



HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 5, Issue 4

Winter 2002

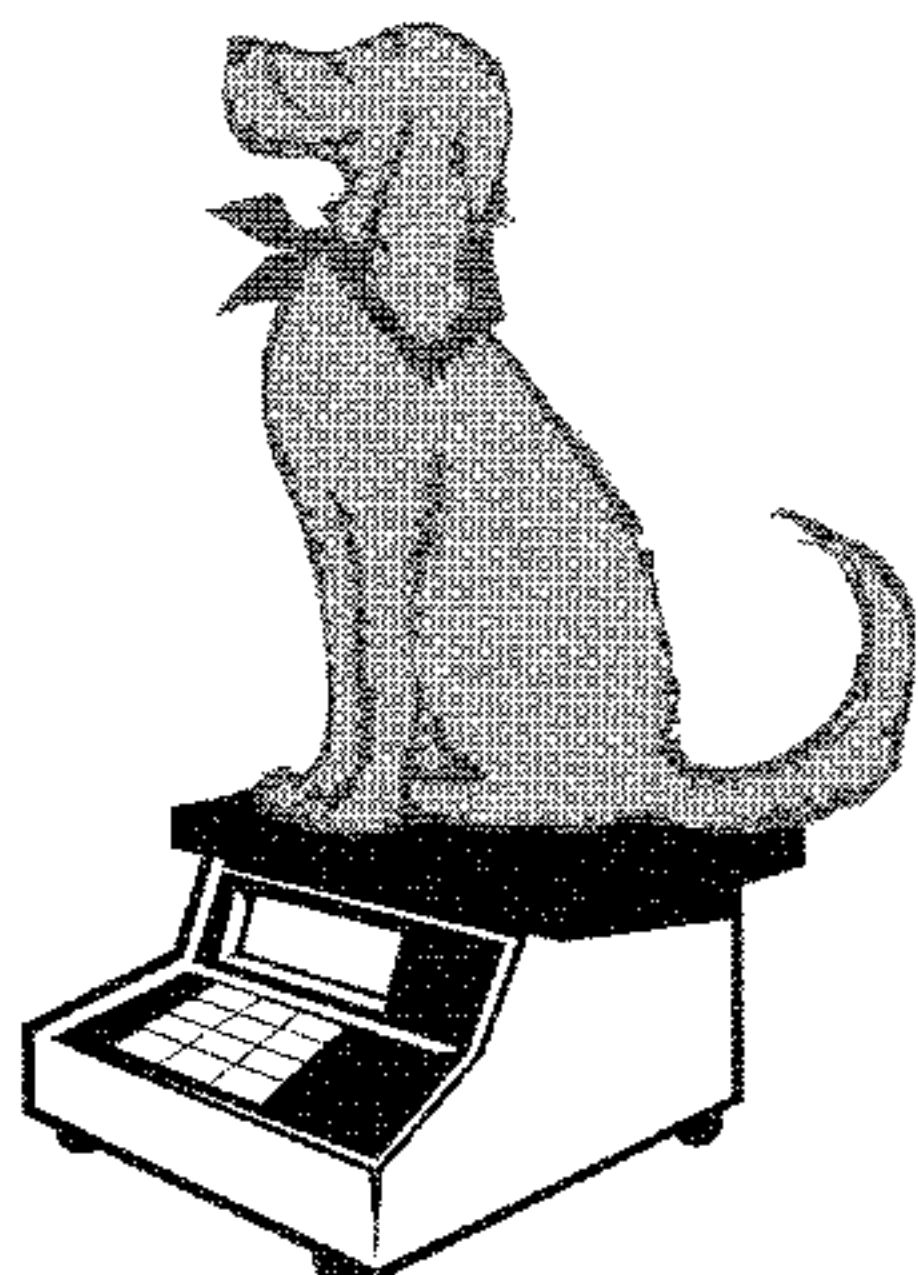
Rawhide:
Santa Dog
Says, 'Take
This OFF
Your Dog's
Christmas List!'



Back Cover

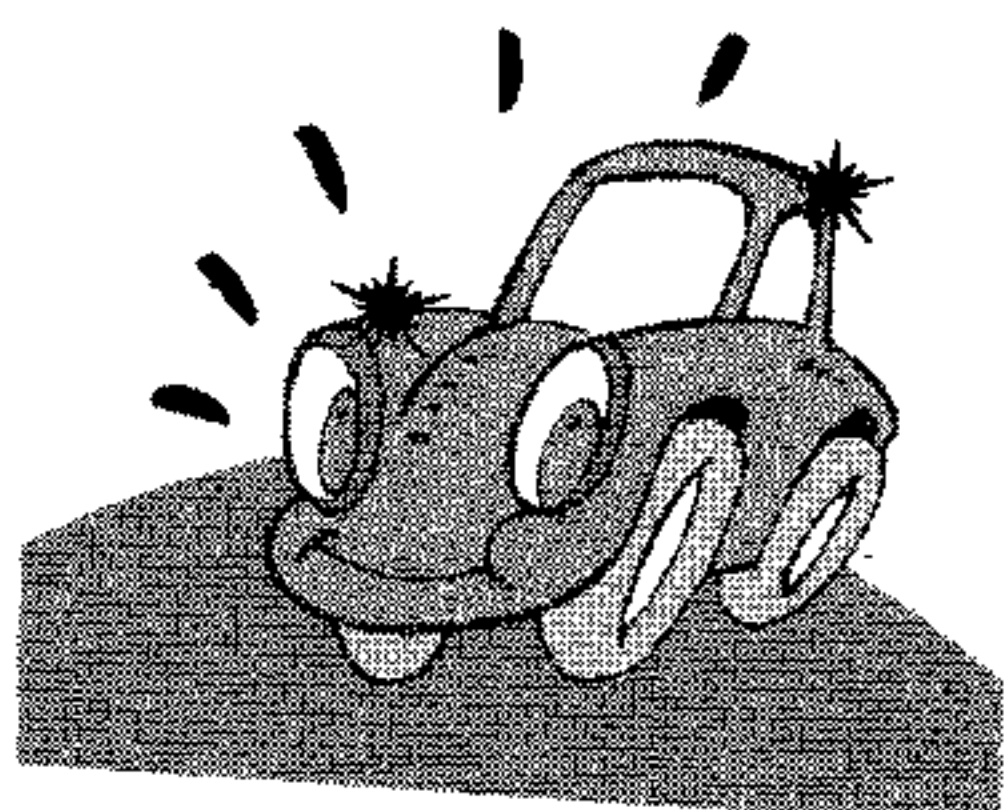
Renew Your
GRRMF Membership Dues!
Annual Adoption Follow-Up Form
and
Membership Form on insert.
Use the enclosed envelope
to mail this in today!

Momma, Don't Let Your Baby
Grow Up To Be ... FAT



Page 8

Have Car, Will Travel?
Transportation Volunteers Needed!



Page 7

Do Something That Will Make You Feel Good This Holiday Season: Join GRRMF today and help save more homeless golden retrievers!

Yes, it's that time again - to renew your membership in GRRMF for 2003. We are kicking off our annual membership drive, and we hope that YOU will be a part of the action! Now is the time to send in your dues to keep your newsletter coming throughout 2003. Membership dues support our rescue effort, and all memberships are fully tax-deductible.

We have two levels of membership. Our general membership is \$25 and includes a subscription to this newsletter. We also have the Sponsorship Level membership where, for \$100, you help a specific dog in our rescue program. We will send you a letter informing you of your special dog and you'll receive recognition in our newsletter.

Have you adopted a dog from us? Please remember that when you adopt, you receive a *Hearts of Gold* newsletter subscription free for a year. After a year, you must be a member to continue receiving the newsletter.

If that hasn't convinced you to renew, how about this: What better way to support the very organization responsible for helping you find your special golden? We hate to lose touch with our adoptive homes, so we normally try to keep you on our mailing list. However, it is becoming very expensive to do so. Our current database shows that 56 percent of our adoptive homes have never sent in a membership to GRRMF. That's about 500 families! We keep wondering why ... we hear lots of happy stories about how you love your goldens. Will you help us continue to make this joy possible for others?

Where does your membership go?

Most goes toward caring for the dogs in our program: veterinary bills, dog food and supplies. Additional money is

spent for postage and photocopying for adoption application processing and educational materials - all essential for finding our rescues new homes. Without membership dues, we would run a serious deficit for the year. Here is a recap of our 2001 incoming funds and our 2002 membership statistics:

(Membership continued page 2)

GRRMF SOURCES OF INCOME

Income Source	Percentage of Income
Donations	36.5
Adoption Fees	22.3
MEMBERSHIPS	16.3
Golden Goods Sales	12.3
Events	11.5
Interest Income	1.1
TOTAL	100%

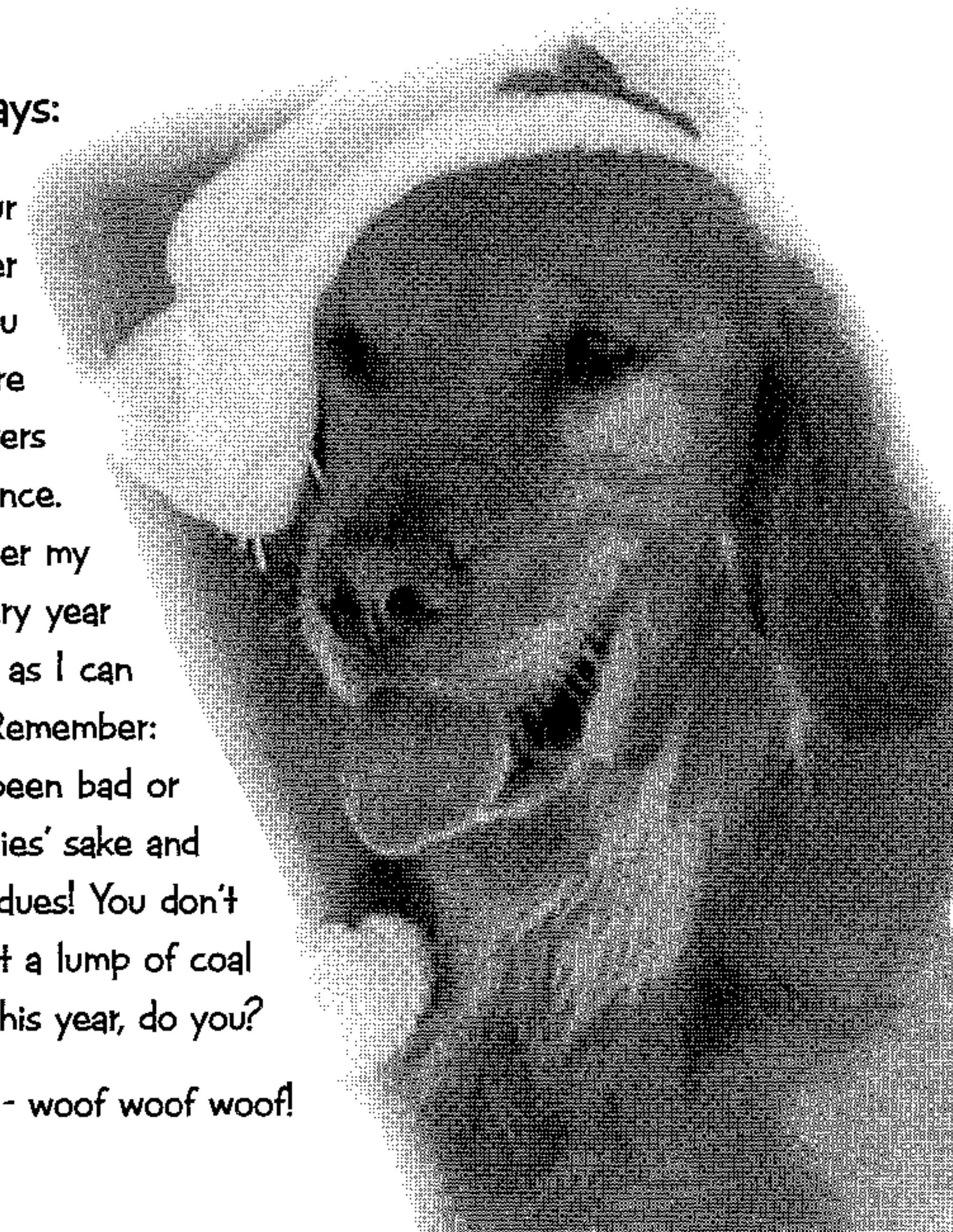
GRRMF MEMBERSHIP BASE FOR 2002

Type of Membership	# of members
General Memberships	384
Sponsorship Members	88
Memberships granted to new adopters	127
Total GRRMF Members	599

Santa Dog says:

Be sure to renew your membership in Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, so you can help them save even more homeless golden retrievers next year! I was homeless once. That's why I always remember my former GRRMF buddies every year with as many treats and toys as I can fit into my dog-sled. Remember: Santa Dog knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for doggies' sake and send in your membership dues! You don't want your dog to get a lump of coal for Christmas this year, do you?

Merry Christmas - woof woof woof!



2003 Membership Goal

Our goal for next year is to Increase memberships by 25 percent! That's a total of about 750 members.

You can help us meet our goal by sending in your membership today. Please pull out the membership form inserted in this newsletter and send it back in the enclosed envelope. If you adopted a dog from GRRMF, there is an annual follow-up form on the back of the membership form for you to fill out also. Feel free to photocopy the form if you have more than one rescue. Please take a few minutes to let us know how your dog is doing. It means a lot to our volunteer staff.

Help us
meet our
goal:
25%
membership
increase!

