Hearts of Gold

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

Volume 4, Issue 3 Fall 2001

President's Message

by Barbara Durham



Monroe

Monroe's Journey . . .

As I run my hands through Monroe's silky fur, I can't help but think how far he's come. His coat is a lovely honey-gold color and shiny as can be. His skin is cool and clean, and he smells sweet. He is resting comfortably in my arms, accepting my affection without protest. He even lets me kiss his muzzle.

This vision contrasts sharply with my introduction to Monroe, a senior golden, in December 1999. His skin was some of the worst we've seen in rescue. He was full of scabs and warts all over his body. He had sore, bloody elbows, and bloody scabs all over his tail. His belly was black from skin infections, and his skin was moist and hot to the touch. The worst thing was his smell. The odor was pervasive – in my car, in my house, on my hands after petting him. It was everywhere.

Monroe was turned in by a man who became ill and could no longer care for him. After adopting him from Orange City Animal Control in January 1999, the owner spent a considerable sum trying to help Monroe, but nothing seemed to work. Who knows what kind of prior life this poor dog had – probably an outside dog with chronic allergies, his condition allowed to degrade with no veterinary care.

I did the intake interview, and I remember thinking what a challenge Monroe would be with our limited resources and volunteers. But I knew one thing for sure: We had to help him. He won me over with his soft, pleading eyes. I took him home and decided to oversee his care.

And So It Begins

From his records, we learned that Monroe had been on steroids and a special veterinary diet for the past year. It was obvious the traditional approach wasn't working. I had heard about a holistic veterinarian who had opened a practice in Winter Park. I've been into holistic care for a while with my own dogs, so this was a natural path for me. Ultimately, the GRRMF Board decided to explore this option. We were hoping that through Monroe's experience, we'd learn something to help the increasing amount of dogs we're seeing in the program with allergies.

Dr. Constance DiNatale agreed to take a look at Monroe and, as many of our veterinarians do, she gave us a generous discount to boot. She is a regular veterinarian who has received additional training in Chinese medicine, acupuncture and chiropractic care for animals.

Dr. DiNatale performed a detailed examination on Monroe, including checking his pulse points on all the meridi-

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Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
An All-Volunteer, Nonprofit 501(c) 3 Corporation
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930 Golden Retrievers Rescued To Date!

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A Golden Moment . . .

Submitted by Andrea Davis, who adopted senior golden Peaches last month.

I never thought I would adopt a senior dog. If there were 10 golden retrievers lined up, a 9-year-old would have been the last dog I'd have chosen.

GRRMF's west coast regional coordinator is pretty smart, though. When I decided to foster for rescue, she introduced me to the greatest dog, a 9-year-old named Peaches. I was excited at the prospect of getting my first foster to care for, but knew she wasn't going to be the dog for me. I wanted a younger dog, one that could play with my 3-year-old Labrador retriever.

When I went to pick Peaches up, I couldn't believe how she looked. She was completely bald on her back and rear end due to flea allergies, but in typical golden style, her tail was wagging anyway. Peaches had been a backyard dog, and the owner said he was happy to give her up because all she did was bark. Funny, I hardly ever hear her bark.

How could a dog who was obviously mistreated be so happy? This was my first GOLDEN experience.

Much to my surprise, she exhibited a lot of spunk – a 9-year-old who acted like a puppy, but without needing puppy training! She played tug-of-war with her new foster sister and loved going for long walks – not my idea of a "senior" dog, for sure.

After about eight weeks, the call came. Someone was interested in adopting Peaches. I knew then that I couldn't give her up. The 9-year-old I never thought I would adopt is now a permanent member of my family. She spends her days chasing lizards, napping and playing with her new sister.

I now realize that we have many happy years ahead of us, and I'm thrilled to have these years to spend



with Peaches. I hope others will consider giving a senior golden a second chance for life. It will be the most rewarding experience of your life.

♥ ♥ ♥



GRRMF Shines at SteinMart Event:

Julie Mink and friends raised $875 during the "SteinMart Sizzles through the Dog Days of Summer" event June 16 at the Clearwater and Palm Harbor SteinMart locations.

Many thanks to volunteers Renee Perkie, Debbie McGhehey, Kathy Brisette, Jim Brand, Colleen and Rick Sosteri, John and Vicki Ryan, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Emily Rowe, Chris and Michelle Andrews and Ann Marie Wise.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

. . . The Minks: Heaven on Earth

Since last year, many rescued goldens have found a little "heaven on Earth" with foster parents Julie and Gary Mink. In fact, life is so good as a "Minkster," several have never left!

The Minks became involved with GRRMF in January 2000, when they fell in love with Prancer on the Web site and applied to adopt him. Many readers may remember Prancer's hard-luck story. He was abandoned at a Jacksonville dump, where homeless dogs are often used for target practice. Prancer remained in rescue for more than a year, waiting for just the right family to notice his charm and personality. His luck certainly changed when he smiled upon the Minks!

Soon after adopting Prancer, Gary and Julie decided to try fostering. To date, they have fostered numerous goldens, three of whom they've adopted.

"This has been a difficult but very rewarding experience for us. I say difficult because it took us adopting four rescues before we realized we couldn't adopt every dog we took in," Julie says.

The rewarding part comes in finding the dogs wonderful homes. One example is Matthew, who "found a better home than we ever dreamed possible," Julie says. "He spends his days watching sailboats go by from his veranda on Siesta Key. 'Ruff life,' wouldn't you say?"

Her advice for families considering fostering? "I must tell you one thing: You will, without a doubt, bond with your foster dog. But being a part of saving an animal as beautiful and devoted as the golden retriever is a very fulfilling experience. Everyone should foster at least once!"

Julie currently serves as GRRMF's Home Visit Coordinator and works with GRRMF volunteers all over Florida to coordinate home visits. She and Gary also participate in educational days and coordinate various fund-raising activities.

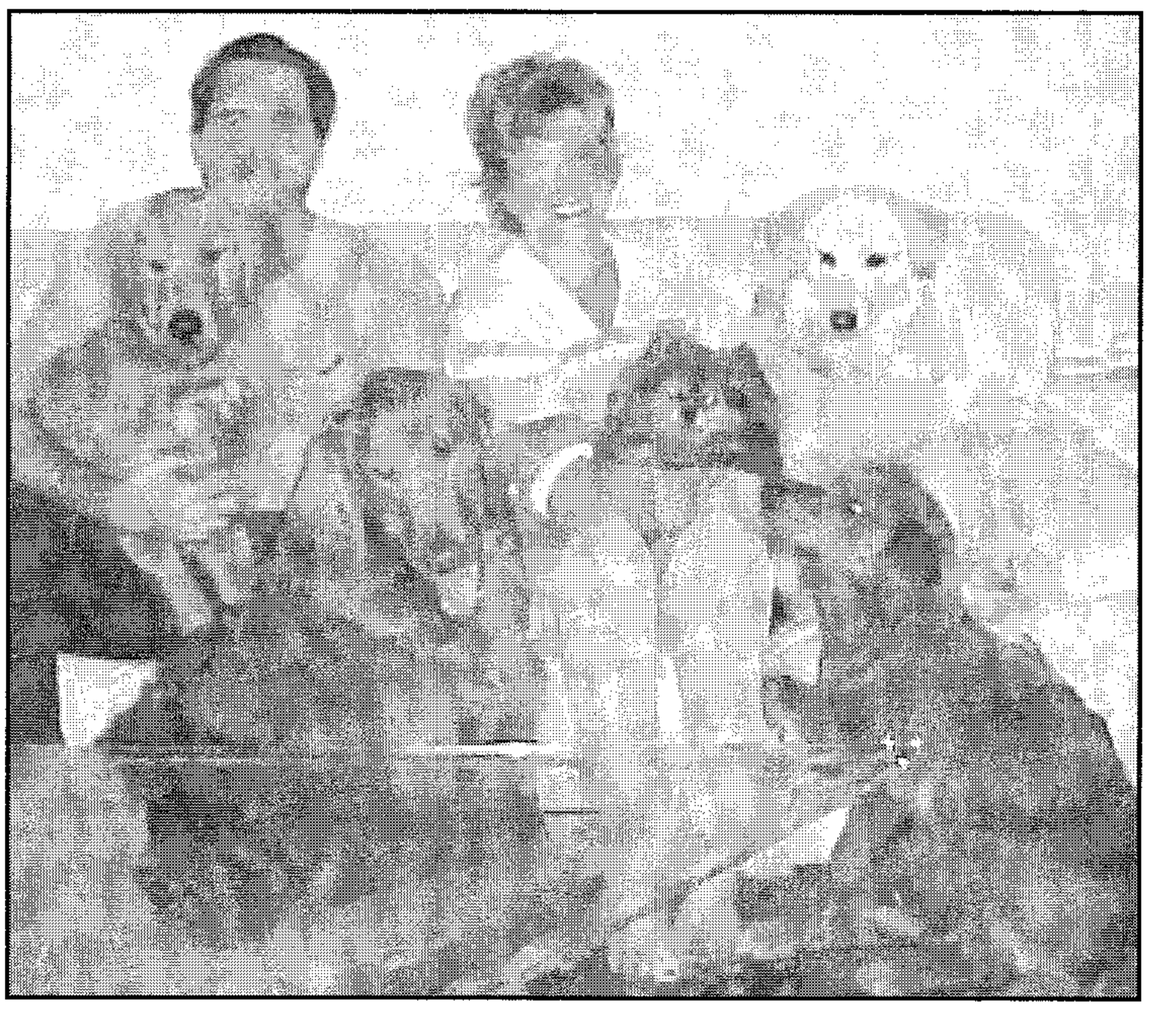
Recently, the Minks played a key role in an event at the Clearwater SteinMart that raised nearly $900 for GRRMF. Julie is hoping to make next year's event state-wide.

