Hearts of Gold

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

Volume 5, Issue 1 Spring 2002

GRRMF Celebrates 10 Years of Service to 1,000+ Golden Retrievers



Millennium Jasper was delivered to rescue quite unceremoniously – chained to the back of his owner's pickup truck. But MJ is one very special dog, indeed. At 9 years old, MJ is as gentle and loving as he is handsome.

As our 1,000th dog, MJ is a testament to all the sweet golden faces that have passed through our doors since we began our rescue operation in

See MJ, page 19



Meet CJ – a very special former rescue who was recently "found" in Oklahoma after his owner gave him up. Read about CJ's journey home – back to GRRMF and into the loving arms of Betty Wyatt ... See page 4.

A New Home for GRRMF

by Marcia McGovern
GRRMF Vice President and Capital Campaign Director

For a long time, we've been talking about our need for a facility of our very own. We're excited to announce that this possibility is now more real than ever!

On February 10th, the GRRMF Board of Directors voted to purchase an existing facility located in Oviedo (northeast Orlando area) in Seminole County. We are currently finalizing the purchase agreement with the seller and look forward to sharing more specific details with you shortly.

This facility is an existing veterinary clinic with kennel space. It is conveniently located near many of our volunteers and offers superb access from all points around the state via Highway 417 (Greenway).

Every other property we looked at was so hard to get to we knew getting volunteer support and access would be difficult. This location has outstanding accessibility and will give us a central location for admissions, temporary housing prior to going to a foster home, adoption center, storage, office and meeting space.

Will this facility replace foster homes? NO! Our philosophy is that dogs are always better off in a home environment and this will not change. However, in our current situation, we are not always able to accommodate emergencies. This facility will give us added capacity and increased flexibility in admitting and placing goldens.

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Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
An All-Volunteer, Nonprofit 501(c) 3 Corporation
• Education • Intervention • Spay/Neuter • Adoption

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1,030 Golden Retrievers Rescued To Date!

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Currently, a significant amount of our budget goes toward boarding dogs at kennels and veterinary offices while we await a foster home opening. The facility will also provide a place for high-energy or behavioral "problem" dogs who are virtually impossible to find foster homes willing to take them.

Now that it looks like a facility is in our future, we have a huge task ahead. Our Capital Campaign is going into "warp drive" as we must raise the purchase price in a short amount of time. We will spend most of 2002 raising the money to purchase the facility. Our needs for the Capital Campaign are not limited to money – we need all kinds of volunteer help to staff our Capital Campaign team. Without volunteers, we will not succeed, because our chairperson can't do it alone! We also need contacts to people that you might know that can help us reach our goal. Do you know individuals that might like to be involved in helping this campaign? Do you know a corporation that might be interested in sponsoring our effort? Be a part of our success by helping us with this campaign!

What about plans for a new facility?

We have not given up on this goal – this property has two acres and plenty of room for expansion. Phase I of our campaign will be to secure the money to purchase the existing facility and get it operational. In the future, Phase II will involve raising funds to upgrade dog housing to replace the existing modest kennel facility on the property. We have already been working with an architect on plans for the new building.

How YOU can Help

The excitement is mounting! The challenge now is to push our fund-raising efforts into high gear to meet our goal. In addition to funds, we need lots of people to make this dream a reality for our wonderful goldens.

We need:

- Grant writers.
- Publicity/public relations expertise.
- Design and writing assistance for marketing materials.
- Printing company willing to give us a discount on campaign promotional materials.
- People to put mailings together and who know or are willing to learn bulk-mail procedures.
- Mail lists for direct-mail campaigns (golden lovers, dog lovers, animal lovers).
- Fund-raising expertise – ideas and people willing to put them into action (e.g., 5K runs/walks, raffles, etc.).
- Event planners to plan events and negotiate for sponsors and materials.
- Project managers to coordinate all the functions necessary to reach our goal.
- Electricians, plumbers and carpenters for minor renovations once we take possession of the facility.
- Corporations and businesses willing to sponsor our campaign.

If you have experience in any of these areas or are willing to learn, please contact Marcia McGovern, purrbear2@aol.com, (407) 321-6355.

Other Needs

We need a new or antique car, or similar valuable item, to raffle off over a five-month period. If you have any contacts with car dealerships, etc., that might help us procure such an item, please let us know.

We also need smaller raffle items. **Our diamond bracelet raffle netted over $6,000 last year!**

♥ ♥ ♥

HOTLINE HELPERS WANTED!

GRRMF is currently recruiting volunteers to work shifts on our Admissions Hotline. This involves monitoring voicemail messages from owners seeking to give up their golden retrievers. Volunteers contact the callers and interview them using a standardized interview form. GRRMF will provide all supplies. The interview form is then sent to our Foster Home Coordinator for further follow-up.

We want to build a large team of 6 - 8 people so duty can be rotated often and our volunteers don't get overwhelmed or feel overworked. Teamwork is the key to our success as an all-volunteer organization, and this is one way you can help out by just volunteering an hour or two of your time a week - all from the comfort of your home. Shifts for monitoring the hotline are normally assigned to each volunteer for 48-hour periods at a time.

If you are interested in helping with our Admissions Hotline Team, please us know by e-mail: info@grrmf.org or phone call: (407) 332-2840 mailbox #4.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

. . . Diane Makinney – The Southern Connection

Like many volunteers, it was her love of animals that got Diane Makinney started as a GRRMF volunteer.

Every year at Christmas, Diane and a friend used to volunteer at a Palm Beach shelter to allow workers some time to spend with their families. During one visit, Diane saw a notice on the bulletin board from a "single mom" who no longer had time for her golden retriever.

"I had thought about fostering a golden, and this just seemed like the perfect opportunity. So, I called Betty Wyatt, and the rest is history," Diane remembers.

That was four years ago. Now, as a regional coordinator, Diane pretty much does it all in Southeast Florida – from coordinating home visits and fielding phone calls to evaluating dogs for admission into the program.

Diane also serves another important role as GRRMF liaison to other rescue groups on the Internet. Mostly, this involves monitoring bulletin boards and e-mail messages for issues involving goldens and Florida. In fact, Diane's monitoring activities recently helped us save a very special golden named CJ, a former GRRMF dog who was turned in to an Oklahoma rescue group. Read more about CJ on Page 4.

For the past two years, Diane also has been involved with ALOVE4GOLDENS, which sponsors an online auction for rescue groups across the country. Diane helps procure auction items to benefit GRRMF and follows through once winning bids have been received.

What keeps her going? In Diane's words: "The dogs, the dogs, the dogs! Without a doubt!"

One of her most memorable experiences was a recent home visit with a family who had never owned a dog before, yet alone a golden retriever.

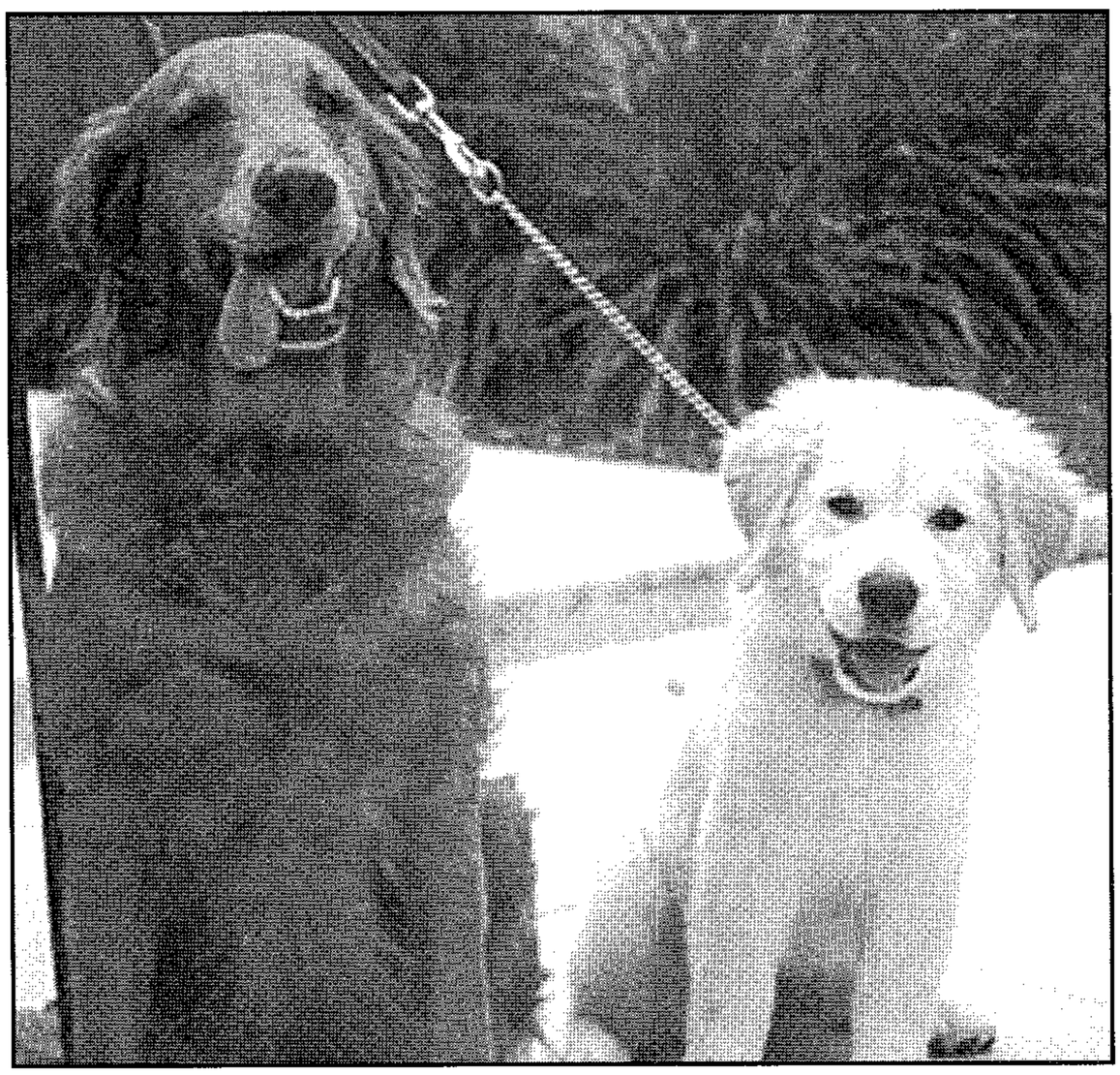
"They had three handwritten pages of questions to ask me. I wish every family who thought about getting a golden did this much homework!" Diane says.