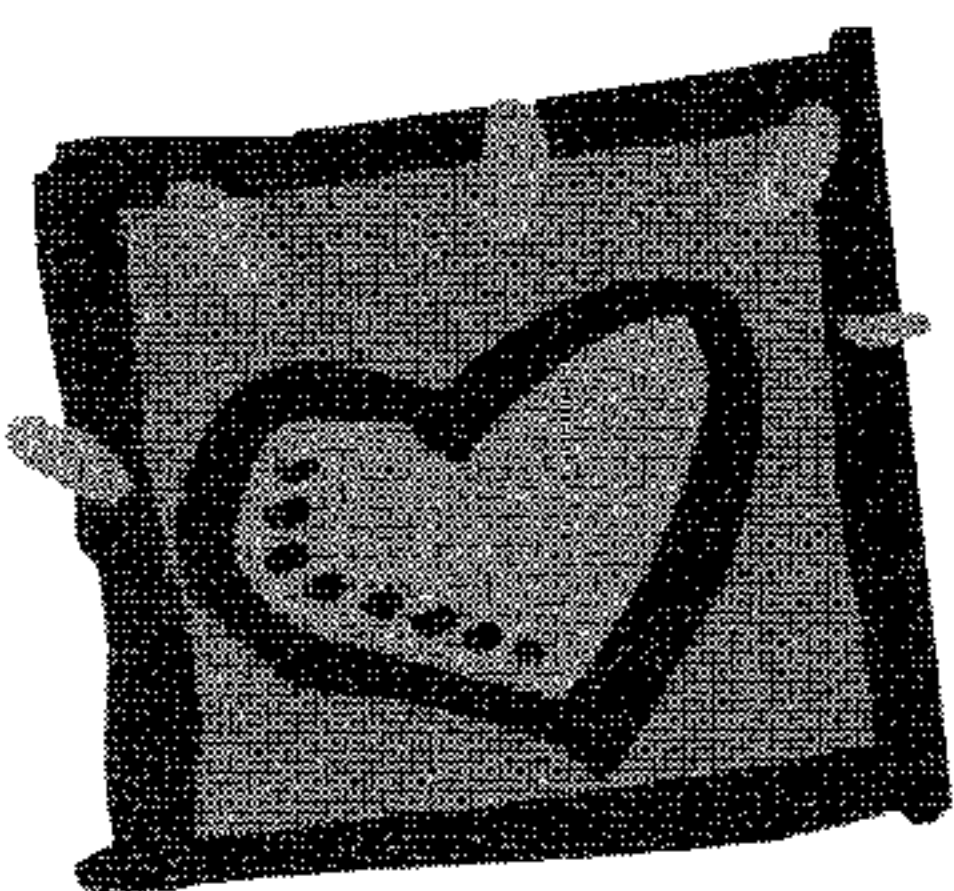
Due to the rising cost of postage, we will NOT be sending out a separate membership renewal package. If we have a good response to our membership drive from this newsletter, we'll be able to avoid costly follow-up mailings.

If you sent in your dues after September 1, 2002, your membership is good through all of 2003. There is no need to renew. Of course, additional donations are always needed and welcome.

From our family to yours, happy holidays to you and your goldens! And may the coming year bring us even more success in placing wonderful golden retrievers into loving and caring forever homes!

As this year draws to a close, I am grateful for so many things in my life, especially those people who make my work easier and less stressful. You know who you are -- and we also use space in this newsletter to personally thank as many people as we can for their efforts. From my heart to yours, I send you my gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work and financial support you provide for rescue.

There are a few "shining stars" I'd like to single out for this issue. And those are our regional coordinators. You are my "right arm" -- literally, an extension of me. Because of you, we are able to save more precious goldens each year. By anyone's standards, the work these folks do is invaluable to rescue.



Diane Makinney in the Palm Beach area is a "jack-of-all-trades." She has achieved much in a short period of time and with little support from others. Regardless, Diane is always there when we need her.

Kathy Spilker in Melbourne is an incredibly hard worker. She is the one I depend on when I don't know the answer to just about any question or problem.

HEARTS of Gold

by Betty Wyatt, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

Suzanne Rider in Tampa heads a large, highly motivated and very successful group of volunteers. You can count on seeing them out and about almost every weekend, spreading the word about rescue and raising lots of money. Because of their hard work, adoptions from the Tampa/Clearwater area have skyrocketed. Suzanne coordinates a lot of fosters and adoptions, something for which I am grateful every day.

John & Gail Pfohler and **Sally Anne Rowland** in Sarasota can do almost anything. They outdid themselves masterminding the recent Parade of Rescues at the National Specialty dog show in Orlando. Every minute detail was precisely planned. I was so proud of our rescues, who were all beautifully groomed and paraded around the ring like show dogs. I know I can depend on the Sarasota gang to get the job done - in style.

Pam Harrell & Peggy Litt in Ocala are very versatile and flexible. They not only coordinate adoptions in that area, but they also coordinate home visits all over the state. This duo is very valuable to GRRMF.

Celeste & Bill Watkins are our new education coordinators in Jacksonville. I feel blessed to have their help, and they've done a fantastic job of setting things up in a very short time. I thank both of you for taking this challenge.

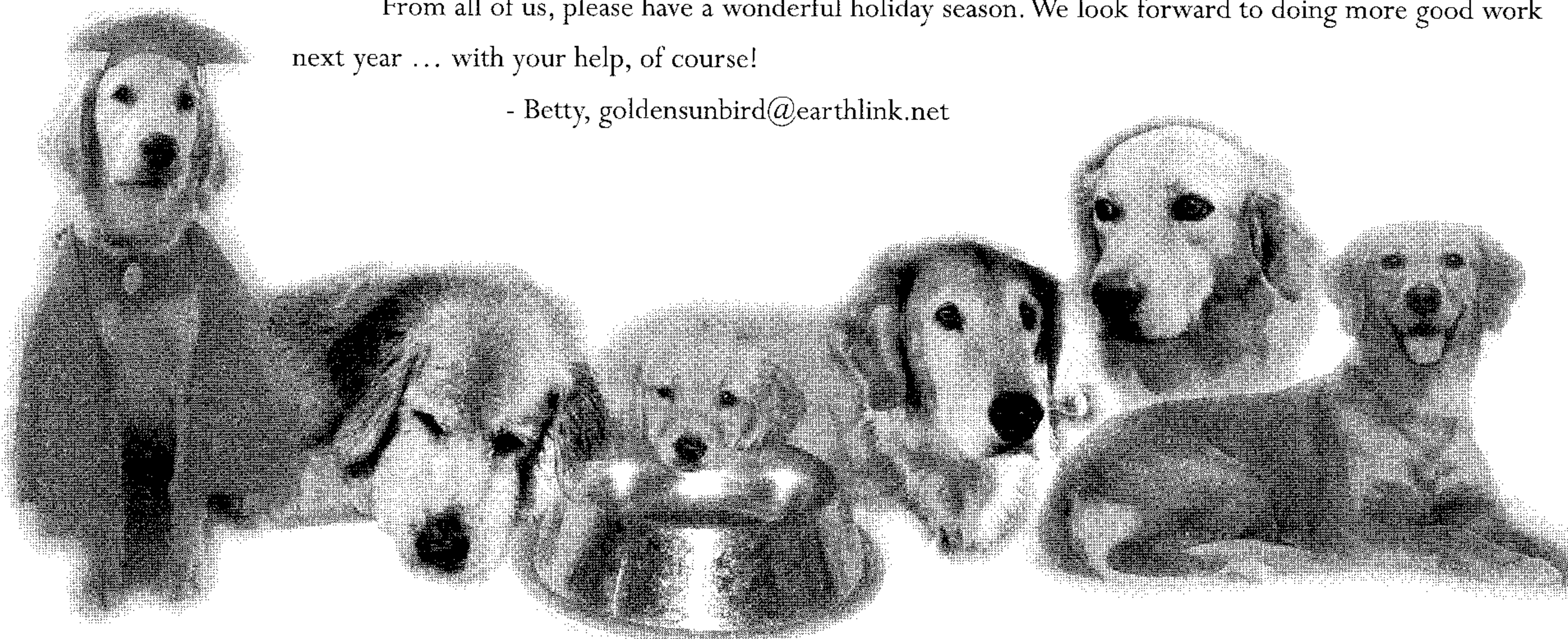
I would be remiss if I didn't include at least one warning in my column. It's the holiday season, and I want to remind you to use caution with decorations if you have a dog in your home. Take a look at your Christmas tree - are the ornaments hanging low enough for the dog to capture and possibly chew up? Tinsel is also very bad for dogs. It can get lodged in their intestines and require surgery to remove - if you catch it in time. Then there are electrical cords and those lovely strings of lights. Also, if you have a live tree, watch the water - your dog may try to drink it, and the water likely will contain bacteria after sitting for many days or weeks.

The bottom line: Think of your dog as a 2-year-old. A toddler is quick, curious and doesn't always know what's best for him. Sound familiar?

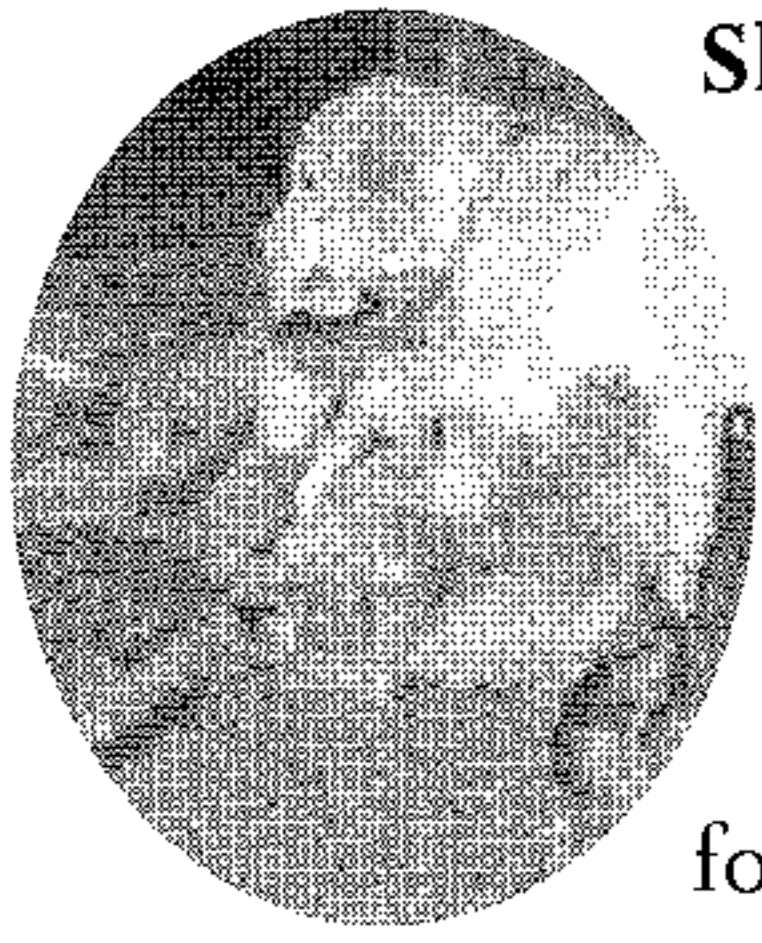
Be especially mindful of your pup during holiday gatherings. And this doesn't just mean watching the tasty handouts from guests. More than once, we've gotten calls from people frantic because their dog slipped out the door and bolted when a guest arrived. Humans love parties, and some dogs do, too. But others get nervous and anxious over all the fuss. Please keep an eye out for your pooch this season.

From all of us, please have a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to doing more good work next year ... with your help, of course!

- Betty, goldensunbird@earthlink.net



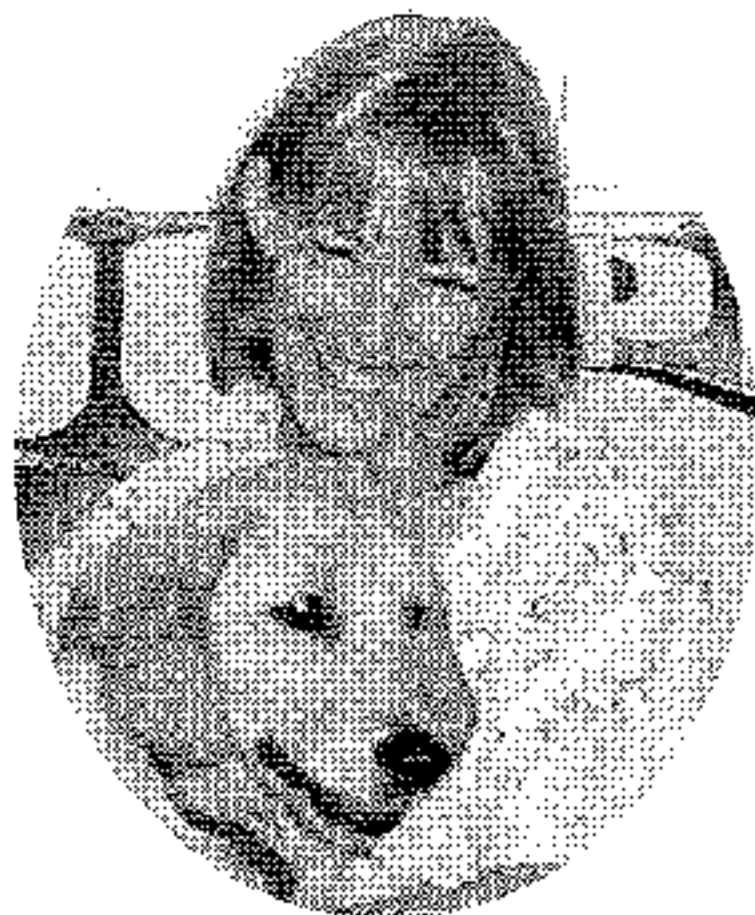
Recent Adoptions - Winter 2002



Shane was one of 16 puppies and 7 adults recently taken in by GRRMF from a West Coast abuse case. When Fred & Loretta B. decided to adopt a second golden to keep their former rescue, Rusty, company, they went to the GRRMF Web site.

Once they read about the puppies and saw their pictures, they were hooked. A little history on Rusty: He and his sister were dropped off at a shelter by a person who didn't want to pay for hip surgeries. Lucky for Rusty that Fred & Loretta happened by their vet's office, where Rusty was being boarded until GRRMF could locate a foster home. They decided to take Rusty home and after hip surgery, he was better than new! **Shane is now called Brandy**, and as you can see from this picture, these two have become best buddies. Rusty has no problem whatsoever keeping up with his new little brother!

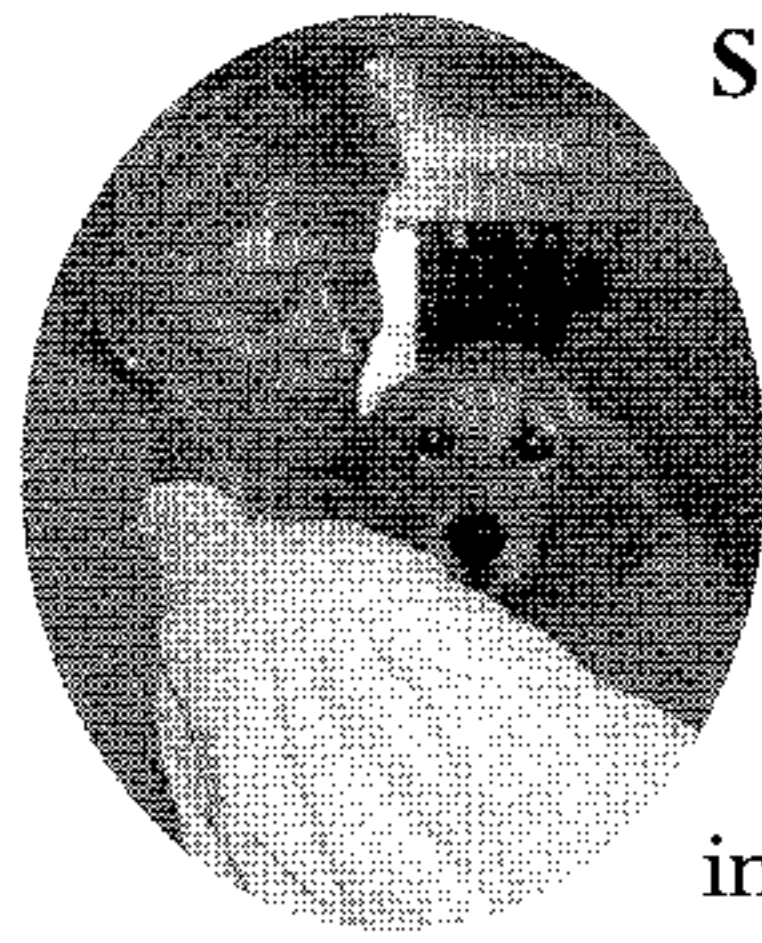
Oprah, another Sarasota puppy, was adopted by the Ingrams as a companion for their young male golden, Bailey. Her new name is **Sadie**. This cute puppy is enjoying her new life and home, and her humans tell us she is a real sweetheart. In true golden fashion, Sadie loves and is loved by everyone who meets her.