"Julie and Gary are two of our most valuable volunteers," says GRRMF President Barbara Durham. "They handled all the details of the recent SteinMart event, and the money they raised came in handy during the hard summer months."

"The thing I appreciate most about the Minks is their enthusiasm for rescue. They are initiators, always thinking of ways to help out," says GRRMF Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt.

Along with Prancer, the Mink pack includes Saharrah, Indy and Ben, all former rescues. Currently, they also are fostering 11-year-old Jody and 2-year-old Romeo. They don't just have a pack … they have a "six-pack" of golden fun!

♥ ♥ ♥



The Minksters: Gary and Julie Mink with, from left, Ben (on Gary's lap), Prancer, Mr. Sam the Pomeranian, Indy and pretty white Saharrah. All goldens are from GRRMF.

Wish List . . .

- PetsMart gift cards – for purchase of food and other supplies
- Long-distance phone cards
- Postage stamps
- Nylabones – giant or "souper" size

Allergies, from page 1

ans of the body. In Chinese medicine, the meridians are long lines of energy that flow through the body. By examining the meridians, the doctor obtains an indication of how the organs of the body are functioning and what might need strengthening. She also checked the patterns on his tongue, ears, eyes, skin, nails and the pads on his feet. Dr. DiNatale performed acupuncture on Monroe. He looked like a pincushion! We also discovered that he had a bad leg, probably from being kicked or some other kind of injury. He was very weak in his hind end and had a hard time getting up off the floor.

She then conducted an in-depth interview with me. Did Monroe like hot or cold places? What was his emotional state as well as physical state? What types of foods seem to cause his skin to break out? And so on. I told her everything I knew – that he smelled terrible, even though I was bathing him every two days. That his constant scratching kept us up all night (can you imagine how miserable he was?). That he would take forever to urinate. He often would walk for 15 minutes in the morning before going to the bathroom.

Monroe's diagnosis was a difficult one. We did blood work and a more sophisticated thyroid test. His thyroid was normal. Dr. DiNatale felt his immune system was a wreck, making him very prone to allergies. The steroids were only making it worse. He needed supplements to boost his immune system and skin. Allergy testing had shown he wasn't allergic to anything in his environment. I refused to believe that – it just didn't feel right, because when I took him outside in the fenced yard, all he would do is sit down and scratch. I had to leash-walk him, otherwise he wouldn't get any exercise (and still have to).

The first path of treatment was vitamins, Chinese herbs and an elimination diet to see if we could determine what foods he was allergic to. Dr. DiNatale is a big believer in fatty acids for golden retrievers as well as the basic antioxidant vitamins. Monroe was put on a routine of supplements that included vitamin C, vitamin E, cod liver oil and fish oil caps. He was put on herbs to help his "damp heat" skin problem, kidneys and hips. He was also put on glucosomine chondroitin for arthritis and MSM for pain.

Now, about his diet. For a period of time, he ate mostly sweet potatoes while I stabilized him to get a good baseline to work from. Sweet potatoes are very nutritious, much more so than white potatoes. Then, I added foods to see if any allergic reactions resulted. When he was allergic, he would break out in hives. I finally determined he was allergic to rice, along with some other grains and proteins. I was determined to find a food regimen with high-quality, human-grade ingredients and no chemicals. I wanted to use dog food and supplement with veggies, yogurt and other healthy toppers. Most dog foods contain rice, which was a major obstacle.

As luck would have it, I attended a Pet Industry Trade Show and found a food that ultimately worked for Monroe – it's called Wellness Fish and Sweet Potato. It is a specialty food and not cheap, but it features high-quality ingredients and no chemicals, byproducts or animal digest.

The other therapeutic recommendation was to bathe him often with a special shampoo to eliminate infections in his skin. Since he didn't have dry skin, this wasn't a problem. You couldn't wash him enough to make his skin dry out! Even after a month, the water that came off his body was brown. I used antiseptic shampoo on his trouble areas, and then oatmeal everywhere else. A friend also recommended a cream rinse that was a lifesaver in helping his odor – Fresh 'n Clean Scented Crème Rinse by Lambert Kay. After a while, I could wait four days between baths instead of two!

On the Road to Improvement

Gradually the scratching in the middle of the night stopped. Monroe still had trouble spots on his skin, but I treated them topically with diluted hydrogen peroxide and a little Panalog cream.

As the months went by, the improvements became more dramatic. Monroe's tail grew long feathers, his skin on his belly was gray instead of black, the hair above his eyes filled in because he stopped scratching his face. His elbows healed and grew fur. He was gradually taking on the appearance of a true golden retriever – especially after I was able to stop shaving around his trouble spots so he no longer resembled a block of Swiss cheese! I recently realized he has no more warts. They are a virus, and I guess his immune system has recovered enough to make them go away.

One of the best outcomes is his demeanor. He holds his head up, and his eyes are bright and clear, He readily makes eye contact with me. His face is smooth and pretty, where it once was awash with wrinkles. Now that he is finally out of his allergy miseries, he can be a happy dog – another sign of his true "golden" heritage! His mobility has improved with the supplements for arthritis and pain. He also urinates more frequently, due to supplements along with some behavioral conditioning.

Monroe was evaluated periodically over the year he was treated, and his herbs changed as the doctor felt necessary. I think Monroe's success came by boosting his own immune system to at least have a fighting chance against the allergies.

When I take Monroe places today, no one can believe his story. He no longer "looks the part," so to speak. And he has a new career: as a spokesdog for GRRMF. Monroe appears at Borders Bookstore and other locations to meet the public and get the message of rescue out. It is so rewarding to have people run their hands through his fur and coo over him about how pretty he looks.

So, was it all worth it? I think you know the answer to that one. This brave golden boy served as our guinea pig and now is helping other goldens. We've started using the regimen on other dogs with great success. We see terrible coats and allergies, especially in yard dogs, and have totally turned them around with these therapies.

Through all this, Dr. DiNatale graciously makes herself available to answer any questions we have. Her role has been critical in "Monroe's journey," and we appreciate her support very much.

What You Can Do

Does your dog have allergies? We encour-

Continued next page

Allergies, continued

age you to discuss these options with your veterinarian, and if he or she isn't versed in holistic methods, consider consulting a holistic vet for help. Typically, they don't replace your regular vet, but provide complementary therapy to regular vet care. I'm fortunate that my regular vets at Tuscawilla Oaks Animal Hospital, Drs. Rubinstein and Ehlers, are open to holistic therapies. They still are the "primary care veterinarians" for my pets, but work with me to accommodate my desire to use holistic therapies when appropriate.

