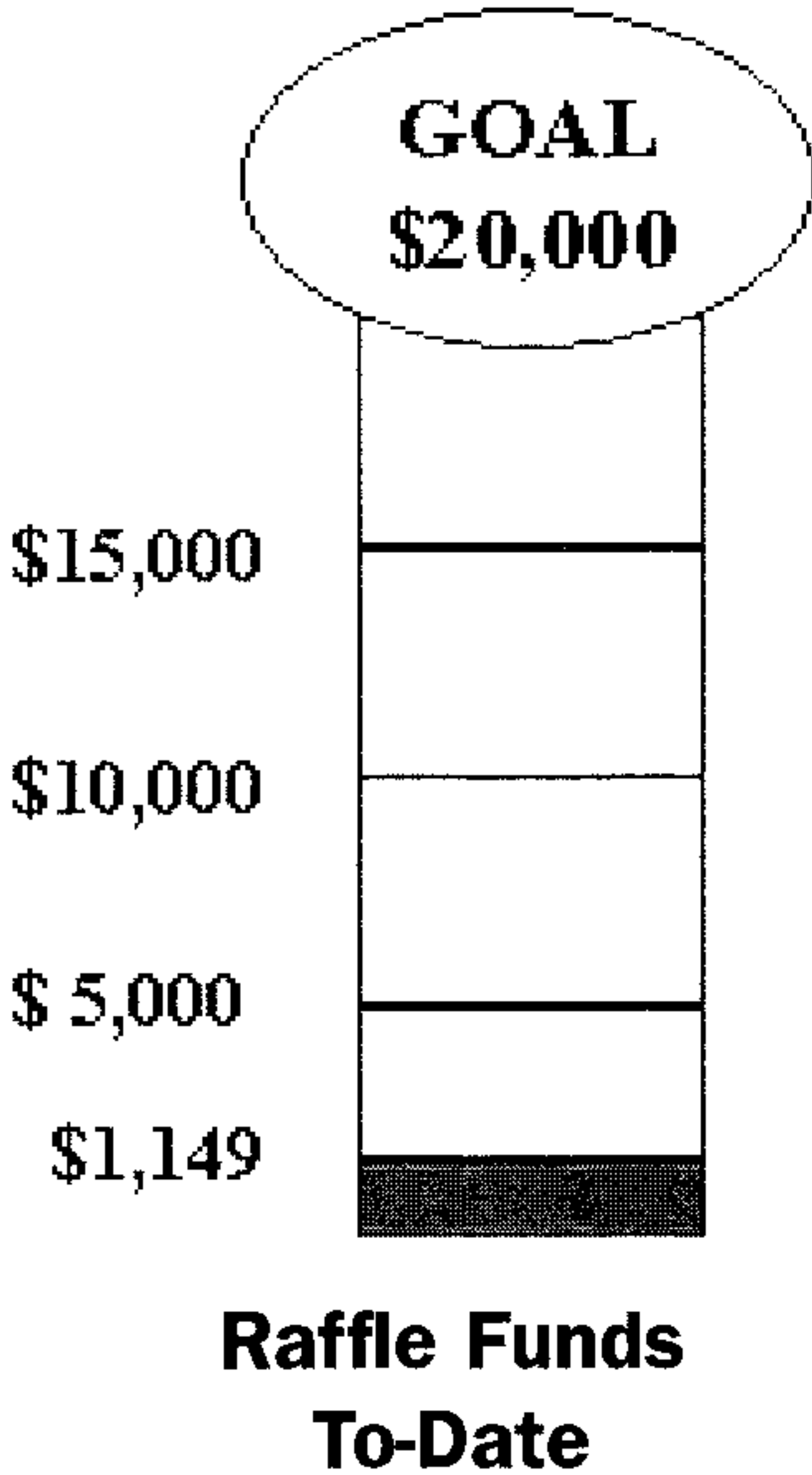
We have until Oct. 29 to reach our goal for the campaign. If all GRRMF members sell just 2 tickets a week, we will reach our goal easily. We encourage all to participate in this wonderful opportunity to get closer to our goal of building a facility for abandoned, abused and neglected golden retrievers. At the time of this writing,



GRRMF already has exceeded the total number of dogs rescued in 1999, so you can see that the need is great and growing by leaps and bounds.

If you need more tickets, please e-mail capital@grmf.org or call 407-321-6355.

Please help by selling your tickets!
The dogs are counting on YOU!