Ace, another one of our Sarasota pups is a real pistol, and cute as they come. He was fostered by Sally Anne Rowland and adopted by Charlie & Barbara W. as a companion for **Barnum**, another GRRMF rescue. Ace's favorite pastimes include chewing sticks, toilet papering the house and Barnum, digging holes ... and the making it all up by giving puppy kisses! He will be heading off to puppy kindergarten in the next few weeks and regular obedience class after that. Ace is one smart cookie, and his humans want to ensure they make the best of all his talents.



The best always comes to those that wait. When Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt called foster Sally Anne Rowland asking which puppy was left, she was taken aback at his name: **Tucker**. John and Rick recently lost their beloved golden boy, also named Tucker. We believe divine intervention played a hand in this match. **Tucker, now Logan**, is one happy little puppy with his own pool and lots of love from his two new dads and grandma.



Solo also drew interest due to his name. When Lisa and Chuck heard about the puppies and then found out he had the same name as one of their current goldens, their interest was peaked. When they inquired a few weeks later and found out he was still available, they decided it was fate and had to adopt him as a playmate for their former rescue, **Diva**, and their adult golden, **Solo**. The puppy, now called **Deuce**, is just happy to be the baby boy doted on by everyone in his new golden family.

Calvin has a new older sister, Katie, to show him the ropes -- such as where the best spots are to roll in the grass! His new mom, Judy P., says he is the sweetest dog ever and keeps her in stitches with his antics. Calvin, now called Max, has quite a "green thumb," too, as he has been picking flowers and bringing them to Judy. Uh oh!

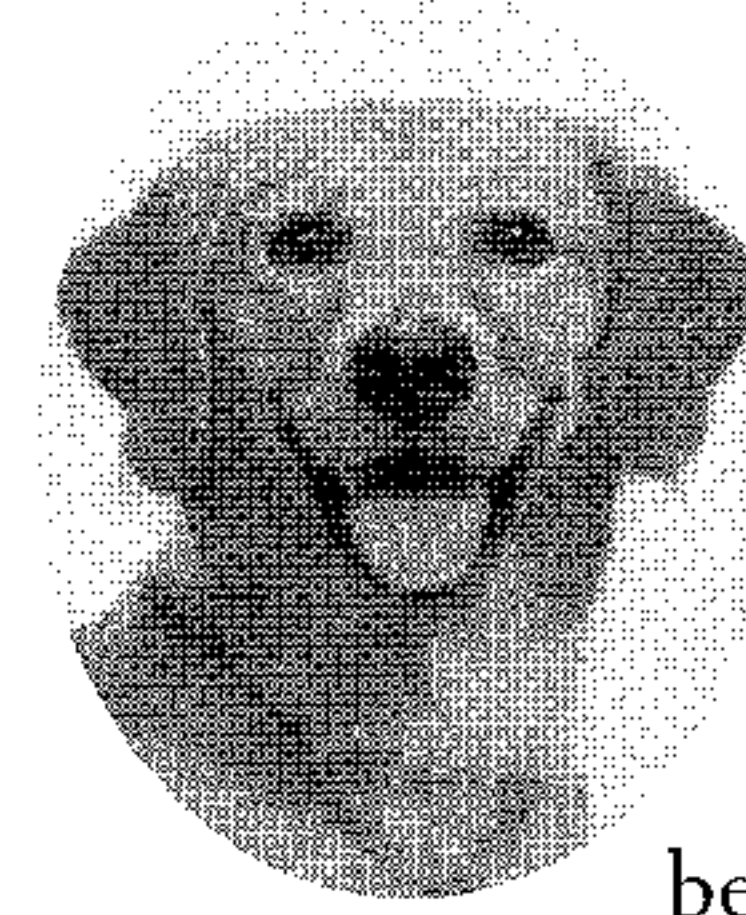
Gatsby, now Buddy, goes to work every day with his new mom and dad, Jim & Pat H., at their print shop. He is quite the social boy and loves his daily walks around the neighborhood, too. They report he is settling in nicely and is a joy to own.



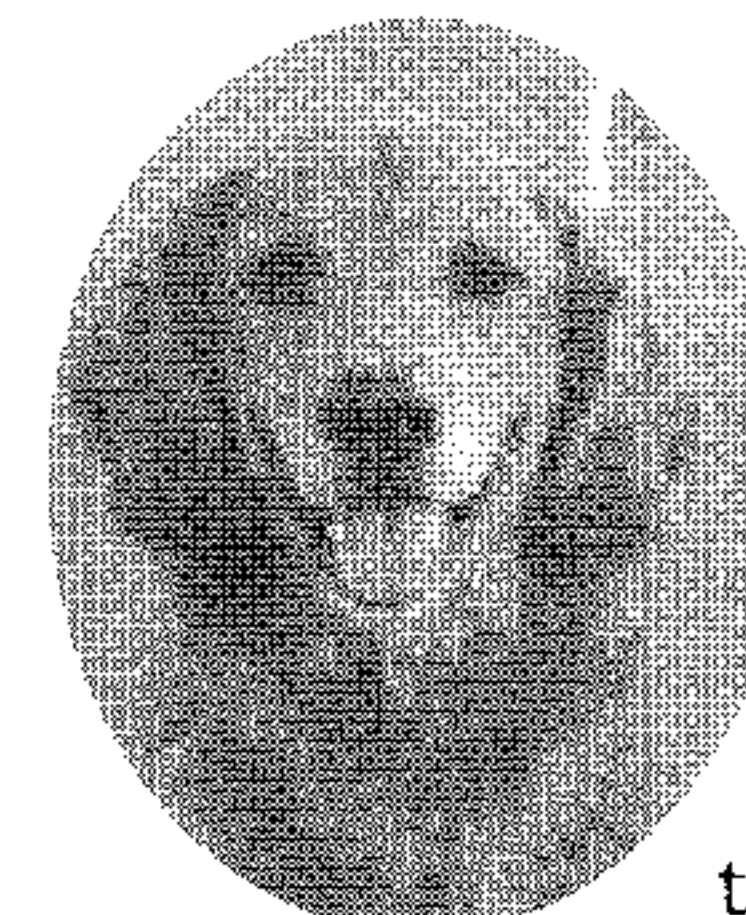
"Beaver the Retriever" is a 6-year-old turned in when his owners moved. He was fostered by John and Erin in Palmetto, but not for long! He was adopted by Todd and Mary R., who had recently lost their sweet GRRMF rescue, **Mandy**. "The Beav" is having a blast at his new home with walks every evening and trips to the doggie beach. Mary and Todd say Beaver is one cool dog! GRRMF currently is seeking dogs named Wally, Lumpy and Eddie to join the gang at Todd & Mary's - AKA Ward and June! Just kidding!

Tonka was picked up in North Florida by Ray and Sue A. to be fostered short-term. Short-term, indeed! They quickly decided to add Tonka to their family of former GRRMF rescues **Molly** and **Julie**. Ray was the one who said he was unsure of fostering because Sue would fall in love with the dog. And guess who called to say he couldn't give Tonka up? Good boy, Tonka, for getting under Ray's skin like that! Congratulations to Ray & Sue -- what a good looking trio of goldens you now have!

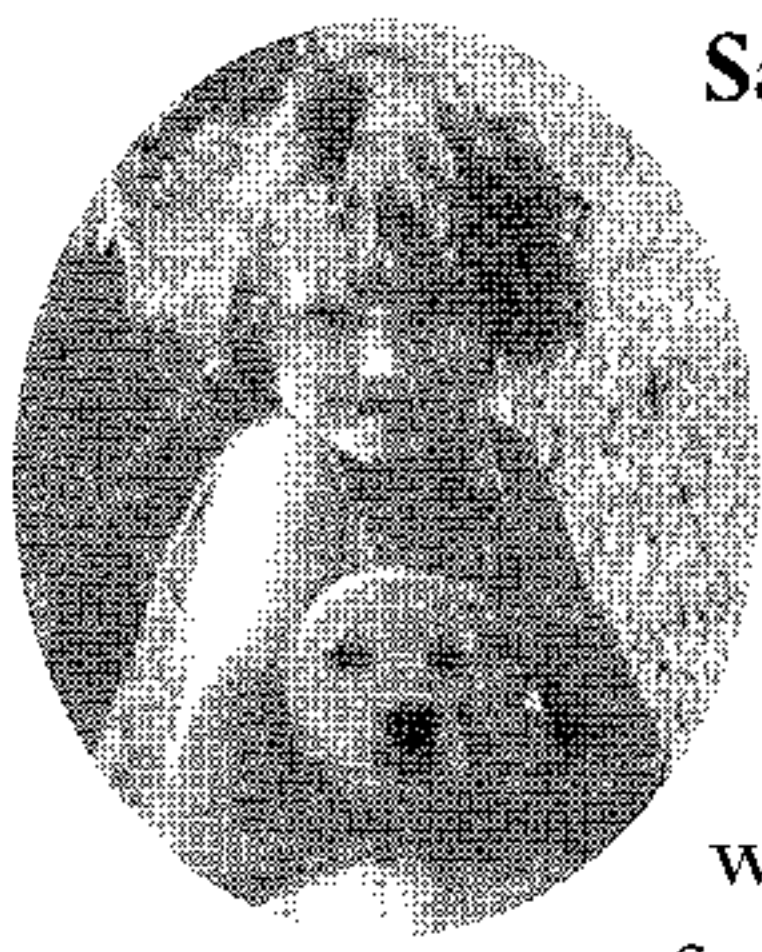
Precious was one of the mothers from the "Sarasota 23." She was fostered by John & Gail Pfohler, who say she is well-named - she is sweet to the core with a temperament of pure gold. We thought Precious might be difficult to place because of her poor physical condition due to years of neglect and some treatable medical conditions. Not so! Kellie & Steve saw immediately what a treasure she is and whisked Precious off to her new home. Kellie says Precious is doing great and that they just love her. This we had no doubt about! The lesson here is that you shouldn't let a little medical problem scare you from adopting a dog. You just may miss out on that "once-in-a-lifetime" companion.



Purchased from a pet store as a companion for a woman confined to bed during a pregnancy, **Angel** found herself being given to a second owner at the age of 6 months when her original owner moved. The second owner left her at home, uncared, for 8-hour stretches and didn't understand why Angel was destructive. The third owner confined Angel to a crate for endless hours at a time. Her fourth home was with a couple -- the husband wanted Angel, the wife didn't. The wife thought Angel was stupid and untrainable and went to great lengths to dispose of her. And then, Angel's luck changed. She was handed over to a vet tech at an emergency animal hospital. The tech called GRRMF, and soon Angel was going to her foster home with Nancy C. When Nancy met her, Angel was 1.5 years old, weighed only 42 pounds and was afraid of her own shadow. It took about six days for Nancy's three other former rescues to persuade Angel that everything was going to be OK. And on the seventh day ... Nancy and her husband decided that this Angel has finally found her heaven on Earth - with them. Angel spends her days frolicking with her four-legged brothers and sisters, wagging her tail and smiling. She is the happiest golden in the house.



Six-year-old **Reggie** came into rescue weighing 40 pounds soaking wet. Reggie's prior owners thought that food was optional for the well-being of their dog. He was fostered by Susan and Randy A., who took special care to ensure Reggie received plenty of high-quality food and supplements. Reggie hit a home run with Fawn G., who reports he is fitting in nicely with her "motley crew" of Vinnie, Buster and several cats.



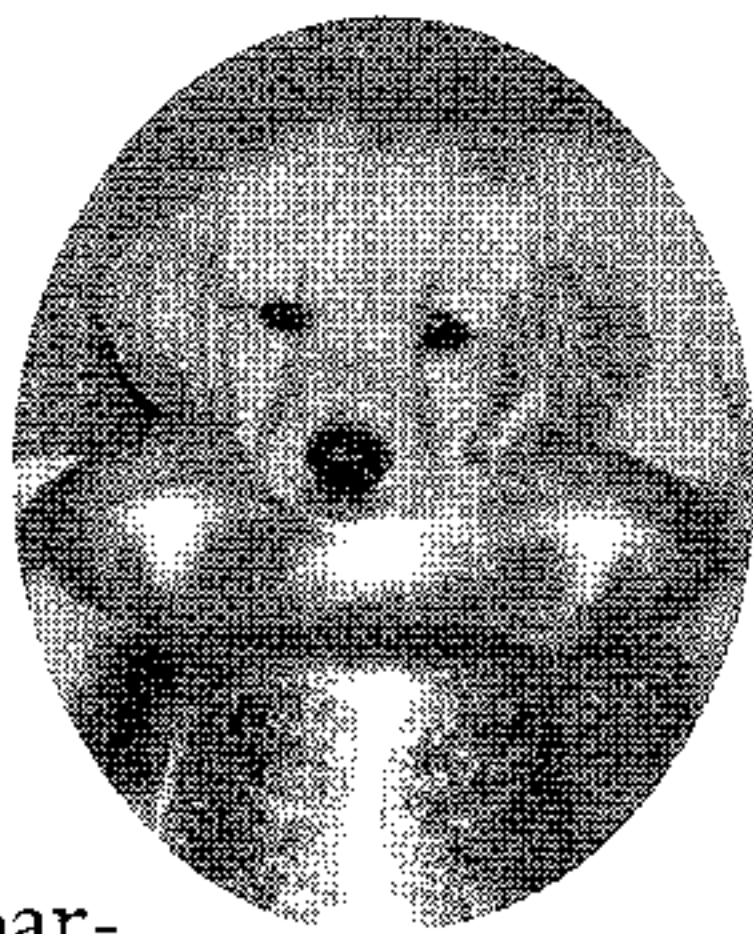
Saxon, Bart and Gucci were three of the "Sarasota 23" puppies. They were fostered and very much loved by Suzanne and Tony R. **Saxon** was the last to be adopted but went to the perfect home. While in foster care, he attended puppy class and was the most popular member of the puppy playgroup. He is a perfect "little dude" who is extremely smart and social. He was adopted by Sue K. and shares his new home with former GRRMF rescue **JD, now Keegan**, and their other rescue sibling, **Rocky**. Gucci was adopted by Judy H. and family. Judy renamed him **SeaJay** and is very much enjoying his goofy personality. He is now a regular at PetsMart education days and has started obedience class. **Bart, now named Kaz**, was adopted by Jackie W. and family. His new mom says he is wonderful and there couldn't have been a better match for their family.