Overall, this is the routine we are using in allergy laden dogs:

1. Quality food – If you buy dog food at a grocery or discount store, it's probably junk. I recently looked through all the foods available at my local Target and Albertsons, and there wasn't one I would feed my dog. Even foods found in veterinarian offices or pet stores aren't guaranteed to be good quality. Read the ingredients. Do they sound like something you would eat? Do you even understand what they are? Do they have byproducts, animal digest, ethoxiquin, BHA or BHT in them? Useless fillers like peanut hulls? There are foods available that are much better for your dog. I should know – I've researched most of them. At a minimum, you should feed a food like Nutro Natural Choice available at PetsMart. There are premium holistic brands of dog food available that use human-grade ingredients, such as Solid Gold, Innova, Wysong, Wellness and Balance Diet among others that are great options for your dog. All except Balance Diet (which is available over the Internet) can sometimes be found in small local pet shops – contact the companies to find out retailers near you. Don't listen to advertising – what does "breeder recommended" really mean, anyway? Read those labels, and if you have questions, please ask us!
2. Vitamin C – This is calcium ascorbate powder, and the recommended dosage is 22 mg per pound of body weight twice daily. Start slowly to reduce chances of diarrhea or stomach upset. Vitamin C boosts the immune system and acts as a natural antihistamine.

Dog's weight	Dosage (twice daily)
60 lbs.	1320 mg
65 lbs.	1430 mg
70 lbs.	1540 mg
75 lbs.	1650 mg
80 lbs.	1760 mg

A handy tool for dispensing small quantities of vitamin powders is available from Restoration Hardware on Park Avenue in Winter Park, or see their website at www.restorationhardware.com. They sell measuring spoons called "Pinch, Dash, Smidgen" in tiny sizes – 1/8, 1/16 and 1/32 of a teaspoon – for only $6. They are perfect for measuring out the vitamin C powder and other measured supplements.

3. Vitamin E (preferably with selenium) – one 400 IU capsule a day.
4. Cod liver oil (unflavored) – if skin/immune system is really bad, 1 teaspoon twice daily. For a maintenance dose – 1 teaspoon daily.
5. Fish oil - 200mg of Omega 3's per 10 lbs. of body weight twice daily.

Dog's weight	Dosage (twice daily)
60 lbs.	1200 mg
65 lbs.	1300 mg
70 lbs.	1400 mg
75 lbs.	1500 mg
80 lbs.	1600 mg

Fish caps vary widely in the amount of Omega 3's they contain, so you have to check the back of each bottle. Missing Link supplement products and other flax seed oil-based supplements can also be used for Omega 3 fatty acid supplementation. Some dogs respond better to fish oils, some to flax oils. Primrose oil caps are a duplicate of the fish oil caps and may benefit dogs that don't respond to fish oil caps.

6. B-50 Complex – 1 capsule twice daily. B-50 complex is also very good for stressed animals. Stress can damage the immune system and cause allergies to flare up.
7. Garlic – one capsule a day, unless the dog is "hot" – has warm skin.
8. Digestive enzymes – We have had a lot of luck in using digestive enzymes in goldens, specifically Prozyme, available from KV Vet Supply (Item # 40036). This enzyme aids digestion and the absorption of nutrients. It is a powder you add to the food. We highly recommend the use of these enzymes, particularly for dogs with allergies.
9. Supplements for orthopedic problems – We suggest trying Glucosamine Chondroitin. You can purchase it at a local health food store or possibly from your vet. Another cheaper alternative is Glycoflex, which is usually carried by veterinarians and is also available from KV Vet (Item # 40956). Also, MSM powder (KV Vet # 41570) is very effective and inexpensive.

Mixing Supplements With Food

A great way to get your dog to take supplements is to put about a 1/8 – 1/4 cup of "toppers" in with their food – plain low-fat yogurt, low-fat cottage cheese, ground up carrots or green beans. Sweet potatoes or squash cooked and mashed also have a lot of nutrition. Dogs benefit from a variety of vegetables (don't feed onions or lots of spinach). Just make sure they are ground up or mashed. Raw is fine, or lightly cooked. If you used canned, use the low-salt variety. Please ask us if you have questions.

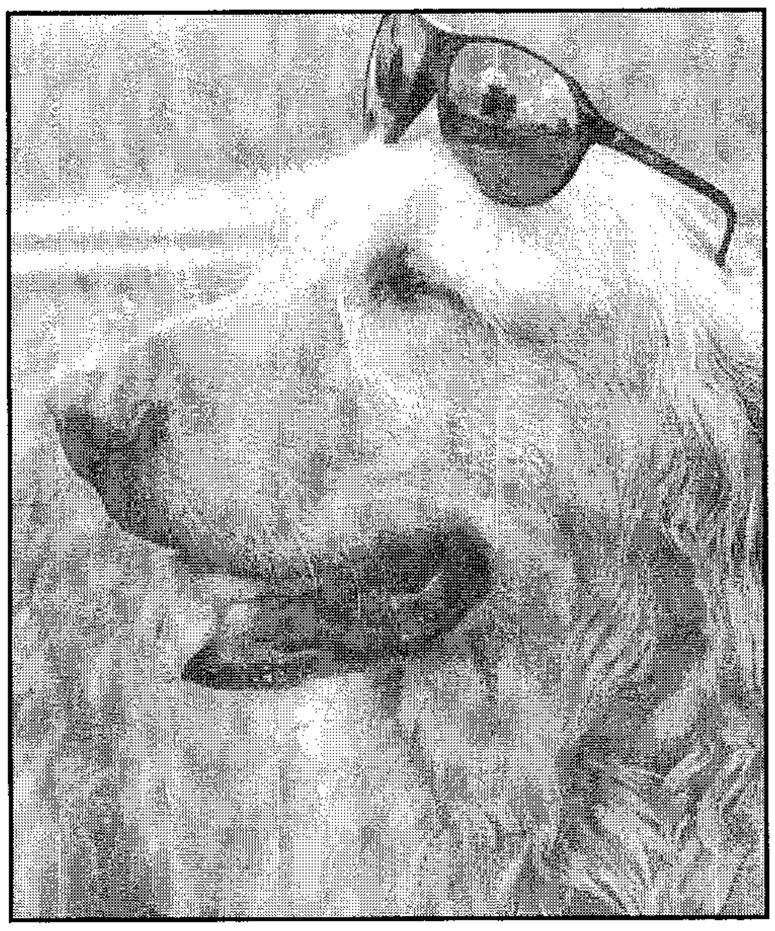
Other therapies

1. Baths – We are having good luck with DermaPet shampoos sold by KV Vet Supply. For infected skin, use Benzoyl Peroxide shampoo (Item # 79207). Also, Malacetic Shampoo (Item # 72394) and Conditioner (Item # 70208) are effective for yeast conditions. For dry coat and skin, try Dermapet Allay Oatmeal Shampoo (Item # 79220) and Spray on Oatmeal conditioner (Item # 79201). Use the conditioner as a topical treatment: mix 1 tablespoon in a cup of water, and after shampooing and rinsing, pour over your dog and work into coat and skin. Do not rinse. Your vet may recommend other specialty shampoos for infected skin such as Chlorhexiderm or oatmeal shampoos.
2. Topical treatments – Keep sores clean to guard against infection. If the dog scratches, give topical relief with a little

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My Future is so Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades!!

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Volunteer



That's Brody's motto these days. Brody's story is not much different from many of the dogs we get in rescue. He was an outside dog, unneutered and overweight – 110 pounds. He was fed poor-quality dog food and probably things that were not even appropriate for a dog. Brody, however, has two additional factors working against him: his larger-than-average build and severe hip dysplasia. And he is only 3 years old.

When I picked him up from his temporary foster home, he could barely lift his front leg to get into my compact car. He was so stiff and in so much pain that moving was something he preferred not to do. In fact, for the first two or three weeks, I thought maybe he had brain damage. He was so slow to react to anything and did not grasp even the most basic tasks. Watching him waddle in his cow-hocked way across the yard was equally painful for me.

Dr. Bill Ehlers from Tuscawilla Animal Hospital told me a full hip replacement would be required if we decided to go the surgery route. Since I hadn't robbed any banks lately, I inquired about a less expensive option. Dr. Ehlers suggested we reduce his weight and try some supplements.

I launched an all-out attack on all fronts. Brody was used to eating lots of food (the poster boy for a food-motivated dog!), so I had to find something to fill him up. Adding green beans to his new high-quality, low-calorie dog food did the trick. Green beans add bulk, without adding calories. Take stock in the Green Giant company, because Brody will be a green bean man for life!