The family's two young children had never been around dogs, so Diane had some additional educational opportunities. "At first, the youngest boy was afraid of my golden, Samson, but by the end of the visit he asked if he could help walk the dog to my car. Both kids wanted to know why they couldn't adopt Samson!"

A couple weeks later, they adopted **Miles**, now **Rudy**. "He is perfect for them and is one lucky dog to have found such a great family," Diane says.

Diane shares her home with four goldens – Honey, Samson, Tanner and Dixie, a senior gal she adopted through GRRMF. "Dixie was supposed to be a temporary foster while I was waiting for my new puppy, Tanner, to arrive from the breeder. We tried to place her, but everyone wanted a younger dog. When Tanner arrived, Dixie was like a little mother to him. How could I not adopt her?"

♥ ♥ ♥



Oh happy day: *Dixie & Tanner are all smiles about their mom, Diane Makinney, being chosen as GRRMF's Volunteer Spotlight.*

Homeward Bound

CJ's Journey

It resembles a story line from a popular movie: Beautiful, loving dog loses his family, then through a long, arduous journey, finds his way back home again, where he lives happily ever after.

The difference is, this story is true. And this dog didn't return to his adopted family, but to GRRMF. It's a long and heartwrenching story, but like the movie, it does have a happy ending … thanks to a small team of caring and committed dog lovers.

CJ's story

Many years ago, CJ was rescued, loved and cared for by GRRMF Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt. After a lengthy stay at Betty's, CJ was adopted by an Orlando woman who reported he was "the best dog I've ever known."

Unfortunately, CJ's first "happy ending" wasn't destined to last forever. Shortly after his adoption, the owner informed Betty that she might be moving out of state and wasn't sure if CJ, whom she had renamed **Ivan**, could go with her. Betty reminded the owner of the adoption contract and asked that she please call if she needed to find a new home for CJ.

Additional follow-up phone calls were not returned and, eventually, Betty received a message that the phone had been disconnected. In her heart, Betty feared CJ was lost to GRRMF forever.

"That was very disturbing to me personally, because I cared for CJ very much. It also bothers us as an organization, because we want to keep in touch with our dogs and their owners – throughout their entire lives. Also, the adoption contract states clearly that if, for any reason, the owner can't keep the dog, it must come back to us. This is explained to all owners at the time they sign the contract."

Betty often thought of CJ, but it was with a heavy heart, as the years went by with no word from his owner.

Then one day, Betty received a call from South Florida Coordinator Diane Makinney. A phone call from Diane isn't unusual in itself, but this call was about to set in motion a major rescue effort – of the cross-country kind.

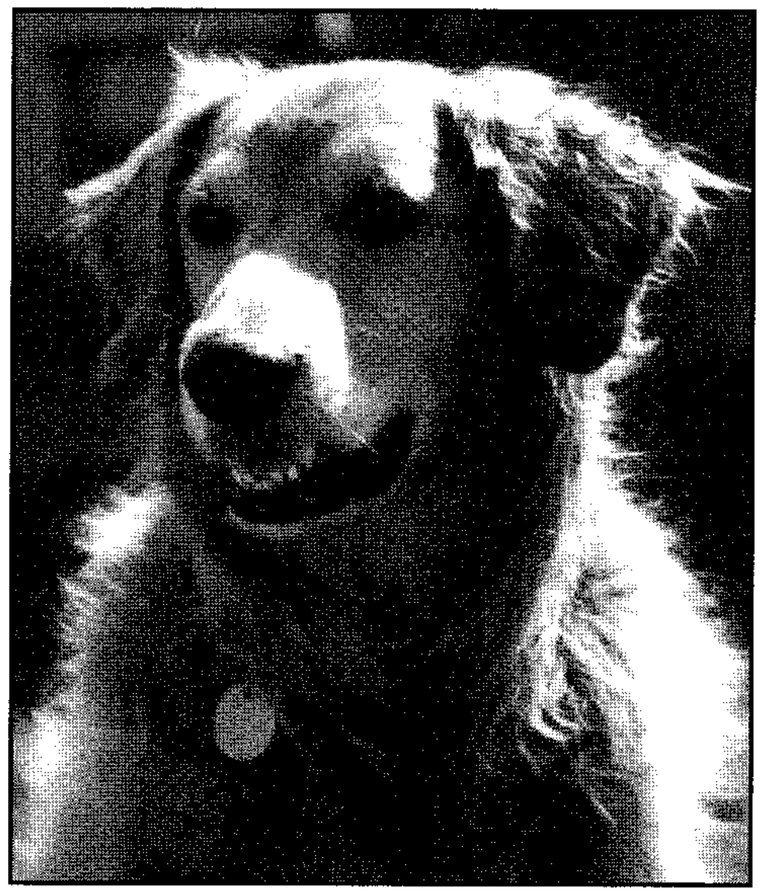
Teamwork at its best

Diane had just received an e-mail from Cheryl Barlow, intake coordinator for Sooner Golden Retriever Rescue in Oklahoma City. The message stated that a dog named Ivan had just been turned in by a woman who was in "dire straits" and could no longer care for him. The message also stated this was a former rescue dog from Florida.

A quick phone call to Cheryl confirmed Betty's hopes: At last, CJ was found!

Within hours, Betty rallied a team of people to help bring CJ home. Bill Thomas, a GRRMF member who also happens to be a pilot, readily offered assistance with the logistics of transporting CJ, now 7 years old, as safely and expeditiously as possible. Cheryl agreed to care for CJ until arrangements could be made and even loaned GRRMF an air-approved crate.

When it came time for CJ's flight home, Delta Airlines cargo transport employees kept Betty informed every step of the way – first to let her know



CJ has plenty to smile about these days, as his journey "home" is nearly completed.

CJ was on the plane in Oklahoma, then to tell her he had landed safely in Atlanta. Finally, a worker called to say CJ was on his final leg home.

What followed was a very memorable moment in Betty's long history of rescuing dogs.

"I was pretty anxious, because I hadn't seen CJ in years and wasn't sure what I'd find. The workers at the airport were all very concerned, too. As soon as that plane landed, they were out there, opening the door to the cargo area and getting him out. It landed at 7 p.m., and I had him in my arms at 7:05. They really went above and beyond for us. CJ came out of his crate smiling and wagging, just like he'd never left," Betty says. "That's a moment I'll not soon forget."

Coming soon: a happy ending

GRRMF would like to thank everyone involved in CJ's journey home: Cheryl and her staff at Sooner Golden Retriever Rescue, who sent daily e-mails and even made a trip to the Oklahoma airport to make arrangements and ensure the crate met airline

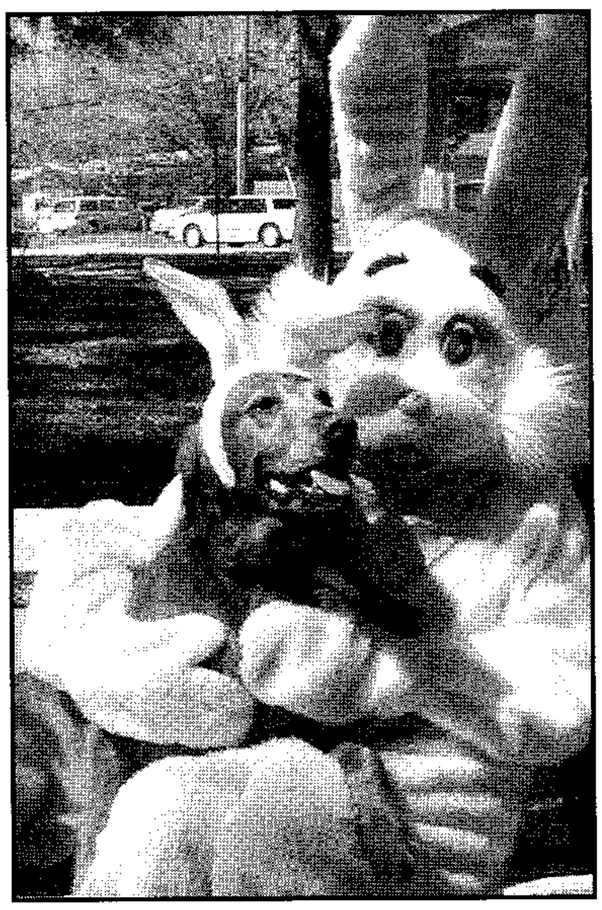
See Homeward Bound, next page

Recent Events

GRRMF was well represented at the Florida State Fair held recently in Tampa. Our West Coast volunteers set up a GRRMF booth in the pure-breed dog tent and talked with literally thousands of people every day about our rescue organization and golden retrievers in general.



Cisco and Preston Rider invite fairgoers to visit their booth and learn more about GRRMF.



Peaches Davis gets a hug from the Easter Bunny.

The annual Mutt Strut at Highlander Park in Dunedin almost was a "washout," as Feb. 23 dawned under cold and rainy skies. Not to be deterred, however, event organizers rescheduled for the following day, and a grand time was had by all. Special thanks to Debbie McGhehy for coordinating the event, and to volunteers Jan Strock, Andrea Davis, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Renee Perkie and Julie & Gary Mink.

The Jacksonville gang hosted their first educational day at Pet Supermarket on Feb. 9. Marelette Jones's Valentine's Day themed "doggie cookies" were a big hit – all 98 bags were given out to people who stopped by the booth and gave a donation. More than $200 was raised and, even more valuable, lots of advice and materials were handed out. Many thanks to Joe & Shelley Antonucci, Marelette & Rob Jones and "Aunt Rethia," and to store manager Jeannette Whitmire, who permitted the group to set up in a prominent location and provided help throughout the day.

Been to PetsMart lately? If you go on a Saturday morning, chances are you'll see GRRMF volunteers spreading the word about rescue and educating the public about goldens. We now cover many areas of Florida, and we're always looking for volunteers – it only takes a few hours once a month, and it's a lot of fun! Call the Hotline (407) 332-2840, and leave a message. A volunteer coordinator will return your call.

♥ ♥ ♥

Homeward Bound, from page 4

standards.

Thanks to Bill for helping with arrangements, to Betty, for caring so much that she paid for his trip home from her personal funds, and to GRRMF volunteer Sandy Sumner, who accompanied Betty to the airport, camera in hand.

And, of course, very special thanks to all the staff at Delta Airlines for ensuring CJ's trip was as safe and comfortable as possible.

"This story illustrates the significance of working together toward a greater purpose. In this case, that purpose is a very special golden retriever named CJ," says GRRMF President Barbara Durham. "If it weren't for Cheryl Barlow's initiative, Diane Makinney's vigilance and Betty Wyatt's determination, CJ would still be lost to us. You can't put a value on things like volunteering or rescue, but one look at CJ's face is all you really need to tell you that, in this case, they're priceless."