Educational Volunteers Needed:

GRRMF needs volunteers in the Orlando area to help with education. We are starting locations at the PetsMart in Lake Mary and also the Doggie Door Store in Winter Park. GRRMF is also at the Borders in Oviedo one day each month. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail us! We especially need a lot of volunteers to staff the location at PetsMart in Lake Mary, including a volunteer

leader to take over scheduling staffing for that location. We are interested in getting another location going in southwest Orlando if we can get enough volunteers and leaders interested. It's a great opportunity to have fun and bring your dog with you!

GRRMF also has ongoing education days in Sarasota and Tampa that have been a great promotional venue for rescue.

If you'd like to help in those areas, let us know by e-mailing info@grmf.org or calling 407-332-2840 mailbox #4.



the rainbow bridge

Peaches, our 100th rescue, was an integral part of the lives of Dr. Loyd J. and Dr. Stephanie Kiernan and her mother, who took Peaches for walks every day. She was given up a few years ago by a busy mom with several small children. Her transition was an easy one because she was loved so much. A poster of Peaches wearing glasses hung in Dr. Stephanie's dental office, which helped provide a relaxed atmosphere for her clients. Dr. Loyd and Peaches came to almost every rescue reunion, and we will miss her very much at the next one.

Gilda was found wandering the streets and was taken to an animal shelter. She was a cuddler and had a beautiful face to match her personality. Gilda had a significant medical problem – her ureters opened to the outside of her body, causing her to leak urine constantly. She would have required extensive and expensive surgery, with at least a six-month convalescent period before we would even know if the procedure was successful. While we were able to locate a donor to pay for the surgery, rescue had no one who could provide the constant long-term care Gilda would require. When our facility is built, we hope to be able to provide care for the Gildas that we presently can't save.

Big Jake, a senior golden, came to rescue a few months ago when his owner moved to Australia. Jake had always been an outdoor dog and we are very happy that his last few months were spent comfortably inside the home of Sally and Vann



Big Jake, left

Frazier. Jake's passing was sudden. One morning, he just laid down and died, with Sally and Vann at his side.

Ranger/Teddy came from Seminole Animal Control. Attractive and playful, Teddy brightened the life of his mom, Audrey. He loved throwing his toys in the air and catching them, and he loved his walks, until he got down and just could not get up any more. We thank Audrey for giving Teddy a fantastic life for a few precious years. He was truly a gift for Audrey and all who knew this precious soul.

Morgan came into rescue a few years ago, the result of a divorce. Adopted by Walt and Mary Louise Akin, he spent his winters in Florida and his summers in Vermont. He was always healthy and playful, good with children and was loved by all who knew him. Mary Louise says that "a day without a golden is truly a day without sunshine." Thank you Walter and Mary Louise for giving Morgan some beautiful years.

Gretel, No. 21, was one of our first rescues. She looked terrified in the kennel run at Seminole Animal Control as she stood on her hind legs and clawed at the door. Betty Wyatt took this terrified young dog home and later adopted her. She was a treasure. Gretel always wore a smile, and her tail wagged constantly. She is truly missed.

Buster/Deacon came into rescue 3-4 years ago. Adopted by Lorraine and Henry Beal, Deacon was very much loved and cared for. He was a good dog, well-behaved and gentle with children. Sadly, Deacon died prematurely of liver failure. He was 6 years old.

Home Visit Volunteers Needed.

GRRMF is looking for home visit volunteers, especially in the extended Orlando area. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail us at info@grrmf.org or call the hotline at 407-332-2840 mailbox #4.

Order from Amazon.com through the GRRMF website and earn dollars for rescue!

Are you an Amazon.com customer? Or have you thought about shopping with them? If so, PLEASE link to Amazon.com through the GRRMF website at www.grrmf.org and a percentage of your purchase goes to help homeless golden retrievers. You must access Amazon.com through the GRRMF website in order for your purchase to qualify. You can also order from PetsMart.com through our website and earn even more dollars for rescue. These dollars can really add up!

NAILS, NAILS and other GROOMING TALES

By Sharon O'Keefe

Grooming is an important part of caring for your dog. While talking with owners during the grooming sessions we held at this year's Rescue Reunion, one thing Ann Fitzpatrick and I observed was many of you were very reluctant to cut your dog's nails. Through this article, I hope to alleviate some of those fears.

Why is it so important to keep a dog's nails cut? When a dog stands, it's important that his weight is distributed evenly. Long toenails can cause him to shift his weight in order not to feel the discomfort. If left unattended, the nails actually will turn under and/or to the side where they are more apt to catch on something. This can result in a bad tear or break. Long nails can also foster bacteria and are more prone to infection.

How long is too long? If you can hear your dog's nails when he walks on your tile or wood floors, chances are they are in need of a trim.