Next, adding Missing Link with glucosamine and putting some MSM powder in his food gave him some flexibility and eased his pain. I noticed improvement after only a few days.

Brody's exercise regimen came in the form of a dog named Banjo. Banjo picked on Brody when he first got here, but in no time they became thick as thieves. They play every day now. The daily running and playing has built up those hind muscles.

Today, 25 pounds lighter and more energetic than ever, Brody has a new lease on life.

If you are ever in Oviedo on the third Saturday evening of the month, stop by Borders Books and visit Brody. He will be the one with the wild eyebrows and big smile, because he knows he has a happy and healthy life ahead of him.

♥ ♥ ♥

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bit of steroid cream such as Panalog or an anti-itch spray to break the cycle.

3. Behavioral – Combat habitual scratching with new activities and more exercise. Some of Monroe's scratching was purely habit from a life of allergies, and simply telling him to "stop" was enough.

Final Words of Wisdom

Remember, these treatments do not work overnight. If you want a magic pill, it doesn't exist. You will need to build up your dog's immune system over a period of months. Be patient, and be persistent! The rewards are great – no allergy drugs or steroids, just a dog with a healthy immune system. And, if you do decide to consult a holistic vet, remember, you will play an important role. They will rely on you to tell them everything about your dog's health and personality.

Until next time....
Barbara

Resources:

- *KV Vet Catalog 1-800-423-8211 www.kvvet.com*
- *Solid Gold Dog Food 1-619-258-1914 (also available from First Choice Pet Product in Miami, 800-994-7387)*
- *www.wysong.net (Wysong Dog Foods)*
- *www.naturapet.com (Innova Dog Foods)*
- *www.oldmotherhubbard.com (Wellness Dog Foods)*
- *www.balancediet.com (Balance Diet Foods)*

Hearts of Gold

by Betty Wyatt, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

My message this month is about education. As dog owners, we all are educators. Sometimes, we educate by example or by answering questions from other current or prospective dog owners. Other times, our educational efforts are quite deliberate such as educational days.

Those of you who participate in GRRMF educational days are the lucky ones. You can spruce up your dogs so they look great, put on your GRRMF T-shirt and off you go to have fun meeting and greeting people. We love to talk about and show off our dogs, and there is probably no greater opportunity to educate people about dog ownership and golden retriever rescue.

We have a few goals in mind when setting up our GRRMF table. First, we want to spread the word about rescue. Visitors may not be looking for a dog now, but when they are ready – whether it's next month or several years from now – we want them to remember us. And they do – many applications we receive refer to an educational day at PetsMart or another location.

Second, we want to discuss the overpopulation problem we have with goldens and urge people to spay and neuter their pets. GRRMF volunteer John Pfohler tells me that if his group sees an unneutered male, they inquire about the reason for not having him neutered. They discuss the benefits of neutering as well as the negative aspects of breeding a dog – the cost and time commitment, genetic problems such as hip dysplasia, how many puppies end up in shelters, and so on. Of course, it's a little more difficult to scout out fertile female dogs, but it doesn't hurt to ask.

Overpopulation is not just a golden retriever problem. Populations have exploded in nearly every breed. If someone says they plan to breed anyway, we tell them about the importance of clearances and suggest they first take a stroll through an animal shelter because we cannot begin to take all the goldens we get calls about. They also should go to dog shows and the library to learn more about their breed of choice.

Third, we want to educate people about the importance of good nutrition, heartworm preventive and other routine care. At GRRMF, we've seen a marked increase in heartworm-positive goldens. As simple and inexpensive as the preventive is, people still neglect this life-saving task.

Feeding your dog quality food is just common sense. Consider your own eating habits. Wouldn't you expect to feel better and have fewer health problems by eating a balanced diet instead of fast-food burgers and fries every day?

We also take time to talk with parents and children while at educational days. If a child rushes at one of our dogs, we politely tell him or her to always ask permission before petting a dog. If necessary, we show the child how to "pet nice."

Of course, most conversations revolve around golden retrievers. We make sure to point out the disadvantages of owning a golden, as well as the benefits. If a family says they want a golden puppy, we refer them to our Hotline, where they can get referral numbers for reputable breeders. GRRMF has a free packet of information available for prospective puppy buyers. It includes the importance of researching breeders, questions to ask, and other helpful tips. If they're interested in another breed, we tell people how to find a rescue group for that breed. The AKC Web site – www.akc.org – includes a listing of all breed rescue groups by state and region.

If they seem interested in pursuing adoption through GRRMF, we hand out an application and information on our adoption process. It's important that people understand they must be screened and, if approved, matched to a dog that is right for them.

Lastly, we can't forget another important goal for educational days: donations. We always have a can on the table, and we're not shy about communicating our need for funds. This summer was one of the worst in our history. Summers are always a slow time for adoptions, but this summer was compounded by an influx of dogs and fewer adoptions. Expenses have exceeded income for three months in a row. Because of this, GRRMF currently is accepting only the most needy dogs, and many of these have to be boarded because we have no space for them. It's a very difficult situation to accept. We're here because we love goldens, and it goes against our grain to turn even one away.

I'd like to invite everyone who reads my column to sit down right now and write us a tax-exempt check to help during this difficult time. If you haven't paid your annual membership dues, please don't delay any longer to keep your newsletter coming.

If you adopted a dog from us, please give him a big hug and tell him that Aunt Betty loves him (or her, of course). By now, you should have received an annual follow-up form in

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the mail. I urge you to fill it out and return it to me. Remember, many people were involved in the rescue of your beloved friend. We're all very much interested in how the dog is doing now. Of course, photos and stories are always welcome. I forward them to our newsletter editor for inclusion in this newsletter. If you prefer, send me an e-mail: goldensunbird@aol.com. I'd love to hear from you!

Until next time,
– *Betty*

Hurricane Help

GRRMF is in the planning stages of implementing a hurricane evacuation policy for our rescues on the east and west coasts of Florida. Your help is essential in implementing the plan!

If your family would be willing to take in (for approximately one week) one of the dogs in our program due to an evacuation, please e-mail your name, address and phone number to Cindy Andrews: candrews@cfl.rr.com. Or, mail a note to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

Once the plan has been finalized, you will be contacted with the details. Licks and kisses in advance for your support in this new program!

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

Honey is a beautiful 4-year-old who spent her life outside. She loves everyone – including cats, other dogs and children. Honey was adopted by Amy & Gary R. and relishes her new life as an inside dog.

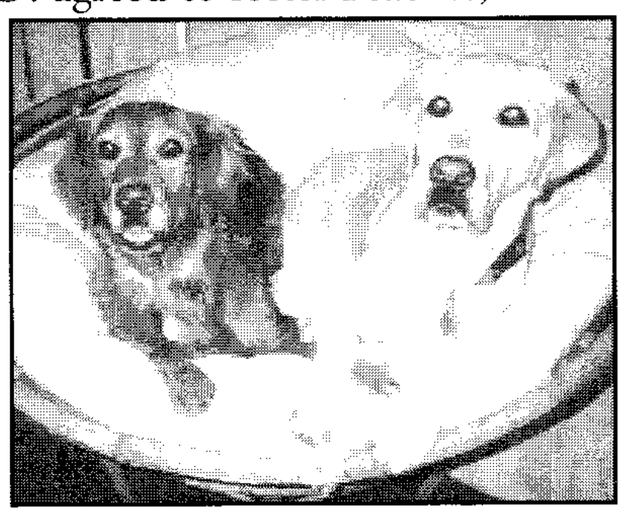
Willis came from the Brevard Humane Society. His family turned this 8-month-old in because he was "too much to handle." High-energy or not, Willis is a beautiful blonde boy who stole the heart of Dixie A. Willis, now **Toby**, loves his new home and sleeps every night with Dixie's son. All it took was a little discipline and a lot of love to turn this "hard-to-handle" dog into a golden lover boy.

Sassie was turned in by a busy family who felt she wasn't getting the attention she deserved. She was fostered by Darlene & Ron Krause and adopted by Geoff & Amy S., who drove more than two hours to Melbourne to pick her up. Sassie is beautiful and very loving – even to cats. Good thing, because she now shares her home with two!