Nick was fostered and adopted by Carol B. When the adoption coordinator called to say she had a home lined up for Nick, Carol responded, "He already has a home." Since coming to rescue, Mr. Nick has gone from sleeping on a concrete floor to lounging on the couch. He has a great personality and his favorite pasttime is swimming, swimming and more swimming!

Abby's first owners grew tired of her and banished her to the laundry room. They soon grew tired of having a dog in their laundry room, too, so off to rescue Abby went. She was fostered by Randy and Susan A. and adopted by Janet G. Janet says that Abby is a pleasure to have around the house - the whole house! - and they love going for walks with her.

Kelsey was turned in when his family decided to adopt a child. Poor Kelsey was frightened and easily startled when he came to rescue, but thanks to fosters Char B. and Carol B., he quickly gained confidence. Kelsey found his forever home with Carol B., who says he is so smart, he even knows to do something before being told.

Monet and Chynna were "Sarasota 23" puppies fostered by Andrea D. Monet was adopted by Cary and Deb C. and is now named **Josey**. She is one lucky dog to have such adoring parents. Josey already knows all the basic commands and even a few cute tricks. Chynna, now **Lucy**, was one of the smallest of the puppies and is now a whopping 20 pounds! She was adopted by Anne P. and her two kids. Anne says she loves her toys and stuffed animals. Lucy makes them laugh when she carries the ones that are twice her size around the house.



Lady was one of the "Sarasota 23" moms. She is 4 years old but looks like a puppy. Lady was fostered by Emily and Velma R. who were very sad to see her go but knew she was going to a wonderful forever home with Aimme T., who continues where Emily and Velma left off by taking Lady swimming at the beach. She is truly one "Lucky Lady," as her new mom is even arranging play dates with other Sarasota 23 dogs.



Jagger had one day left before his time was up at animal control. He is a big boy with an even bigger heart. Jagger was adopted by Sally M. and her family, who are going to make sure he never has anything to worry about again.

Bailey & Caysea were relinquished when one of them snapped at a toddler. The fact that the toddler pushed on the dog's eyeball made no difference to the parents, who wanted them gone immediately. When not being injured by a small child, Bailey & Caysea are beautifully well-behaved dogs who love people. They're even OK with the cat in their new home with Kathy & Phil N. This dynamic duo are singing a new tune today - one of contentment and happiness!

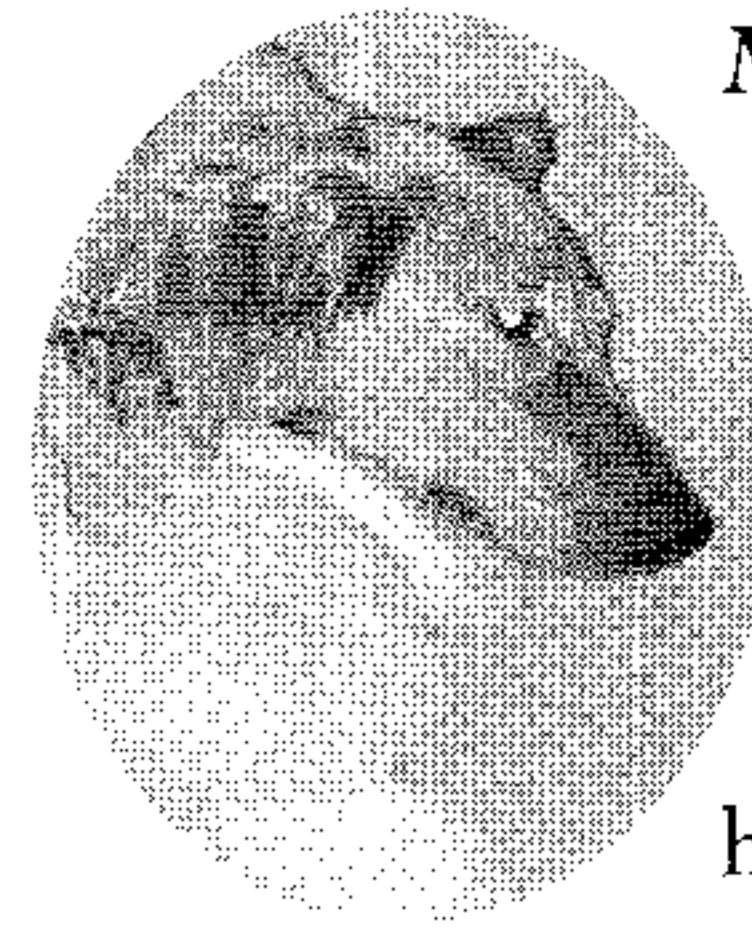
Murphy Ann was rescued by a vet technician when her owner no longer had time for her. Her foster mom, Pam S., bonded with her and decided to make it a permanent arrangement. Murphy soon will be going to obedience classes. We were glad to learn that Murphy's new sister, Maggie, has decided she is ok, too.



Sherlock was turned in when his busy family said they didn't have time for him. He was delighted when Blake & Valerie G. and their family adopted him. Sherlock, now called

Moose, goes to work with his human dad every day. Blake is a businessman and Moose stays with him all day, even during business meetings. Moose is a real southern gentleman and behaves accordingly in all situations.

GRRMF volunteer Sandy Sumner saw an ad for 1-year-old **Yukon** on a fitness center bulletin board: "Free to Good Home." Sandy snapped up the photo and promptly took Yukon home. Yukon had lots of love in his foster home with Sandy and her other permanent and foster dogs. When Krissy M. saw Yukon, it was love at first sight. He fit right in with her young daughter and the other dog.



Matti, 6 months, was given to a veterinary school, where a student took her home. The student soon realized that a golden retriever puppy was too much responsibility for her busy lifestyle. Matti was adopted by Jon & Debbie M.

and is a constant companion to their other former rescue, **Lucky Mac**.

Tascha has a sad story to tell. She was locked in a shed for more than a year and, according to the caller, her skin was "falling off." We picked Tasha up and off she went to our veterinarian. Tasha's extreme hair loss was caused by untreated allergies, and she had angry infections in her eyes and ears. In spite of all this, Tasha had a "heart of gold" and couldn't get enough affection. Dr. E. saw this and decided to take Tascha home to meet his wife, Carol. They quickly decided to make it permanent, and Tascha now has all the love and affection she can get. Good girl, Tascha!

Elliott, 4 years old, is a handsome boy with fetching brown eyes. His owner brought him to GRRMF when he decided to move north. Elliott was quickly adopted by Scott & Geri M. We understand he is settling in nicely with his new family.



Justin was turned in to an animal shelter because the people said he was sick and needed to be put down. He had the usual puppy case of diarrhea -- nothing more. He was fixed up in no time and fostered by Sandy S. until his forever home could be found. He needed a home with a play buddy and plenty of exercise. His new home with Susan and Scott F. has all of that and more. He has been a wonderful addition to the family, although they wish he were a bit less of an early bird in the morning!



Cash was a "Sarasota 23" puppy. He was adopted by David & Agnes B., who are going to take Cash with them on a holiday trip up north. Cash is hoping he gets to play in the snow, but we're betting he'll be glad to get home to the Florida sunshine!

Ruth, another Sarasota puppy, was adopted by William & Julie M. They say she is a sweetheart and is now called **Maggie**.



Niles, another Sarasota pup, is now very much loved by Jeremy G. & Karen L.

Harvey was turned in to rescue when his owners divorced. Neither one could or would take responsibility for Harvey, so he came to GRRMF fosters Mary & Mike N. They loved him so much they couldn't let him go. Harvey fits right in with their two black Labrador retrievers and a new grandchild.

Prince lost his home due to a human's allergy. He was a good match for Frank & Betty L., who say they're enjoying every minute with this prince of a golden!

Meggie was relinquished by a woman who said her ill husband and three children kept her too busy for a dog. The children no longer paid any attention to Meggie, and she was starved for attention. Meggie had a guardian angel, however, at her veterinarian's office. Dr. Rick and his wife, Terry, recently said goodbye to GRRMF spokedog **Woody**, namesake of the "Woody's Fund," and Dr. Rick saw something special in Meggie. She now spends her days playing with her new human siblings as well as the other pets in this wonderful home. Meggie, if only you knew how lucky you are!

Justice was turned back in due to a reported case of thunderstorm anxiety. We were concerned about finding him a new home, but along came Lyn W. She was willing to give Justice a chance to overcome his fears, and says he's doing so well he shows no signs of his former fears! When the first storm came up, Lyn, who works from home, unfortunately had an appointment to keep. She was concerned, but when she left, Justice and her other dog were playing together. When she returned after the storm, she found him safe and sound ... and still playing with her other dog! Lyn adores her new companion, and we're delighted that Justice has finally found his forever home with someone so caring and understanding.

Abernathy was turned in due to a move. The owner also said there was an allergy in the family. The real truth was,



Abernathy was left out on back porch all the time, while the other family dog was allowed inside. What a lonely life for a golden, cut off from human and canine family members!

We took this pretty, big fellow in and whispered in his ear: 'Don't worry, Abernathy, some day your real family will come!' And before you know it, along came Donald & Shannon P. It was love at first sight for Donald, but they initially thought they might prefer a smaller golden. A few days later, they called back and asked if Abernathy was still available. He was!

Collar Them Safe: Tips for choosing a dog collar

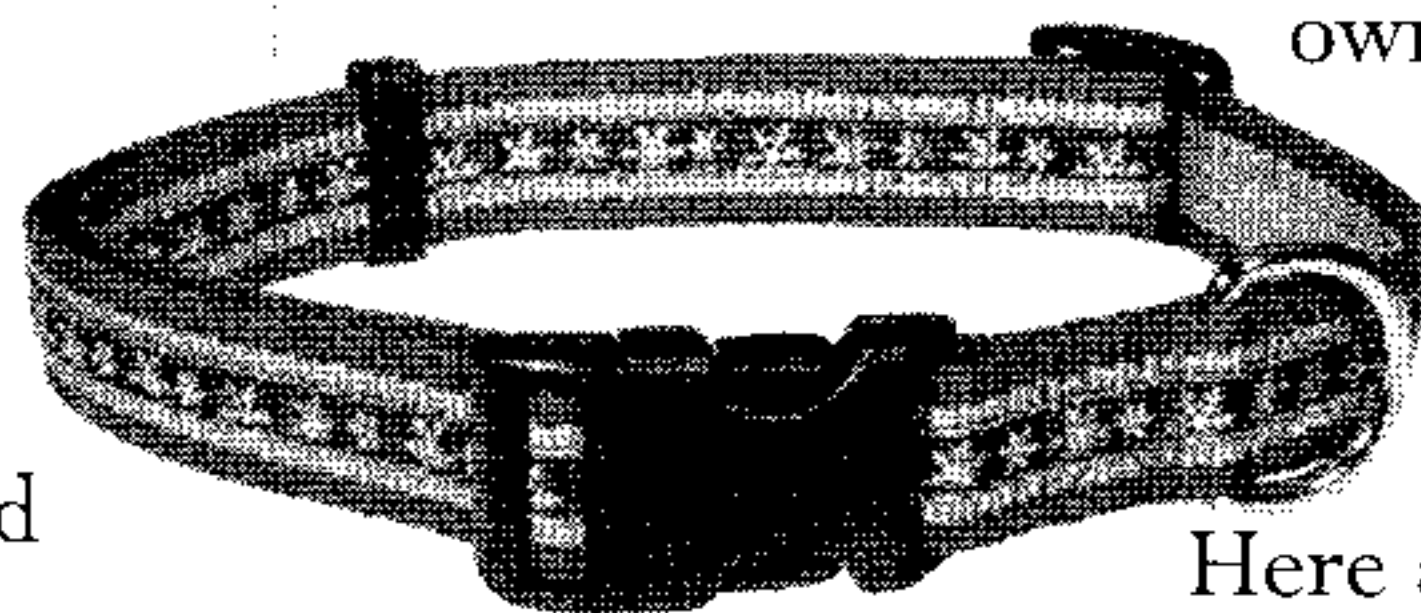
With so many collar choices available, determining what's best for your dog can be a daunting task. Most important, your dog should wear a collar with identification tags at all times. Other kinds are best for exercising and training sessions. Following are a few suggestions:

Everyday Collar

A nylon collar with a plastic snap-type buckle (often called a parachute buckle) is best. Again, it should be worn at ALL times - even when another training-type collar is used -- and include identification tags. It should be loose enough for you to fit a finger or two between the collar and the dog's neck. Too tight, and the dog is uncomfortable. Too loose, and your dog could slip out of it. Believe us, many dogs figure this out very quickly, and usually at the most inopportune time, such as while walking in traffic.

Be sure to check the collar on a regular basis. If your dog gets bigger, the collar could become too tight. Also, just like anything else, collars wear out after time. Nylon is pretty strong, but the buckles could break under pressure if they are too old. For safety, GRRMF suggests replacing everyday collars at least once a year.

If your dog is microchipped (all except early 1990s GRRMF goldens are microchipped) he should have a yellow identification tag with its microchip number on it. **MAKE SURE HE WEARS IT AT ALL TIMES.** It is a lifeline to GRRMF, and to you. We also recommend a tag with your name, address and phone number, as well as a current rabies tag. These tag numbers can be traced back to you through your veterinary office. It is amazing how many dogs are never reunited with their owners simply because they aren't wearing ID tags. Please don't make this mistake with your canine companion.



