



HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 5, Issue 3

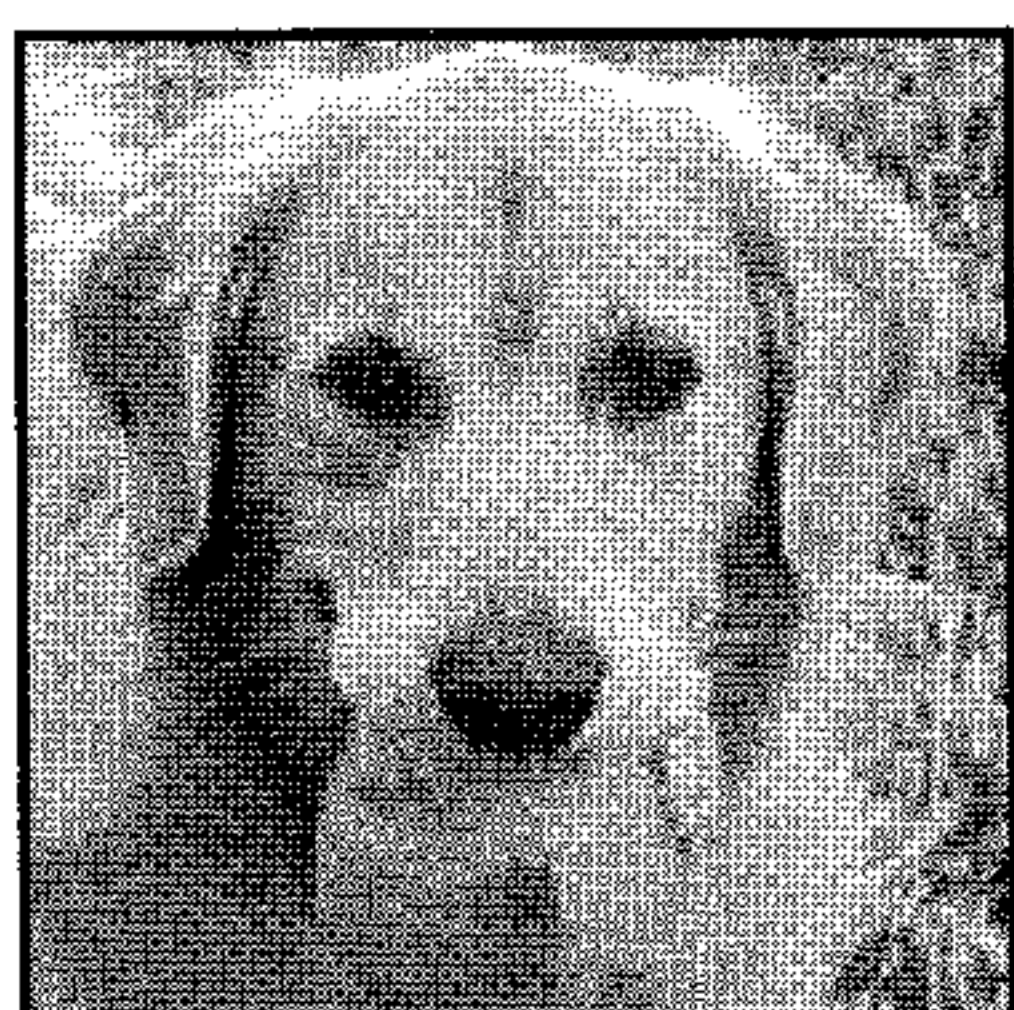
Fall 2002



Alex: 'Little Body, Big Heart' –

Read the story about GRRMF's "crackhouse" dog, rescued from a dirt-pit yard outside a dilapidated bungalow in a known crack neighborhood of Lake County.

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The Win-Win Game –

Learn some training tips that will help you AND your dog win the training game! Page 14



Grooming Your Golden –

Tips from the pros about grooming a golden retriever for life in a hot, humid climate. And why shaving is NOT a good idea.

Page 16

The Sarasota 23

It was raining golden retrievers last month, as GRRMF frantically worked to place 23 dogs confiscated from an abusive home in Sarasota.

John Pfohler was in his car when he got a call from fellow GRRMF volunteer Linc Hay. She was in tears. "I told her to wait a minute while I pulled off the road," John said. "I could tell it was something big."

And "big" it was – at least in terms of GRRMF's rescue intake experience. Linc had just received a call from Sarasota County Animal Services. According to shelter workers, officers had confiscated **seven adult golden retrievers and 19 puppies** from a home-based breeding operation. The dogs were living in deplorable conditions, enough so that county workers immediately removed the animals and the owner was taken to jail.



Wheels in Motion

Linc's call immediately put into motion the most massive rescue effort ever attempted by GRRMF.

"I have never seen such an outpouring of support and volunteerism, both from within our organization and from Sarasota County," said GRRMF President Barbara Durham. "The shelter staff was wonderful – after the owner signed over the rights, the shelter agreed to work with us to get the dogs placed in responsible and loving homes. With GRRMF's extensive adoption process, they felt the dogs would have a better chance by going through our program. That's a great credit to us, and also to the shelter, which went above and beyond by agreeing to provide initial vaccinations and de-worming. This type of cooperation is almost unheard of in rescue."

While the shelter did place three puppies, it released to GRRMF 16 pups, around 8 weeks old, and all seven adults... now affectionately referred to as the "Sarasota 23."

To minimize their contact with infectious diseases, the pups were removed first. Young puppies are especially vulnerable to infection, as their immune systems are not fully developed. Sally Anne Rowland, a long-time puppy lover and experienced golden retriever owner, agreed to make room for the puppies until fosters could be

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found. Yes, that's right – Sally Anne agreed to take all 16 puppies! At the time of this writing, Sally Anne is still fostering four of the pups. The rest are in foster homes around the state or have been adopted.

'Pretty Rough Shape'

The seven adults were all in "pretty rough shape," John reported after visiting them in the shelter. All were victims of years of neglect and would require extensive treatment for ear and skin infections, among other problems. They also showed signs of stress and depression.

But there is good news in this story! We're very proud to say that we were able to get ALL SEVEN adults into our program, and they are improving every day. Max, the youngest and father of all the pups, was the first to be adopted. The rest are still in foster care.

According to 5-year-old Woofie's fosters, Kirk & Michelle Martin, after only one week, Woofie began to sprout new hair growth, stopped itching and started initiating play with their other dogs. His raw paws – likely from living in feces – have started to heal, and his bald calluses – from years of living on a concrete floor – are softening. "His tail stays up and wagging now, all the time," Michelle reports. What a sight that must be!

One thing that stands out about the adults is their wonderful temperament. All are sweet-natured, laid back and just seem happy to be alive. Even after all they've been through, that golden retriever personality is still readily apparent! They will, without a doubt, make great companions for whoever is lucky enough to adopt them.

Thanks to All

The number of caring individuals who helped in this situation is staggering. Special thanks to John & Gail Pfohler, Sally Anne Rowland and Linc Hay from Sarasota, who coordinated with shelter workers Tammy, Rose and Debbie. Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt also worked tirelessly to place all the dogs in foster care. And heartfelt thanks to our fosters – the Pfohlers, Sally Anne, Suzanne Rider, Andrea Davis, the Martins, Dr. Kristine Sands, Susan King, Emily Roe, Erin Curry & John Meisner, Pat Chesley and Debbie Hoyle & Elaine Newnham. Thanks also to Ray & Sue Engle, who transported several dogs to their new foster homes.

There are also our application screening, call team and home visit volunteers, who have been extra busy over the past few weeks trying to process the increased amount of applications for puppies. Coordinators include Sandy Sumner, Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Harrell, Peggy Litt and Carol & Hal Avey.

And last but not least, thanks to the many people who have sent financial and other donations to help with the care and placement of the "Sarasota 23," including the Greyhound Racing League of Sarasota, which sent a substantial donation in

honor of Linc Hay.

The puppies are currently up for adoption, and the adults will be ready soon. We still need fosters for an abundance of other dogs needing to be rescued. If you can't foster, please consider

sending a small donation to help with the care of these pups and dogs. Needless to say this is a burden on our budget, caring for 23 extra dogs we hadn't planned on!

"Maybe we are a little crazy, but these dogs needed our help desperately. That's why GRRMF is here, and we just decided to have faith that the resources would come through. And with angels like John Pfohler leading the charge with such enthusiasm and love, it was easy to believe we could do it," Barbara said.

Monetary donations and PetsMart gift cards are welcome and much needed. Complete the form below and send with your donation, so we can ensure it is placed in the special fund set up for these dogs.



Puppy Love: GRRMF board members, from left, Barbara Durham, Marcia McGovern and Betty Wyatt snuggle with a few of the pups from the "Sarasota 23" gang at West Coast Coordinator Suzanne Rider's home.

I want to help the "Sarasota 23."

Enclosed is:

- ☐ Monetary donation of \$_____.
- ☐ PetsMart gift card for \$_____.

Fosters Needed!

- ☐ **I am interested in fostering.** If you have adopted from us in the past year, please e-mail info@grrmf.org or call (407) 332-2840, mailbox #3. If not, please submit an application – available on our Web site @ www.grrmf.org – and write FOSTER at the top.
- ☐ **I am interested in adopting.** Please submit an application – available on Web site or by calling (407) 332-2840, mailbox #1.

Send donations to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733. We can also accept donations by credit card via PAYPAL – www.paypal.com. Our ID for payment is info@grrmf.org

All donations are tax-deductible.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

... Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Harrell and Peggy Litt

by Andrea Davis, GRRMF Volunteer

All rescued goldens have GRRMF volunteers to thank for their new loving homes, but three in particular make the adoption process run extra smooth. Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Harrell and Peggy Litt are part of a team who screen applications and coordinate home visits, giving our goldens the opportunity for a new "leash" on life.

With some 800 applications coming in each year, it's a big job.

"Having a consistent approach to screening applications is very important. Our adoption guidelines have been developed over 10 years, and we've tried to learn from everything we did wrong in the early days," says GRRMF President Barbara Durham. "The process is working, because we have very few dogs returned on an annual basis."

Since March, Call Team Manager Kathy Hendrickson has been responsible for coordinating follow-up telephone calls on applications that pass an initial screening performed by Applications Coordinator Sandy Sumner.

Kathy and her team of volunteers interview applicants for clarification on issues such as fencing and off-leash activities, among others. They also use this opportunity to educate potential new golden parents on safety, nutrition, the golden retriever breed and other issues. Based on the Call Team's observations, Sandy Sumner and the GRRMF Adoption Committee decide whether to put the application through for a home visit.

That's where Home Visit Coordinators Peggy Litt and Pam

Harrell come in. They coordinate a team of volunteers throughout the state to meet with potential families. This dynamic duo spends about 15 hours a week coordinating home visits, but it's worth every minute, Peggy says.

"I have never been affiliated with such a hard-working and focused group of people who work so tirelessly to help these dogs," she adds.

During educational days in the Ocala area, Pam and Peggy were approached by several people who knew about rescue, but had given up because the process took so long. While they firmly believed in GRRMF's adoption process, "we thought maybe we could help expedite it," Peggy says. "A lot of people grumble about things, but you really don't have any right to complain if you don't get involved. So we did."

Peggy and Pam share their home with three former GRRMF rescues - Cody, Murray and Alex.

Kathy, who lives in Vero Beach, has been involved in rescue for two years and spends about 10 hours a week volunteering. She says they are 10 of the most rewarding hours of her week. She became involved with rescue when she stumbled upon GRRMF's Web site while searching for information on including dogs in estate plans. As an estate-planning attorney, she has had to deal with estates of people who died and were not prepared. Today, Florida has a law that enables people to set up trusts for their animals. Kathy counsels her animal-loving clients to set up a trust, so they can ensure that the money they leave behind will be spent

on caring for their animals.

Like Pam & Peggy, Kathy is "ga-ga" about her goldens, Maggie and Phoebe. She says she felt right at home at her first volunteer meeting.

"I knew it was a good fit when I said 'My dogs are my children' and no one even looked at me funny!"

Editor's note: Some readers who have been with us over the years may remember the "old days," when one person reviewed all applications, made phone calls and adopted out dogs. Home visits were rare. But with our organization growing to encompass most of the state, GRRMF a few years ago began to adopt processes that are used by most major rescue organizations across the country. We are proud to have such reliable and dedicated volunteers such as Kathy, Pam and Peggy involved in our organization. Without them and the volunteers who make up their teams, hundreds of goldens would be euthanized at shelters or die from neglect or abuse. We are more grateful for all our volunteers than you could ever know.



Family Time: Pam Harrell, left, and Peggy Litt enjoy some quality time with their goldens, Alex, Cody, & Murray.



Alex: 'Little Body, Big Heart'

by Carol McKee

For as long as I live, I'll never forget my first glimpse of Alex. His "home" was a filthy, dilapidated bungalow in a known Lake County crack cocaine neighborhood. Even worse was the yard he was forced to live in. I use the term "yard" loosely – there wasn't a shred of vegetation, no shade, only mounds of sooty, black dirt.



But I forgot all about the home or its inhabitants when I saw that sad face staring out at me from behind the sagging and rusty wire pen. Those deep brown eyes penetrated my soul. It was only later that I would shed a few tears thinking about his past – all those years of hardship and neglect. It still brings a tear to my eye.

As I approached and called gently to him, I was rewarded with an ever-so-slight wag of the tail. Eventually, after some coaxing, he made his way toward me and sniffed my hand. Hallelujah, I thought, as the tail began to wag. He does have some life left in him!