Sinjun was transferred to GRRMF from a shelter in North Carolina. The shelter was desperate for help due to its remote location. Sinjun was not neutered and was full of fleas when he arrived at rescue. With a little TLC, he was soon looking as gorgeous as his personality. After driving from Weston, Fla., to meet him, Valerie & Dennis W. decided Sinjun was the dog for them. Now called **Chance**, he is quickly learning basic commands and enjoys his daily long walks. Most of all, he loves "hanging out" with his new gang, which includes human sister Kristin and two cats.

Travis was given up when his family became too busy for him. He has blossomed in his new home with Bill & Lorraine F. He enjoys playing with his new canine companions - two Mexican Hairless dogs.

Sweet **Peaches** spent her whole life chained up in a back yard. At 9 years old, she was turned in to rescue because "she barked too much." Andrea D. agreed to foster Peaches, and soon fell in love. Peaches now spends her days inside and enjoys playing with her new canine sister and chasing lizards. Interestingly, Andrea says Peaches rarely barks. She reports that Peaches is a "spunky 9-year-old who loves life." Read more about Peaches on Page 2, "A Golden Moment."



Peaches, l. and her sister

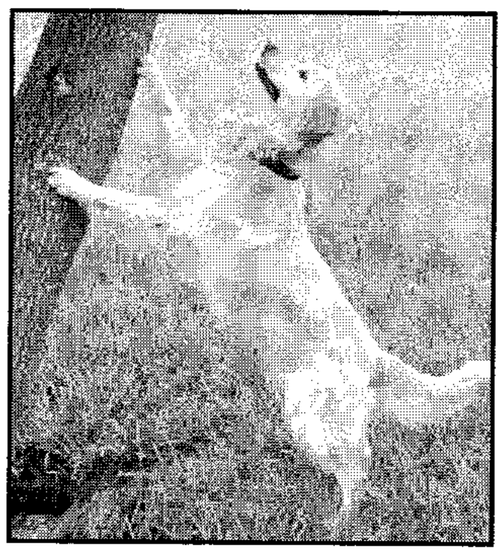
Sienna was picked up as a stray on the streets of Melbourne and taken to the Brevard Humane Society. Her big, expressive eyes, beautiful red coloring and small frame belied her lack of training. Sienna was a bundle of energy who needed a family with some experience raising big dogs under their belt. Along came Cindy & Doug Mc. They have an 11-year-old golden whom they rescued as a pup and recently lost another senior golden. With a lot of love and patience, Sienna is becoming a treasured member of her new family.

Continued next page

Recent adoptions, continued

Ten-month-old **Stewey** was turned in by a family that no longer wanted him. He was fostered by Suzanne & Tony Rider and adopted by Darrell & Kathleen C. Stewey is the life of the party and loves to play. He has a new bird friend, and seems to enjoy it when the bird plays with his whiskers.

Cisco was rescued from being destroyed by Animal Control in the Tampa area. He was fostered and then adopted by Suzanne & Tony Rider. Cisco is a "sweet, loving and easygoing dog" who quickly became a part of the Rider family. An eager student, Cisco recently graduated with his Master's of Obedience title and also has already earned his Canine Good Citizen certificate. Cisco and his brother, **Preston**, another former rescue, spend Saturdays at PetsMart educating customers about rescue and dog ownership. His favorite pastimes are boating, swimming and chasing squirrels up trees.



Cisco



Casey

Casey was turned in to GRRMF because her family no longer had time for her. She was fostered by Rick & Colleen S. Casey found her new family while on a walk with her fosters around the neighborhood. After meeting Casey and learning about GRRMF, Chris & Michelle A. quickly sent in their application. Casey is very much loved in her new home, which she shares with a cat named Cody. Her new humans also have gotten her involved as a "spokesdog," and Casey very much enjoys going to educational days to help spread the word about rescue.

Sally was a ton of joy – literally. She came in to rescue weighing 106 pounds. Sally was fostered and adopted by Charlette B., who reports that after three months of dieting, "Slim Sally" now weighs an impressive 76 pounds and is still dropping. Charlette has done such a wonderful job with Sally's weight loss, she is now fostering another rescue with weight problems.

Davie, an honorary golden, was a scared stray who trusted no one. Once he discovered the warmth and love of his foster family, Susan and Randy A., Davie began to come out of his shell and blossomed into a gentle and well-mannered boy. He was adopted by Tobe W., who says Davie is the sweetest soul she has ever known. Davie is lucky to have found a patient human willing to help him overcome his fears and gain confidence in his own abilities.

Gus was turned in to rescue because of thunderstorm anxiety and allergies. Now called **Chase**, he's living the high life with Linda, Barry, Tyler and Jake. He and his brothers are the talk of the neighborhood when they go for walks. Much to his delight, Chase has discovered that frogs like to swim in the pool as much as he does.

Jack Arnold was turned in when his senior owner moved in with her daughter. Jack, now called **Gentle Ben**, is a sweet, little, velcro-type dog and is very much loved by Kathy M. She says he always has a smile on his face, a spring in his step and a wag in his tail. He enjoys car rides, especially if they are to PetsMart, and has finally convinced the family cat that he wants to be friends.



Jack Arnold/Gentle Ben

Regent lived with his human on a houseboat. He took to escaping through a porthole, looking for companionship, and was found swimming in the canal several times. He was relinquished to rescue and adopted by Jo H., who has found a wonderful companion in this handsome boy.

Mandy lived with six other dogs, one of which attacked her constantly. Known as Miss Sunshine by her fosters, Rick & Colleen Sosteri, Mandy's attributes are numerous: sweet, playful, great doggie-hugs, enthusiastic tennis ball chaser and swimmer, potty trained … the list goes on. Vallie & James B. tuned to Mandy's love signal and took her home, where she now gets to be the center of attention.



Zeus

Zeus II, an almost perfect dog, came from an animal shelter. Following heartworm treatment, he was adopted by Tammy S. & Jenny M. They've enrolled him in basic obedience classes, and we all expect him to excel in this new challenge.

Continued next page

Recent adoptions, continued

Reno, 4 years old, was turned in when the child who owned him no longer paid any attention to him. He was tied to a stake in the yard. Theresa D. took a gamble on Reno, and it paid off. She says he rarely does anything wrong and is enjoying his new home with **Bo**, another golden adopted through GRRMF.

Joe Antonucci rescued **Bongo** from an animal shelter in Jacksonville. Bongo had been badly abused and crawled on his belly to Joe. After heartworm treatment, Bongo was adopted by Tom & Jane Mc. He now holds his head high as he walks on his leash and reportedly is a very happy boy. It didn't take long for his new humans to determine that he has changed their lives completely.

Hadley was abandoned when his owners' house caught fire. A neighbor took him in until the original owners returned 6 months later and wanted him back. They chained him back outside in the yard, where he almost hung himself. The neighbor intervened again and was able to convince the owners to give him up. She worked on his training and took care of his medical needs but due to allergies was unable to keep him. Hadley was fostered and adopted by Gregg C. & Tom E.



Hadley and Gregg

Maggie was rescued from an animal shelter and adopted by Michele L. She tells us that Maggie loves to run and play with her new canine brother. Just by watching Michele practice commands with the other dog, Maggie began doing sit-stays to wait for her food. Michele enrolled her in class and says she's "a natural."

Ginger, 9 months, was rescued from an animal shelter by a Good Samaritan who turned her over to rescue. Diane Makinney paid for her hip surgery. This little cutie was adopted by Kelly & Mark B. of Jacksonville, who saw her pretty mug on our Web site. She captivated them so much, they drove all the way to West Palm Beach to pick her up.

Buddy was a senior stray who was rescued by Kathy M. Lucky for Buddy – Kathy became quite taken with him and decided to make him a permanent addition to her family.

Chase was turned in when his owner left him with a family member and never returned to pick him up. He is a wonderfully gentle dog and was adopted by his foster, Leah W.

Big, handsome **Tex** was given up because his family no longer had time for him. He was fostered by the Shoemakers and adopted by James & Kathleen L.

There's no doubt about it: **Blossom** is perfect. She smiles and wags her tail constantly. Her family admitted she could do nothing wrong, but said they were forced to give her up due to a child's allergy. It didn't take long for Blossom to steal the heart of a new human family. Randi, Wayne, Maggie & Kathy S. couldn't be happier with their new golden girl.

Beautiful, blonde **Mia** came from an animal shelter. Following heartworm treatment, she was adopted by Douglas P. Mia loves the extra-long swimming pool in her new house, where she's allowed to swim laps every day.