Exercising and Training Collars

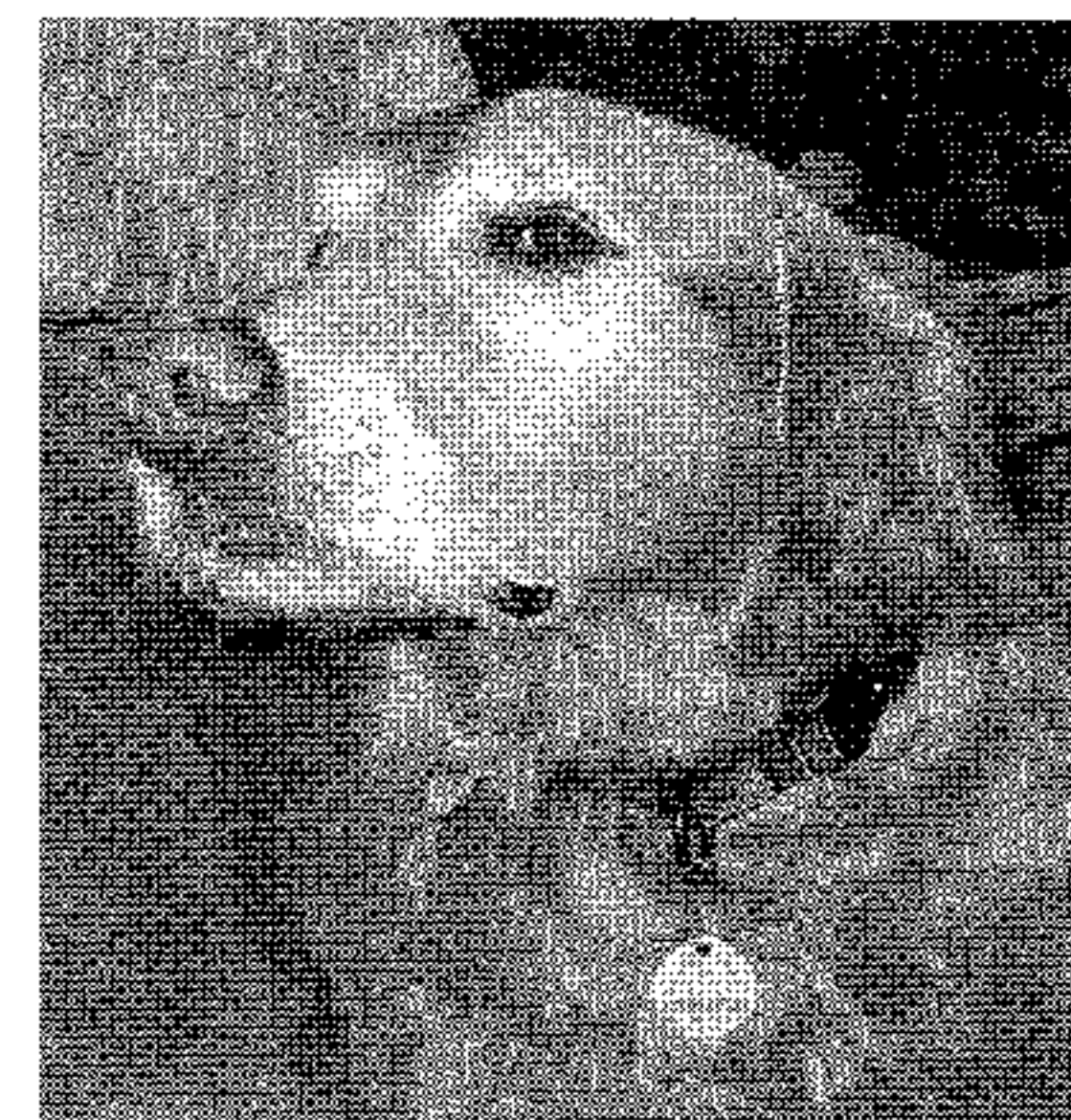
Here are some choices for exercise and training sessions. **Remember, these should only be used during structured sessions. They are not for everyday use.**

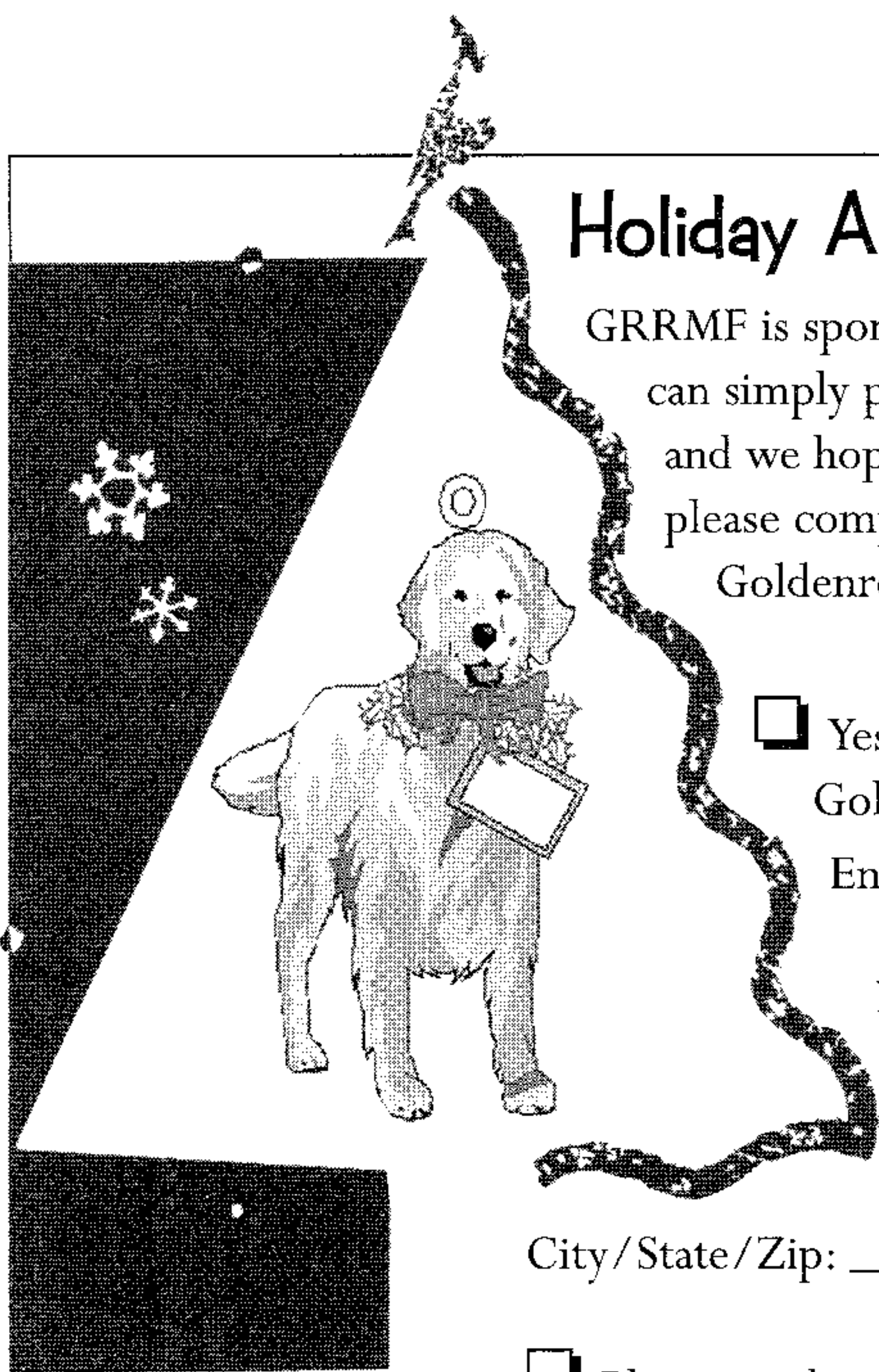
Gentle Leader: Many members have good luck with these halter-style collars, and most trainers highly recommend them, especially for controlling leash-pullers or overly rambunctious dogs. Similar to a horse's bridle, the collar fits over the dog's snout and around her neck. If she pulls on the leash, her head is forced sideways. It doesn't hurt, but she won't like it, so she'll quickly learn that keeping pace with you is her best bet. **Note: Correct size and placement is key. A dog can wiggle out of a Gentle Leader if it isn't properly fitted. Also, don't let the dog whip her head around too much - this could cause neck damage.**

Choke collar: GRRMF discourages the use of choke collars, also known as "choke chains." This type of collar can cause serious damage to the esophagus and throat. We often see dogs who wear choke collars all the time - you can tell by the fact that they have tags on them. This is very dangerous. If the loop on the collar were to get caught on something, your dog could choke to death. And it doesn't take roughhousing or running to choke the dog - we recently read about a dog that got its choke collar caught in its own toenail! We also know of three incidents where a dog wearing a choke collar jumped up on a fence and the choke collar got caught. All three owners found their dogs dead from hanging.

Prong collar: This type of collar is a chain with spikes or "prongs" that dig into the dog's neck. **These collars should only be used under the direction of a certified dog trainer.** They should be worn fairly snugly just behind the ears, and can be worn above the regular buckle collar on the neck. The collar prongs should stand upright; if the collar is too loose they will flop sideways on the neck. Only a collar with dull points should be used. If you put your arm through it and tug, the prongs should not hurt your skin, but just be mildly uncomfortable. They are a good solution for strong dogs that pull when they walk. Just make sure you are instructed on how to use them properly for safety. You should not have to pull on this collar for a correction. If the dog pulls, it will immediately feel the prongs on its neck and stop pulling. In other words, the dog corrects itself. Be sure to remove the collar when you are done walking. Never let your dog ride in a car or just "hang out" in a prong collar. Prong collars usually can be purchased with extra links to get a perfect fit.

Electronic collars: These are normally used as a part of an electronic - or "invisible" - fence. **GRRMF does not endorse electronic fences due to the considerable safety issues in using them.** They do not prevent the dog from being stolen or attacked, and some dogs run right through the electronic barrier. Then they are reluctant to return to their yard, because they don't want to suffer further pain. Animal shelters all over are finding increasing amounts of strays with these collars on them. Your GRRMF adoption contract does not permit the use of an electronic fence if you adopted one of our golden retrievers.





Holiday Angel Trees

GRRMF is sponsoring approximately 3 "Angel Trees" in area veterinary offices to help raise funds for rescue. Patrons can simply pull an ornament off the tree and use it to make a donation to GRRMF. Last year, we raised more than \$800, and we hope to do even better this year! If you would like to participate but don't have access to one of our trees, please complete the ornament form below and mail with your donation of any amount to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

☐ Yes, I want to help the many golden retrievers who need good homes through Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida!

Enclosed is my check for: ☐\$5 ☐\$10 ☐\$20 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐ Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

☐ Please send me a receipt for tax purposes. All proceeds benefit GRRMF. Your donation is tax-deductible.

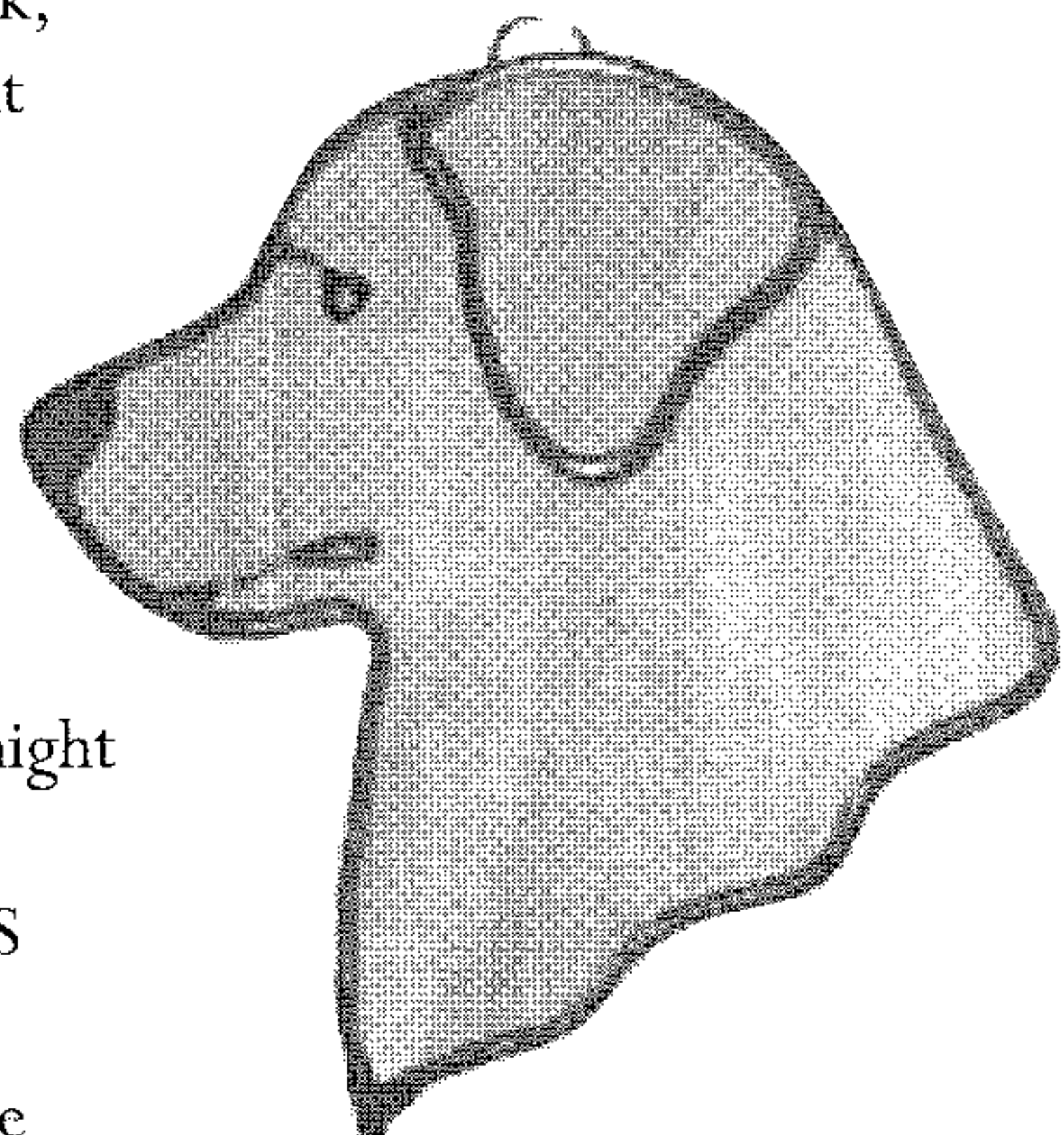
Looking For That Perfect Gift For A Golden Retriever Lover?

Order him or her a handcrafted stained glass nightlight or sun catcher from GRRMF!

Designed exclusively for rescue, these items are available for a limited time and make great Christmas gifts. The fundraiser initially was established to help a very special golden named Mark, who needed expensive medical treatment for a condition affecting his breathing. The fundraiser has been broadened to include GRRMF's "Woody's Fund," a special fund established to help goldens requiring extraordinary medical care.

Cost is \$18 per sun catcher, \$25 per night light, plus shipping (\$5.15 per 2 items) and 7 percent sales tax. ALL PROCEEDS benefit Woody's Fund!

For information on ordering or to see pictures of the two items, check out our website at www.grrmf.org/grrmf-woody-fund.html.



Rescue Happenings!

What's new in rescue? We currently have an exciting project under way. We are working to design a new process for admitting dogs into our rescue program and placing and managing them in foster homes.

Our goal is to form teams that will handle this responsibility. Presently, it falls on a very few, very overworked volunteers. In designing the new process, we have been talking via teleconference with other large rescue groups around the country who have already developed successful programs.

Why reinvent the wheel if we can borrow from successful ideas of others -- with their permission, of course!

In the coming months, we will be recruiting volunteers to join the team, so if you are interested please let us know. The new approach will only be a success if we can staff it with dedicated volunteers willing to work together to achieve the goal.