Alex was so terrified, my husband had to carry him through the house to the car. His "owner" told me he'd had Alex since he was a pup, but he had no idea who the dog's veterinarian was, or when he'd last had his shots. When we left, the owner never said goodbye, didn't pat his dog on the head, nothing. After all those loyal years! It made me want to throw up.

As the story goes, the family was moving the next day, and the dog wasn't going. I imagine if we wouldn't have picked him up, Alex likely would have been left there, trapped in that nasty yard, or set free to scrounge the neighborhood on his own. It was obvious the man cared nothing about him.

Uncovering the Golden

After a couple of shampoos, Alex's pretty cream coloring began to show through. Another, more important thing that became readily apparent was that this dog was a wonderful example of the golden characteristics we all know and love. He smiled, and relished every bit of the attention he received from my husband and me. What a sweetie!

Alex's list of ailments was long – unneutered, heart-worm-positive, parasites, ticks, a problem ear from a suspected previous injury, coarse and dry coat, skin lesions and malnutrition. But thanks to fosters, Rick & Cindy Owens, Alex has truly found a new lease on life. He has become more confident in his new surroundings, and they tell me his tail

wags from the moment he gets up until he goes to sleep. He walks with a bounce and even has begun fetching balls.

"We call him 'Little Big Dog' – little body, big heart," Cindy says. Alex was only 45 pounds, but with some appetite stimulants and good nutrition, he's gaining some ground. "He is a sweet, Velcro dog who just wants someone to love him," she adds.

Alex has gone from sickly to healthy, from sad to happy – something that could never have happened without GRRMF's generous donors and devoted fosters. Sadly, if a foster had not been found, we would have had to turn Alex away. The extensive medical care he required meant he would not be eligible for adoption for several months. Long-term boarding would have been too expensive. Hopefully, our next "Alex" will have the benefit of a freestanding facility, where he can receive the care he needs without overtaxing our foster network.

Next Steps

Was it worth it? You be the judge. Gaze into those big dark eyes, and ask yourself if you could have turned him away. Picture him in his original surroundings and ask yourself if you could have left him there. I couldn't have.

Still not sure? Then, I'll tell you. I just saw Alex again last month. I knew him instantly from a sea of goldens at a GRRMF event. What struck me was how happy he looks now. His face, always gentle, practically beams at all the attention he gets, yet his demeanor is calm and peaceful. I fell in love with him all over again. He is still very small. But he'll be just the right size for someone who can't handle a big, beastly, "in-your-face" golden, someone who is looking for a low-maintenance, "just pet me and I'll be happy" dog, someone who appreciates the golden traits of gentleness, easygoing attitude and total devotion to his human.

Now, for Alex's future ... Could you handle a smiling, laid-back, easily entertained, always lovable, constant companion in your life? ♥

Hearts of Gold

by Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt

This summer has been the most challenging so far for rescue. Our needs are greater than they have ever been, and yet we have been blessed with even more people stepping up to assist with their time and money. Your efforts mean more than I can ever tell you.

In addition to the "Sarasota 23" featured on the cover of this newsletter, we admitted many more needy dogs during the same time period, even though we were already full and our resources nearly depleted. For example:

Charlene was pitifully shy when she came to rescue at age 7. PetsMart called when she was turned in at the store. They warned us that they had never seen ears so bad – pus was literally running out. I can't imagine how painful that must have been for her! And that was only one of her many health problems. But after a two-month course of antibiotics for the ear infection, plus heartworm treatment, Charlene is a different dog today. Her foster mom, Susan Gallagher, has done a beautiful job with this sweet girl, and she is now ready to go to her forever home.

Ernie is another sad story. He was found inside a building eating cat food. How he got inside is anyone's guess, but it was obvious he had been abandoned. A worker found him and rescue was called. Ernie was skinny and heartworm-positive. But Dr. Christine Sands and her staff took care of that. While in foster care with them, Ernie gained weight, and his fantastic personality began to shine. He now is in foster care with Dionis Smith, where he is getting along fabulously with the other golden, Angel.

Mikie decided to join GRRMF volunteer Barbara Gurlick while she was out for a walk on her property in Ocala. She found his owner, who agreed to sign him over to rescue. Sadly, Mike was diagnosed with hip dysplasia and had to undergo surgery. But that's all behind him now – Mike is a handsome boy with a beautiful head and soft, expressive eyes. He will probably never again be troubled by hip pain or immobility. Even better, he loves nothing more than to cuddle.

Daphne and **Winnie** were taken to a humane society. A shelter worker called us, saying the facility was at capacity and the dogs were going to be euthanized the next day unless we took them. What choice did we have? Of course, we found room. Our reward: two very lovely dogs who will provide some lucky person with a double dose of golden love.

Barnum and **Bailey** also came from a shelter. Their former owner said he was too busy for them, and it showed. They were matted from head to toe. Sally Anne Rowland and John & Gail Pfohler put their wonderful grooming skills to work and were surprised to uncover a pair of potential show dogs. When placed on the grooming table, they "stacked" just like a couple of pros. We're happy to report that both have been placed in wonderful homes.

Seven-year-old **Orian** was a resident of Polk County Animal Services when his time was up. Amy Bennett deserves the credit for saving his life. She didn't hesitate to pick him up when I called, desperate for a foster. I am especially grateful to Amy, because I was at the end of my rope... I had absolutely nowhere to put him.

Kacy was abused by a teenager, who celebrated the Fourth of July by throwing firecrackers at him. Kacy was tied to a stake and could not escape. His burns have healed, but he is scarred emotionally. His foster, Jean Dixon, has done wonders helping Kacy overcome his fears.

A 12-year-old came from an animal shelter pencil-thin with a tumor the size of a golf ball on his tongue. He was fostered and loved by Sally Anne Rowland. Please remember to check your dog's mouth monthly. We are seeing an increasing amount of mouth tumors in our goldens.

And then there's **Tasha**. A nice lady called about this girl, age 7-10 years. Tasha had been locked in a shed for more than a year and, according to the caller, her skin was "falling off." The owner agreed to give the dog up to the neighbor, but not to a rescue organization, because she feared prosecution. While we'd love for all animal abusers to be prosecuted, we didn't hesitate. We picked Tasha up the next day, no questions asked. At times like this, we must focus on our mission – to save these precious goldens. Our veterinarian provided a long list of health problems. Tasha's extreme hair loss was caused by flea allergies, and she had angry infections in the eyes and ears. All of this can be fixed, and we're looking forward to a bright future for this wonderful girl. Tasha has a "heart of gold" and can't get enough affection. We're certain that someone will come along who is excited about making up lost time with Tasha. I'll be looking for someone really special for this survivor.

Of course, we have to mention the seven adults from our "Sarasota 23." They all are in terrible condition, but the females are the worst. For example, poor **Roscoe** refused to

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Hearts of Gold, continued

eat and carried a fever of 104 degrees. But let's take heart: All seven are on antibiotics to fight their infections and supplements to help their skin and coats. By the time you read this, I expect all to be well on the road to recovery. And what better reward could there be than that?

People often say to me, "If only these dogs could talk." Well, I want to reassure you that they absolutely do talk – they just don't have the luxury of speaking our language! They have ways of communicating with us. Sometimes it's by gazing into our eyes with a look of total adoration. They place their rear ends under our hands for a scratch or roll over for a belly rub. Like a person, some vocalize their emotions with yips or barks. It's easy to tell when a golden wants to cuddle, right? There, he is talking to you! To me, this is just as good as carrying on a conversation in English. I relish every look and nudge from my goldens.

One thing I also know for certain is that this is not only their way of satisfying their needs, but of showing their grati-

tude. That's right, your golden is saying "thank you" for your love and care, and also for all his canine brothers and sisters who have been saved through your efforts of time and money. And now, I'd like to say a few words to our canine family members, from all of us in rescue:

"YOU ARE VERY WELCOME!"

Morley said, "No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as the dog does." Remember to listen to your dog, open up your heart and mind to what he or she is trying to tell you. And give a big hug from me, will you?

– Betty
goldensunbird@earthlink.net
(407) 332-2840, mailbox #3

GRRMF Revamps Adoption Manual

As each golden is adopted from GRRMF, we provide all new owners with a variety of educational materials to help them care for their new golden. We're excited to report that we have just revised and expanded our adoption manual, which has resulted in a tremendous amount of additional breed-specific information on nutrition, collars and leashes, fences, training, common medical conditions such as hot spots and allergies, introducing a new dog to existing pets and children and even preparing your dog for the arrival of a new baby.

Compiled by a panel of experts and longtime golden retriever fans, this 26-page manual is a terrific resource for ALL golden retriever owners. If you're interested in receiving a copy, we are offering them for a small charge to offset the cost of printing and postage. Return this form, or simply send a note with your payment of \$6.50.

Yes, please send me a copy of GRRMF's Guide to Caring for a Golden Retriever. I have enclosed a check for \$6.50 to cover printing and postage:

Name: _____

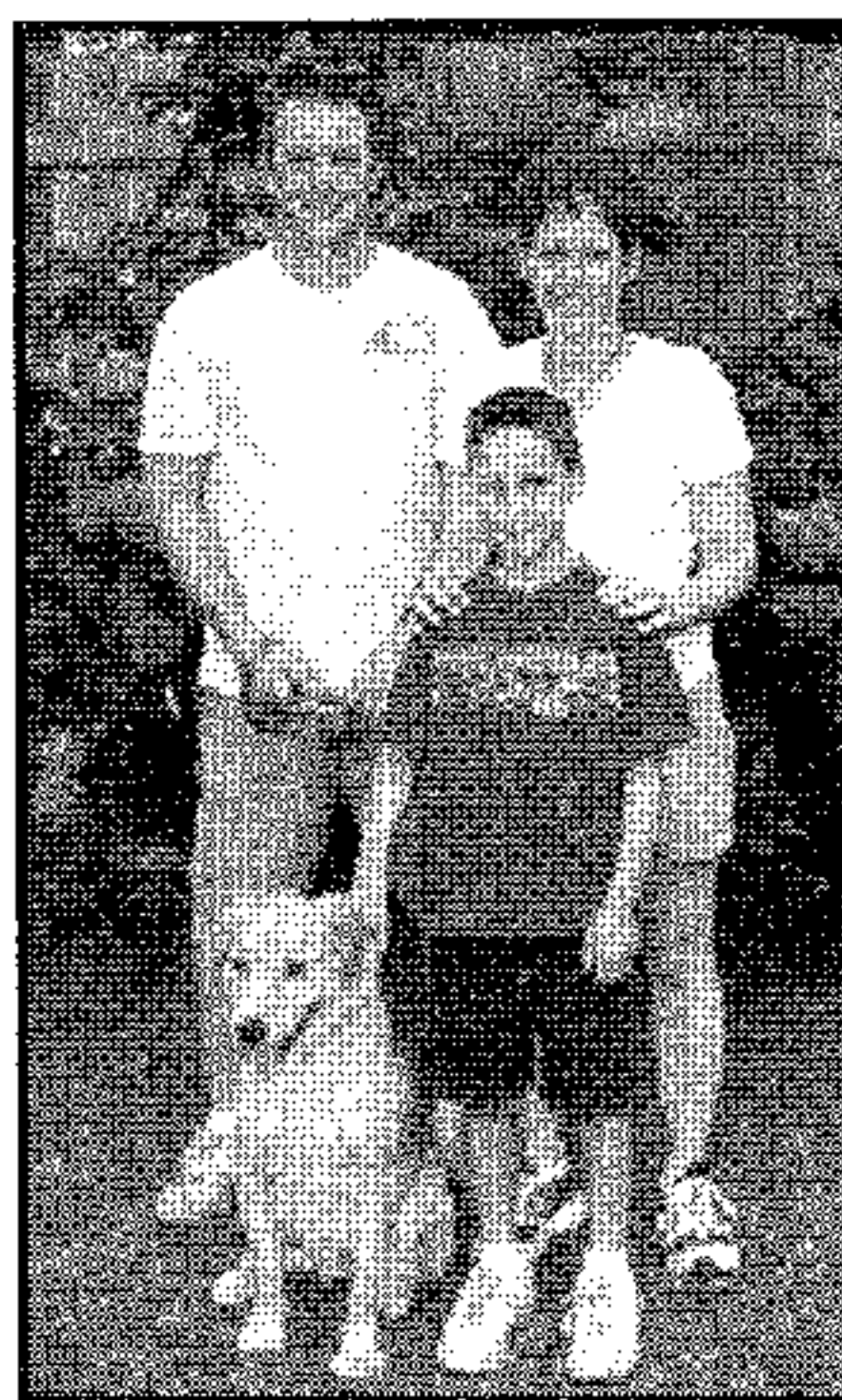
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

recent adoptions . . .

Brooksie's story is kind of sad. She was turned into Manatee Animal Services, where she was one of the lucky ones who managed to get a home. Not for long, though ... she was returned within a week because the people said she kept wanting to come into the house! No problem, she was adopted out again. This time, she lasted 3 weeks. John & Gail Pfohler got a call from a shelter worker who said, "Brooksie needs a 'golden retriever rescue home,' not a shelter home." John & Gail picked her up the next day. They found that Brooksie is eager to please and gets along with all other animals. She was quickly housetrained and was a natural for obedience training, even learning hand signals! She is also very cute and petite – hard to resist. John & Gail knew Brooksie needed a forever home that would provide two primary things: lots of love and plenty of play activities. Along came Bill & Lorraine S. and their two children, who eagerly welcomed Brooksie into their home and hearts. Brooksie has gotten everything she's ever wanted ... a family willing to give her lots of attention and all the love she can handle!