Mia

Ruby often escaped from her home, where she would immediately run next door and attack a small dog that lived inside an invisible fence. It was a sad day when her owners returned her to rescue, but she was soon adopted by Jane W., who wasted no time in enrolling Ruby in obedience classes.

Tera, less than 1 year old, was turned in with entropian and hip dysplasia. Entropian is an eye condition correctable through surgery, which rescue paid for. She was fostered by Joe & Shelly A., who adopted her and paid for her hip surgery. This lovely lass now runs with the big guys, **Dillon** and **Baron McKenzie**, also former rescue dogs.

Bristol came into rescue as a 7-week-old pup. A shelter in South Carolina needed help finding a good home for this little blonde charmer. Bristol now lives with Sharon & Michael S. of Melbourne. They were impressed with how well he performed his "sit" and "down" commands, even though he's just a little tyke. He shares their home with an Australian shepherd, also a former rescue dog, and two cats. Sarah, the Aussie, mothers him by cleaning his ears and letting him curl up next to her to sleep. Bristol will continue to learn good manners in his classes at the Indian River Dog Training school.

Continued next page

Recent adoptions, continued

Eight-year-old **Alex** was turned in due to an allergy. He was fostered by Janet & Tom P., who decided they couldn't live without this pretty fellow in their lives and adopted him.



Zeus

Zeus was abandoned by his owners when they moved. He was left outside tied to a chain and fed by a neighbor who called GRRMF. At 8 years, he acts like a 1-year-old. He just wants to play, play, play! He now gets to do that, since he was adopted by Cathy G. and her other two dogs. Cathy says Zeus is doing great and has even sent us video of Zeus cruising his new yard.

You may remember **Cody Bear** from the last newsletter. He was turned into rescue after his owner died. He came in at a whopping 150 lbs. Cody was fostered by Linda Fike who runs our Sarasota "Fat Farm." Linda did a great job of shedding some of those pounds off Cody, and he continues to lose weight under the watchful eyes of his new parents, Mike and Kim. Kim reports that Cody has mastered the stairs at his new home and has made friends with the cat, who finally came out of hiding.



Cody

Alexis was turned in because her owners were moving to a house that allowed no pets. At 9 years of age, we knew she would be hard to adopt. We also knew that if we were patient, the perfect home would come along. When David and Cathy H. went to look at Alexis, she promptly tried to crawl onto David's lap. That sealed it! She is now known as "The Princess" and is enjoying the good life with her other two canine siblings.

Atticus was found as a stray and scheduled to be put down by Animal Control because he was heartworm positive. Rescued by Janet, our Naples volunteer, he was brought to Sarasota where he was fostered and given treatment. Atticus was adopted by Josh and Nicky who say he has already learned to swim and is keeping them smiling with his antics. "When I asked if Atticus missed me, Josh kind of hesitated and then said, 'no, not really.' I loved that answer! That means Mr Atticus is happy and that makes me happy!" said foster dad John Pfohler.



Atticus

Mandy Senior was given to us by the Humane Society when they couldn't place her due to her age and medical problems. No problem for GRRMF. Thanks to donations, sweet Mandy was able to have a new ear canal constructed to alleviate a chronic infection and allow her to hear. Mandy was adopted by Todd and Mary R., who recently lost their senior girl, **Missy**, another GRRMF rescue.

Sam was an owner turn-in. He was adopted by John and Loretta B. Sam is now known as **Sandy** and was an instant hit with his new family. We have received glowing reports from Loretta about what a neat dog he is and how fast he fit in with the family. Another one of those "love-at-first-sight" cases we can't get enough of at rescue!

Meadow was given to rescue when a child developed allergies. Her new humans, Anna and Ron B., tell us she is enjoying her playtime with Shadow the Dalmation very much. Anna and Ron are very thankful for Meadow, as their beloved golden went to the Bridge and their family was just not complete without one.

Jack was fostered for a very short time by Gary & Julie Mink and was adopted by John S. of Clearwater Beach. Jack now is lucky enough to get to swim in the gulf regularly with John. These "Two J's" bonded instantly. They visited the Minks a few days after adoption, and Julie was pleased to see that Jack was glued to John's side.



Jack

Harley, 6 years old, was adopted by Harvey M. His family gave him up because they were moving and no longer wanted him. ♥ ♥ ♥

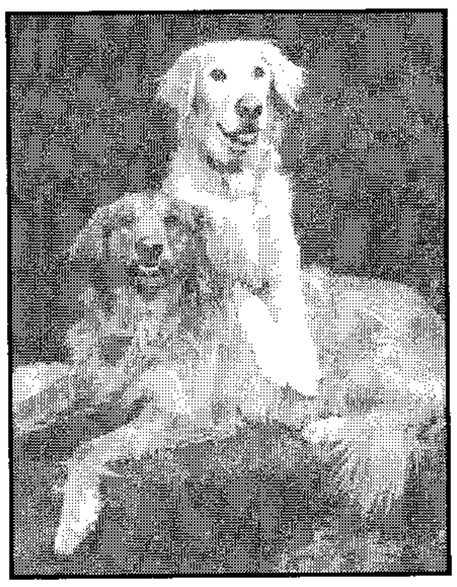
wags and brags (alumni news)



RJ

Michelle & Kirk Martin have been successful in getting **RJ**'s weight under control. When he came to rescue, 8-year-old RJ weighed more than 90 pounds. Now he's down to a healthy 75. Michelle tells us he's the life of the party – he keeps them entertained with his antics and is more playful than ever now that he's shed those extra pounds.

Top dogs: Linda Cohen sent this recent photo of **Leo**, formerly **Gulliver**, top, and **Monte**, both from GRRMF. Linda says looks are deceiving. Monte is "top dog," although "he is always generous and patient" with Leo, allowing him to occasionally take the spotlight.



Leo/Gulliver, top and Monte

A recent note from Gil Peterson tells us that **Prissy**, now called **Sassy**, is living the good life. Recently, during a daily walk with Gil, Sassy encountered a gopher tortoise. She was excited but also disappointed when the critter wouldn't come out of his shell. Gil said Sassy still remembers the tortoise and gets excited whenever they walk by its former location.

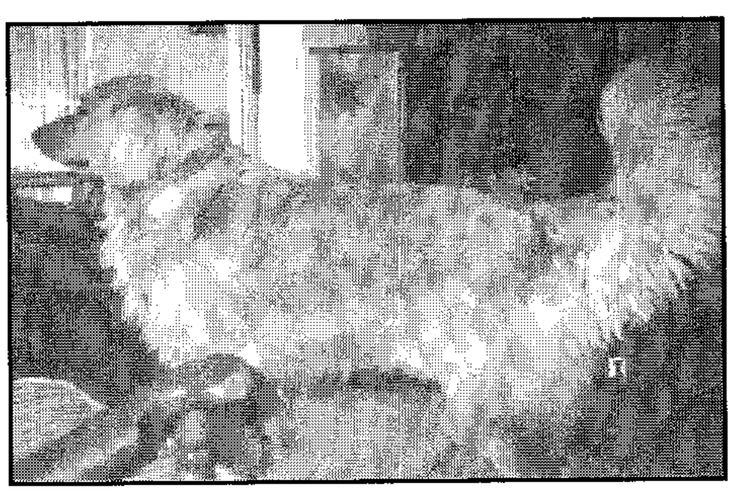
Rush, now called **Clipper**, is doing well in his new home. Regular swims in the family pool have helped him shed seven pounds. His human, Anitra, says he's more playful and walks better now that he's slimmer and in better physical condition.

Brandi, formerly **Daisy**, was one of our puppies from a breeder going out of business. Coleen and Pat Rinard wrote to tell us Brandi, now over a year old, is doing great. She gets along wonderfully with their two sons and is doing well in advanced obedience class. The Rinards couldn't be happier with their precious golden.

Readers may remember **Nugget**, who was featured in a previous newsletter. He was severely neglected when rescued by an overnight package delivery person and turned over to rescue. Adel and Doug Salvaggio adopted Nugget a year ago and tell us that "from day one, he has been the best pet anyone can ask for. The joy and love he has brought into our lives is beyond words."



Nugget



Hunter

A regal pose: Tracy Frandsen sent this photo of **Hunter**, a "beautiful 2.5-year-old puppy" who loves everyone he meets.