Contact us via e-mail: info@grrmf.org, or call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840, Mailbox #4.

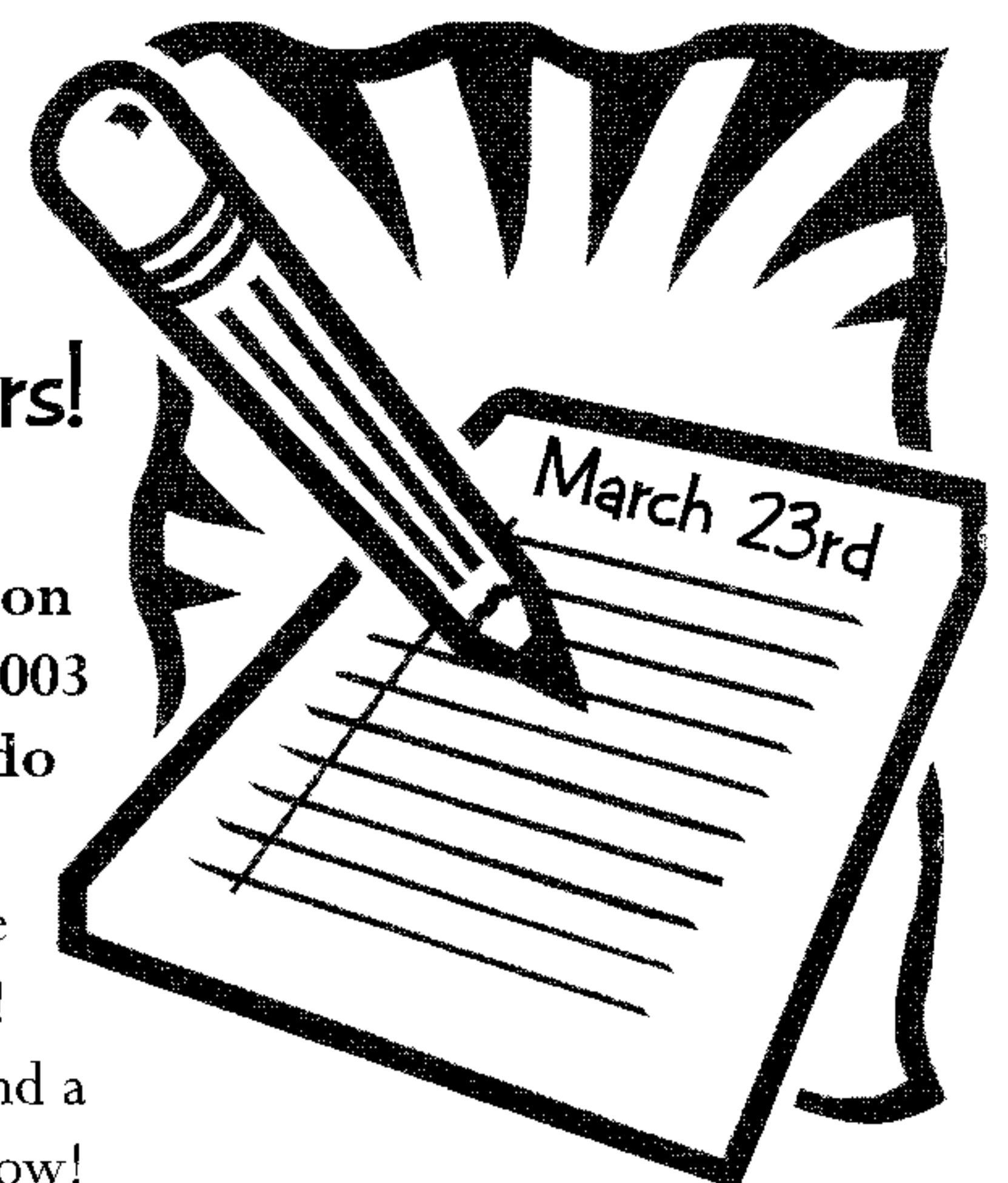


Mark Your Calendars!

2003 Rescue Reunion
Sunday, March 23, 2003

Gemini Springs Park, Debary - north of Orlando

You can't miss this annual event! Come celebrate with your dog and show us how great he or she is doing today! There are many volunteers who would love to see your canine companion again! Lots of activities are planned - doggie games, raffles, education, and more. It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with your "best friend" -- details to follow!



President's Message

by Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

*There are no great people in this world,
only great challenges which ordinary people rise to meet.*
-William Frederick Halsy Jr.

On behalf of the GRRMF Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteers who have made this year a success. Secondly, special thanks to those who have contributed financial support and made what we do possible.

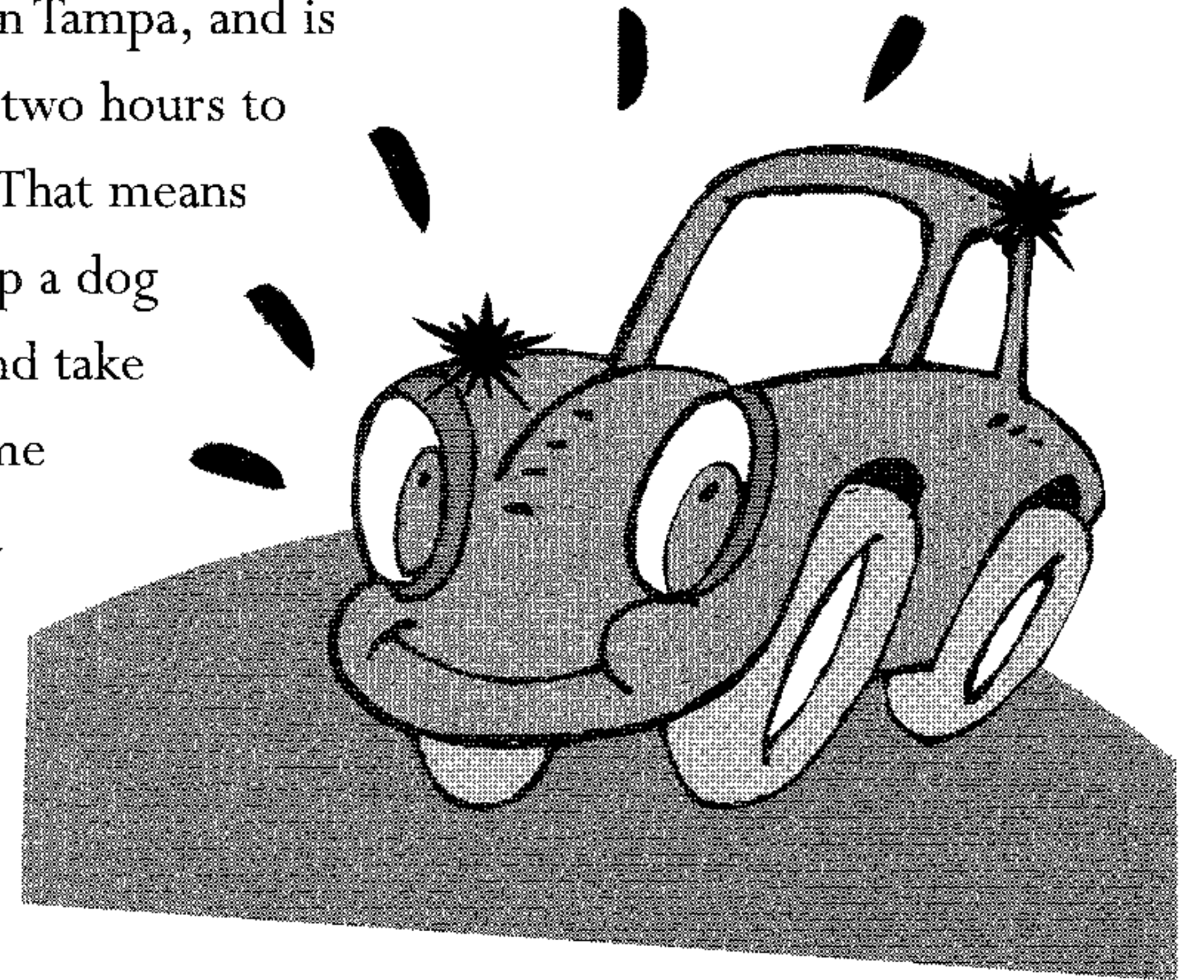
When the books close on 2002, we will have saved nearly 200 goldens - and you are the reason! Your contributions, whether physical or fiscal, have made a difference in 200 lives this year alone. And that's something we can all be proud of.

May you have the most blessed of holiday seasons filled with love and joy, and especially, lots of golden kisses!



Have Car, Will Travel? Transportation Volunteers Needed!

GRRMF is updating its roster of volunteers willing to transport dogs around the state. If you would like to help, please let us know and what locations you are willing to transport to and from. For example: Joe, a new volunteer, lives in Tampa, and is willing to travel two hours to transport a dog. That means Joe could pick up a dog from Orlando and take it to a foster home Tampa, or take a dog from Tampa to Sarasota.



Our goal is to establish a team of transport volunteers led by a transportation coordinator. It's a great way to participate in saving the lives of golden retrievers. If you are interested in volunteering for the team, please let us know at Info@grrmf.org or call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840, mailbox #4. If you have not already submitted a volunteer application, you can download one from our website: www.grrmf.org, or we can send you one through the mail.

Our goldens need you!

HEARTS OF GOLD is published for members of
Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.

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Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida
An All-Volunteer, Nonprofit 501(c)3 Corporation
Education Intervention Spay/Neuter Adoption
PO. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733-1449
For info call: (407) 332-2840 / E-mail: info@grrmf.org
Contact editor: 2boatrats@comcast.net

Membership dues: \$25 / All Donations are Tax-Deductible.
Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grrmf.org
GRRMF History: 1,166 Golden Retrievers Rescued!
2002 Rescues: 180



Brady, formerly Butterball, was overweight, matted and heartworm positive when GRRMF rescued him from the Melbourne Humane Society. After heartworm treatment, he was fostered by Merrill Lochmaier. When we visited Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt in July 1996 to see goldens available for adoption, Brady came outside, walked up and sat down for a pat on the head. He was our instant choice after meeting several others. He was a Velcro goldie, full of life, and had a soulful look in his brown eyes that just warmed your heart. In early September, he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, which progressed rapidly. Brady went to the Rainbow Bridge peacefully on October 1. His companionship brought us great joy in the six years we shared with him, and we will miss him every day of our lives.

-- Dave and Nancy Lowerhouse, Melbourne

Rainbow Bridge

Nicholas III was relinquished when his owners divorced and neither wanted him. He was adopted by Dan and Lila Gilbert and spent the rest of his golden years very much loved. He received the best medical care, and lived to be a proud age of 14. Nick is very much missed by the Gilberts.



It's No Secret! Help Us Spread The Word About Rescue!

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

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.-2 p.m.

PetsMart, Tyrone/St. Petersburg --

Every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sarasota:

PetsMart, The Landings/Sarasota --

Every second and fourth Saturday

PetsMart, Bradenton -

Every third 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 - Every first Saturday

Palm Beach:

Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park

If you are interested in helping, please 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 website under "events" for the latest schedule in case of last-minute schedule changes.

It happens more than we'd like to see. People, thinking they're showing love, overfeed their pets. As the dog gains weight, it becomes less energetic, making a regular exercise routine more difficult -- a potentially deadly cycle for the dog.

If you think a little tummy bulge is "no big deal," we urge you to think again. Obesity in dogs is a serious medical problem. And just like their waistlines, the problem is growing. It is estimated that 25 percent to 50 percent of all American dogs are overweight.

And if you're still not convinced, consider this:

Overweight dogs are more at risk for developing diabetes, heart disease, joint and hip problems, digestive disorders and liver and kidney disease. Obesity also complicates health care such as surgery, drug therapy and recovery from illness and injury.

Dogs who are overweight have less endurance and stamina. Their immune systems are weaker, leaving them at risk for contracting viral and bacterial infections. They also may develop heat intolerance including difficulty breathing - not a good thing in Florida!

The bottom line: If you overfeed your dog, you are shortening his or her life span.

By giving in to those pleading looks and sorrowful eyes, you are putting your dog at risk. It's time for some "tough love."

A dog is an opportunistic scavenger. He'll eat himself into oblivion if given half the chance. YOU can control his weight by realizing that food is not a substitute for love or attention. Your golden will love you just as much if you give him a massage, let him lay his head on your lap, throw the tennis ball a few times or take him for a walk.

Assess Your Dog

How can you tell if it's time to put your best friend on a diet? **First**, perform a hands-on test. With your dog standing you should be able to feel her ribs without prodding. If you can't feel the ribs, or if you have to apply pressure to feel them, your dog needs to lose weight.

Second, with her still standing, look at her abdomen from the side - there should be a modest "tuck-up" area between her rib cage and hind legs - not as pronounced as a greyhound, for example, but still there.

Third, stand directly above your dog and look down at her. Can you see a waist - does her body have an indent between the rib cage and hips? It should make an hourglass figure. Too

much of an indent, and she's too thin. If it's not there, or if it bulges out, it's time to put her on a diet.

Weight Control Strategies

1. Start with a high-quality dog food. This rules out ALL foods available at grocery stores. Remember the saying, "garbage in, garbage out"? Well, it applies here. Compare a human diet of fast food every day, or a balanced nutritious diet of fresh meats, fruits and

vegetables.

GRRMF has a list of recommended foods - you can request it via e-mail at info@grrmf.org.

2. Measure his food and reduce the ration slightly - if you feed 1.5 cups, reduce it to 1.25 cups. Try this for a few weeks before weighing him. You don't want him to drop pounds too quickly -

a gradual reduction should do just fine.

3. Adding a half-can of no-salt French-style green beans to each meal will help your golden feel full without adding calories.

Green beans are high in fiber so they add bulk to your dog's diet. GRRMF has had great success with our famous "green bean diet"!