And now for CJ's final journey: a very special family willing to make a firm commitment to love and care for him, this time for the rest of his life. In the meantime, CJ is spending his days happily relaxing on foster parents Paul & Ellen Mathieson's love seat, spread out like an eagle and snoring loudly. Welcome home, honey.

♥ ♥ ♥

Ask the Vet

Holistic Medicine: What's in it for Your Dog?

Following is an interview with Dr. Constance DiNatale of Veterinary Acupuncture & Complementary Therapy in Winter Park, Fla. Through a holistic approach to veterinary medicine, Dr. DiNatale has helped several dogs in our program. We thought it would be helpful to share some of her insights into holistic medicine and advice on common problems she sees in golden retrievers.

What are the basic tenets of holistic medicine?
Holistic medicine simply means using whatever means possible to treat the whole animal, not just a symptom. Holistic medicine aims at the root of the problem to prevent its progression, whereas conventional medicine often just addresses the overlying symptoms. We try to use treatments that help the animal have the best quality of life possible, with the least amount of side effects.

How does this relate to traditional veterinary medicine?
Holistic treatment can be helpful when an animal is responding poorly to conventional therapy, or when the animal is dependent on drugs that may have adverse side effects. I chose the name of our practice – "Veterinary Acupuncture and Complementary Therapy" – to help people understand that we complement their pet's regular veterinary care. Whenever possible, I try to work side-by-side with my patients' regular veterinarians. We require that all patients have a regular veterinarian for routine procedures and critical care. Traditional medicine has amazing technology for getting patients through a crisis. Also, traditional medicines and therapies are not always "bad." People sometimes seek holistic care because they think drugs are terrible and steroids are evil. But the truth is, cortisone-type drugs have prevented deaths more than probably any other drug except antibiotics. What's harmful is using them long-term to suppress symptoms of a deeper disease.

What is your background and training? Are you a veterinarian?
I went to the University of Florida Veterinary School for my veterinary degree, then learned acupuncture through the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. I also have taken Chinese and western herbal certification courses. I read as much professional literature as I can in both holistic and traditional medicine, so I can compare the two and be prepared to use the safest, most effective treatments, whether they be herbal supplements or surgery.

Holistic treatments usually focus on acupuncture, diet and supplements. Can you explain how each is used to treat dogs?
Acupuncture works by relieving pain, increasing circulation, decreasing inflammation and modulating intestinal mobility. People typically relate acupuncture to pain management, but it's also very useful for autoimmune disease, kidney failure, some behavioral problems, skin problems and many other syndromes.

Holistic medicine places a large emphasis on diet. It is the thing that goes into your dog's mouth every day – literally, your dog IS what it eats! I object to most dog foods found in veterinary offices. I recommend an all-natural, high-quality dog food or, preferably, a well-researched homemade diet. Most commercial dog foods are made from condemned food not fit for human consumption. I've seen the slaughter houses. If you feed your companion poor-quality food that has then been overcooked, dried out and sprayed with poor-quality vitamins and preservatives, you will never realize the full potential of your animal.

We use a lot of vitamins in our practice, especially antioxidants. The world is a polluted place, and oxidative stress from our diet, air, water and houses increase our requirements for vitamins. We also use herbs, usually in the form of pills, tinctures or powders, which help an animal cool off, warm up, feel less pain or gain strength. Herbs can work by flushing things out of the body, putting things into the body, or by just moving things around. The goal of herbal therapy is to return the body to a balanced state, rather than bury symptoms.

What are the most common problems you see in golden retrievers?
We see goldens for many reasons. The main problems are arthritis, skin disorders, cancer and immune deficiencies.

For arthritis, we use acupuncture, herbs, chiropractics

Continued next page

Ask the Vet, continued

and glucosamine formulas. Most dogs show moderate to very significant improvement in pain and gait.

Skin is challenging and takes a long time to work with, but the long-term outcome can be profound. We find most dogs can decrease or eliminate drugs such as Prednisone and, as time goes by, outbreaks get milder and farther apart. We use diet, vitamins, herbs and, occasionally, acupuncture.

Cancer treatment is focused on giving the dog the best quality of life possible. We prescribe a diet that reduces acid levels in the body and increases appetite. Herbs support the animal's organ function, and we use antioxidants and fatty acids. Some cancers respond better than others, but again, our goal is to improve quality of life.

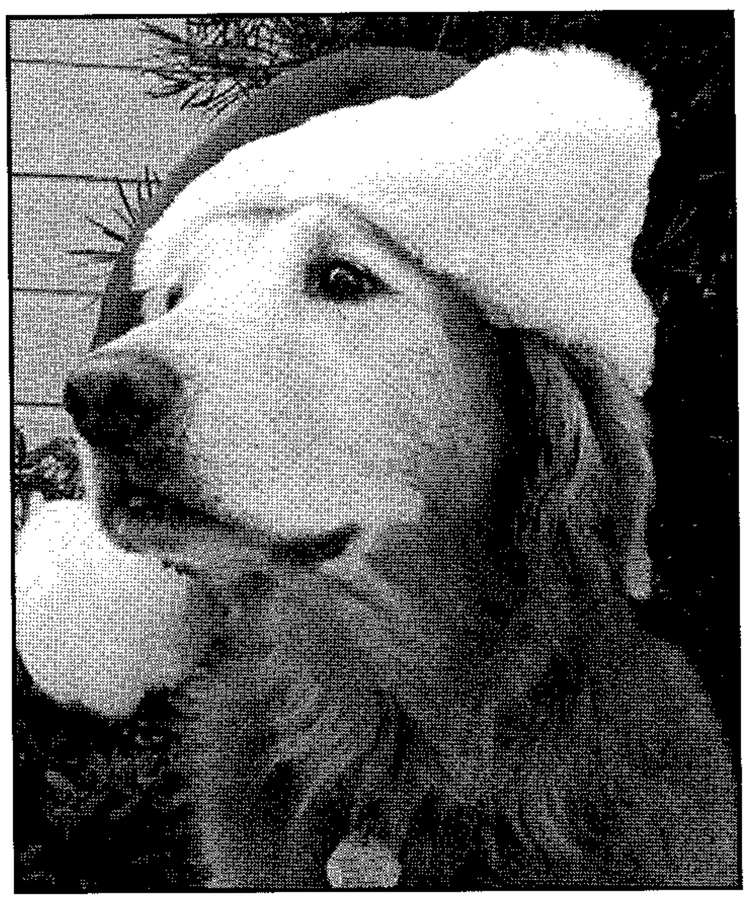
I think the most important things for goldens are real foods, lots of exercise, antioxidants (vitamins A, E, C) and tons of omega-3 fatty acids. This breed originates from a region with a diet rich in fatty acids like those found in flax and fish oils. I think the fatty-acid deficiency in this breed is responsible for the majority of its health problems.

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Editor's Note: *We want to thank Dr. DiNatale and her staff for their efforts in caring for some of the goldens in our program. Monroe, Sonny, Zachary and several others have benefited from her approach. Dr. D. also gives GRRMF a generous discount on services and supplies, for which we are very grateful. If you'd like more information or to make an appointment, their phone number is (407) 644-0080. For information on antioxidant therapy for golden retrievers, see our Fall 2001 newsletter article titled* "Monroe's Journey" *or visit our website under the link* "Health Links" *to view it there.*

Reader Responses . . .

We just finished reading your latest newsletter regarding "senior goldens," and we fully agree OLD GOLD IS THE MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL. We are enclosing a photo of our wonderful 11-year-old Brady. We first met Brady in March 2000 when we decided to become foster parents. It took less than two weeks for us to call Betty Wyatt saying we wanted to become his "forever folks."



Ho Ho Ho!
Brady shows his holiday spirit.

Having an older dog is like watching petals unfold on a flower. Brady blossomed from a reserved, proper old gentleman into a jaunty boy with a zest for life, and each change has been a joy to behold. He who sat back and just watched is now first in line to go out in the car or get a snack. He barks now for the sheer joy of it and bounces up and down like a puppy when excited.

Brady is also giving back to the community as a Hospice of Southwest Florida therapy dog. We don't know who enjoys the visits more – the patients and staff or Brady! He also helps us out at Bradenton PetsMart Education Days.

Brady shares our home with 7-year-old mixed-breed Comet, who grooms him each day, Ruby our 7-year-old golden who considers him her boyfriend, and Duffee our youngest rescue (not quite 2 years), who helps Brady stay trim through play. Last but not least is our cat, Smoke. When we first got Brady, we were assured he liked cats. After we got to know him, we agreed – but is it fried or roasted? Truthfully, he never tried to catch the cat but spent hours just staring at her. Now the cat will come and lie on his dog bed with him.

Anyone who has reservations about how well a senior golden will "fit in" is welcome to come and see our precious Brady in action.

– Ed and Marsha Sturm

Tips from the Trainer

Food Bowl Aggression

by Angelica Steinker, M.Ed. C.C.B.C.

Food bowl aggression in dogs is not uncommon. After all, in the wild, dogs are scavengers, often having to fight for their food. But for the uneducated owner, it can be very frustrating, especially if there are children or other pets in the house. You may even be unwittingly perpetuating an aggression problem.

Our goal is to recognize the signals early and correct them – before aggression gets out of hand.

Signals of Food Bowl Aggression
When you are near the dog's bowl, he:
- Growls
- Snaps
- Lowers his head
- Stiffens his posture
- Seems tense
- Holds his breath
- Refuses to eat

Why Punishment is NOT a Good Idea
You don't punish food aggression because:
1. Hitting, yelling or yanking at the dog might make you feel better (you showed him!), but it will do nothing to improve the situation.
2. It will likely get you bitten.
3. All you will teach the dog is that sometimes humans hit. Any bond you have established with the dog will weaken.
4. When in an aggressive state, an animal's ability to learn is close to zero, because the brain is being flooded with fight-or-flight chemicals.

What to Do
If your dog shows signs of food aggression, do not feed him near other dogs. This is a rule that should never be violated – no matter how tempting.

Because food aggression can frequently transfer to other situations, you should be proactive and immediately start hand-feeding. Hand-feeding your dog is an excellent way to:
- *Bond with him.* Hand-feeding will help strengthen your relationship with your dog.
- *Teach him that hands are good.* Eighty percent of dog bites occur to human hands. Help lower the chance of a bite by teaching your dog that hands are only for good things.
- *Prevent food-dish guarding.* If the dog is worried about other dogs, he might start worrying about people, too.
- *Reward a dog not concerned about his food dish.* If your dog has never shown food aggression, you can reward him for this by sitting down with him and feeding him out of your hand.