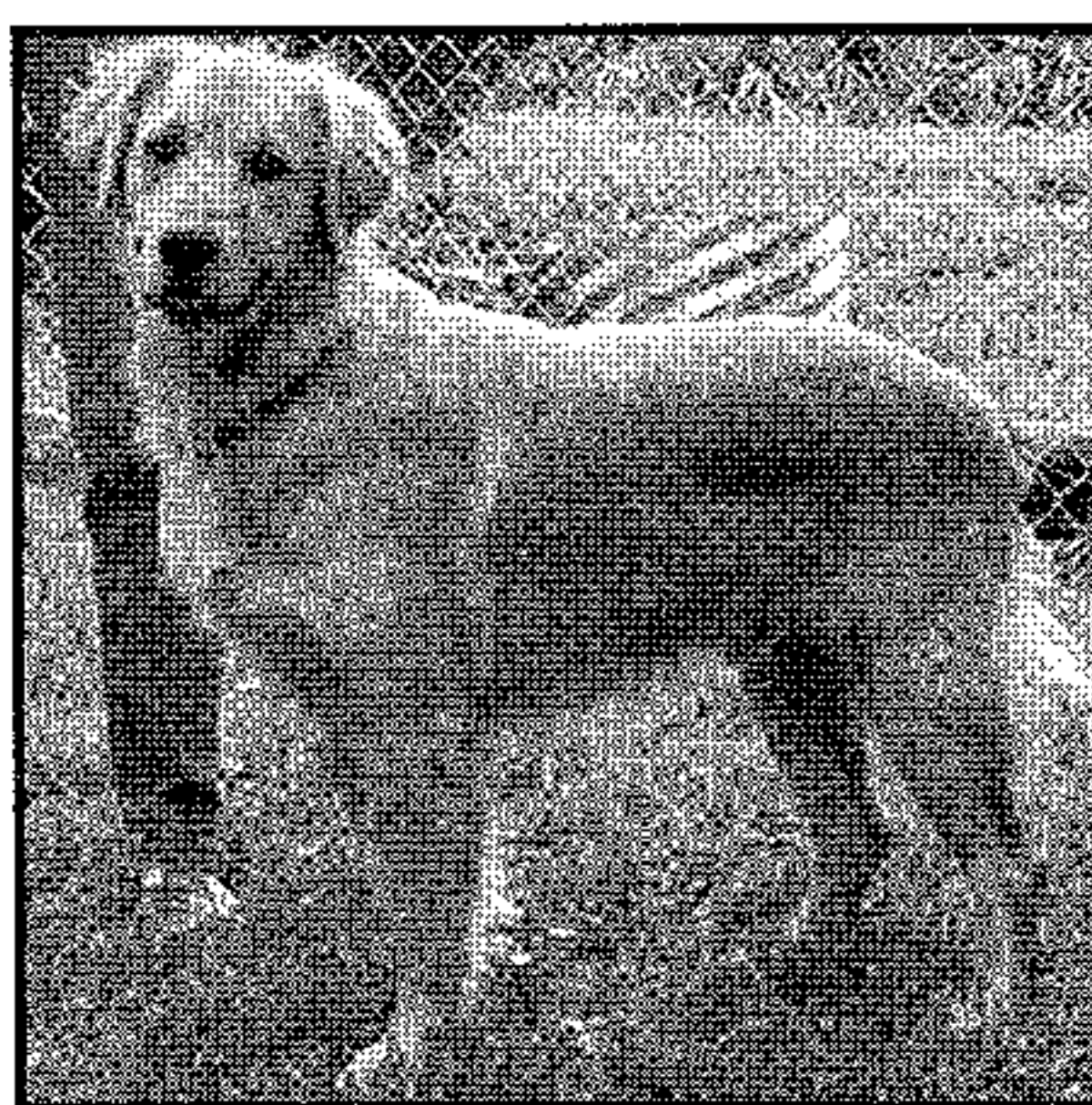


Brooksie and her new family

Cedar, a very sweet and submissive boy, was adopted by Sam & Pat E. They just knew he would fit right in with their family after the loss of their German shepherd to old age. Cedar's new flat-coat retriever "brother" just loves him.

Chip, a beautiful 7-month-old, moved right into Geniece & James W's hearts. He keeps them entertained with his puppy curiosity and energy.

After being hit by a car and receiving no veterinary care, **Zorbo's** owner took him to work and offered to give him away to anyone who wanted him. A caring person called rescue, and we came to Zorbo's aid. The veterinarian told us the shattered bone had calcified at the joint, and nothing could be done to regain mobility to the elbow. But Zorbo has surprised everyone, including the vet, with his ability to compensate for his disability. His favorite activity is to chase tennis balls in the yard. Coming in a close second is swimming in the pool with his new humans, Ron & Betty T., which also helps the healing process. They can't believe what a bright and loving boy he is.



Zorbo

Lewis and his sibling were present when their owner committed suicide. Lewis would not leave his owner's side. Both dogs ended up with GRRMF, and both bore the emotional scars of watching their owner die a grisly death. Suzanne N. & Darrin M. are scientists who had just returned from an assignment outside the U.S. They wanted to foster a dog until they knew for sure whether they'd be staying in the country. They took Lewis into their home, and the family quickly bonded. Once Suzanne & Darrin determined they were staying, they made it clear that Lewis wasn't going anywhere. Lewis, a beautiful blonde boy, is very happy now, and loves playing Frisbee with his new humans.

Pretty Mercedes was found running around a Publix parking lot. After the removal of many ticks and a few good meals, she settled into her bed and slept soundly for 12 hours. Eric P. came to meet her and knew she was the dog for him when she put her head on his knee and gazed lovingly into his eyes.

Anna and **Andy** were rescued from a shelter in Ocala as small puppies. They were found tied to a flagpole in front of the shelter on a cold winter morning, and the workers thought they had frostbite. Surprise! They had mange. These sweet-as-sugar honorary goldens were fostered by Melanie & Ken W., who worked tirelessly to help the dogs regain their health. Many kudos to this family for their dedication and commitment to this pair. They are so dedicated, in fact, that they decided to make the arrangement permanent. Anna & Andy share their forever home with four other dogs, one a former GRRMF rescue.

Four-year-old **Cooper** and 3-year-old **Ariel** are quite a dynamic duo. Whether sleeping or playing, you never see one without the other. They have a unique double-play combination technique for ball playing – with Ariel catching the balls and Cooper in charge of bringing them back. This couple is well-behaved, obey commands and get along great with other dogs. Dawn B. was looking for a pair of goldens who could provide double the fun, and she got them with Ariel (now **Foris**) and Cooper (now **Kendall**). The adoration is mutual. They love their new home with toys, a swimming pool and plenty of love from their new mom.



Ariel/Foris and Cooper/Kendall with their new family

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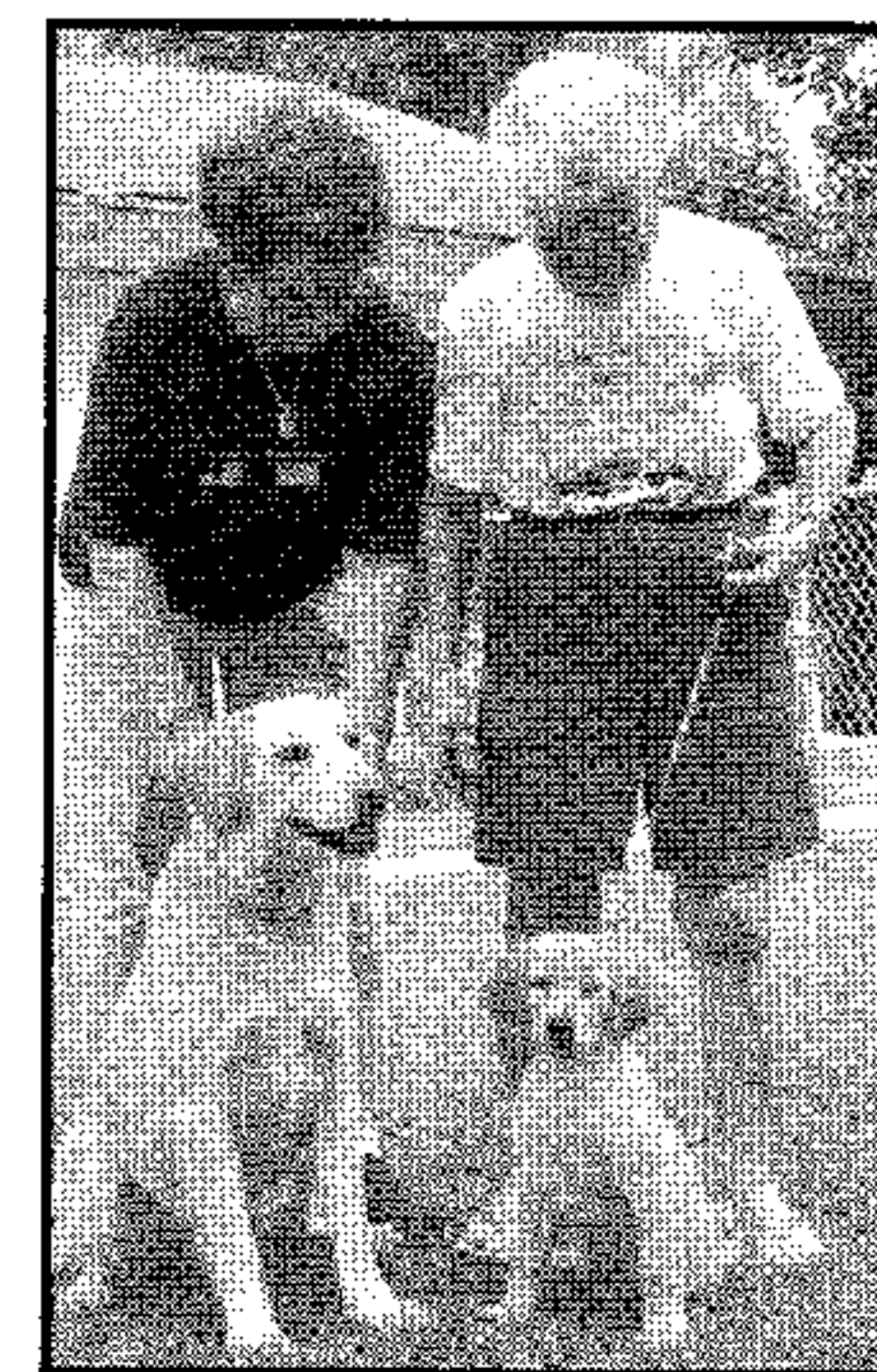
Recent Adoptions, continued

Six-month-old **Erica** was given up by someone who had no time for her. She was shy and afraid of most objects. She had a foster brother who was very bold and taught her how to walk up to anything. She overcame her shyness and was adopted by Ann and Jeff H. and their two canine family members, Maxine and Sammy. They think she is the most loving and cuddly girl they could have ever hoped for.



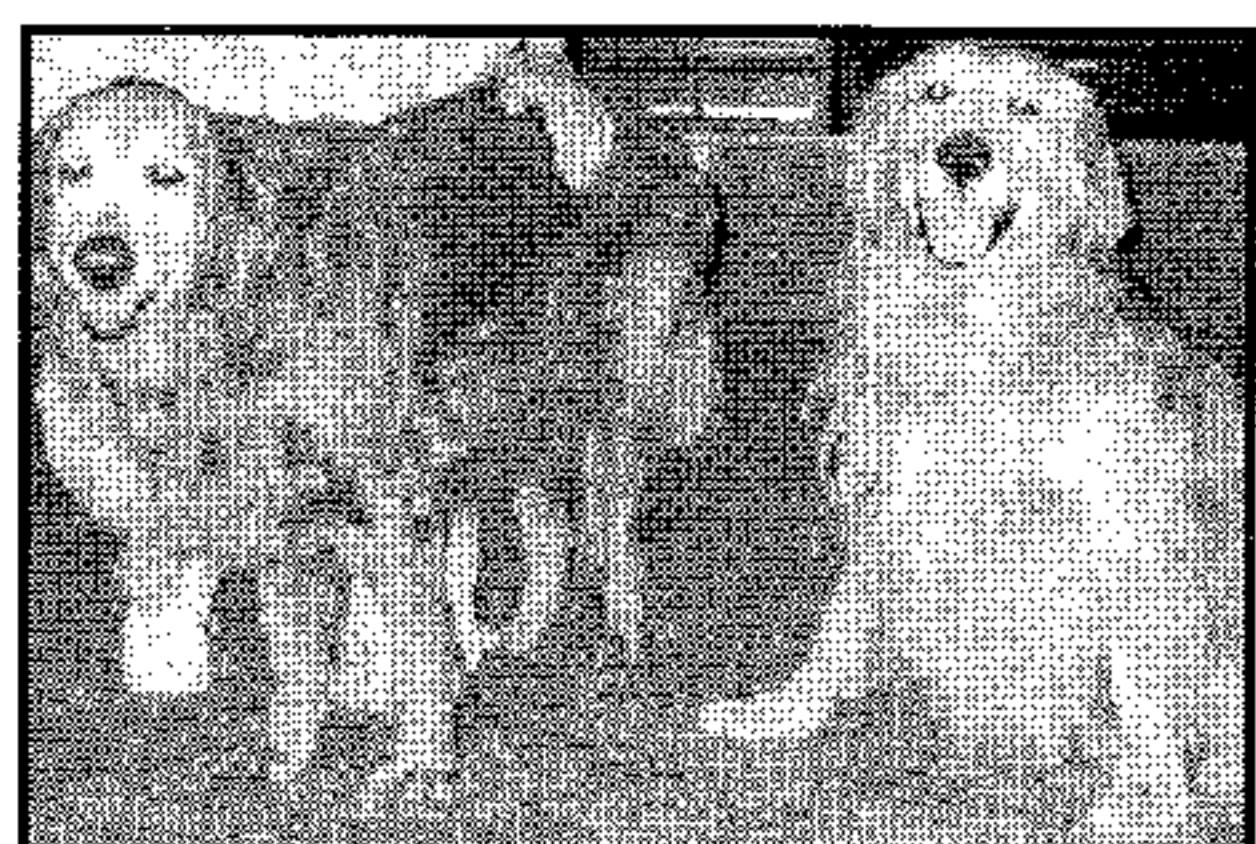
Erica with her new family

Whoopie, one of our "Sarasota 23" puppies, was adopted by Colleen and Jane of Bradenton as a playmate for former rescue **Cory**. They went to pick out a puppy, but Whoopie picked them. Whoopie, now known as **Joeleen**, can look forward to lots of love, walks and playing in the yard with her three canine brothers, Cory, Jake and Fargo, as well as constant entertainment with their array of kitties. Joeleen will start obedience classes in a few months.