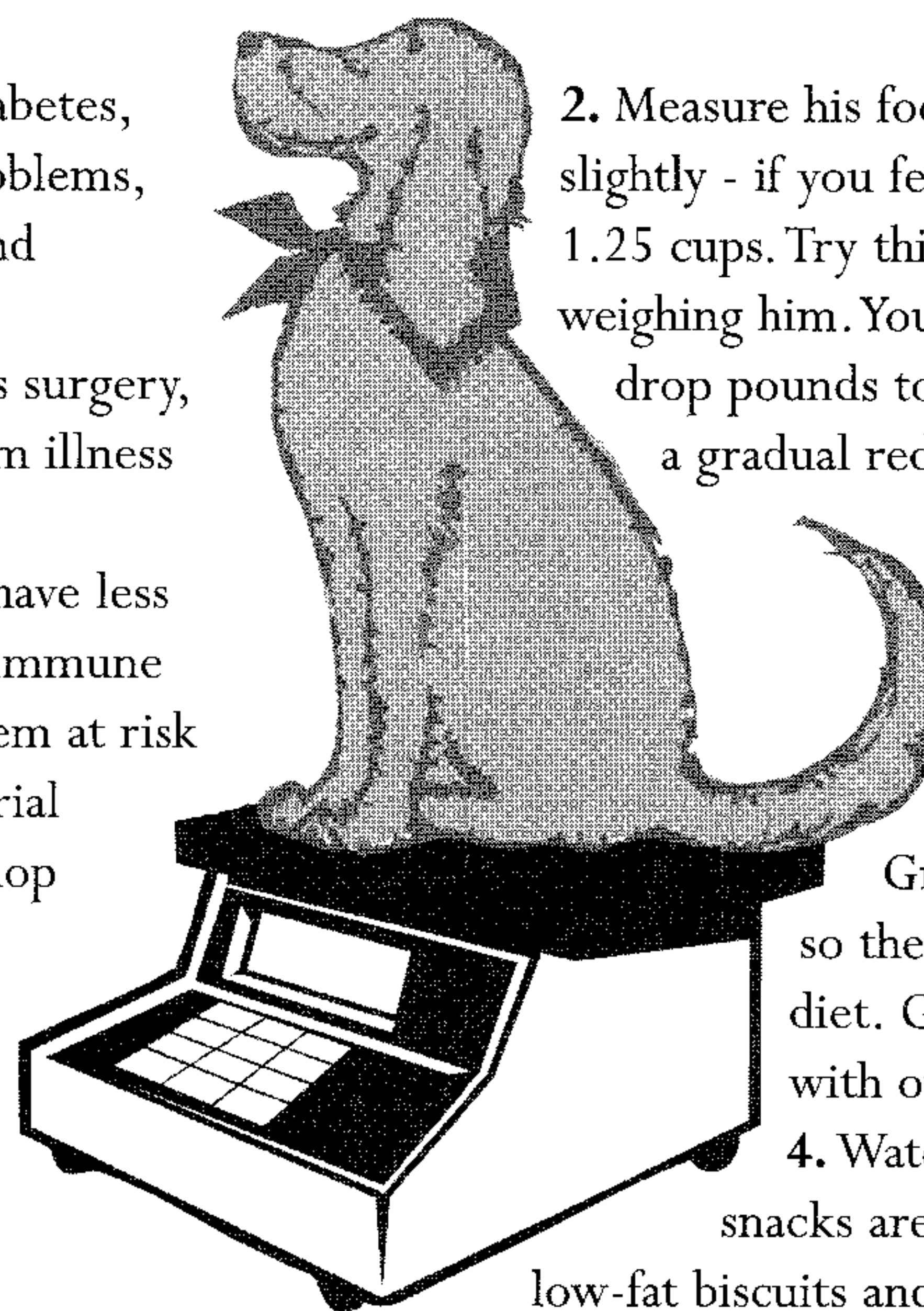
4. Watch the treats. Traditional dog snacks are high in fat. Instead, buy

low-fat biscuits and dole them out carefully. Even better, try these low-fat alternatives: baby carrots, rice cakes, unbuttered popcorn, apple slices, pretzels, melba toast or bananas.

5. Your dog is not a disposal for uneaten people food. Throw leftovers in the garbage, not on your dog's food. If he's already overweight, he doesn't need the extra calories.

6. Establish a daily exercise routine. Sniffing around the backyard isn't enough. For obese and senior dogs, start slowly and work your way up - don't try a 2-mile hike on the first day! Start with once around the block, then build to 2, 3, etc. It might help to consider it a family effort - everyone can benefit from daily exercise!

Momma, Don't Let Your Baby Grow Up To Be ... FAT



Raffle & Auction Items Needed!

GRRMF needs items for our Annual Rescue Reunion raffle and silent auction. If you have something to donate, please e-mail us at info@grrmf.org or call our Hotline: (407) 332-2840 and leave a message.

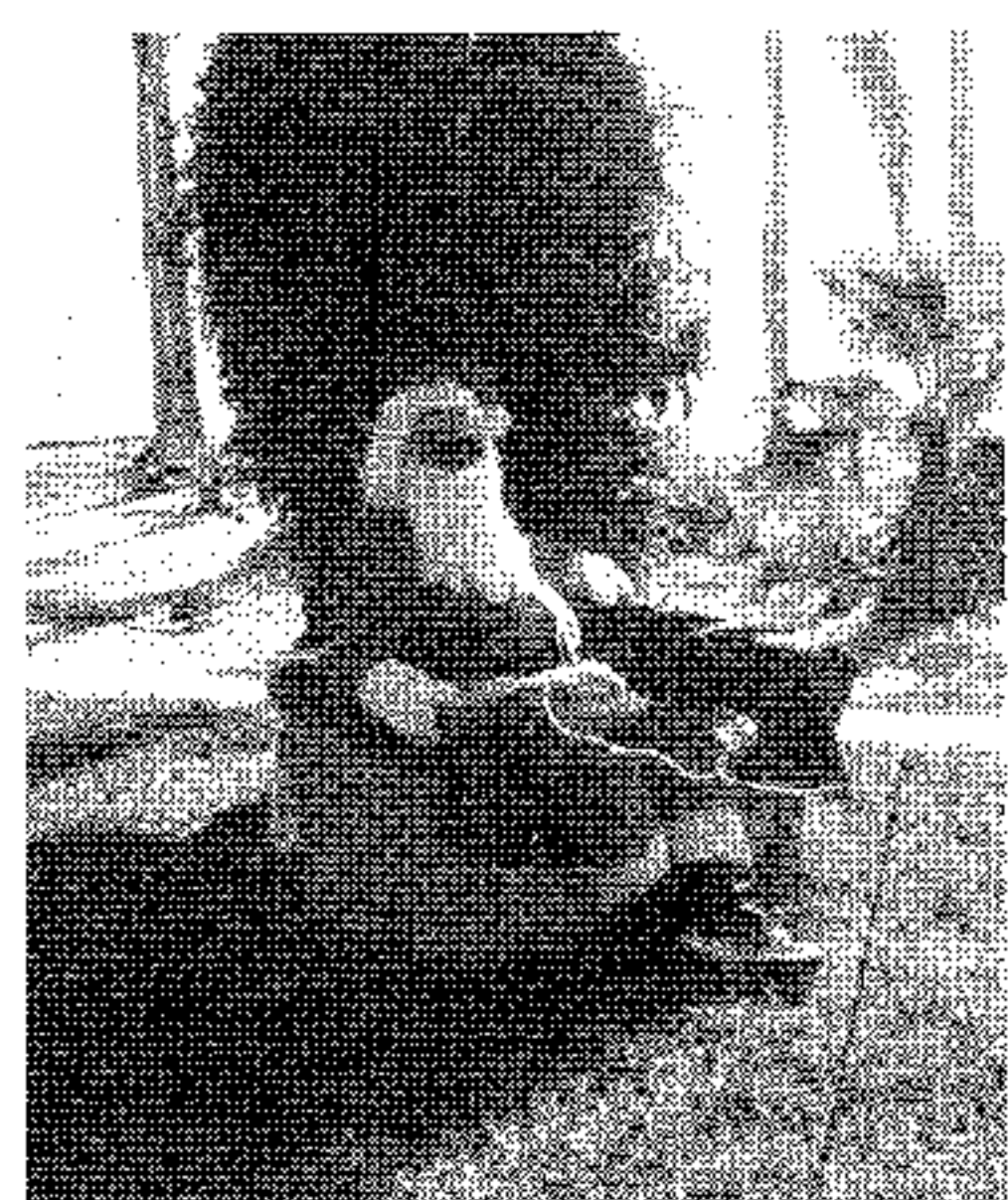
Consult Your Veterinarian

We urge you to consult your dog's doctor about a weight reduction strategy.

The methods above, combined with the care of a qualified veterinarian, will help your golden boy or girl "grow up" to be beautiful and healthy -- no matter what his or her age!

Way to Go, Santa!

On Oct. 26, the SPCA of Pinellas County held their annual Paws on Parade. GRRMF volunteers were there and raised more than \$700. "Pictures with Santa" were a big hit. Special thanks to Mike Morris, who made a fabulous Santa - Florida-style! Thanks to volunteers Renee Perkie, Emily & Velma Rowe, Sue Keiser, Linda Morris, Jackie McGoff, Jody Kaufman, Anne Porcaro, Phyllis & Chris Covert, Lourdes Bielsa, Karen Thomas, Molly Scott and Denise Williams. A big thank you also to Debbie McGhehey for organizing the event and Colleen & Rick Sosteri for arriving before sunrise to help set up the booth. An extra thanks from Debbie McGhehey to her Autoway Pontiac South co-worker, Hamp Raines, for helping load her vehicle and providing moral



support. Everyone involved in this event deserves a big round of applause!

Santa Mike helped raise \$700 for GRRMF.

Pooch Pals

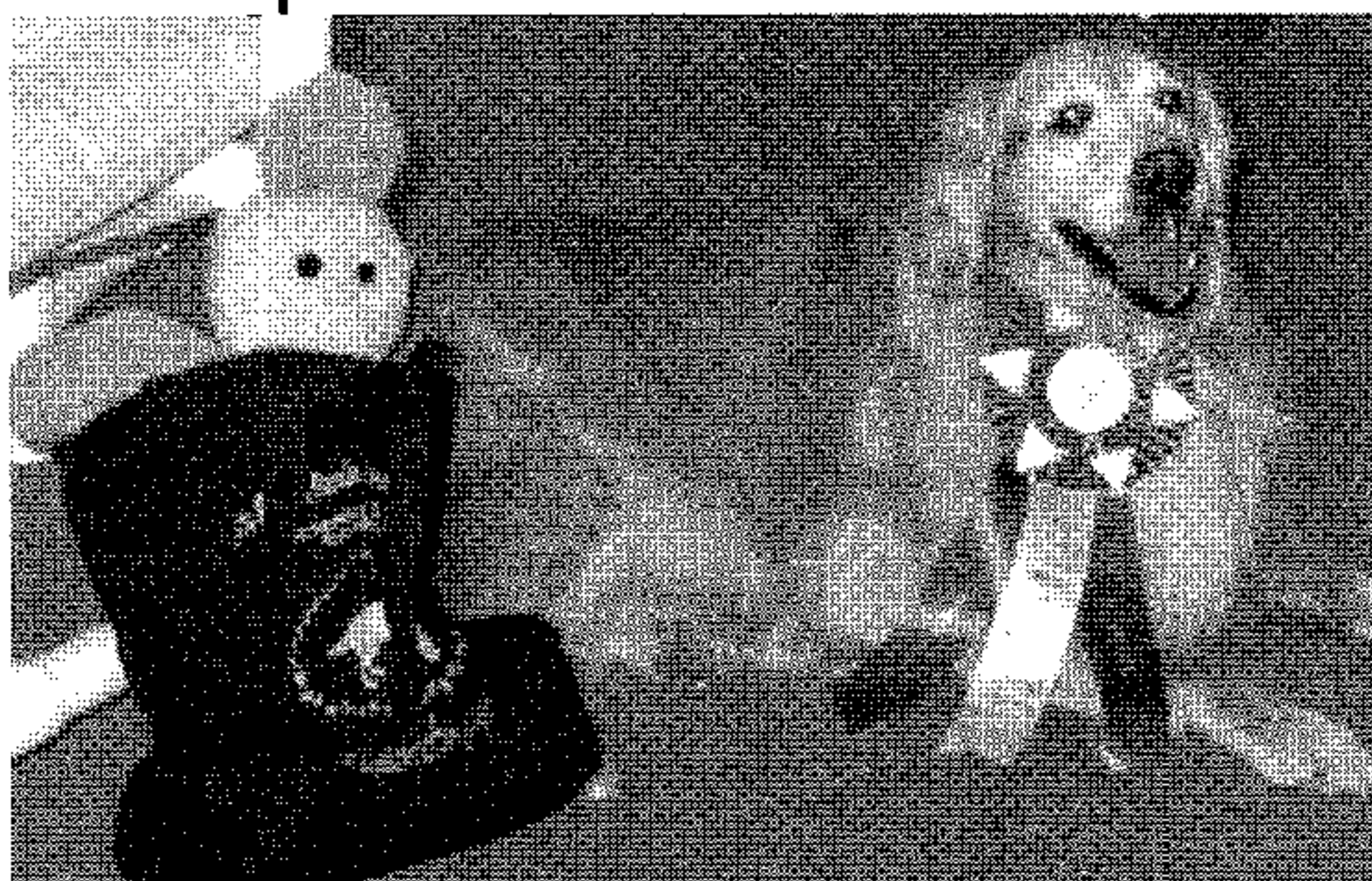
Rescue alumni and GRRMF spokesdog Roxi McGhehey recently presented "thank you" gifts of GRRMF T-shirts and pins to John Richards, general manager, left, and Paige Broxson, controller, Autoway Pontiac South, for their continued support of GRRMF. The dealership donates regularly to rescue and also provides vehicles to Roxi's mom and dealership employee Debbie McGhehey for transporting materials and toys to various fund-raising and educational events. Their support is very much appreciated by Roxi and all her rescue pals - past, present and future!



Oh, What a Sight It Was! Parade Of Rescues Draws Applause, Tears

It was a sight to see - called "*A Celebration of Life*," the Parade of Rescues at the 2002 National Golden Retriever Specialty competition drew down the house. And GRRMF is proud to note that 18 of the 32 goldens parading proudly and elegantly around the ring like professional show dogs were from our organization!

Special thanks to all who participated and to John & Gail Pfohler and Sally Anne Rowland for the stupendous job they did coordinating the event. The stories were moving - both sad and heartwarming. As their individual stories were read, each golden held his or her head high, as if they knew how lucky they are. Following is a brief list of GRRMF participants:



Honey has lots to smile about after the parade.

🦷 **"Augie Dawgie"** - This 11-year-old joined Nancy & Dick S.'s family last year and has brought much love, affection and companionship to their home.

🦷 **Bernie** - Members may remember Bernie as an untrained puppy tamed by fosters John & Gail Pfohler. Now 2 years young, Bernie is adored by his young human, Anna W., who has continued his training and molded him into the perfect canine companion.

🦷 **Brody** - A sweet, gentle "old soul" at only 4 years old, with the eyebrows that won't quit, Brody has lost 35 pounds since coming into Sandy S.'s life.

🦷 **Cisco** -- Suzanne & Tony R. saved this heartworm positive dog from being euthanised at a shelter. He is 7 years young and the only thing positive about him now is new leash on life. He has earned his Canine Good Citizen and his XLD (Excellent Lap Dog) titles.

🦷 **Cody** - Now 7 years old, Cody brings a smile to Kristin A's face every day, even when he steals the trash or her socks.

🦷 **Freeman** -- This energetic boy's cheerful disposition brightens even the darkest day. His humans, Deborah W. and Patricia M., say Freeman can pull you from the edge of despair and place you on the edge of tears from laughing at his antics.