Instructions for Hand Feeding
To hand feed your dog, take her empty food dish and set it on the ground. Now place her food in your hand and hold it above the dish. Allow the dog to eat directly out of your hand above her dish. Keep your tone positive – **make this a pleasant experience for your dog!**

The next meal, let some food fall in the dish, but continue to hold most of the meal in your hand. Gradually build up to having more food in the dog's dish and less in your hand. Once you have all the food in the dog's dish, make sure you can take food out and drop it back in while the dog is eating. **Again, offer encouragement and praise for her good behavior.**

Now you are ready for the next step. Pick up her dish while she is eating. Move it to a different location. All of these exercises are always done in a fun and positive way. If you have prepared the dog well, these exercises should be no big deal.

Just think if every owner did this, how many children would be spared dog bites because they petted a dog or touched its food dish while it was eating.

A Note on Rescues
With rescues, especially strays, the dog's history often is limited or even unknown. It is wise to exercise caution when feeding a new rescue. Do so initially in a crate away from other dogs. Stand by the dog and talk to her. This will give you the opportunity to observe the dog's behavior. If she seems uncomfortable with you standing there, you may need some behavior counseling from a specialist.

If the dog seems fine and you do not observe any of the signals listed above, you may decide to go forward with hand feeding. If you see these behaviors, stop hand feeding IMMEDIATELY and consult a behavior specialist.

What You Can Do to Prevent This Problem
For her entire life, you should periodically hand feed your dog. Once a month, take the time to sit down with your dog and feed him dinner from your hand. This will strengthen your

See Food Bowl Aggression, next page

Hearts of Gold

By Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt

Some people choose not to answer all the personal questions we ask on the adoption application. I understand their reasoning; however, once we explain that their personal history is only viewed by volunteers involved in the adoption process and not given away or sold, they usually feel better about it.

Why do we ask so many questions? There are many reasons, but in a nutshell, it is to your advantage. The only way we can match the right dog with the right family – a task often done by someone who has not met the family or the dog – is to learn as much as we can about the applicants. We most likely would place a different dog with a senior citizen than we would a young couple with an active lifestyle. Cats, other dogs, young children who live in or visit the home – all of these things must be taken into consideration when placing a dog. For example, some dogs we get in to rescue are not friendly to cats or other dogs. To place them in such a home isn't fair – to the new family, the existing pets or the rescue dog. There's a good chance the dog will be returned, causing more stress and trauma to a dog that has already had his or her share, and sometimes causing a perfectly acceptable family to change their minds and opt not to adopt any dog.

We also want to know how committed the family is to a pet. Have they previously given pets up and, if so, what was the circumstance? The most common reasons given for the dogs we get into our program are: moving, divorce and new baby. If someone has had a dog previously and given it up because they were moving and "couldn't" take the dog, this is a red flag to us. On the other hand, there are other, more responsible reasons for giving up a pet in the past – aggressive with children, called to active military duty, etc.

Also, on the more unsettling side, it's proven that people sometimes misrepresent themselves on applications, even falsifying information. Through our adoption process, we hope to uncover any misinformation. It's one of the reasons why we back up a thorough application form with a home visit.

And the process is working. We have a very low return rate. In 2001, we placed 171 lovely goldens, and only five were returned, mostly for compatibility issues with dogs or cats in the home or because the people weren't really committed and returned the dog the next day. There may not be another rescue group out there that can match these statistics. And the thanks belong to the dedicated volunteers who help in this process – screening applications, placing follow-up phone calls and completing home visits. Thanks also to our coordinators, who spend a lot of time learning as much as possible about the dogs in our program so we can place them in homes that match their personalities and behaviors.

I am proud to be a member of the GRRMF team, mostly because of our commitment to the dogs. Not all of our placements turn out to be great. But we remain committed and responsible for them for their entire lives. Once our rescue, always our rescue. Our fosters love and care for them as if they were their own, and I can't tell you how heartbreaking it is to all of us when something goes wrong. If you read CJ's story on Page 4, you'll understand what I mean.

I have just learned of a dog we recently adopted out whose owner reportedly is allowing to run free off leash, in spite of promises made before adoption, and in spite of the legal adoption contract the person signed. While we hope people are good for their word, sometimes they ignore what they have promised to do. That is why we have an adoption contract which provides for picking up dogs and re-entry into our program for adoption contract violations. Perhaps if you've adopted from us, it might be a good idea to review your adoption contract to make sure your actions agree with the contract terms you signed.

On the positive side, I want to thank all those who have sent me cards and photos of their goldens recently. That's another part of our commitment as a rescue group – the people who cared for your golden during his or her time in rescue want to be kept up to date. We love hearing from you – please keep the cards and pictures coming. Due to the large amount of adoptions we had this season (a record!), we ran out of space for much "Alumni News." However, we have a section on our Web site dedicated to alumni, so look for your photos and stories there, as well as in future issues.

Please keep us in your thoughts, and feel free to write to me at my new e-mail address: goldensunbird@earthlink.net. I now have high-speed access, so it's easier than ever for me to download your wonderful photos.

Best wishes for a warm spring, and please keep us in your thoughts.

– Betty

<u>Food Bowl Aggression, continued</u>

bond with him while ensuring he maintains a good attitude about people and food.

♥ ♥ ♥

Angelica Steinker, M.Ed., is a Certified Canine Behavior Counselor and specializes in aggression. To contact her, call (813) 949-1465 or e-mail Angelica@CourteousCanine.com. For more information on this topic and canine aggression in general, consult James O'Heare's Canine Aggression Workbook *available at www.Dogwise.com.*

recent adoptions . . . .

Saleen came in to rescue as a 5-month-old puppy. Her previous owner had adopted her from a shelter thinking she was a purebred golden retriever. When she began to grow and blossom, Saleen became an "honorary golden." No matter – she was the perfect dog for Bonita G. and her grandson, Zachary. Saleen's new name is **Grace**. She sleeps with Zack, who is teaching her how to play ball.



Saleen/Grace with Bonita & Zachary

Sunshine I was dropped off at a veterinary clinic just before her owners left town on a Greyhound bus. She had already had several homes, much to the confusion of GRRMF caretakers, who found her to be nearly perfectly behaved. This gorgeous girl was adopted by Bob and Susan C. They tell us she is a perfect family member and can even do some tricks.

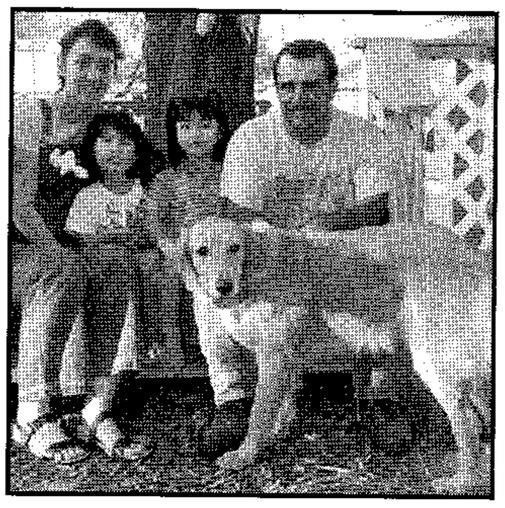
Charm was given up by an owner who worked double shifts and neglected her. Interestingly, her owner had once applied to adopt a dog from GRRMF and was rejected. When she turned Charm over, she admitted that we knew best. This charming girl was adopted by Fred and Jamie R., who report they are delighted to have her in their lives. Newly named **Sandy** is enrolled in obedience classes, and finally is getting the love and attention she craves.



Powell/Sammy with his new family

Powell came from Manatee Animal Control where he was going to be put down because of heartworms. His foster parents, John and Gail Pfohler, say Powell was hands-down one of the easiest and nicest boys they've ever fostered. He was adopted by Steve and Gayle G. and their two children. Powell's new name is **Sammy**. Gayle reports that the kids have a hard time leaving Sammy to go to school, and "there is much kissing and hugging of that beautiful, sweet face before they will leave him." Gayle says Sammy is "the perfect dog – we love him!"

Sara was a bundle of energy and cute as a button. She was fostered by John & Gail Pfohler, where she quickly learned some manners and how to fit in with the pack. Still, Sara needed someone to channel her energy. Along came Sara & Carlos, who were looking for a dog that could keep up with their two young daughters. It was love at first sight – both for puppy Sara, now called **Tessa**, and the girls. The three are inseparable, and they spend hours wearing each other out, much to the delight of Mom Sara. "There's lots of laughing, and hooting & hollering," she says. Best of all for Mom, they wear themselves out playing. "The silence is heaven – take me away Calgon. It just doesn't get any better than this."



Sara/Tessa with her new family

Frannie was a stray with an apparent abusive past. She needed a family with a soft voice, a warm, patient heart and a swimming pool. Frannie deserves the best, and she found the perfect home with Carol B. Frannie swims every day and is totally spoiled in her new home. She even gets to sleep on the bed. Carol says she loves Frannie dearly and is very thankful to have Frannie in her life. We love happy endings!



Frannie



Max/Rowdy

Max, 1 year old, who is now appropriately renamed **Rowdy**, was turned in to rescue due to a new baby and no time. He was adopted by Trina B. and family, who have found great ways to channel his energy by walking, running, swimming and playing ball. He has started obedience class and, to no surprise, is one smart cookie.

Bailey was adopted by Sheila K. and family, who call her **Buffy**. She was turned into rescue due to family allergies. She is a very well-trained and smart girl who walks about 10

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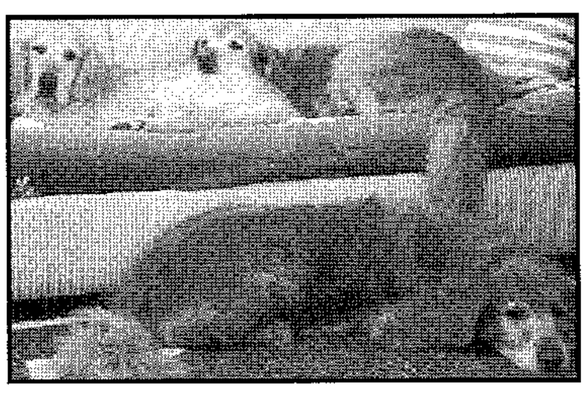
Recent Adoptions, continued

miles a week. With all that exercise, she has also managed to lose those extra unsightly pounds. Keep up the good work, Sheila! She shares her new home with a 13-year-old GRRMF alumni named **Maggie** and a few cats (her favorite).



Bailey/Buffy and her new family

Eight-year-old **Bella** had no where to go after her owner's home caught fire and burned down. She was fostered by Rick and Cindy O. while going through heartworm treatment. She was adopted by Barry and Linda H., who named her **Shasta**. They tell us she is a little princess. She shares her new home with **Chase** and **Jake**, also former rescues.