Whoopie/Joeleen with her new family

Barnum was rescued from a life living on a porch with his pal, **Bailey**. Both were full of matts, but with a good grooming by John & Gail Pfohler and Sally Anne Rowland, their show dog genes began to shine through. Charlie and Barb W. quickly snapped up Barnum, and he is off to live a wonderful life filled with walks, car rides and lots of love for them and their senior dog, Goldie.



Barnum & Goldie

Max was one of the "Sarasota 23" and father to all the puppies. Hardly more than a puppy himself at 15 months, Max was fostered by John and Erin in Palmetto. It wasn't long before Max was adopted by Butch and Joan M., their children, Katlyn and Sam, and Cider. When asked recently how Max was doing with his crate training, Joan sheepishly replied that he wasn't spending nights in the crate. Seems Max would rather sleep in the bed with Sam!



Max with his new family



Bailey and his new family

Al and Cerita P. came to look at Bailey and left saying they might want to look at other dogs as Bailey was the first one they had looked at. Not five minutes passed before they called saying they had to have him! When a follow-up call was made a few days after adoption, Al asked if we had any idea that Bailey was the best dog on the planet. Of course we knew that!

Ike was found wandering the streets with his brother. His prior owner had attached a note to the other dog's collar stating, "This was my owner's last resort." Lucky for Ike, a concerned citizen picked him and his brother up off the streets. He was fostered by Charlette B. and adopted by Janet D. and her family. Ike is a ball of fire when the ball comes out for playtime.



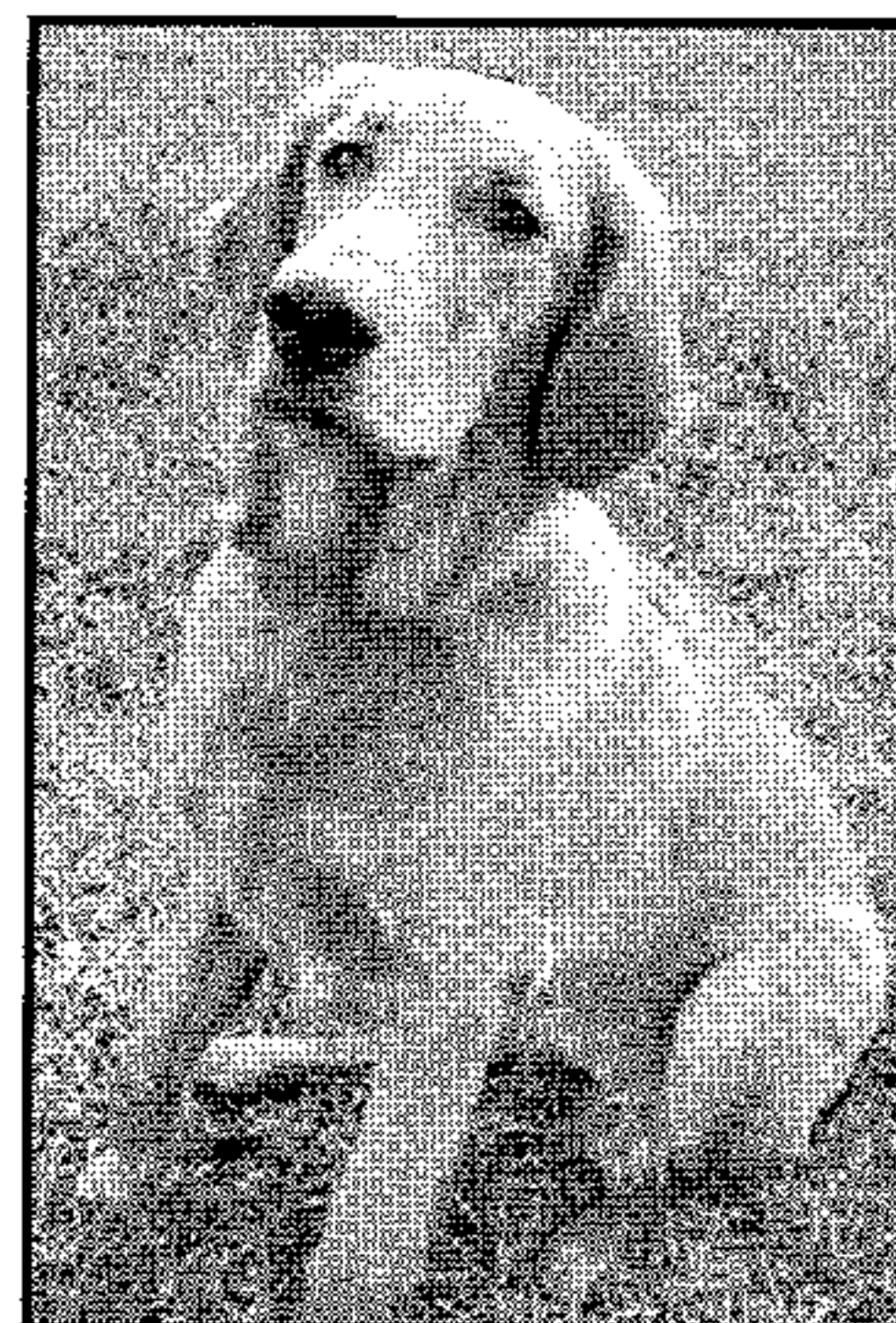
Ike

Java, purchased from a pet store by a young student, spent more than 12 hours a day in a crate... no life for a fun-loving 1-year-old golden girl. A well-meaning friend took Java as a playmate for her children but they were afraid of the dog, so she called rescue. After a brief stay in foster care, Java found her forever home with the Grace & Rick S. and now spends her days playing, running and doing the things all young goldens love with her new best pal, Beauregard, another young golden.



Java and her new family

Daisy was turned back in because her owners said she wasn't a very smart dog and they weren't able to establish a bond with her. Well, someone wasn't very smart, but it wasn't Daisy! She is a smart cookie who loves people and life. Daisy coming back to rescue was a blessing for Carla and John O. She has already bonded with her new family and is living a great life where she is appreciated and adored. She shares her new home with a golden named Casey. The two of them were made for each other ... they look exactly alike.

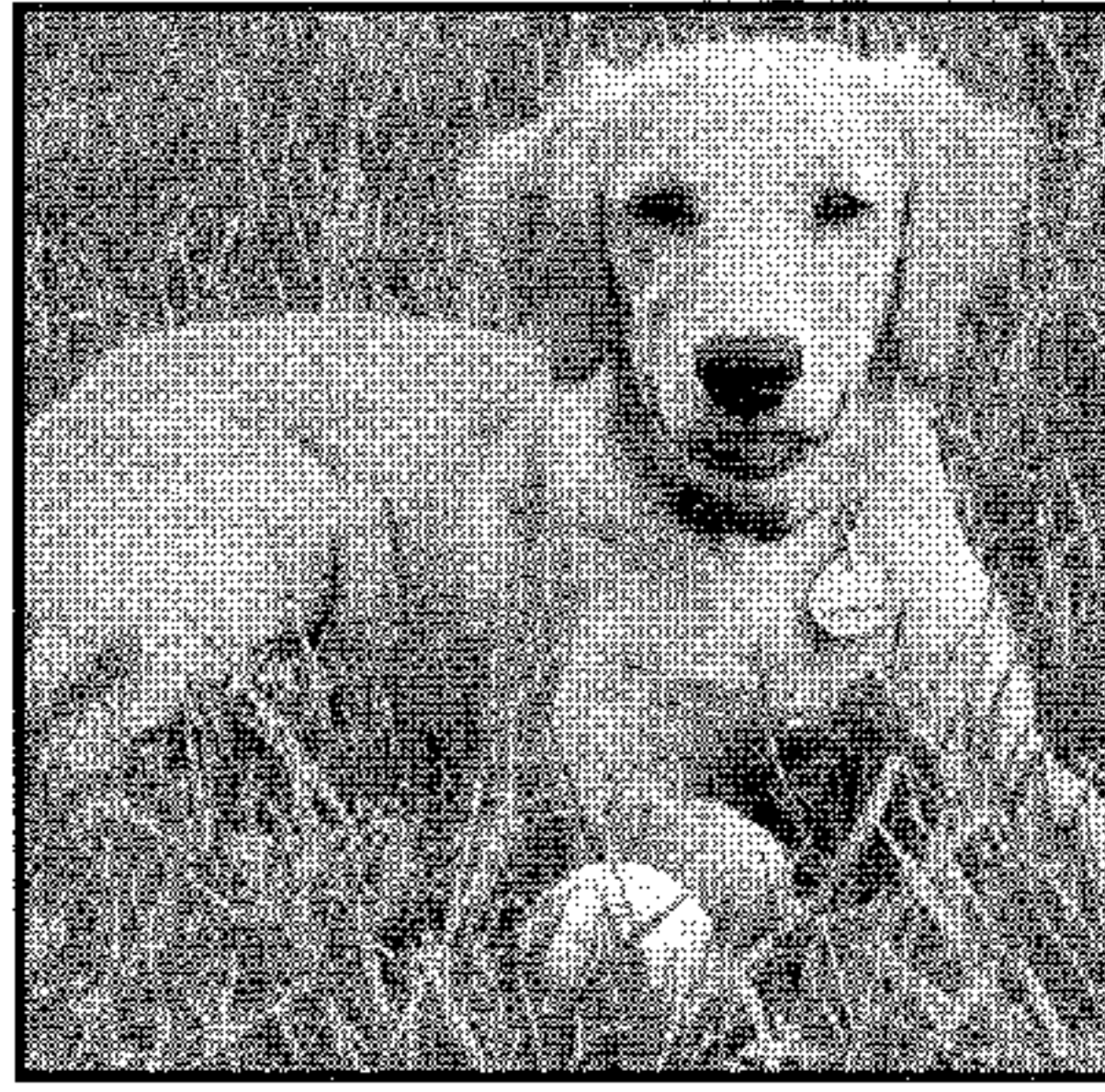
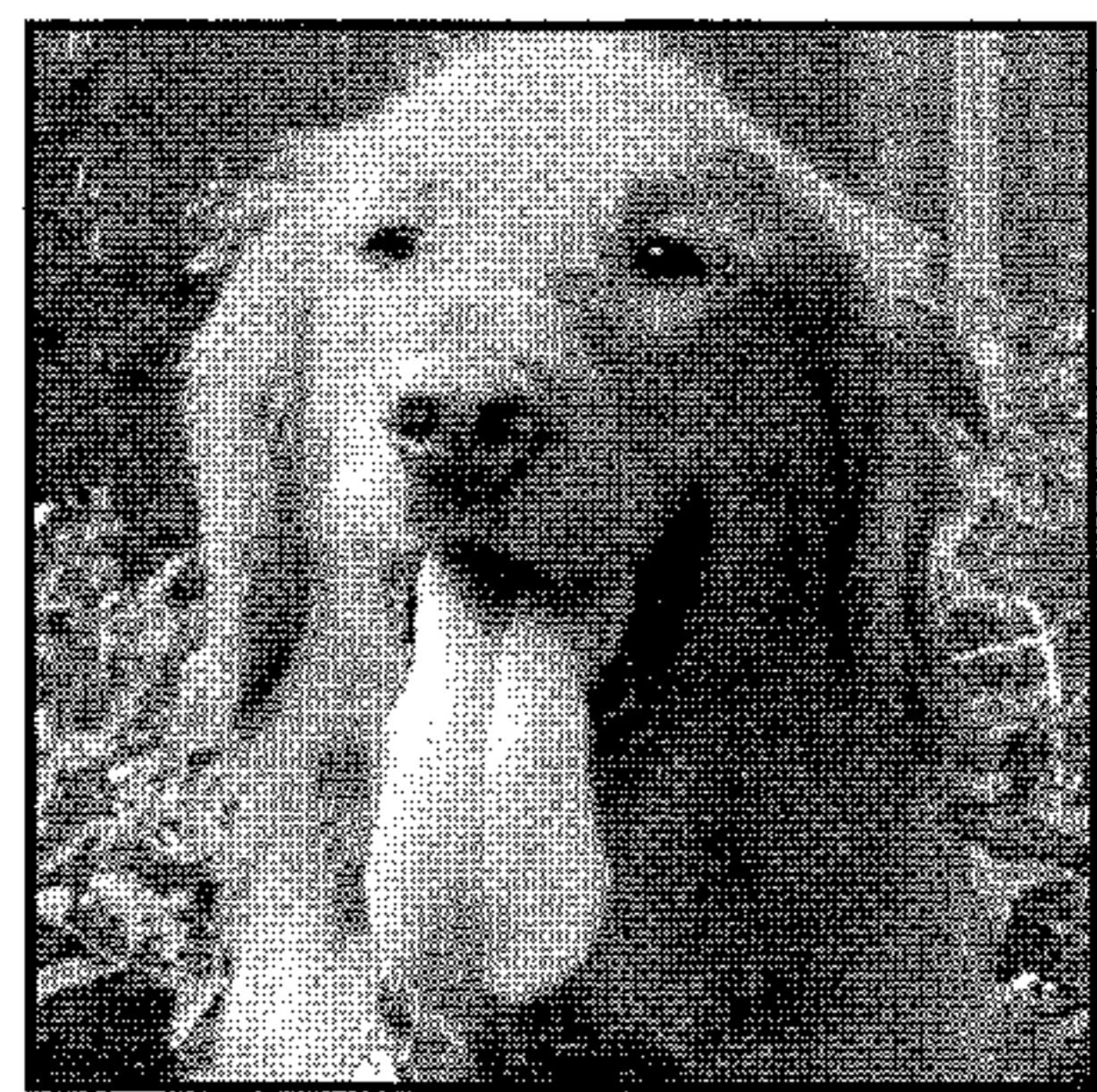