Blessed are the beasts: We loved this photo of Bob Fowler with **Andy** (formerly **Indy**), at the blessing of the animals on St. Francis Day. "We cannot begin to tell you how much this wonderful animal means to us. It's hard to believe he has been a part of our lives since November 1994," Corey Fowler writes.



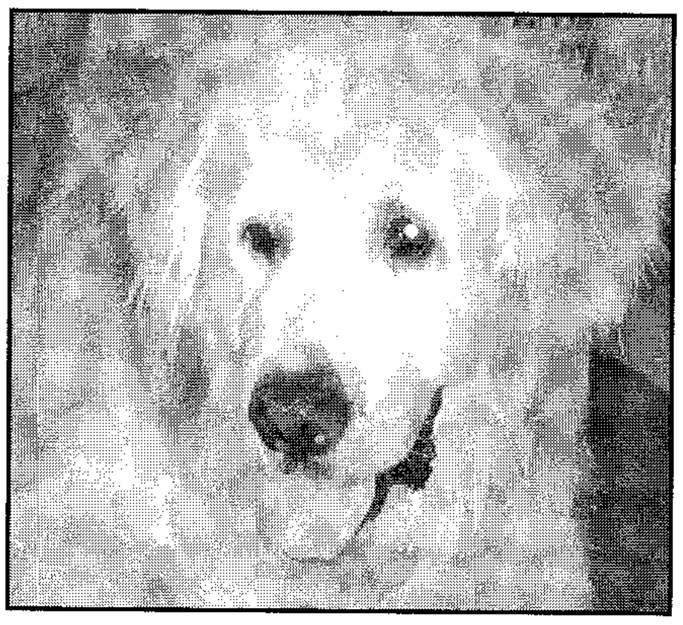
Andy

Bob Shappell writes that he and **Sandy** have been very busy lately. Sandy is a big hit at local nursing homes in the costumes the Shappells make for her. She even was featured in a newspaper story when, decked out in a full length white veil, Sandy "tied the knot" with a papillon during a Valentine's Day celebration. On a recent visit, Sandy's funny costume diverted a confrontation between an Alzheimer's patient and the nursing staff. "One look at this furry clown and it was all over. The patient couldn't help laughing," Bob says. Sandy recently enjoyed helping a patient celebrate her 105th birthday at the nursing home.

♥ ♥ ♥

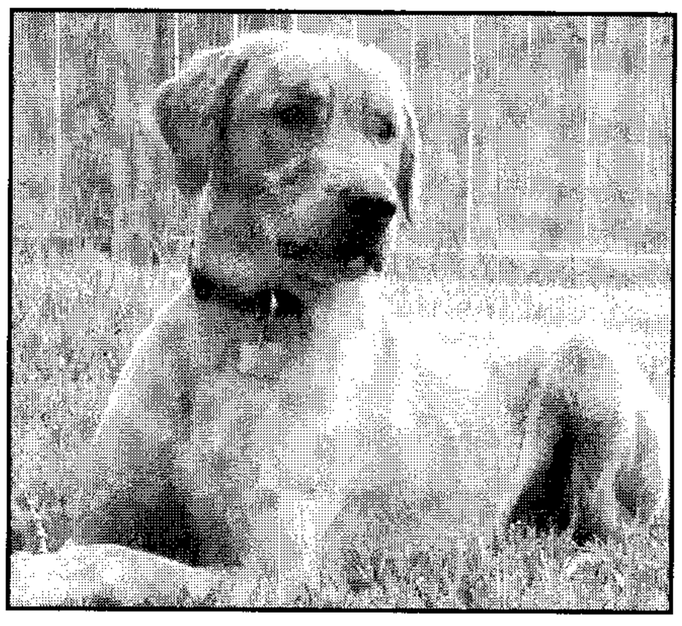
the rainbow bridge

Ten-year-old **Patriot** was abandoned in a veterinary hospital. He had multiple medical problems and was also heartworm positive.



Patriot

Although heartworm treatment was begun, we were unable to save this wonderful golden. His foster mom, Charlotte Bauer, showed Patriot great devotion and love during his final days. We know that Patriot remembered Charlotte's kind heart and touch as he took his final breath.



DJ

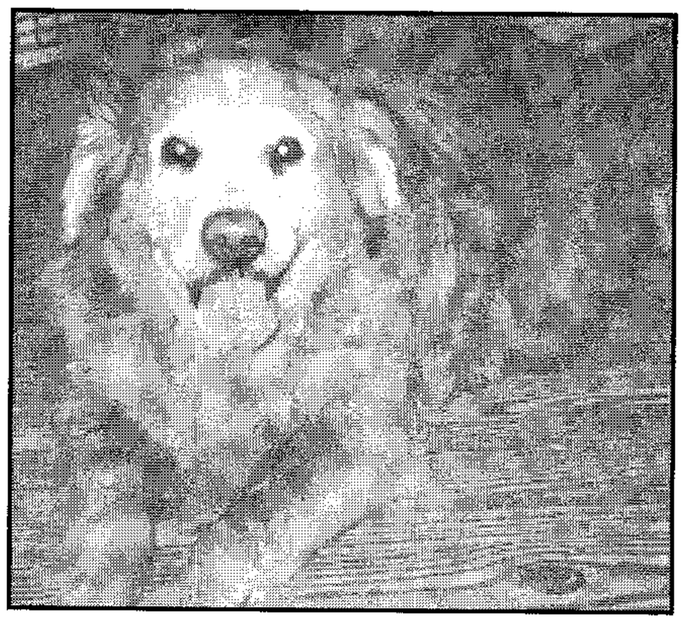
DJ, approximately 2 years old, was a dear, happy fellow in spite of the fact that his life had been spent in a field with little human contact. He was heartworm positive, and sadly died during treatment. Heartworm treatment does have risks, but this is the first dog rescue has lost in this way. Special thanks to his foster parents, Suzanne & Tony Rider, for all they did for this lovely boy.

Abby was an attractive golden who initially was very sweet. For unknown reasons, she became aggressive and bit her owners on several occasions. They returned her because she no longer could be trusted, but it broke their hearts to say goodbye.

Ginger was fostered and adopted by Linda Joseph. Ginger lived in New Jersey and recently died of cancer.

Cameo was a perfect little lady, approximately 7 years old when she was adopted by the Rev. Robert & Marijane Richards. Cameo had been separated from her owner during Hurricane Andrew and was turned in to rescue. The world is a better place because Cameo lived. She gladdened the hearts of all who met her.

Dillon, #105, traveled the country with some carnival workers until they ran out of money in Orlando. GRRMF was called. Dillon was handsome, well-behaved and loved by his new human family. He had a tumor in his abdomen when he went to the Bridge.



Annie

Annie was our seventh rescue. She was adopted by Joan Wilson and it was a match made in heaven. Every day at 4 p.m., Annie would bring her ball to Joan for a ballgame in the pool. Joan misses Annie terribly. "She was my darling, a dear, dear girl. We had a marvelous life together," Joan writes.

Miles was very much a gentleman, and a handsome one at that. He was 3 or 4 years old and in foster care with Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt when he died of kidney failure. We love you and miss you, Miles!



Magnum

Magnum was a large, handsome male with a personality that made you take notice. He was perfect except for one thing: he liked to swallow everything he could put in his

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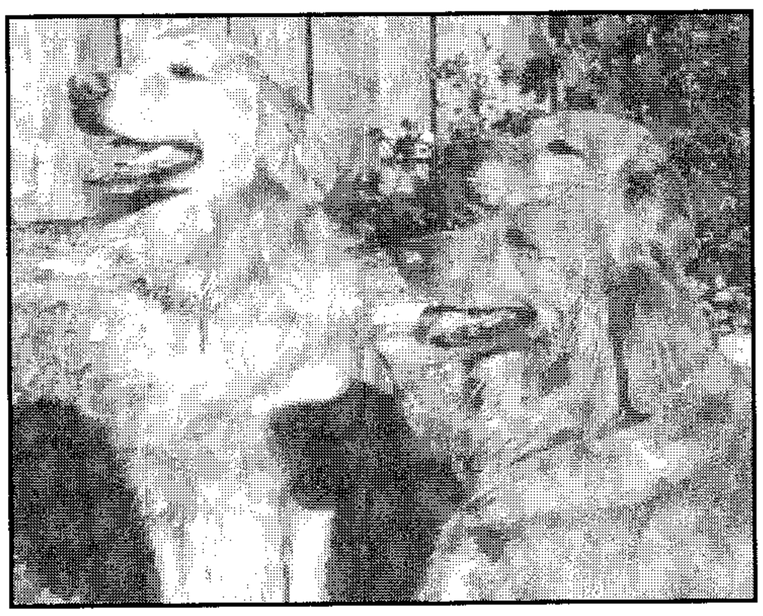
Rainbow Bridge, continued

mouth. Although always supervised, he managed to swallow something that caused an intestinal obstruction. Surgery could not save him. Magnum was owned and dearly loved by Betty Wyatt. He is very much missed but lives on in Betty's heart and soul.