Bella/Shasta (top left) and her new buds

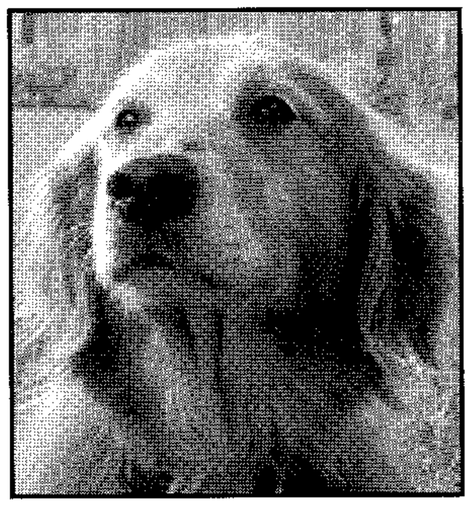
Mickey was fostered by Nancy H. and adopted by Leslie and Mark S. who wanted an active, outgoing, sporty yet laid-back golden to accommodate their life style. Mickey fit the bill, and trotted happily off to his new life without a backward glance.



Mickey

Alex was adopted by Jan and David S., who are thrilled to report he is coming out of his shy shell. They also found out he has a knack for music as he sings when Jan plays the piano. The funny thing is, the louder she plays, the louder he sings!

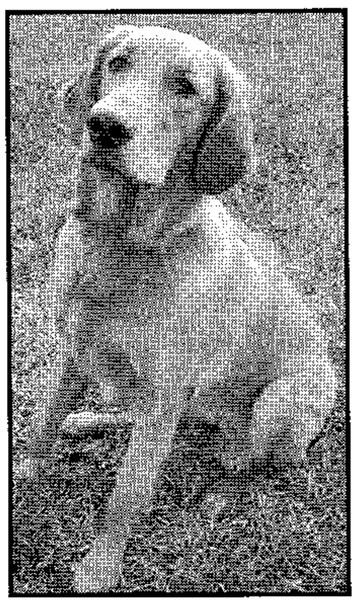
Lyric, 4 years old, was turned into rescue due to an illness in the family. Lyric is now named **Sandy** and is the perfect fit with the Clark family. She is such a love that other family members reportedly want to take her home. Don't worry – the Clarks say she's not going anywhere!



Bonnie/Brandy

Bonnie, 8 years old, was surrendered to GRRMF due to domestic problems. She was adopted by Gordon and Mary R. who have renamed her **Brandy**. Although Brandy lives with another GRRMF rescue "**Misty**" and two other Golden sisters, her new family says she has enriched their lives and is "a treasure." She is sweet, funny, and a real love who has a special relationship with one of their cats.

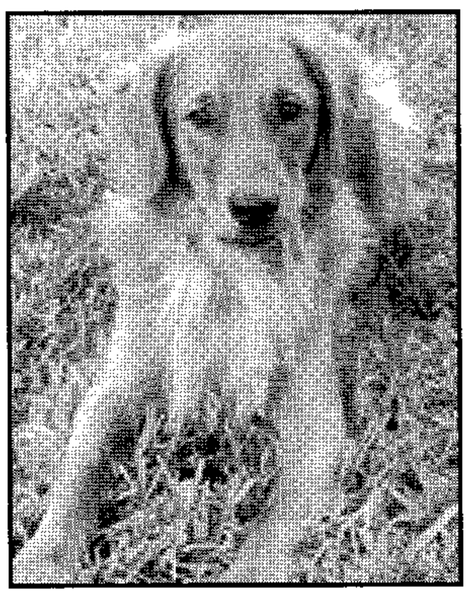
One-year-old **Daisy** was turned in to rescue because she was a typical untrained puppy and knocked everything down. She was fostered by the ever-so-patient Rick and Cindy O., who helped "Crazy Daisy" blossom into a wonderful canine companion for Gerry and Susan M., along with their 1-year-old St. Bernard, "Doppler." Daisy now has a sturdy playmate to help channel her puppy energy.



Daisy

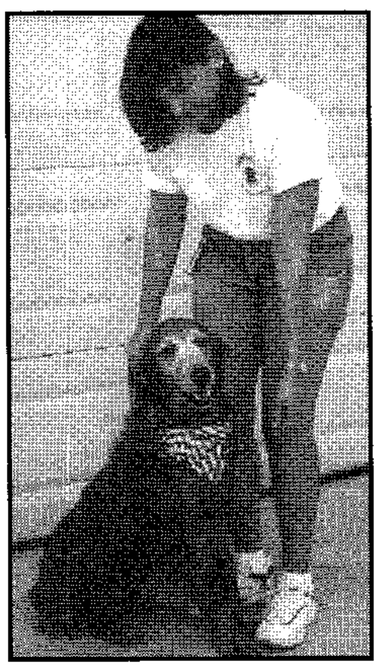
Journey was fostered and adopted by Bob and Ana M. where his journey to his forever home was fulfilled. He spends his time with three senior canine siblings. He has added so much to their lives that they couldn't imagine their house without him.

Betty Sue was turned in to rescue at the prime age of 11 years. Matthew and Anne Marie W. found it in their warm hearts to foster this golden gal, knowing that due to her age she may never find a forever home. They were wrong. Betty Sue was officially adopted by Anne Marie and Matthew. She has made a complete turnaround since the day they got her, and she is now the socialite at the doggie day care center.



Corbin

Corbin was turned into rescue with his sister due to financial constraints. He was fostered and adopted by Susan and Randy A. who say he is an abosolute trip and can look past his excessive love kisses.



Liberty with Jackie

Liberty was a stray in Animal Services. GRRMF saved her just after the September 11 terrorist attacks and named her Liberty. She was fostered by Andrea Davis and adopted by Jackie M., who says that Libby is settling in nicely and has started to snore when sleeping.

Continued next page

Recent Adoptions, continued

Lola was dumped in an overnight box at Animal Services. She was sent to our "West Coast Weight Watchers" foster mom Charlette B., who helped her regain her girlish figure. Lola was adopted by Michael & Karen L. They realize that to help Lola live a long and healthy life, they're going to have to be careful with her diet and find room in their schedules for a regular exercise routine.

Sasha, 9 months, was turned into GRRMF due to family allergies. She was adopted by Toby & Shae A., who are just thrilled to have Sasha in their lives. They say she is a "happy little dog that loves to have you throw her slimy, saliva-covered ball out in the yard - yucko. But it's fun."



Bonita/Kahlua with Jodie

Bonita came from a family that had no time for her. Within two weeks, she had a new home with Jodie B. Jodie and her current dog, Korbel, welcomed Bonita (now called **Kahlua**) with open arms. She plays fetch with tennis balls for mom and keeps Korbel company while mom is at work. A match made in heaven for all!

Sampson was turned in by some ranch owners who owned horses. Sampson thought it was great sport to chase the horses, not knowing this game would cost him his home. Handsome Sampson, with a personality as sweet as they come, was adopted by Sandy M. Some cute photos of Sampson and his brother on the couch have already arrived at rescue, proving that he is having a great time with his new family – thanks Sandy!



Sampson with Sandy

Chisum, 8 years, lived in a pen. When his owner moved away and left him, someone would go by and feed him once a day. What torture for a golden retriever! Chisum was so starved for attention when he arrived at his foster mom's house, he literally pinned her to the chair, wanting to get closer, all the time gazing lovingly into her eyes. What's not to be loved about that? Along came Melissa K., who was looking for a "Velcro-type" dog. They spend their days together, and Chisum especially enjoys sitting in her lap as they watch TV together. Another perfect match!



Chisum and Melissa

Miles, 1.5 years old, was owned by a minister and his wife, who had five children… and no time for a dog. He was adopted by Christine E., Barry T. and their two children. They had never owned a dog before, but after a lot of research decided a golden was for them. They adopted Miles around Christmas and renamed him **Rudy** after the famous reindeer. As you can see from the photo, Rudy loves all the attention he's getting from his new human siblings. He is one HAPPY dog!



Miles/Rudy and his new siblings

Diva came into rescue after two other homes in her short 7 months of life. Fosters Sally Anne and Dave Rowland provided plenty of TLC and spent time teaching her house manners as well as taking her to obedience classes. Diva learned dog manners as well, as she greatly enjoyed playing with her foster brothers. She was adopted by Lisa and Chuck B. and their golden Solo. It sounds like Diva is in puppy heaven, and her new humans tell us more obedience and swimming lessons are in her future.

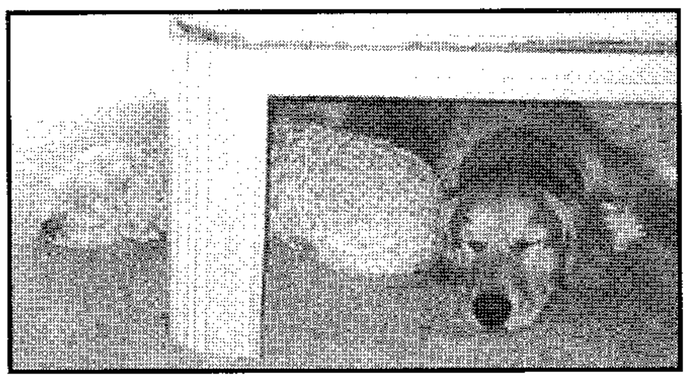
Winston was given up by a young, active family with no time for him. After some confidence boosting and lots of fun with his foster family, this sweet, mild-mannered boy quickly won the hearts of his new owners, Monja and Fritz V. Winston has started an obedience class and goes for long walks with his new owners.

Samantha, 13, was no longer wanted by her owners and was going to be euthanized. GRRMF volunteer Jean Dixon stepped in and saved this precious gal. She was adopted by Anitra R. & Bill T. who love to adopt the seniors. Young-at-heart Samantha has had no problem adjusting and is enjoying all the comforts that her new life brings her way. Good girl, Samantha!

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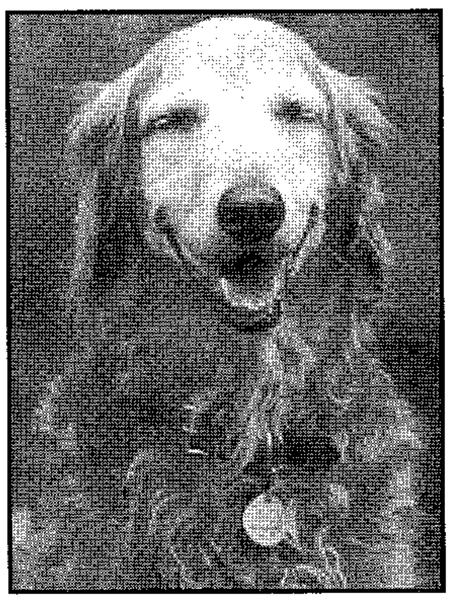
Recent Adoptions, continued

Lacey is a pretty 8-year-old who lived in a backyard with only a barrel for shelter. This sweet girl had a sad life, indeed, but that was turned around when she went to stay with foster Leah Wright. Lacey was adopted by Lynn & Tom O., who recently adopted **Nash**. Leah misses her but is happy to know that Lacey is happy and very much loved in her new forever home.