First, get your pet used to having his feet handled. There is an easy way to do this. While you are relaxing with your pal, rub his feet. After a while, he'll grow to love it. Who wouldn't?

Once he's relaxed with the foot handling, it's time to get started. Purchase a

good set of nail clippers and a bottle of Quick Stop. Both can be purchased at any pet supply store. When applied immediately to a nail that has been "quicked," Quick Stop will stop the bleeding.

Look at your dog's nails closely. Most of the time you can see the vein or "bloodline." Clip between the vein and the end of the nail. If you cannot see the line, look underneath the nail. The more often you cut the nails, the farther back the quick will move. Thus, the nails can be cut shorter with frequent clippings.

When I first get a golden, especially if his or her nails have been neglected, as we find so often in rescue, I cut the animal's nails every couple of days. When the quicks are where I want, then I start to cut them when needed. That varies with each individual dog. If you are really daring, a grinding tool, such as a Dremmel, can be used. But please use extreme caution – it would be very easy to injure your dog, and you could lose the bond you've worked so hard to build with the regular foot massages.

Another part of the process is trimming the hair on the paws. Lightly trimming the wispy hair that grows on the tops of the feet is optional, but it will help keep burrs and other debris

from getting tangled in the fur. I also cut the hair under the pads between the toes. This keeps a large amount of sand from coming into my house.

Remember, if all else fails, take your dog to the vet or a groomer. The cost is nominal and well worth the trip. It is your responsibility to care for your canine friend – he cannot do these things for himself. Be a "good" pet owner.

♥ ♥ ♥

Announcing Volunteer Vacation in December

From December 11th through January 2nd, GRRMF is instituting "Volunteer Vacation." This means that our hardworking volunteers will be given a much needed rest. We will be taking calls on dogs needing to come into the program at this time, and foster families will continue to care for the dogs in GRRMF, but all other volunteer activities will be optional on the part of our volunteers. This includes processing of adoption applications and placement of dogs. If you are interested in adopting a dog please get your application to us early in December so it can be processed. Thank you.

Wish List ...

- Nylabones
- Kong toys
- Dog treats
- File Cabinet
- New towels for dog baths
- 13" TV/VCR – to play educational videos to prospective new owners and use for educational days at pet stores and other events.
- Heavy-duty 3-hole punch
- Dog shampoo

Health Alert!!! Sago Palms Poisonous to Dogs!

Did you know sago palms are poisonous to children and dogs? If you have these poisonous plants in your yard, we strongly advise you to remove them. They are very popular in Florida, and many of you probably are unaware of the risk. We have learned of three dogs in the past six months who have died of liver failure. All had munched on the sago palm or its roots.

Please note: effects are not immediately seen. It often takes a period of months for the liver to break down. This is a FATAL poisoning. There is no treatment or cure.



Sago Palm

Golden Friends . . .

Donations ...

Rose Supple; Christiana; Central Florida Community School – Pre-School Class; Virginia & Richard Withington; Stacey Johnson; Julie & Gary Mink; Ed & Pat Marquez; Vicki Abbott; Nancy & Richard Spears; Mary Fitch; James Fitch; ALOVE4GOLDENS; Mary Blanche Vehlewald

In Honor of ...

Casey – Michael Crabb
Sandy – Robert Shappell
Irving Klondar for Father's Day – Hilary & Seth Klondar

In Memory of ...

Griffen – Sue & David Morgan
Rhoda Martorell – Jan Jennings
Molly – Jim and Allola McGraw
Gilda – Betty Wyatt

Woody Fund ...

Barbara Durham

Boarding Fund ...

Pat Mayer; Carol McKee; Barbara Durham; Deborah Schaffer; John & Gail Pfohler; Robert Harmeyer, Jr.; Stephanie Jones; Carol & Lou Glaros; Jim & Allola McGraw

Sponsorships ...

Michael & Marilyn Couden
Kathleen White

Thanks!

- Deborah Brown for transporting dogs.
- Ellen Pavlik for arranging to get supplies through veterinary pharmaceutical reps --Chad Terrell, Buzz Brown and Christa Roman.
- To the many veterinarians who help GRRMF:
 - Drs. Rick Rubinstein & William Ehlers, Tusawilla Oaks Animal Hospital
 - Dr. Michael Schroeder, Animal Hospital of Treasure Island
 - Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne
 - Dr. Moja, Central Florida Animal Hospital, Oviedo
 - Dr. Rachael Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Practice, St. Augustine
 - Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park
 - Outback Animal Hospital, Polk City
 - Livingston Animal & Avian Hospital, Lutz
 - Bright Cross Animal Clinic, Venice
 - Dr. Craig Woloshyn, Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill
 - Dr. Martin Neher, Palmer Ranch



In Memory of Molly –

The McGraws say Molly, a very special girl who died at age 14, would have wanted her folks to help when the need arose. In light of our recent influx of goldens needing prolonged boarding, they've earmarked a very generous donation for our Boarding Fund in Molly's name.