Travis was adopted by Pat & Amy Malone 7 or 8 years ago. When Travis died of kidney failure a few weeks ago, Pat tells us he dug a big hole in his yard and buried Travis in "his chair" – a recliner that Travis loved.

In Memory of Gala Golddust El Dorado Spears, "Dusty"
October 1992 – August 2001

Dusty arrived at our house in July 1996, with papers and a pedigree. Ours was his fourth home, and I cannot imagine why. Dick and I were looking for a big blonde male, and Dusty arrived made-to-order. He was a beautiful, show-quality dog who had gone through extensive training.



Dusty, left, with Chelsea and Glory

He was the family clown and also was known as "Mr. Velcro," as he sought to be totally involved in every family activity except one: swimming. He was a watchful lifeguard but never ventured as much as a toe into the swimming pool.

Dusty succumbed to cancer in August. He was an absolute golden treasure, a loving and devoted animal who will never be replaced in our hearts. Our other two goldens (we call them "Dusty's Harem"), Chelsea and Glory, agree. We all are mourning our beloved Dusty.

- Nancy Spears, GRRMF board member

RAFFLE! Don't forget the raffle currently under way. Members received tickets in a recent mailing. If each member sold just 2 tickets a week for 7 weeks, our goldens would benefit from more than $25,000! AND, the volunteer who sells the most tickets wins $100! Tickets must be received no later than Oct. 26. If you did not receive tickets, please e-mail us at raffle@grrmf.org.
1st prize: diamond pendant worth $600; **2nd prize:** 27" TV with remote; **3rd prize:** turquoise and silver watch.

Join us!

Parade of Rescues
Saturday, October 13

4th Independent Specialty Show
and Obedience Trial

Best Western Marina Hotel
& Conference Center
on Lake Monroe in Sanford, Fla.

Who: Purebred golden retriever rescues – from GRRMF, another rescue group or shelter.
What: All featured dogs will parade around the show ring while their personal story is read.
When: Mid-afternoon, just before best-of-breed competition.

Even if you don't participate in the parade, we invite you to come join the fun. This is a heartwarming experience, and one you won't likely forget.

WANTED!

Volunteers for Education Sessions
at Waterford Lakes PetsMart
in East Orlando

We are currently scheduling sessions at this PetsMart and are looking for volunteers to help on a regular basis. Please contact us at info@grrmf.org if you would like to participate or call 407-332-2840 mailbox #4. We also desperately need helpers for our Lake Mary PetsMart location. These sessions are for a few hours once or twice a month. The more people we get to help out, the less burden it is for our already overworked board members in the Orlando area that have been staffing these locations. This is a great way to spend a few hours. Please contact us today about volunteering!

Golden Friends . . .

Capital Campaign

Kimberly Demeter
Barbara Dishozy
Leanne Rubin
Richard & Nancy Spears – in memory of Dusty
Betty Wyatt – in memory of Magnum

Woody's Fund

Jo Ann Bennett; Mark Caithness; Penny & Don Dalton; Tracy Frandsen; Marcia McGovern; Mike & Carol McKee; Walter Miller; Amanda Pennington; John & Gail Pfohler

Sponsors

Mike & Elaine Barnett; Maddie & Bill Becker; H. Payne Breazeale; Dorothy Collins; Kevin & Helen Moore; Mary Toto

Boarding

Susan Andrews; Merle Fairbanks; Stuart Longworth; Mike & Carol McKee; Judith & Paul Richter; Conrad & Roslyn Ross; John Sons; Betty Wyatt – in honor of Nancy Spears; Betty Wyatt – in Memory of Miles

Donations

Warren & Bibi Allard; BMW Car Club of America; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fowler; Linda Holliday; Edie & Julee Hoover; William Jacobs; Lisa Jarvis Keeler; Sandra Lagana; Kathy & Raymond Maltby; Marcia McGovern; Vicki & Chris Middleton; Julie Mink; Harvey & Adrienne Muslin; Sharon O'Keefe; Pamela O'Malley; Tony & Suzanne Rider; Roz & Conrad Ross; Daniel Ruth; Bob & Grace Shappell; John Sons; Sunshine Bimmer Chapter; Edward Watson; Carol Winkel; Aaron & Hilary Wright; Barbara Young

In Memory Of ...

Ember & Echo – Linda Allard
Poldark & Teagie – Merrilee Dulaney
Snowball – Joanne Nyquist
Betty Wyatt's Magnum – Sandy Sumner

In Honor Of ...

Dr. Sharon Fahmy – Dr. Muir & Corinne Bragg
Jan Jennings, Casey & Elsa – Christine MacPhail
John Pfohler – Colleen & Rick Sosteri
Nancy Spears' birthday – Betty Wyatt

Thanks!

- Home visits: Cindy Andrews, Shelly and Joe Antonucci, Ellen Bartkus, Pat Chesley, Gregg Childs & Tom Eddie, Linda Cohen, Chris Daher, Penny & Don Dalton, Nicole Dietrich, Jean Dixon, John and Ann Fitzpatrick, Barbara Gurlick, Ellen Lindenfeld, Diane Makinney, Gail Merce, Julie and Gary Mink, Laurel O'Connors, Renee Perkie, John and Gail Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Sally Ann Rowland, Randi Shoemaker, Nancy Spears, Kathy Spilker.
- Educational days: Michelle & Chris Andrews, Anna & Ron Bailey, Andrea Davis, Jim Brand, Deb McGhehey, Gary & Julie Mink, Renee Perkie, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Emily & Velma Rowe, Colleen & Rick Sosteri, Anne Marie Wise.
- Fosters: Susan & Randy Andrews, Charlotte Bauer, Mary Cooper, Andrea Davis, Sally Frazier, Ron & Darlene Krause, Gary & Julie Mink, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, Sandy Reynolds, Suzanne and Tony Rider, Colleen and Rick Sosteri, Bernice Thompson, Anne Marie & Matthew Wise.
- Barbara Dishozy, for PetsMart Gift Cards to buy dog food.
- Veterinarians who helped by donating or discounting goods and services:
  - Affiliated Veterinary Specialists, Winter Park
  - All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz
  - Animal Hospital of Treasure Island, Treasure Island
  - Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill
  - Dr. Rachael Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Practice, St. Augustine
  - Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach
  - Bright Cross Animal Clinic, Venice
  - Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park
  - Orange City Animal Clinic, Orange City
  - Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic, Sarasota
  - Drs. Rick Rubinstein & William Ehlers, Tuscawilla Oaks Animal Hospital, Oviedo
  - Safari Animal Clinic, Temple Terrace
  - Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne
- Courteous Canine for their assistance in training rescue dogs in the Tampa area with Suzanne Rider.
- Randi Shoemaker for answering Hotline calls about dogs needing to come into rescue and other issues.
- Darlene Dilio, for donating a crate.
- Kerrie Tatarka, for sending us a supply of brand-new dog collars and leashes, as well as treats and toys.
- Nancy Loerhouse, Kathy & Dennis Ember for donations of supplies.
- To all our helpers at the DOCOF Golden Goods booth, and to the Orlando Dog Training Club for allowing us to participate.
- Krista Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis for donation of medical supplies. Also to Ellen Pavlik for coordinating these donations. Considering the average monthly cost for heartworm and flea preventives is $15-$20 per dog, these donations make a tremendous difference in the cost of operations for a small rescue group like GRRMF. And that's not even factoring in the cost of treating a dog for heartworms. *We really appreciate all your help!*

♥ ♥ ♥

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

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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 $25

❑ Voting Membership $25 (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 $25 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. ($100 donation will purchase an inscribed brick to be placed at the new shelter. To order an inscribed brick, return this form with your $100 donation or call the GRRMF Hotline: 407-332-2840, Mailbox 4.)

❑ $____ 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.