Grace with Mitsy, her cockapoo sis

Grace is a lovely 3-year-old blonde who was turned into rescue due to a divorce in the family. No one seemed to want her. She was adopted by Sandy S., who says that Grace has become a very important member of the family. She is the best buddy of sister Mitsy, a blind cockapoo. As you can see from the picture, they are never too far from each other. This is their idea of "helping" set up the Christmas tree. Grace is currently enrolled in obedience class and is working toward her Canine Good Citizen certificate.



Banjo

Banjo came back into rescue after his adopted family could no longer keep him. He was being fostered by Sandy S., who came to realize that Banjo had decided he wanted to stay. Non-traditional looks give Banjo a comical expression as you can see by his picture. But they fit him, as he is quite the clown. He has become best friends with his brother, **Brody**, another former GRRMF dog, and they play, eat and sleep side by side. Banjo likes nothing more than putting his head on your lap to receive a pat-pat and being told he is a "good boy."

Guinness was turned in by a woman who didn't have room or time for him. All GRRMF knew about Guinness was that he "doesn't like cussing." No problem, as Guinness was quickly adopted by the Rev. Richard C., who recently lost his beloved **Kelly**. The minister was looking for a dog who would be good with seniors and children, as Kelly had always accompanied him to his church office and on visits. Guinness, now called **Major**, fit the bill and reportedly is quickly winning the hearts of the congregation. He even enjoys singing along with the choir... or whomever happens to strike up a tune in his presence.



Claire

Claire was found wandering the neighborhood by a GRRMF member after a summer thunderstorm. Attempts to locate her owner failed, and she was turned over to rescue. She was unspayed, heartworm-positive and needed to lose a few pounds. Claire was adopted by Marilyn M., who adopted the **Duke of Windsor** previously. They have become a tightly bonded family, and Marilyn's only complaint is that they don't leave her much room on the bed.



Jazz

Jazz is one cool dude. At 7 years old, this handsome boy was turned in when his owners had a baby. He had been owned by a trainer, so Jazz came in to rescue with some training under his belt. He was adopted by Jim M., who, coincidentally, is a retired musician and band owner. Jim lives alone and was looking for a fishing buddy.

Otis/Monty was found wandering in traffic on a busy road. This story has a happy ending, because his owners were found. They have promised GRRMF that they will keep better tabs on him by signing our adoption contract.

Dakota's family no longer wanted him. He was adopted by John & Tamara H. and their two sons. Dakota's family reports he is settling in just fine and that he is much loved.

Niles was adopted by Michael & Debra K. and is now named **Sunny**. His new humans tell us they have had no problems with him and that he is fitting in like he's always been there.

Jeb came to us from an Orlando shelter. Like a true southern gentleman, Jeb is a tall, graceful and well-mannered red boy, and he won the heart of his foster mom. He was snapped up by Deborah N., who reports he is the perfect bed partner – a real lover.



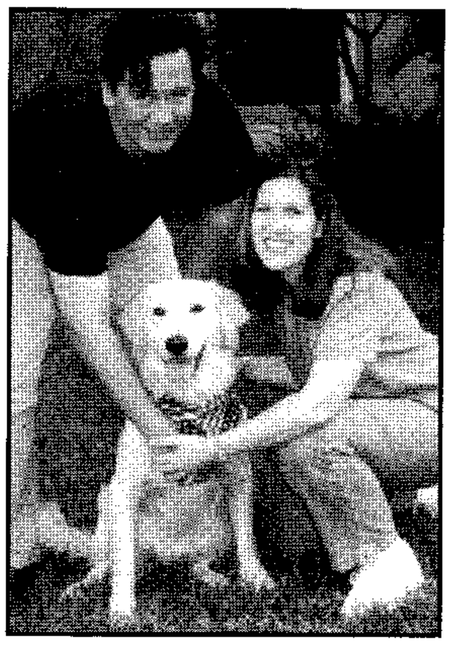
Jeb and his new family

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Recent Adoptions, continued

Toby lived in Petland, a pet store, from puppyhood until he was finally purchased at 6 months of age. Within 3 months, Toby had overstayed his welcome at his new family's house. He reportedly was causing "friction" between his humans. They told us he had lived so long in a crate that he wouldn't come out. Little did they know. Toby was adopted by May and Burt L. and has little, if any, time for a crate now that he has a real family and canine siblings to play with. We understand that Toby is getting spoiled in his new home, but what the heck, he deserves it.

Bailey Noelle, 1 year old, lived on a lake and swam with alligators on a daily basis. Her owner turned her in because he said he couldn't keep her out of the water and she was always coming into the house muddy. This adorable little girl was adopted by Eve B. and Javier G. She loves to play with their golden, Duncan, and the cat, Raya.



Bailey Noelle with Javier and Eve

Sonny lost his home when his owners moved to Texas. Except for some black hyper-pigmentation on his muzzle, Sonny was quite the handsome boy, with show dog looks and a personality to match. A visit to the holistic veterinarian in Winter Park reduced the pigment problem, but he did have some manners to learn. At the vet's office Sonny thought nothing of planting his big front feet on the receptionist's desk and sending papers flying, as if to say, "I'm here! Pay attention to me!" No worries – in less than 1 second, Sonny the goofball won the hearts of everyone in the vet's office – including the patients! Sonny was adopted by Lee G. as a playmate for her border collie.

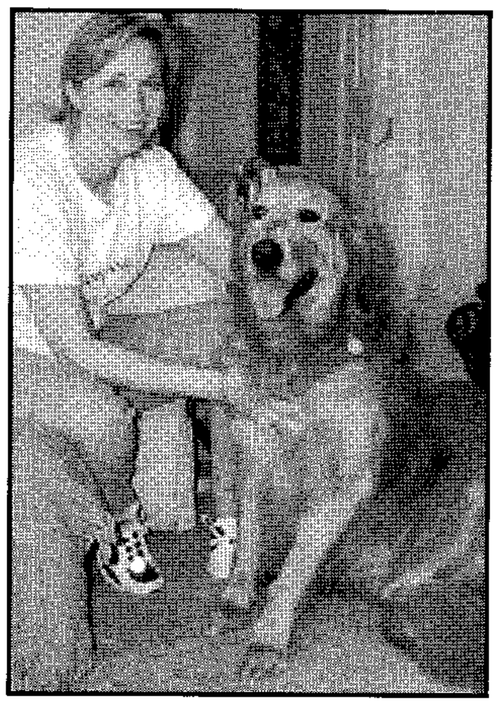


Shelby

Shelby came to rescue several months ago when her owner said she could no longer keep her. She was fostered and adopted by Ellen L. At 7 years of age, Shelby is the perfect addition to Ellen's human and canine family.

Angel was found on the side of a Jacksonville highway and turned in to rescue looking rather undernourished and dirty. A good bath and checkup revealed a healthy little 2-year-old with a great personality. She was quickly adopted by Bob and Sally I. of Siesta Key, who drove all the way to Jacksonville to see her. It was love at first sight and Angel, now **Sandy**, is having a wonderful life on Florida's Gulf Coast.

Canyon's story is one that causes GRRMF volunteers to sigh in frustration – a perfectly good dog is given up because his owners are moving and "can't" take the dog with them. It's an all-too-common theme these days. Canyon is a tad overweight, but enjoys his new diet of low-fat food and green beans. Crystal S. took one look at Canyon and had to have him. The two are a perfect pair and hit it off immediately. Another happy ending, and another sigh from GRRMF volunteers, but this one is a sigh of relief and contentment!



Canyon and Crystal

♥ ♥ ♥

Emergency Vet Clinic Has Moved!

The address of the Emergency Veterinary Clinic in the Orlando area has changed. It is no longer in Winter Park. It is in Casselberry.

The phone # is the same:
(407) 644-4449

The new address is
195 Concord Drive, Casselberry.

It is off 17-92, just north of Target/PetsMart and on the same side of the street.

the rainbow bridge



Frazier

*In Loving Memory of **Frazier-at-Bay***
Lost too soon at only 7 years old
Written by Amanda Mitchell
Owner Beverly Shipley's 13-year-old granddaughter

ALWAYS REMEMBER

Some people say he was more than a dog
like a best friend with a wet nose and furry coat.
I remember when he used to play with his toys and
jump like crazy when you mentioned the word "walk."

I will always remember when he would cuddle on the bed
like a big, fluffy cloud sitting there, laying there.
He was a smart dog, a cute dog and was always there for you.
Sure he was scared of thunderstorms,
but the bathtub was always there.

Grandma don't worry. Frazier will always be there
He has gone to a good place called Doggie Heaven
Where he'll play with Sandy
And be the bestest friends.

Don't let this get you down; just get on with your life.
Maybe someday you'll get another
And that dog will also refer to you as Mother.

.....

After a short illness, the sweet 12-year-old Sally Anne & Dave Rowland adopted went to Rainbow Bridge in early March. In his 5 months with the "Circus Boys" in Sarasota, **Griffin** learned to wag his tail, grew back all of his coat, shed 20 pounds (much needed) and enjoyed his twice-daily walks. Griffin loved to attend Education Days and had even done a couple of home visits. Sally Anne writes: "A piece of my heart went with Griffin. We miss his golden smile. I know he's free from pain and romping along with all the other Bridge kids …"



Griffin

Kelly was the constant companion of the Rev. Richard and Cherie Chandler. But she was also a treasured member of his extended church family, many of whom made special trips just to visit with her. Kelly made it her goal in life to make friends with everyone she met, young or old. Even those who didn't particularly care for dogs would soon warm to Kelly's soft brown eyes and unassuming demeanor. "Just one pat," they would say. Then one more, and one more … When she passed away suddenly at the young age of 7, the entire church grieved, but none so much as Rev. Chandler. Kelly will be greatly missed by all.