Daisy

Continued next page

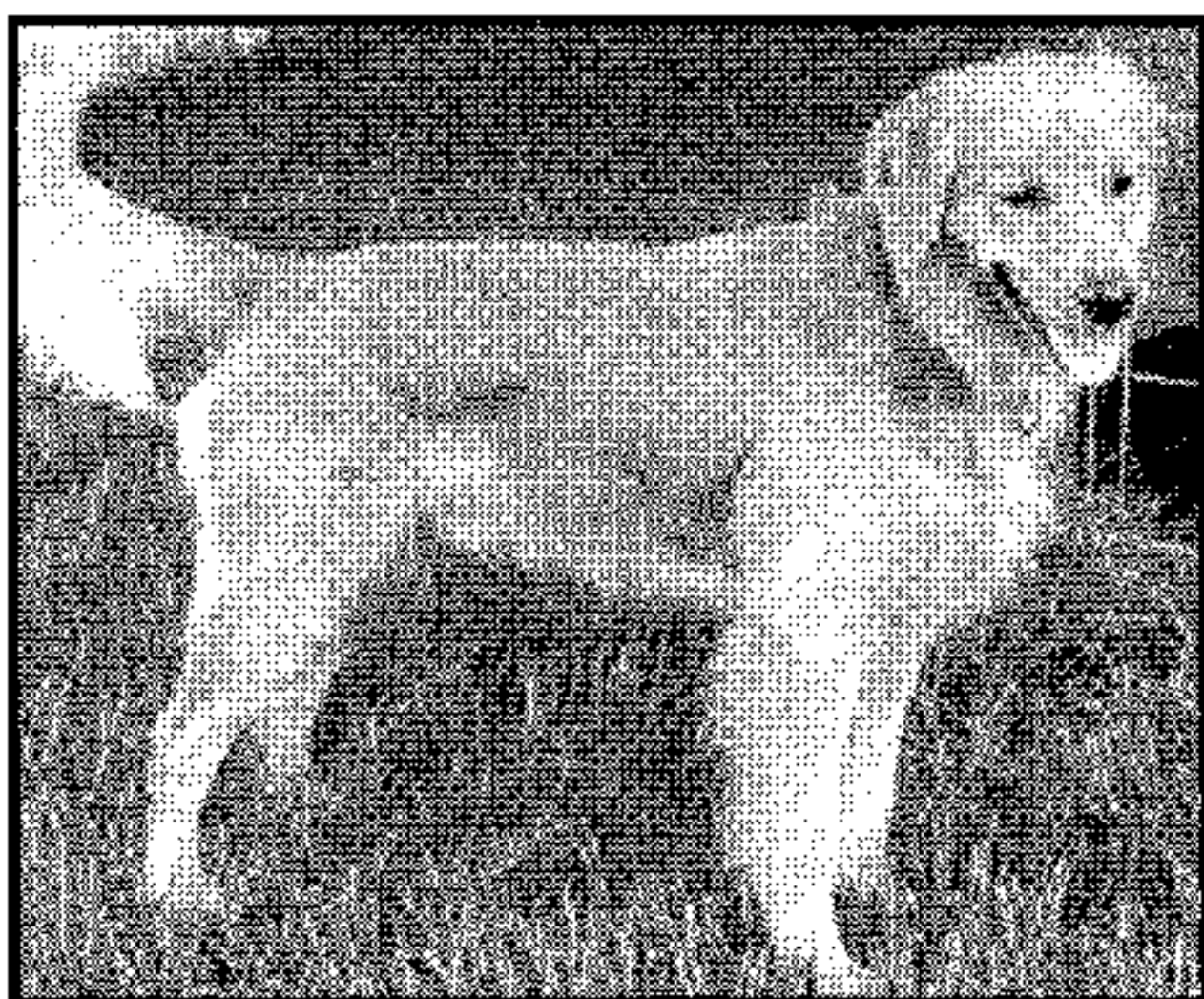
Recent Adoptions, continued

At 4 months old, **June** was dumped at a local area notorious for stray animals. She was fostered by Suzanne and Tony R. and adopted by Kathleen L. June, now named **Kelly**, participates in education days at PetsMart and has started obedience class. She shares her new home with another golden retriever sibling.

*June/Kelly**Dallas/Fred*

When **Dallas'** human family got too big, he was sent to live in the garage. After four months in a dark, flea-infested garage, GRRMF stepped in. Dallas was overweight and needed some good food and supplements to help his coat and skin heal from his former neglect. He was fostered by Charlette B., who did a wonderful job helping Dallas drop 25 pounds and get in

shape. Now a trim 80 pounds and sporting a gorgeous, flowing, red coat, he found his forever home with the Parkers. His new brother, **Barney**, a former rescue, has opened his home to Dallas, now called **Fred**.

*Loui*

Lively **Loui** was turned in by a caring citizen who rescued Loui from horrible living conditions. He was fostered by Cindy and Rick O. and adopted by Sheryl K. and family, who say that Loui is a great addition to their family.

Sandy was turned back in to rescue when she decided she wanted to be top dog in her new "pack." She was adopted by a new family who recently lost their senior dog. Sandy can now be "top dog" all she wants, as she is the only dog.

Ryan was found wandering in an area where people are known to dump dogs. He was emaciated and had an infection in his scrotum that had also spread down his back legs. With time and a lot of antibiotics, Ryan recovered. Ryan has a beautiful face and a personality to match.

*Ryan/Riley*

He was adopted by Jordan & Charlene G., who say he is so sweet they can hardly stand it. Ryan is now called **Riley** because, well, he's now living the "Life of Riley"!

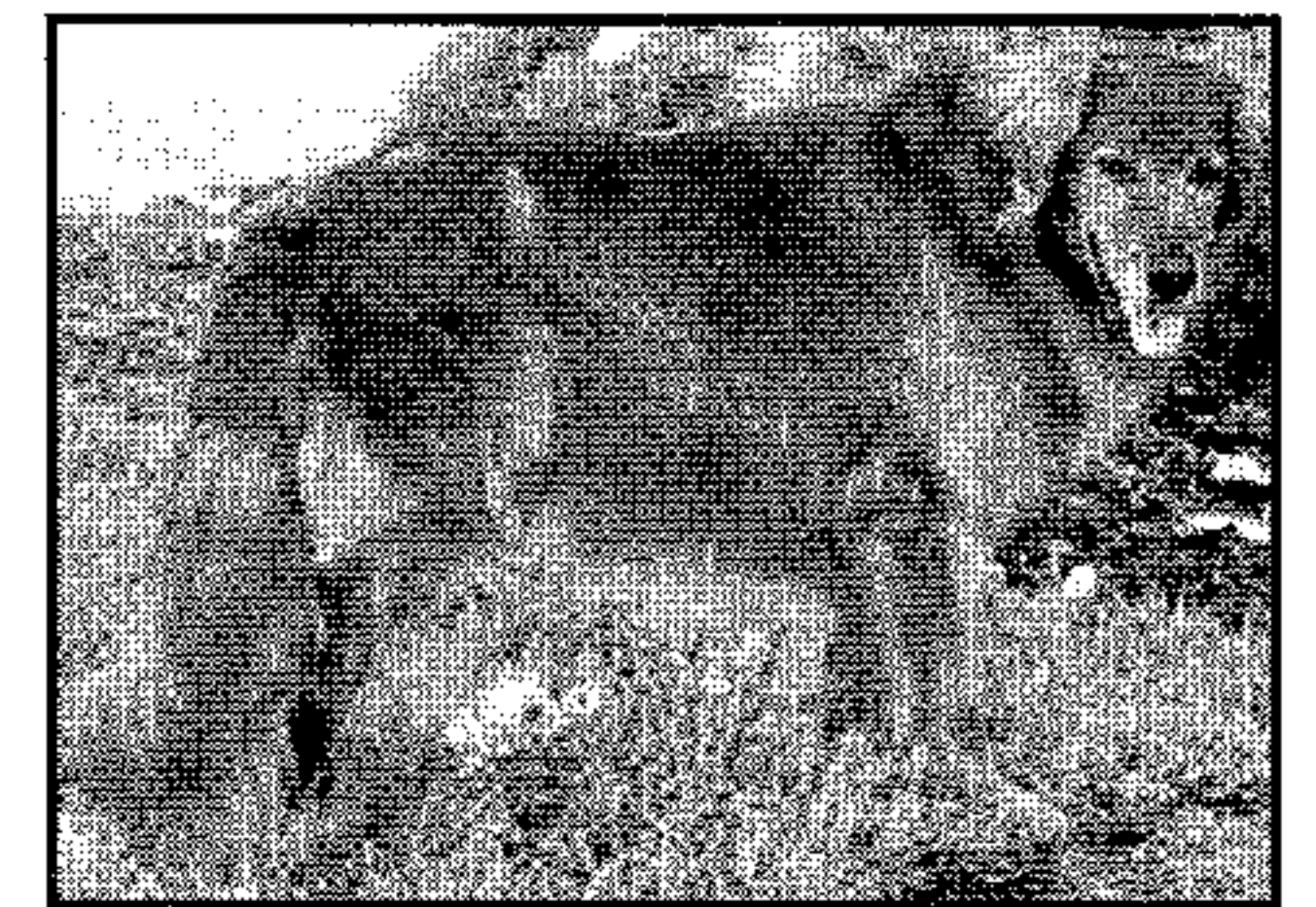
Jenna was relinquished when her family moved to an apartment. That was Mike & Kathy S.' gain. Jenna is a pretty girl who loves all living things. She rode off in their van sitting beside her new sister, former rescue **Elizabeth**, now called **Honey**.

*Jenna, left, with her new family and Honey*

Maple was a stray. The Good Samaritan who picked her up named her that, because she was "sweet as maple sugar." As it turned out, her name was **Daisy**. Her owners claimed her, and she was returned to her former home.

Murphy, a pretty little red girl, came to us from a shelter in Jacksonville. She was adopted and is very much loved by Ron & Sue A.

Millenium Jasper was turned in by his owner the day before the owner was moving out of state. He was delivered to his foster home chained up in the back of the man's pickup truck. At 10 years old, he sports a shiny red coat and behaves much younger than his years. MJ doesn't realize it, but he is awash in symbolism. First, he marks a special milestone for GRRMF – he is our 1,000th rescue! And, come to find out, he was brought to rescue on his new owner's birthday, so he can be considered as a belated birthday gift! Lisa C. also adopted MJ, now known simply as **Jasper**, on July 4th, a suitable adoption date for a dog who also symbolizes independence. Lisa and Jasper are working together to get him certified as her service dog.