- Animal Clinic, Sarasota
- For home visits: Cindy Andrews; Pat Chesley; Gregg Childs; Irene Clifford; Linda Cohen; Penny Dalton; Susan Fulenwider; Pam Harrill; Joanne Hell & Group; Peggy Lett; Susan Matlock; Carol McKee; Julie Mink; Ellen Pavlik; John & Gail Pfohler; Kathy Salisbury; Suzanne Siegel; Diane Simpkinson; Nancy Spears; Kathy Spilker; Sandy Sumner
- Gregg Childs for helping with home visit coordination during volunteer vacations.
- Webmaster Tim Guy for keeping our Web site – www.grrmf.org – fresh and interesting.
- Gregg Childs and Wendy Shulte for making screening calls.
- Cindy Andrews for being our Adoption Application Coordinator and screening all our applications.
- Sandy Sumner for being Home Visit Coordinator.
- Gayle Roy for helping with mailings.
- Wendy Jackson, Cindy Andrews, Pam Jones, John & Gail Pfohler, Julie and Gary Mink for helping with educational days.
- Best Paw Forward
- 3J Dog Training
- K-9 Korner
- Top Dog Training, Sarasota

Fosters ...

Nancy Abbott; Judy Ackerman; Cindy & Sandy Andrews; Dr. Rachel Beckett; Tammy Bradburn; Marcie Caldwell; Nancy Childers; Gregg Childs & Tom Eddie; Jerry & Irene Clifford; Marti Conness; Penny & Don Dalton; Jean Dixon; Barbara Durham; Robin Edwards; Linda Fike; Sally and Vann Frazier; Susan Hallenbeck and Bill Holland; Betty Halpern; Tom and Joanne Hell; Catherine Huddleston and Paul Werner; Kelly & Chris Keeler; Dave & Nancy Loerhouse; Karen Lumbr; Kirk & Michelle Martin; Gail Mertz; Gary & Julie Mink; Bob and Sharon O'Keefe; John and Gail Pfohler; Sally Anne Rowland; Ellen Schnabel; Rick & Coleen Sosteri; Sandy & Mike Sumner; Gail Treeza; Kim Wilkerson; Dennis & Robin Williams; Robert & Lori Williamson; Leah Wright

Special thanks to Dennis and Robin Williams of Amberwood Kennels for taking in several dogs on short notice. Recently, when a backyard breeder decided to go out of business and called about turning in three breeders and six puppies, Dennis and Robin said "come on over" after clearing it through us. The following day, we received a call from Pasco County Animal Control about three more very nice goldens who were about to die. Again, the Williamses were there. We also want to thank our puppy fosters: Paul Werden and Catherine Huddleston, Jean Dixon and Dave and Sally Ann Rowland, who took four of them!

♥ ♥ ♥

Levi and "The Gang" Thank You!!!

Special thanks to all the kindhearted dog lovers who responded to our recent "Goldens Galore" flier, featuring Levi and his "friends" who are being boarded at Amberwood Kennels in Lakeland. We have had a strong response, with numerous pledges to help pay for boarding fees until a permanent home can be found. Without your donations and Dennis and Robin Williams' willingness to take these dogs, many would not have been able to come into our program.

A full list of sponsorships will be included in the next newsletter. Levi looks forward to giving all sponsors big kisses at the next reunion!



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

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Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Membership Application

ALL memberships/donations are tax-deductible.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip _____ Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Membership

All levels of membership include a subscription to the "Hearts of Gold" newsletter.

Please check one:

- ☐ General Membership \$20 ☐ Voting Membership \$20 (must volunteer minimum of 20 hours/year to GRRMF)
☐ Sponsorship \$100 (for helping a dog in need – you receive recognition in the newsletter.)
☐ Gift Membership \$20 for: Name _____ Address _____

Donation

- ☐ \$_____ to be used for general veterinary care for rescue dogs.
☐ \$_____ to the Woody Fund for care of goldens with difficult medical problems.
☐ \$_____ to the Capital Campaign for a home for Goldens.
☐ \$_____ to the Boarding Fund to help house goldens on a temporary basis until a foster home can be located.
☐ \$_____ for this purpose: _____
☐ \$_____ in memory of _____. Send acknowledgment to: _____
☐ \$_____ in honor of _____

Mail form to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state.

Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.