Merlin, the "great white knight," spent his last years in the home of Bob & Sharon O'Keefe. He was turned in as a stray at a retirement center who was never claimed. He had the gait and looks of a show dog and a personality that let you know he was every bit as good, if not better than, any dog or human. Merlin was a ball nut and would entertain himself by pushing a tennis ball around the yard long after his humans tired of the game. He was very much a man's dog, and had a strong bond with Bob. Merlin will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

"Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

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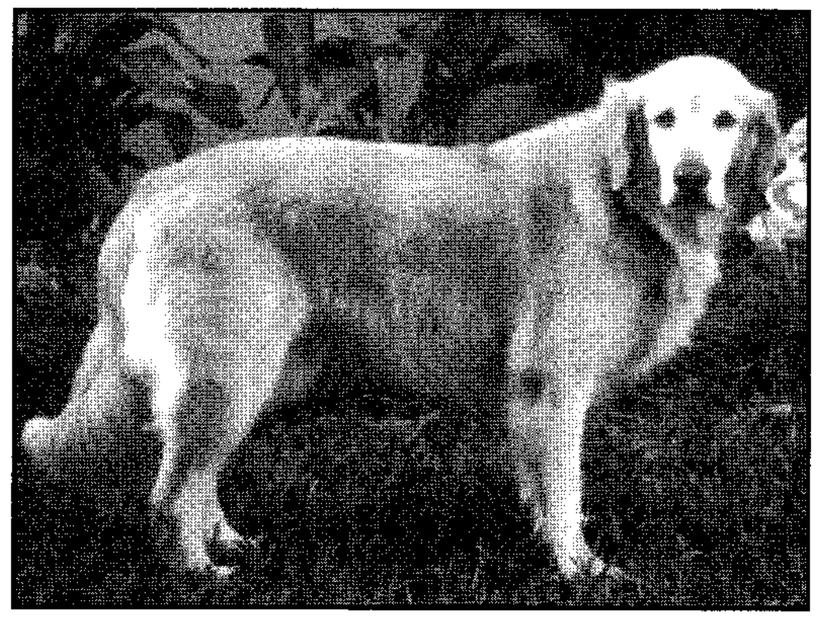
Rainbow Bridge, continued



Jonah

Jonah was one of our first dogs. He was donated to a dog training program for hearing impaired, which led to his forever home with Mary Campbell. He was certified quickly and she loved him dearly. Jonah was there for her every step of the way. Mary is devastated at the loss of her dear boy to cancer.

Blossom came in to rescue for a second time when a toddler became allergic to her. They even shaved her to the skin hoping it would help, but to no avail. This charismatic and beautiful senior gal was fostered and adopted by Randi Shoemaker. Blossom had a great time in her new home until age caught up with her.



Blossom

Krystal was turned in to rescue approximately 9 years ago when her senior owners moved in with their daughter in another state. She was adopted by Bo & Thais Abermethy, who now live in Virginia. In her last years, Krystal developed arthritis and other ailments. We're thankful to her humans for doing all they could to make her comfortable in her last days.

Golden Friends . . .

Donations

Judy Ackerman; Linda Ackerman; Pamela Armitage; M. R. G. Bassett; Madeleine Becker; Dr. Rachel Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Hospital; Kathleen Bittman – A gift from SHERLOCK; Stephen & Constance Blythe; Carol Bowes; Christina Brown-Lifvendahl; Anne Byrne; Marcia Caldwell; Evanthia Carver; Lynn Chapple; Linda Cohen; Kathy Coppinger; Courteous Canine, Inc.; Don & Penny Dalton; Nancy & Ed Day; Frank & Janette Delapa; Barbara Dishozy; Bert & Joan Dutton; Doyle & Jane Dudley; Charles & Mary Early; Nancy Forster; Vann & Sally Frazier; Albert Garan; Marilyn Garbett; Barbara Gieger; Kimberly Giglio; Girl Scout Troop 2034; Diane Grieco; Amy Gross; Michael Hartman; Gladys Henderson; Andrew Janes; Paul & Stephanie Jones; Bonnie Keller; Nancy Kenny; Marie Kelsey; Mary Kiesel; Mark & Diane Kingman; Melissa Knowles; Bill Lawrence; Christina Leggatt; Sharon Lehnert; Rochelle Lesser; Mary Grace Lester; Peggy Litt; Stuart & Grace Longworth; Susan Matlock; Joyce McCarthy; Debbie McGhehey; Marcia McGovern; Kristin Michalczyk; Chris & Vicki Middleton; Sandy Miller; Robert & Deborah Mitchell; Catherine Mollon; William Mulligan; Mrs. Mulston; Audrey Myers; Pauline Norris; Joyce Osborne; Stephan & Hilary Overstreet; John & Cheryl Pacheco; Keith Painter; Paws on Parade; Mark Perry; Stephanie & Paul Riley; Roslyn Ross; Frank & Pat Sarano; Nancy Saxe; Robin Scott; Robert & Grace Shappell; Beverly Shipley; Dionis Smith; Jim & Karen Smith; Jodi Smith; Ric & Colleen Sosteri; Sandy Sumner; Sunshine Bimmer Chapter; Trish Titer; Michele Veres; Jeanne Villari; Kris Viles; Alice Ward; Dennis & Valerie Watson; Donna Welker; Welsh Charitable Trust; Marilyn Wendell; Richard & Virginia Withington; Jenny Wong

In Honor Of ...

All goldens that need homes - Ann Marie Roberts
Blaze & Bart - Jim & Suzanne Hagan
Chance - Kay Forton & Pat Meadows
Darby - Sheila Quinton
Fergy –Rich & Susie Cooper
Susan Fulenwider - Chris & Laura Topping
Ellen Green - Janice Snyder
Henry - Mik & Mary Prody
Holly - Dennis & Nancy Voith
Jade & Sammy - Paul & Judi Richter
Jan Jennings - Christine MacPhail
Maggie Mae - Fran Curz
Maggie Mae – Hillary Overstreet

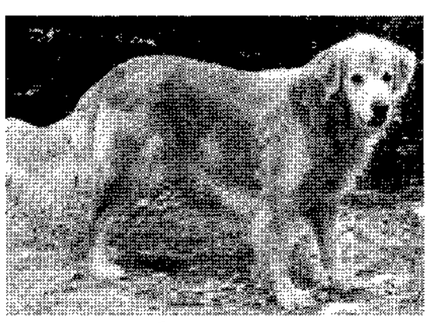
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Golden Friends, continued

Mike & Carol McKee - Douglas & Barbara Geiger
Patrick - Jerry & Vivian Rosen
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Provost - Michele McGrath
Reiley - Bill & Dianne McLean
Suzanne & Tony Rider, for the TLC they provided to **Nova/Magen** – Mike & Carol McKee
Samantha Belle – Pamela Marshall
Sarah Sleight - Marilyn Azzolino
Sharon, Happy Birthday - Jeff Quigley
Colleen Sosteri - Deborah Kollet
Tank & Cracker - Ellen Prekop
Betty Wyatt - Dolce Designs
Betty Wyatt - Jan Jennings
Bill Thomas, Cheryl Barlow and the Delta Airlines staff – Betty Wyatt

In Memory of ...

Bailey - Dave & Sally Anne Rowland
Bonnie - Ned & Pat Rupp
Chloe Cisneros - Dora McNulty
Brian Cleason - Jennifer Haley
Maggie - Mike & Liz Damas
Mr. Spitt & Goldie - Beth McNulty
Murphy & Candi Marie - Patti & Bob Hatton
Peaches Kiernan - Stephanie Kiernan & Gwen Kosuda
Rocky - Don & Ann Dalton
Bailey – Sally Anne & Dave Rowland
Alex and Robin Wyatt who passed away one year ago but live on in Betty's heart – Betty Wyatt



Alex Wyatt

Capital Campaign Fund

Linc Hay, Debbie McGhehey, Julie Mink, John & Gail Pfohler & Nancy Spears – A brick for Bailey Rowland; Trina Barnes; Frank & Fran Darling; A. Ashton Dovel; Amy Gross & Bill Blane; Kimberly Giglio; Paul & Stephanie Jones; Coralee Leon; Roslyn Ross; Leanne Rubin; Nancy Spears - in honor of Betty Wyatt; Richard & Nancy Spears; Paul & Maryanne Tradelius; Jeanne Villari; Richard & Virginia Withington

Woody's Fund

Linda Cohen; Mike & Elizabeth Damas; A. Ashton Dovel; Peter & Susan Fitzgerald; George Geibel; Kimberly Giglio; Tom & Pat Graham; Karla Gray; Geroge & Sandra Kanistra; Mark & Diane Kingman; Mary Beth Lake; David Lowerhouse; Jeff & Maryanne Ludy; Henry Mayer; Laurel O'Connors; Mike Orloff & Pat Kopco; Richard & Lynn Prine; Leanne Rubin; Marlene Spencer - in memory of Sophie; Paul & Maryanne Tradelius; Jeanne Villari; Betty White - in memory of Sophie; Margaret Williams

Sponsorships

Ken & Bobbie Alburtus; Franklin Andrews; Dan Beach; John & Linda Berry; Payne Breazeale; Debi Clark; Jerry & Irene Clifford; Dorothy Collins; Barbara Dishozy; Jim Dorman; Doyle & Jane Dudley; Jeff & Ricki Dworkin; Dr. Sharon Fahmy; Stuart & Susan Fiordalis; Nicholas Forlano; Jordan & Charlene German; Karla Gray; Sharon & Blair Howard; Steve Jaffee; Jan Jennings; Dean & Ginny Johnson; Jim & Teddy Kamis; Loyd Kiernan; Mark & Diane Kingman; Regina Leibowitz; Ron & Jennifer Longman; Ed & Trish Marquez; Cheryl Maze; Dr. & Mrs. McCune; Clyde & Cathie Mollon; Ann Nermoe; Charlette Quercia; Rochelle Roe; Emily Rowe; Gerry Schnitzler; Richard & Karen Schofield; Richard & Nancy Spears; Tim & Maggie Stambauch; Jane & Tim Veschio; David & Linda Watterworth; James Weiss; Stewart & Faith Worby

Boarding Fund

Matthew Borland; Michael & Marilyn Counen; Mark & Lisa Dennett; Merle Fairbanks; George Geibel; Paul & Stephanie Jones; Kathleen Laugherly; Henry Mayer; Fred & Janice Stolting; Richard & Virginia Withington

Thanks!