*Millenium Jasper*

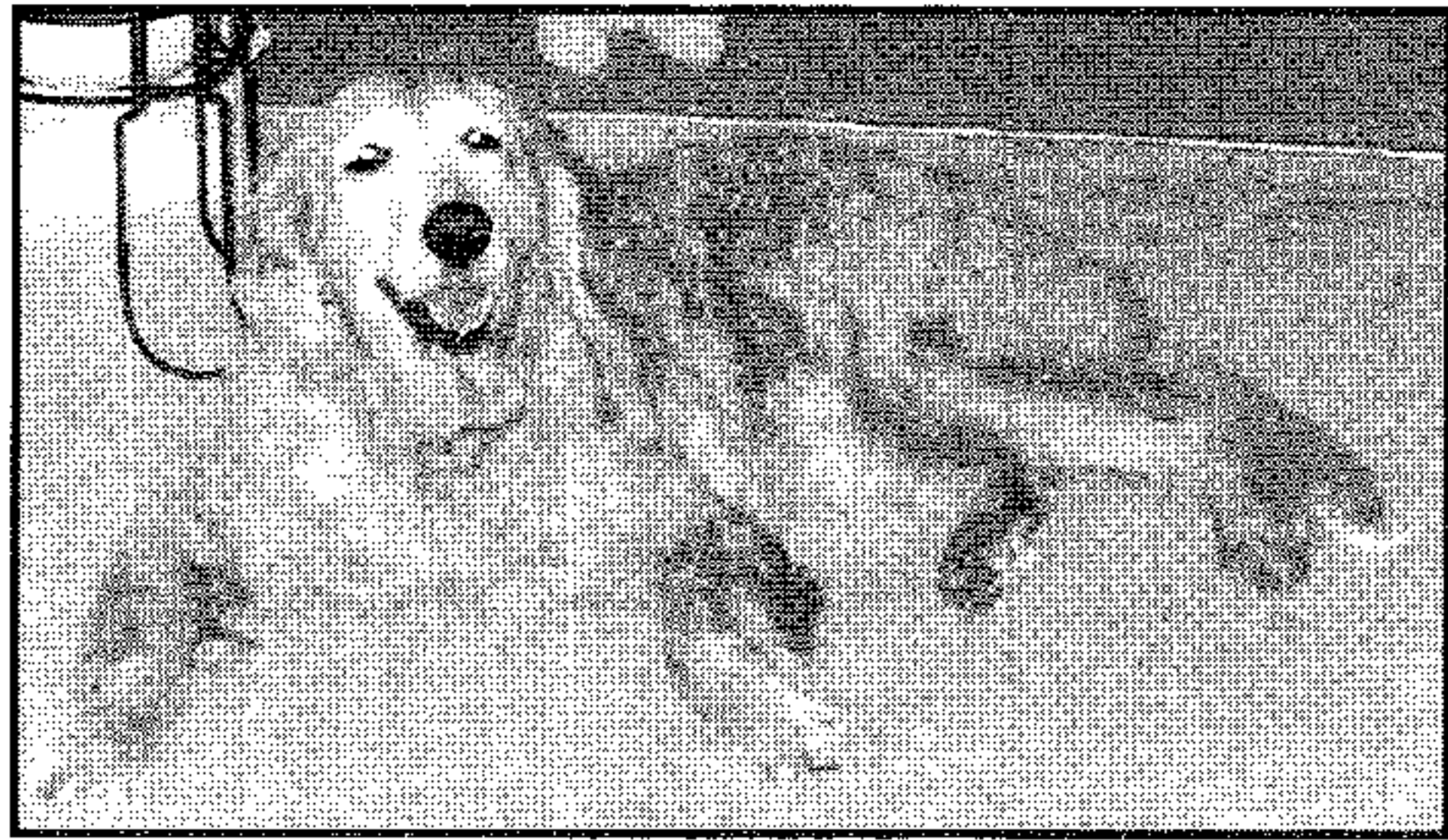
Madison, around 3 years old, was a stray, and when the owners did not come forward, GRRMF was called. Cindy Andrews agreed to foster this beautiful and sweet medium-colored golden, and he fit in so well with the family – including former rescue **Cooper** – that they decided to make it permanent. Madison spends his summers in the North Carolina mountains and winters in Central Florida.



the rainbow bridge

Sea Dog's Memory Lives On

In April 2002, we received a call from Betty about an older golden girl at the Levy County shelter. I drove over as fast as I could, and found **Annie** sitting in a pen looking pretty ragged but smiling from ear to ear. I was able to see beyond



Jody

the matted fur, long toenails and gunky ears that this one was a keeper. It took no coaxing for **Annie** – renamed **Jody** – to jump into the back of my car.

A quick stop at PetsMart in

Gainesville to get a collar and some new toys (and a free ear cleaning!), and we were on our way home. Everyone who met Jody fell in love with her, especially our cats, Gidget and Charles. Gidget took it upon herself to become Jody's official paw licker and would find any excuse to rub under her chin. Her nickname became "Jody Baloney," as she was full of fun. Jody loved going out on the boat so much that we named our boat after her. Early in August, Jody started losing weight and vomiting. Her veterinarian, Dr. Tamara White, spent days trying to get to the bottom of her illness. Finally, she located a fist-sized mass on Jody's kidney. Darling Jody had done her very best to hide her cancer from us so we were able to have as much time with her as we could. While at the vet, Jody became the office dog. It was nothing for us to walk in to visit her, only to find her sacked out behind the counter or sleeping in front of the door. We released Jody from her illness on August 13. Although we had her for four short months, we now have a lifetime of memories. She is dearly missed by all her knew her.

– *Lovingly submitted by Nancy & Dwight Srock*

In Memory of Redford

We adopted Redford when he was approximately 8 1/2 yrs old. He was abandoned in a rescue volunteer's front yard. He had just recovered from the removal of a cancerous tumor in his left hind leg when we met him at Betty Wyatt's house. He actually adopted us instead of the other way around. He was true old gold and loved everyone including the cats next door. He used to dance around them trying to get them to run. They never did – they knew he was a pushover. Redford

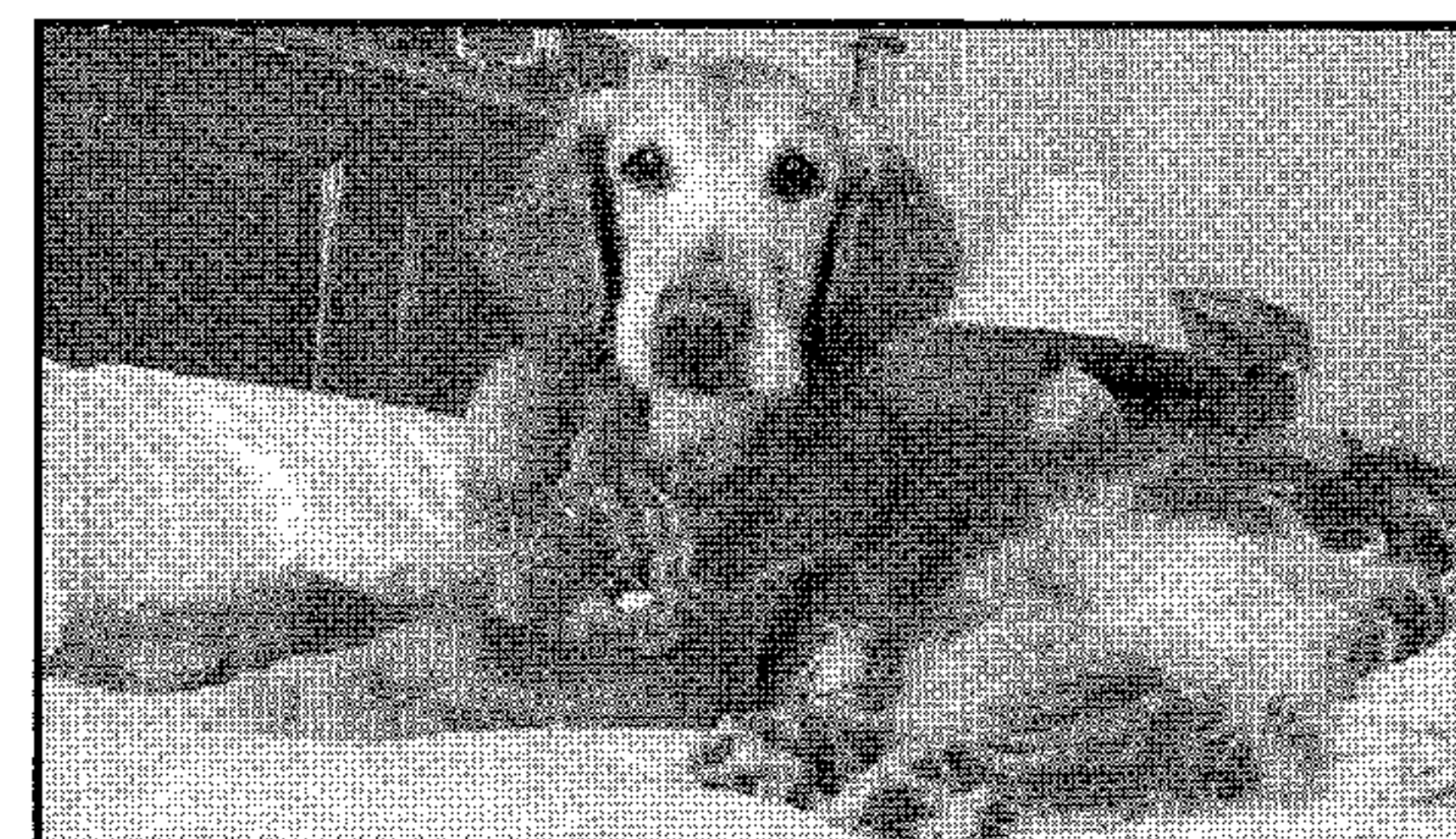
was wonderful and gentle with our young grandchildren and also with older people at the nursing home we visited near the house. We had him for 2 1/2 years when he was diagnosed with lymphoma and given 3 months. During that time he got anything he wanted and was treated like royalty. We tried several homeopathic remedies but none worked. In March 2002, he was so weak he could hardly get up, and some of the tumors were starting to break through the skin. We decided it was time, and after a really good breakfast, Alyce and I took him in to the vet's office. We sat on the floor with him and he passed away very quietly with his head in my lap. We still miss him terribly but really love our new addition, **Newman**. He will never replace Redford but helps ease the pain of the loss.

– *Alyce and Bob Carlson*



Redford

In Memory of former rescue **Lady Di** (Dinah), who went to the Bridge Sept. 10 at a "young" age of 14



Lady Di

Golden angels

descended from Heaven today.

They assisted Lady Di to the Rainbow Bridge.

She can once again run and play, free of cancer and pain.

Her sweet smile, butterfly ears and gentle soul will be greatly missed.

Farewell for now, Lady Di.

Our time together ... too short.

Your gifts to us ... immeasurable.

– *Colleen & Rick Sosteri, dedicated volunteers and lucky companions of Lady Di*



Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to help coordinate the **2003 Rescue Reunion**, including a Reunion Team Leader! We also need team leaders for the following areas: Raffle, Golden Goods, Activities, Silent Auction and Drinks/Food. We also need volunteers to help with the popular doggie games.

The reunion will be held tentatively on Sunday, March 23, at Gemini Springs State Park in Debary, just north of Orlando. Stay tuned for details, but mark your calendar now, because you don't want to miss this event!

If you'd like to sign up to help, or if you have some ideas for unusual or new reunion activities, see contact information below.

Dog Walk Fundraiser

We are working to host a major dog walk fundraiser in the Orlando area early in 2003, and need to establish a team to coordinate, including a team leader.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Pet Walk,

Sat., Oct. 26, St. Petersburg

Annual pet walk will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon at North Shore Park. We're looking for volunteers to man the GRRMF education table. Contact Debbie McGhehey: foxiroxigrrmf@earthlink.net.

Costume Contest and Agility Fun Run, Sun. Oct. 27, Tampa area

Courteous Canine in Lutz, north of Tampa, is hosting a Halloween party to benefit GRRMF. Hours are 4-8 p.m. We need volunteers to help with organization and selling snacks. Contact Suzanne Rider: bogiemad@tampabay.rr.com.

Golden Retriever National Dog Show, Oct. 27 – Nov. 2, Orlando (near airport)

We need help manning an educational booth during all days. For more details, visit www.mfgrc.org

Great Day in the Country, Sat., Nov. 9, Oviedo (East Orlando)

We need help manning an educational booth at this great arts and crafts show, one of the largest in Orlando. Contact Barbara Durham, info@grrmf.org.

Christmas Under the Oaks, Nov. 9-10, Clearwater

Our West Coast Gang will be manning an educational booth at this popular two-day craft fair. All are invited! Contact Renee Perkie: perkiefl@juno.com.

Winter Park Christmas Parade, Sat. Dec. 7

Come march in the parade with your golden! Stay tuned to our website for details.

Santa Pictures at PetsMart, December, Tampa/Clearwater area

We need volunteers for the following Tampa-area PetsMart stores to help take pictures of pets with "Santa," a fundraiser to benefit GRRMF.

- Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Citrus Park, Tampa. Contact Suzanne Rider: bogiemad@tampabay.rr.com.
- Dec. 14-15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Countryside, Clearwater. Contact Debbie McGhehey: foxiroxigrrmf@earthlink.net.
- Dec. 21-22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Petersburg. Contact Suzanne Rider: bogiemad@tampabay.rr.com.

WE NEED YOU!

If you'd like to sign up to help at any of these events or would like more information, please e-mail us: info@grrmf.org or call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840, mailbox #4.

The Phone is Ringing ... It's for YOU!

GRRMF needs volunteers to help screen potential adoption applicants. Currently, a few very over-worked volunteers are barely managing the increasing numbers of applications we receive each month.

It is imperative that we staff up our "Call Team" immediately to improve processing time. Faster screenings result in more of our wonderful goldens finding forever homes with great families!

GRRMF provides all materials and pays for long-distance phone calls. This task can be done from the convenience of your own home and according to your own schedule. Don't you have one hour a week you can dedicate to a good cause?

A good phone screener needs to be able to ask the right questions, and also listen carefully to the answers. We provide guidance on what questions to ask, and how to ask them to ensure you get an honest response.

The volunteer fills out a written report of the interview and forwards it back to the Call Team manager. Volunteers are most effective if they have access to fax and/or email. Volunteers must be willing to ask specific questions according to the Call Team manager's guidance, and judge the appli-

See Call Team, page 12

Hot Spots

A hot spot is a red, weeping, angry-looking sore that develops on your dog's skin. It is normally due to allergies or an insect bite. Hot spots usually can be treated fine at home with a little experience.

First, clip the hair from the hot spot. It is crucial to allow air to circulate around the spot. Wash the spot with some mild soap or with a solution of half hydrogen peroxide, half water, and pat dry. It is desirable to put some type of medication on the spot that will dry the sore and stop the itching. Our experience shows that different dogs respond to different remedies, and experienced golden owners have their own special treatments. Here are some things you can try:

- Gold Bond Medicated Powder.
- Hydrocortisone cream, any brand. Don't use ointments, as they won't help dry out the hot spot.
- Anti-itch sprays. One popular brand among golden owners is "Coolspot 2000," available at www.coolspot2000.com or from 702-256-8832.

Watch the spot. After daily treatments as described above, it should start to dry up and scab over. If it looks like it is getting infected, you may need to visit your veterinarian. But most golden owners learn to handle hot spots on their own. They are common in the breed. It is not normally necessary to have your veterinarian give your dog a cortisone/steroid shot for a hot spot. It can be treated locally. We do not recommend long-term steroid use in dogs.

To reduce the formation of hot spots due to allergies, we HIGHLY recommend implementing our program of vitamin therapy. If you would like to receive a free brochure on this topic, please send a self-addressed, stamped #10 business envelope to GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733. We will send you two brochures, one on vitamin therapy for goldens and another on selecting a food for your dog. This therapy has eliminated hot spots in many goldens through improving skin health.



Call Team, from page 11

cant according to GRRMF adoption requirements, not their own set of rules.

What do you get out of it? You'll get the satisfaction of being more personally involved with the goldens in our program. You'll remember talking to people, and you'll get a great feeling when you read in the newsletter that they've adopted a great golden. You'll get to touch base with them at reunions and other activities, as well. It's a very rewarding experience, but you also have to remember that not everyone who applies gets one of our dogs. That doesn't mean they're not nice people, just that they don't meet our requirements. We find a lot of "nice" people who aren't good potential golden owners. Don't worry – your job is only to chat with them briefly and ask a few questions. You will never be burdened with making a decision. Your job is simply to make good observations that our adoption committee can use in making the final decision.

The most important question you'll ask yourself is: "Would I let MY dog live there?"

Are you interested? If so, please fill out the volunteer application on the last page of this newsletter and write at the top "CALL TEAM." If you'd like to talk to someone further about this position, please email us at info@grrmf.org or call (407) 332-2840, mailbox #4.

Newsletter Designer Needed!

GRRMF is looking for a volunteer with graphic design experience to serve on our newsletter team.

This volunteer will work with our newsletter editor and be responsible for design and layout of the quarterly newsletter you are reading right now. Skills needed: Design and/or desktop publishing experience using QuarkXpress or Adobe PageMaker, and Adobe PhotoShop (or other image editing software) for Macintosh computer. Must have own equipment and be willing to commit approximately 15-20 hours maximum per issue – one issue per quarter – working under a moderate deadline.

Please contact our newsletter editor Carol McKee directly if you are interested: 2boatrats@comcast.net, (352) 742-2560.

Get Smart: GRRMF's Public Voice

Each weekend around the state, groups of GRRMF volunteers gather with their goldens at places like PetSmart or Publix stores.

Their goal? To educate the public about golden retrievers, GRRMF and responsible pet ownership, including the importance of spaying and neutering.

But there's another goal, too. We've noticed a substantial increase in adoption rates in areas where we have a good public presence. Case in point: Our West Coast volunteers have done a stellar job of promoting and staffing education events. They now lead the state in number of adoptions.

Good for you, West Coast Gang!

We would like very much to replicate this success around the state. Regular events now are held in Melbourne and Orlando, and we hope to start them in other areas as well. Of course, we must have willing participants to show up at the designated times... and bring their goldens!

Volunteers bring their crowd-kid-dog-friendly goldens to show as shining – and wagging, and smiling! – examples of the types of wonderful dogs we have for adoption. These dogs are the best ambassadors any group could ever hope for! It's a lot of fun for the humans, too. We laugh a lot, compare experiences like a bunch of young parents talking about their babies, and just enjoy being around other dog lovers. It's a great way to make new friends, and you may even learn a thing or two about caring for your best friend.

Do you have a few hours a month to help us?

If you'd like to help, here are some of the locations we attend regularly. Just fill out a volunteer application (last page of this newsletter) and tell us what area you're interested in. We'll hook you up with the Team Leader for that location. Check our web site under "events" for the latest schedule in case of last-minute schedule changes.

Melbourne/East Coast:

- Publix, Suntree/Melbourne

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater:

- PetsMart, Citrus Park/Tampa – Every first and third Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon.
- PetsMart, Countryside/Clearwater – Every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2p.m.
- PetsMart, Tyrone/St. Petersburg – Every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sarasota:

- PetsMart, The Landings/Sarasota – Every second and fourth Saturday

Orlando:

- PetsMart, Waterford Lakes/East Orlando – Every second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon.
- Borders Bookstore/Oviedo – Every third Saturday, 7–9:30 p.m. (limited physical space for dogs, but humans welcome)
- PetsMart, Lake Mary – NOTE: We are seeking someone to take over as Team Leader for this location. If someone doesn't come forward, we will have to cancel. Please contact Marcia McGovern at mmcgovern1@cfl.rr.com if you are willing to take this position or want to volunteer in Lake Mary.

Palm Beach:

- Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park – Oct. 20, Nov. 24 and Dec. 15, noon-4 p.m. Contact Diane Makinney – dmakinney@aol.com.

Jacksonville:

- Coming Soon!



Wish List

- PetsMart gift cards
- Heartgard medication
- Frontline flea/tick medication
- Golden sized nylon buckle (snap type) collars
- Nylabones
- Ear cleaner
- Staples gift cards for office supplies and copying
- Postage stamps

Thank You for Bringing this Foster into My Life

Had I not made the decision to participate in rescue, I never would have had the chance to meet him. If I had sat here comfortably in my home and said, "I already have four dogs and I know I couldn't take in another - even on a temporary basis," I would never have met this dog.

Yes, it takes time to rescue and foster. But who gave me time in the first place? And why or what was the reason I was given time? To fill my own needs? Or was there another reason, ever so small and seemingly insignificant, like rescuing this one dog, that could make a difference in another's life? Perhaps to add joy, hope, help and companionship to another who is in need?

With great sadness, I sat down on a footstool in my kitchen this morning and watched as this foster dog bounced back into the house and skidded across the floor to sit ever so perfectly in front of me. He was the picture of health, finally. He was all smiles for me, and I smiled back at his happy face. Deep in his eyes, the storm clouds of illness and generalized poor health had blown away, and

the clear light of his perfection radiated out from his beautiful soul. He holds no ill will toward man. He forgives us all.

I thought to myself, as I impressed this one last long look of him into my heart, what a very fine creature You have created. Tears slowly pooled and spilled over my cheekbones as the deeper realization of how wonderful this dog is sank into my internal file cabinet of needful things to remember. Lord, he's a dog - but he's a better human being than I am.

He has forgiven quickly. Would I do the same?

He passionately enjoys the simple things in life. And I have often overlooked them.

He accepts change and gets on with his life. I fuss and worry about change.

He lives today and loves today. And I often dwell in the past or worry about the future.

He loves no matter what. I am not that free.

This very lovely dog has gone to his new home today, and already I miss him. Thank you for bringing this dog into my life. And thank you for the beautiful and tender lesson on how to be a better human.

— Author Unknown

Courtesy of Susan Handy and Gulfstream Rottweiler Club and reprinted with permission.



The Win/Win Training Game

by Angelica Steinker, M.Ed.

The most creative and fun way to train your dog is to "play train." During play training, everything you do becomes a game. Professional trainers around the world have long known the power of play. It makes learning fun for both the dog and the owner.

There are three outcome possibilities when you interact with your dog:

1. You get what you want, but the dog doesn't get what he wants – a win/lose.
2. Your dog gets what he wants, but you don't get what you want – another win/lose.
3. You and your dog get what you both want – a win/win!

Win/Win vs. Win/Lose

Which scenario sounds better...

A dog who:

- Is respectful and polite when she wants something.
- Waits at the door without running you over.
- Demonstrates self-control when he wants something.
- Is pleasant and easy to be around.
- A fun pet to own.

Continued next page

Win-Win Training, continued

Or a dog who:

- Barks or whines for attention.
- Gets up on the table.
- Demands petting.
- Demands food.
- Demands to go outside even when he does not need to potty.

Playing the Win/Win Game

As of today, every time your dog wants something, make him do something for it. For example, if he wants to go outside, ask him to sit first. At feeding time, ask him to do a sit-stay, a down-stay or another trick before he is rewarded with his food.

Remember, you can play the win/win game during any daily activity. Practice it when your dog wants to:

- Be petted.
- Greet a person.
- Go outside.
- Take a walk.
- Get fed.
- Have a snack.
- Go for a car ride.

When playing the win/win game, be sure to keep your eyes open for your dog trying to sneak in a win/lose. Dogs are smart – they want to get what they want as fast and as much as possible. If you let your guard down, your dog is likely to sneak in a game of win/lose.

Playing Win/Lose

Signs you are playing win/lose:

- Dog is scratching at door instead of politely sitting, standing or lying down.
- Dog is leaping up for food.
- Dog is putting his head under your hand and flipping your hand around to pet him.
- Dog is barking or whining.

If your dog behaves this way, do not punish him! Simply refuse to

reward the behavior. This means that if the dog jumps for the food, don't feed him. If he is barking or whining, wait for him to stop at least 3 seconds before you give him what he wants. Granted, 3 seconds can seem like an eternity when a dog is barking like crazy, but don't give in! Don't let your dog train you – you must be the trainer. Unwanted behaviors cannot be rewarded, so don't give the dog what he wants unless he is being polite and showing self-control.

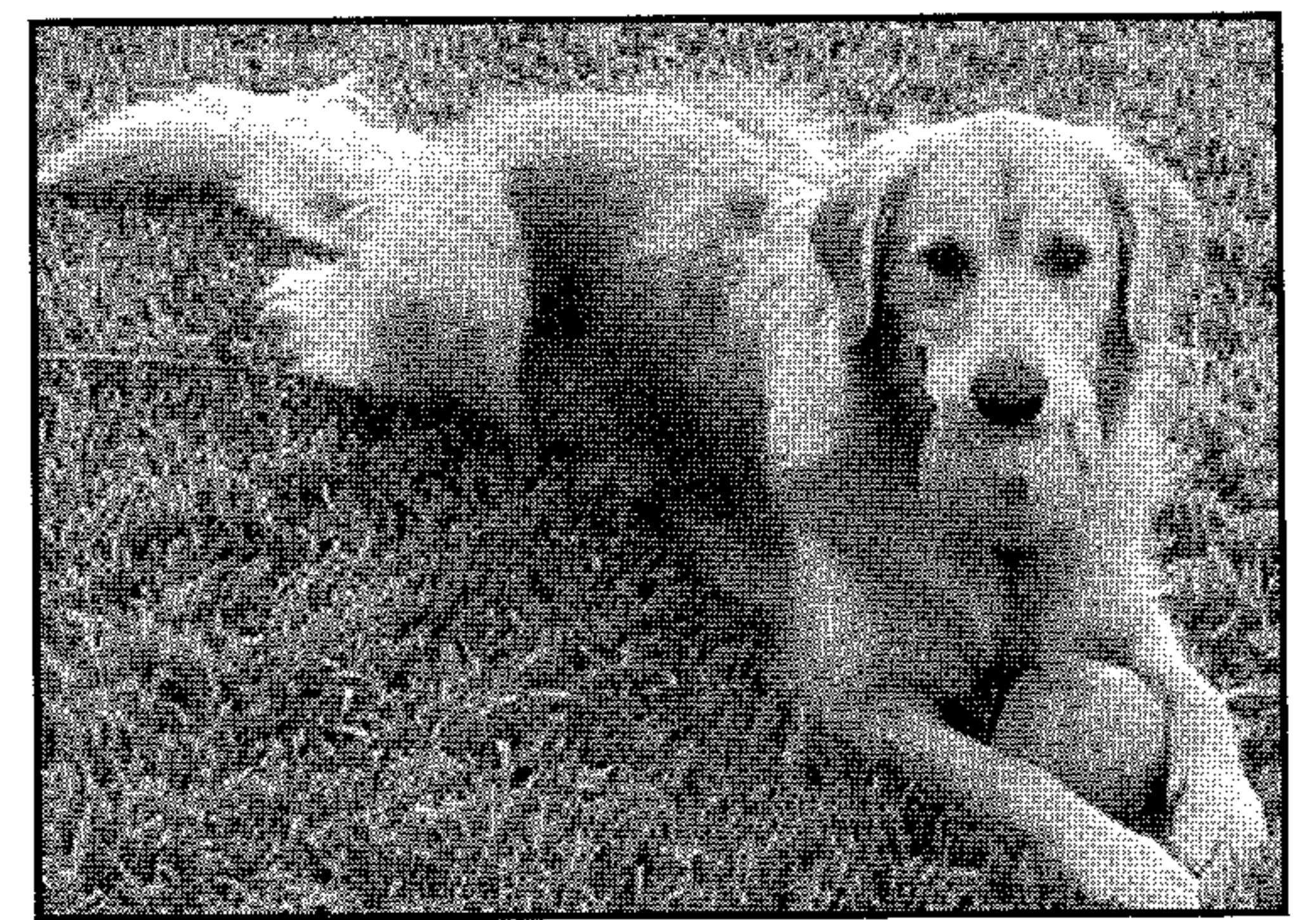
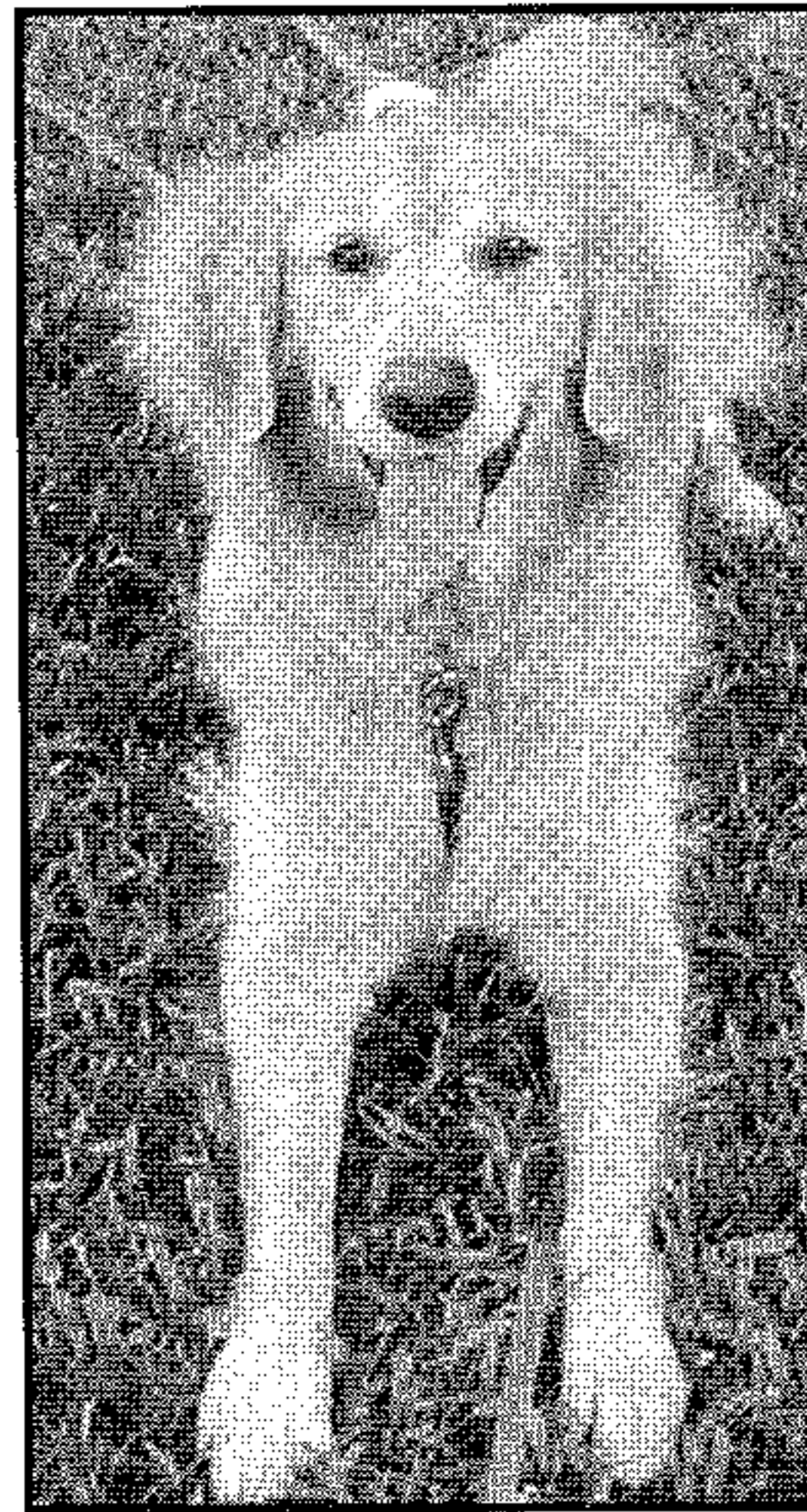
If the unwanted behavior persists, despite you not rewarding it, contact a professional trainer so it can be promptly addressed. Every time your dog engages in an unwanted behavior he is practicing and getting better at it. If you allow your dog to play the win/lose game you are risking that your dog will:

- Become aggressive.
- Pull on his leash.
- Use your house as a potty.
- Become unruly and even uncontrollable.
- Become unwelcome in social situations with other humans or canines.

If this sounds familiar, consult a trainer who practices positive reward and recognition methods. Start playing the win/win game today, and turn your relationship with your dog around.

Positive is not Permissive

Remember, positive training does not mean to be permissive. If your dog per-

**Sit, down, stay ... Reward!**

Haley is happy to comply with her owner's commands when she knows the reward will be a chance to play with her beloved squeaky balls.

sists in unwanted behaviors, consult a professional trainer as soon as possible. You owe it to both your dog and yourself to teach your dog new and better behaviors.

Every time you interact with your dog, someone is training. It is either you or the dog. With win/win training it will be you!

Angelica Steinker, M.Ed., is a Certified Canine Behavior Counselor with Courteous Canine in Lutz, near Tampa. To contact her, call (813) 949-1465 or e-mail Angelica@CourteousCanine.com.



Have you completed a volunteer application?

Download an application from our website:

www.grrmf.org

Click on "Volunteer Opportunities"

Grooming Your Golden

by Anney Doucette

Golden retrievers were originally created to swim through frigid water to retrieve fallen game, and their trademark heavy coat was a necessity. To keep Florida goldens cool and comfortable in the hot summer months (when frigid water is hard to come by!), owners need to practice good grooming techniques.

Combating the Tumbleweeds

The best way to reduce shedding and remove dead coat is simply to brush. The frequency of brushing is up to the owner, but goldens should be brushed at least once a week, and your vacuum will thank you if you brush the dogs more often! It is a good idea to brush before bathing: The more hair you brush out, the less you have to wash.

There are several types of brushes on the market that will help keep shedding to a manageable level.

- A *pet rake* looks just like it sounds: like a garden rake.

Different models sport one or two rows of teeth, or teeth of alternating lengths. Which works best depends on the dog. Rakes are particularly useful for goldens with longer coats, as the long teeth of the rake can reach to the skin.

- A *shedding blade* can be useful in pulling out loose undercoat. It is composed of a flexible metal blade, curved into a loop, with a serrated edge to grab the hair. Shedding blades work well on goldens with shorter, denser fur.
- A new product, the *Coat-King* by Mars, works more like a stripper to cut through dense hair and pull out large amounts of undercoat.
- Regular *slicker brushes* or very fine metal flea combs can also be used to rid a dog of excess fur.



Oh, that feels good:

With regular grooming, Magen sports a shiny, tangle-free coat. A rake-type comb used in the neck and chest areas will help prevent matting.

While brushing, be on the lookout for small mats or “dreadlocks” in the fur. Some can be worked out with your fingers, but others need to be snipped out with thinning shears (to avoid a “hacked” appearance). Common areas of matting on goldens are the ears, throat, armpits, belly, britches and the tail feathers near the base of the tail.

It is usually a good idea to spritz the dog with water or a leave-in conditioner before and during brushing. Slightly damp hair will stretch rather than break off against the teeth of the comb or brush. The point of brushing is to pull out dead coat, not break off the hair that is staying put!

Bath Time!

Most goldens need to be bathed more frequently during warmer months. You can safely bathe your golden as often as once a week provided you use a shampoo that is compatible with his skin. It usually takes some experimenting to find the right shampoo for each dog, but I have a homemade recipe for shampoo that works spectacularly on goldens: Mix equal parts liquid antibacterial soap (like Dial or Softsoap), vinegar (white or apple cider) and water. Believe it or not, it has a pleasant smell, kills doggy odors and fleas and leaves the coat clean and soft but not overly fluffy or silky.

One of the most important aspects of bathing a dog is to rinse completely. I find that using the garden hose to wash is best as you can get really good water pressure to remove soap from the coat.

I would suggest that everyone serious about grooming their dogs buy a dog blow dryer, as getting the dog perfectly dry after a bath is one of the best ways to prevent skin irritations.

An Ounce of Prevention...

Hot spots (acute moist dermatitis) and ear infections are very common in goldens. Careful grooming can help prevent and treat these problems.

Hot spots are best avoided by complete rinsing during a bath and complete drying afterward, and by thoroughly brushing to remove any tangles that may be irritating the dog's skin. External parasites must be eliminated. A major

See Grooming, page 19

Golden Friends . . .

DONATIONS

Woody's Fund

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Also, special thanks to Christa Roman for her special donation of 60 doses of Heartgard and other medical supplies for the puppies and parents.

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Continued next page

Golden Friends, continued

Thanks!

- Ann & Jeff Huie for donating a desk & printer.
- Lucas & Susan Vickers for donating two large crates.
- Pookie's Bow Wow Bakery for donation of dog food.
- Staff of Hip Dog Therapy in Winter Park for providing hydro exercises for our rescues with hip and back problems.
- Ellen Mathieson & Nancy Spears for responding to e-mails through our Web site.
- Donations for Rescue Parade at the National Specialty - Frederick Beurer, Country Cupboards of Sarasota. Donations will be used to provide rosettes and gifts for GRRMF rescues participating in parade.
- Sharon Sherwood - design and creation of nightlights/sun catchers for Mark's fundraiser.
- Jennifer Longman for helping care for dogs at Betty's as well as transporting and setting up educational days at Waterford Lakes in east Orlando.
- **Fosters:** Susan Andrews, Charlette Bauer, Dr. Rachel Beckett & Staff, Amy Bennett, Carol Buczynski, Nancy Carroll, Pat Chesley, Andrea Davis, Scott & Jill Cornell, Erin Curry & John Meisner, Penny Dalton, Janet & Bruce Dattilo, Jean Dixon, Barbara Durham, Linda Fike, Suzanne and Walt Gallagher, Bobbi Halley, Debbie Hoyle, Angie Kaplan, Susan King, Diane Makinney, Michelle & Kirk Martin, Paul & Ellen Mathieson, Diane McAlister, Debbie & Jon McKenzie, Julie Mink, Mary Nelman, Elaine Newnham, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, Janet Parker, John & Gail Pfohler, Jeff Prescott, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Kevin & Michelle Riley, Dave & Sally Anne Rowland, Dr. Kristine Sands & Staff, Roy Scudamore, Dina Smith, Dionis

Smith, Rick & Colleen Sosteri, Greg & Kathy Spilker, Pam Strickland, Sandy Sumner, Bob Turnage, Russ Winderweedle, Leah Wright, Betty Wyatt.

- **Call Team:** Linda Cohen, Vicki Ferros, Kathy Hendrickson, Melissa Knowles, Robin Mackler, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Colleen Sosteri, Kerri Vorhies.
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- **Educational days:** Anna & Ron Bailey, John Bothwell, Jim Brand, Andrea Davis, Barbara Durham, Brooke Fearn, Vicki Ferros, Linda Fike, Barbara Geisinger, Mary Beth Liermann, Jennifer Longman, Jackie McGoff, Pam Jones, George Kalbfleish, Jennifer Longman, Ellen & Paul Mathieson, Deb McGhehey, Marcia McGovern, Sandy Miller,

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- **Admissions Hotline:** Dina Smith, Kelly Mehigan, Kerri Vorhies, Maryanne Ludy, Emily Rowe, Amanda Kern, Candace Jaffe, Diane Makinney.
- Veterinarians who helped by donating or discounting goods and services:
 - All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz
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 - Dr. Michael Schroeder, Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill
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 - Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park
 - Dr. Athey, Orange City Animal Clinic, Orange City
 - Dr. Martin Neher, Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic, Sarasota
 - Drs. Rick Rubinstein & Ashley Swartz, Tusawilla Oaks Animal Hospital, Oviedo
 - Dr. William Ehlers, 434 Animal Hospital, Winter Springs
 - Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne
 - 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. Kristine Sands, Apopka Veterinary Clinic, Apopka
 - Dr. E. J. Rackowski, Treasure Coast Animal Clinic, Vero Beach
 - Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village

Continued next page

Golden Friends, continued

- Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach
- Fox & Friends Animal Hospital,
Sun City Center
- Dr. Stanley Diment, Clermont
Animal Hospital
- Midway Animal Hospital,
Homosassa
- Courteous Canine, Lutz, Fla., for their assistance in training rescue dogs in the Tampa area.
- Christa 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. We really appreciate your help!
- Staffs of PetsMart, Pet Supermarket, Border's Bookstore, Publix, Sam's Club and other businesses across the state, for letting GRRMF set up educational booths. We are grateful for all their support of our organization.

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!!

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Grooming, from page 16

factor in controlling hot spots is DIET ... improving the dog's diet can often eradicate hot spots (see the article on page 12).

Everyone has their own method of treating an existing hot spot, and most people have done a lot of experimenting and adjusting to perfect their hot spot protocol. The major points of treatment are to keep the area clean by washing frequently with antibacterial soap and keeping the area VERY dry – which means not letting the dog lick or chew on it. A topical product that reduces itching and promotes drying is essential.

Taking several precautions easily prevents ear infections. As with hot spots, a proper diet is required. Trimming the hair in the outer ear canal and around the opening is very helpful in increasing air flow. And, most importantly, goldens should have their ears flushed with a drying agent (usually a product with an alcohol base, or a homemade mixture of equal parts alcohol, vinegar and water) after EVERY bath or swim. The ear canal of a floppy-eared dog like the golden retriever is the perfect warm, dark place for bacteria and yeast to grow, and letting moisture sit for even a few days is inviting infection.

To Clip or Not to Clip?

Unfortunately for the dogs, some pet owners are under the impression that their long-coated goldens will be more comfortable in hot weather if they are shaved in a "Labrador cut." Nothing could be further from the truth! A golden's coat is the perfect insulator against not just cold but also heat, and shaving the coat ruins the insulating properties. In other words, the dog will be hotter shaved than with his full-length tresses. Another issue created by shaving is sunburn. The golden's skin is accustomed to a sun-proof cover that keeps the light out. Taking away that cover exposes the dog to the sun's damaging rays. GRRMF recently had a dog diagnosed with melanoma. Humans aren't the only ones who can get skin cancer! Shaving also does not reduce shedding. Last but not least, nothing looks quite so ridiculous as a shaved golden!

An alternative is to clip the dog in areas not exposed to the sun: armpits, belly and between the back legs. Trimming the dog to 1/4" to 1/2" in these areas will get some air flowing and perhaps cool the dog, and you needn't worry about sunburn or funny looks from your neighbors.

This article was originally printed in the August 2002 edition of Golden Tales, the monthly publication of the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, and has been reprinted with permission from the author. ♥

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Please check one:

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- ☐ \$ _____ 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: _____
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- ☐ \$ _____ in honor of _____

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