- Call Team volunteers: Nancy Abbott, Linda Cohen, Vicki Ferros, Melissa Knowles, Robin Mackler, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Colleen Sosteri, Kerri Vorhies.
- Home visits: Cindy Andrews, Shelley 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 & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Sally Ann Rowland, Randi Shoemaker, Nancy Spears, Kathy Spilker, Michelle Veres.
- Educational days: Michelle & Chris Andrews, Susan Andrews Joe & Shelley Antonucci, Anna & Ron Bailey, Ed Berger, Jim Brand, Andrea Davis, Barbara Durham, Vicki Ferros, Linda Fike, Lynn Firment, Barbara Geisnger, Marelette Jones & "Aunt Rethia," Pam Jones, George Kalbfleish, Jennifer Longman, Anna Maufroy, Deb McGhehey, Marcia McGovern, Gary & Julie Mink, Cindy Owens, Renee Perkie, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Emily & Velma Rowe, Sally Anne Rowland, John Sons, Colleen & Rick Sosteri, Sandy Sumner, Kerri Vorhies, Anne Marie Wise, Leah Wright.
- Admissions Hotline: Marcia McGovern, Pam Jones, Nancy Spears, Jan Jennings, Kerri Vorhies, Diane Makinney, Steve & Candace Jaffee,

Continued next page

Golden Friends, continued

Sharon O'Keefe.

- Fosters: Robert & Kay Ahern, Cindy Andrews, Susan & Randy Andrews, Joe & Shelley Antonucci, Charlotte Bauer, Dr. Rachel Beckett, Rick Bennett, Ann Bernick, Jerry & Barbara Burkos, Marcia Caldwell, Gregg Childs & Tom Eddie, Mary Cooper, Andrea Davis, Kent Denslow, Linda Fike, John Foss, Sally & Vann Frazier, Jim Gallagher, Wendy Giannasi, Angela Green, Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt, Nancy Hevsted, Jan Jennings, Pamela Johnson, Rob & Marelette Jones, George Kalbfleish, Bonnie Keller, Ron & Darlene Krause, Mary Beth Lierman, Ellen Lindenfeld, Diane Makinney, Ellen & Paul Mathieson, Bob & Ann Maufroy, Marcia McGovern & Bud Magri, Lisa Maldonaldo, Diane & Craig McAlister, Jim & Allola McGraw, Marilyn Metcalfe, Gary & Julie Mink, Mary Nelmon, Suzanne Nelson, Laurel O'Connor, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, John & Gail Pfohler, Gary & Amy Reinhardt, Sandy Reynolds, Suzanne and Tony Rider, Marlene Rogers, Dave & Sally Anne Rowland, Pat Rupp, Anitra Ruth, Dr. Christine Sands, Wayne & Randi Shoemaker, Colleen and Rick Sosteri, Greg & Kathy Spilker, Tom & Maggie Stambaugh, Sandy Sumner, Bernice Thompson, Deborah Velez, Michelle Veres, Kerrie Vorhies, Melanie Wagner, Bill & Celeste Watkins, Deborah Wilson & Patricia Matthews, Anne Marie & Matthew Wise, Leah Wright, Betty Wyatt.
- Veterinarians who helped by donating or discounting goods and services:
  - –Drs. Rick Rubinstein & William Ehlers, Tuscawilla Oaks Animal Hospital, Oviedo
  - –Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne
  - –Dr. Kristine Sands, Apopka Veterinary Clinic, Apopka
  - –Dr. Athey, Orange City Animal Clinic, Orange City
  - –Dr. Rachael Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Practice, St. Augustine
  - –All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz
  - –Animal Hospital of Treasure Island, Treasure Island
  - –Dr. Michael Schroeder, Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill
  - –Dr. Myburgh, Bright Cross Animal Clinic, Venice
  - –Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park
  - –Dr. Martin Neher, Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic, Sarasota
  - –Dr. Charles Gerhart, Southwest Ocala Veterinary Hospital
  - –Drs. Topor, Green & Buchanan Livingston Animal & Avian Hospital, Lutz
  - –Dr. Leland Simmons, Sand Lake Animal Clinic, Orlando
  - –Dr. E. J. Rackowski Treasure Coast Animal Clinic, Vero Beach
- Courteous Canine, Lutz, Fla., 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.
- Publicity: Jan Jennings
- Folding papers: Mark Hatton
- Krista Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis for donation of medical supplies such as FrontLine, Advantage, heartworm preventive and heartworm treatment drugs. 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 your help!
- RDV Sportsplex for their generous donation of tennis balls for the rescues.
- For mailing party: Steve Jaffe, Hillary Overstreet, Linda and Tom Orth, Lynn Firment, Kerri Vorhies, Sandy Sumner, Cindy Andrews, Pat Mathews, Deb Wilson, Bill Lawrence, Jan Jennings
- Sewing bandanas for the Winter Park Christmas parade: Bonnie Kellar and Marlene Rogers. Thanks also to Betty Wyatt, who furnished the patriotic material.
- Paying our parade entrance fee: Bill Lawrence
- Hosting our dogs after the parade: Doggie Door
- Bill Lawrence, for helping with the Capital Campaign
- Staffs of PetsMart, Pet Supermarket, Border's Bookstore and other businesses across the state, for letting GRRMF set up educational booths. We are grateful for all their support of our organization.
- For walking foster dogs in Betty Wyatt's neighborhood on Saturday mornings: Kerri Vorhies, Jennifer Longman, Pat Matthews, Debbie Williams, Tammy Saborin, Jenny Middelton, Sandy Sumner.
- A very special thank you to Cheryl Hogue of Vet Jem, a research lab in Michigan that is studying genetic diseases in dog breeds. One of our foster dogs had surgery and the bleeding could not be stopped, even after a second surgery to try to stop it. The dog spent the night in the emergency vet clinic in Orlando. We feared he had Von Willebrands disease, a condition similar to hemophilia in humans. Cheryl volunteered to run appropriate blood tests to help diagnose it. We're happy to report that he was cleared of this disease and has now completely recovered from the surgery.

Continued next page

Golden Friends, continued

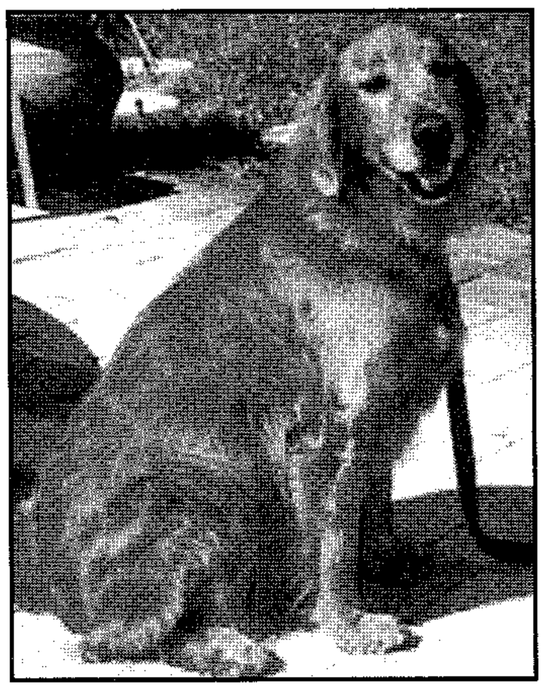
- Dog supplies, toys & treats: Steve Evans & Tanner, Lynn Macksey & children of Waterford Lakes, Lynn & Tom Orth, Michelle Lemok, Laurie Olin, Tom Daws & Casey Kelly, Kate Brigmann & Susan Kessler, Merle Fairbanks, Jennifer Longman, Sandy Sumner
- Roxi & Debbie McGhehy for two boxes of Christmas gifts – each year, Debbie & Roxy donate dog toys in the names of friends, in lieu of personal gifts
- Bonnie Keller for sewing bandannas, donating a flyball machine and PetsMart gift cards
- Marlene Rogers for sewing bandannas and transporting
- Laurie Olin, who donated medications in memory of her 13-year-old golden, Coco.
- Tom & Dawn Keely, for donating PetsMart gift card
- Pam Jones, Sharon O'Keefe, Marcia McGovern, Sandy Sumner, Kerri Vorhies, for attending the Pet Industry Trade Show to seek donations for GRRMF.

Note: The GRRMF Board sends very special thanks to all volunteers and supporters – including those we may have inadvertently left off this list. Although we try to list everyone, our organization is growing, and we sometimes miss a name or two. If we failed to mention you, please let us know – (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor at 2boatrats@comcast.net – and we'll try our best to list it next time. We couldn't operate without your help – you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of goldens!!

MJ, from page 1

1991. Each year, we've been faced with an increasing number of goldens who need help. And each year, we've met the challenge.

Initially, GRRMF started as a committee of the local golden retriever breed club. By 1996, it was obvious we needed to break off from the club so we could have a dedicated board of directors and volunteer support team. In 1997, Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida was incorporated with 501(c)3 status from the IRS. This was a very beneficial step – at one point during the split, we had only $30 in our business account! Tax-exempt status has helped GRRMF build its program to serve goldens with special health needs, dogs whose lives literally have been saved due to donations from people like you.



Milestone dog: *Handsome MJ is heralded as our 1,000th dog as GRRMF celebrates 10 years.*

We have now progressed to the next level of operation. What once was an informal group of volunteers is developing into a well-organized non-profit corporation. We continue to work to improve operations and organize our processes so volunteers can manage the tremendous workload. Rescuing dogs is a very time-intensive effort that requires a dedicated group of individuals. Volunteers generously donate their time, but we must be cognizant of the most common pitfalls – stress and burnout. We've learned that a big part of recruiting and retaining volunteers is to break down the tasks into manageable pieces and then assign teams to tackle them. We continue to document the knowledge and experience of our longstanding volunteers and other successful rescue groups, so that others can learn from them. Over the next few years, volunteer development will play a key role in our continued success.

As we face the future, we know one thing is certain: Florida has a huge turnover of homeless goldens, and we need to do everything we can to make sure GRRMF remains viable and ready to handle the increased needs.

However, our mission will always remain the same: To love the ones no one wants, to heal their broken bodies, nurture their hurting hearts and match them with a perfect family who will love and cherish them for the rest of their lives. We at GRRMF pride ourselves on the fact that we do the very best we can for these dogs, and we take responsibility for them throughout the remainder of their lives.

On behalf of MJ and more than 1,000 other goldens who have been saved by GRRMF, we hope you will continue your membership with us. We need your support now more than ever. If you haven't sent in your 2002 membership dues yet, please consider doing so. We can sure use your support!

– Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

If you haven't sent in your 2002 dues yet, please do so right away to keep your newsletter coming!!!

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 310
GOLDENROD, FL 32733

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
Membership Application

Issue Date: Spring 2002

ALL memberships/donations are tax-deductible.

Name:_____ Address:_____

City/State/Zip_____ Phone: Home_____ Work_____

e-mail:_____

Membership

Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly "Hearts of Gold" newsletter and is on a calendar year basis. Memberships received after September 1 of any year automatically carry forward to the next calendar year.
Please check one:

❑ General Membership $25

❑ Sponsorship $100 (for helping a dog in need – you will be recognized in our newsletter and receive notification of the special GRRMF dog you are sponsoring.)

❑ 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.