🦷 **Honey & Jenna** - It seems like long ago and far away to these much-loved girls when they were two of humanities many throwaways. Mike & Kathy S. say they are loving life now and are very special members of their family.

🦷 **Lucky Cowboy Louie** - Louie was adopted in 1998 by Linda K. Together, the two led this 8-year-old to a CDX obedience title, and they haven't stopped yet. They currently are in utility training. Linda said Louie has transformed her life.

🦷 **Maggie Mae** - Her human, Michele L., can't figure out why someone would give this wonderful dog up. Maggie has earned her Companion Dog title and is now working on agility.

🦷 **Patrick** - He was one of 6 puppies abandoned by their owner. Kathy F. remembers her first glimpse of Patrick, wrapped in a towel, still wet from his first bath, scrawny and red, immediately greeting her with warm puppy kisses.

🦷 **Shadow & Savanna Marie** - Shadow was turned over to a humane society in 1998 at 1 year old. Her humans, Rick & Colleen S., say she has been a bundle of joy since the day they took her home. Savanna Marie was surrendered by her owners and joined her "real" family in 2000. They say the joy, laughter and happiness these dogs have brought to their lives are immeasurable.

🦷 **Ike** - At age 10, is nothing less than an extreme love and joy, according to his humans, the Dattilos. He is truly a wonderful boy with a heart of gold.

🦷 **Molly & Tonka** - Molly lived the first part of her life in a laundry room. Today, she enjoys long walks with her humans, Ray & Sue A., and playing with her new rescue brother, Tonka. Tonka was a foster boy who decided he didn't want to leave. Smart boy!

🦷 **Barnum & Ace** - Barnum and his sibling were given to a local humane society. They were adopted and lived on a pool lanai for three months before the owners relinquished them to rescue. Ace was one of the "Sarasota 23" puppies and the first to be adopted. Both are loved dearly by Charlie & Barbara W.

Many of these dogs have gone from backyard dogs and strays, abused and neglected, to earning obedience and agility titles. All are dearly loved and very happy in their new lives. A living reminder of why GRRMF exists. If you attend educational days at area PetsMart stores, you may get the privilege of meeting some of them. We are extremely proud of our goldens, and we think their wonderful humans deserve a big round of applause, too!

DONATIONS

Woody's Fund

Nancy Abbott, Andrea Beeler, Jean Dixon,
Theresa Dolle, Corey Fowler, Jude
Fulghum, Carol Gianino, Lou & Carol Glaros,
Pamela Heitschel, Joyce Jones, Diane Kingman,
Jennifer Longman, Jeff & Maryanne Ludy,
Pamela Marshall, Roger & Kathleen Murphy,
Mike Orloff & Pat Kopco, Shannon Pierson,
Guillermo Porro, Cynthia Resare, Bill Strain,
Sandy Sumner, Mary Ann & Paul Tradelius -
In Memory of Woody from Rusty, Sandra
Westhoff, Betty Wyatt, Steve Young.

Capital Fund

Theresa Dolle, Deborah Drapo, Steve Jaffe,
Michelle Shoven - In Memory of MIKEY,
Richard & Virginia Withington.

In Memory Of ...

JENNY Geibel

-- Anne Byrne

Duke of Rock Road

-- Georgia Cowan

BRADY --

David & Nancy

Lowerhouse

DIXIE -- Sandra McPherson

Colleen Sosteri's Father & Nephew & Lady Di

-- Betty Wyatt

In Honor Of ...

Dr. Rubenstein -- Sandra McPherson

SCOUT -- Perry & Debra Smith

Donations

Emily Baldridge, Frederick & Loretta
Bierschenk, Randy Bish (IAMS), American
Charities, Michael & Marilyn Counen, Kim
Demeter, Theresa Dolle, Rebecca Forbes, Doug
& Barbara Gieger, Carol Gianino, Kenneth &
Diane Hopkins, Hudson Valley Golden Retriever
Rescue, Marie Kelsey, Trevor Keyes, Loyd
Kiernan, Krista Luciano, Marylee Lyons, Debbi
McGhehey, Julie Matthews, Robert Maufroy,
Lori McDerby, Deborah Ryan, Lukas Schmidt,
Theodore & Brenda Schneider, Bob & Grace
Shappell, Helen Schwarzmans, Nancy Spears,
Sunshine Bimmer Chapter, Karen Wrenn.

For the "Sarasota 23"

Mark & Kelly Balester, Tom & Dessie Bursh, Jan Hartleban, Louis & Edie Hoover, Christina Leggatt,
Julie Mathews, Henry D. Mayer, Carol McKee, Denise Schoen, Steve Young.

Special Purpose Donations

Peterson Homes, Inc. - National Rescue Parade
Dick & Nancy Spears - Advertising

Sponsors

Glen & Sue Brierley, James Goettel & Christine Zink, Sandra Lagana, Guillermo Porro,
Rick & Colleen Sosteri.

Boarding Fund

Theresa Dolle

Thanks!

☀ Pat Mayer for donating a Hewlett-Packard Copier/Printer/Scanner.

☀ Karen Marr for the box of scarves for our Golden Goods.

☀ Elaine Newnham for assorted greeting
cards and stationary items for GRRMF's
Golden Goods.

☀ Tom & Lynn Orth, plus **Nash
& Lacey**, for donating Nylabones
to our rescues.

☀ George & Patti Toms, John & Gail Pfohler
and Sally Anne & Dave Rowland for contributing food and
drinks for the GRRMF-sponsored hospitality room during the

National Specialty competition in Orlando.

☀ Tampa Sam's Club for allowing GRRMF to do pet awareness days in September. The store matched
our donations dollar for dollar, resulting in total donations of more than \$1,400. Not bad for a few
hours' work! Special thanks to all volunteers who helped at this event.

☀ Marie Pacheco for mailing out adoption applications.

☀ Sharon Sherwood for designing night lights and sun catchers for Mark's fundraiser.

☀ For manning the Golden Goods booth at the National Specialty competition in Orlando: Lila
Gilbert, Vicki Ferros, Diane Makinney, Sharon Sherwood, Sandy Sumner, Nancy Spears, Maryanne
Ludy, Ellen Mathieson, Kristin Anderson, Ann Fitzpatrick, Colleen Sosteri, Jennifer Longman, Pam
Jones, Barbara Durham, Marie Pacheco, Marcia McGovern.

☀ For helping at Great Day in the Country: Patti Hatton, Nicole Dietrich, Diane McLean, Steve
Jaffe, Jennifer Longman, Leah Wright, Carol and Hal Avey, Pam Jones, Sandy Sumner, Marcia
McGovern, Barbara Durham, Kerri Vorhies, Diane & Bill McLean.

☀ For manning hotlines: Ellen Mathieson, Marie Pacheco, Betty Wyatt, Kerri Vorhies, Amanda Kern,
Kelly Mehigan, Candace Jaffe, Emily Rowe, Diane Makinney.

☀ Applications Team: Sandy Sumner, Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Harrell, Peggy Litt.

☀ Mail volunteers: Carol and Hal Avey.

☀ Staff of Hip Dog Therapy in Winter Park for providing hydro exercises for our rescues with hip and
back problems.

☀ Ellen Mathieson for responding to e-mails through our Web site.

☀ Newsletter Team: Carol McKee, editor, and Judy Ladney, designer.

Note: The GRRMF Board sends very special thanks to all volunteers and sponsors. Although we try to list everyone, our organization is growing, and we sometimes miss names. If you have not been listed, please e-mail our newsletter editor at 2boatrats@comcast.net - and we'll try our best to list it next time.

☀️**Fosters:** Susan Andrews, Ray & Sue Angle, Charlette Bauer, Dr. Rachel Beckett & Staff, Carol Buczynski, Nancy Carroll, Pat Chesley, Andrea Davis, Scott & Jill Cornell, Erin Curry & John Meisner, Penny Dalton, 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, Julie Mink, Elaine Newnham, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, John & Gail Pfohler, Jeff Prescott, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Dave & Sally Anne Rowland, Dr. Christine 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 volunteers:** Linda Cohen, Joy Eyring, Vicki Ferros, Kathy Hendrickson, Melissa Knowles, Jeane Knowles, Robin Mackler, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Colleen Sosteri, Kerri Vorhies.

☀️**Home visits:** Jean Albrecht, Cindy Andrews, Dawn Avolio, Ellen Barr, Ellen Bartkus, Robin Bass, Ed & Lisa Burger, Nancy Carroll, Pat Chesley, Gregg & Tom Eddie, Irene & Jerry Clifford, Linda Cohen, Jill & Scott Cornell, Chris Daher, Penny & Don Dalton, Andrea Davis, Nicole Dietrich, Jean Dixon, John and Ann Fitzpatrick, Susan Fühlenwider, Jordan German, Anne Godbold Bonita Goldman, Hedy Greene, Barbara Gurlick, Joanne & Tom Hell, Janice Hindery, Steve Jaffe, Jan Jennings, Ellen Lindenfeld, Diane Makinney, Terry Martin, Susan Matlock, Cheryl & Jay Maze, Jennifer McChesney-Wisecup, Fran McGinnis, Marcia McGovern, Kelly Mehigan, Gail Mertz, Marilyn Metcalfe, Julie Mink, Laurel O'Connors, Renee Perkier, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Tony & Ann Marie Roberts, Carol & John Ross, Sally Ann Rowland, Pat Rupp, Kathy Salisbury, Robin & Dennis Scott, Randi Shoemaker, Dianna Snow-Posner Rick & Colleen Sosteri, Nancy Spears, Kathy Spilker, Michelle Veres, Bill & Celeste Watkins.

☀️**Educational days:** Anna & Ron Bailey, Loretta Bierschenck, John Bothwell, Jim Brand,

Nancy Carroll, Linda Cohen, Andrea Davis, Barbara Durham, Brooke Fearn, Vicki Ferros, Linda Fike, Barbara Geisinger, Pam Jones, Joanne & Marina Julia, George Kalbfleish, Susan King, Mary Beth Liermann, Jennifer Longman, Ellen & Paul Mathieson, Deb McGhehey, Jackie McGoff, Sandy Miller, Megan Newman, Renee Perkier, John & Gail Pfohler, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Gayle Risley, Emily & Velma Rowe, Sally Anne Rowland, Jackie Sibia, Dionis Smith, Ed & Marsha Sturm, Sandy Sumner, Kerri Vorhies, Charlie & Barbara White.

☀️**Veterinarians who helped by donating or discounting goods and services:**

All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz
Animal Hospital of Treasure Island, Treasure Island
Dr. Michael Schroeder, Animal Medical Clinic, Spring Hill
Dr. Rachael Beckett, Jackson Veterinary Practice, St. Augustine
Dr. Myburgh, Bright Cross Animal Clinic, Venice
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
Dr. E. J. Rackowski, Treasure Coast Animal Clinic, Vero Beach
Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach
Fox & Friends Animal Hospital, Sun City Center
Dr. Stanley Diment, Clermont Animal Hospital
Skyway Animal Hospital, St. Petersburg

☀️For assistance and discounted or free services in training rescue dogs: Courteous Canine, Lutz; Best Paw Forward, Sanford; Oviedo Dog Training Club and 3J Dog Training.

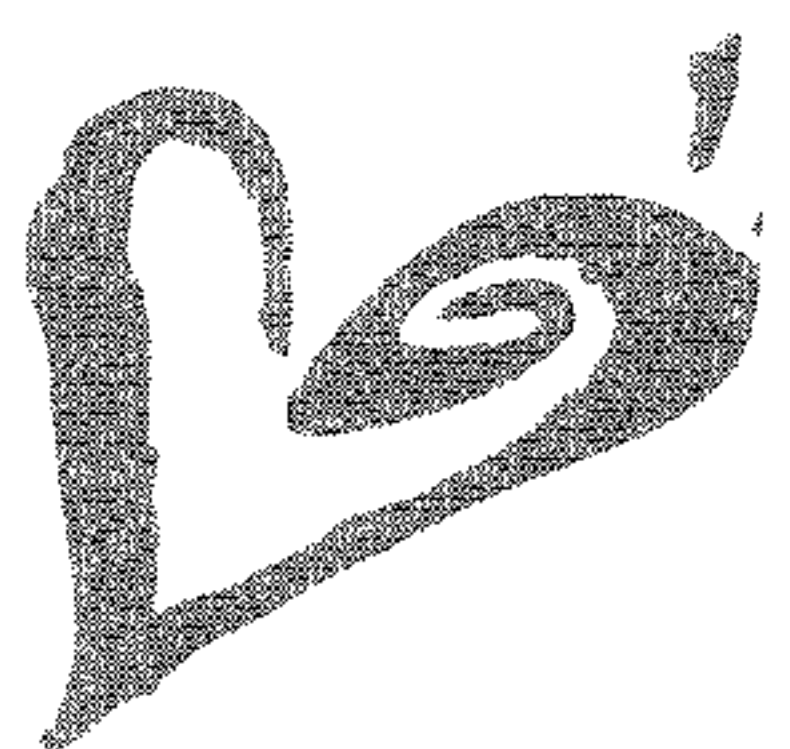
☀️Christa Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis for donation of medical supplies such as FrontLine, Advantage, heartworm preventive and heartworm treatment drugs. Also to Ellen Pavlik for coordinating these donations. We really appreciate your help!

☀️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.

☀️To Betty Wyatt for all her hard work and dedication on behalf of our goldens.

☀️To Jennifer Longman for helping our adoption coordinator with care of foster dogs.

Correction: In the last issue of Hearts of Gold, we inadvertently omitted a very dedicated team of volunteers who have been diligently holding educational days in the Bradenton area for nearly two years. Our sincere apologies to Ed & Marsha Sturm for not including this information: Bradenton PetsMart educational days, third Saturday of each month. If you'd like to help with this ongoing event, please contact the Hotline: (407) 332-2840 or via e-mail: info@grrmf.org.

Golden Friends 

supporters - including those we may have inadvertently left off this list.
t miss a name or two. If we failed to mention you, please let us know - (407) 332-2840
We couldn't operate without your help - you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of goldens!!

Rawhide: Santa Dog Says, 'Take This OFF Your Dog's Christmas List!'

Rawhide is a favorite of many family dogs. However, you should know that rawhide bones can be dangerous for your dog and you.

Why?

First, the health implications. Rawhide is made from animal skin processed with tannic acid or other chemicals to prevent it from rotting. Less expensive rawhide is imported from foreign countries where formaldehyde is used as a preservative. Formaldehyde is the deadly chemical that caused you to wrinkle your nose in disgust in high school biology class. It is also known as embalming fluid. Yuk.

Rawhide can cause diarrhea and stomach upset, especially if your dog tends to gobble the rawhide and swallow large chunks of it. If he doesn't regurgitate it, the large piece can become lodged in the intestines. Many dogs have had to have expensive surgery to remove intestinal blockages caused by rawhide.

Another danger is behavioral issues associated with resource guarding. Rawhide is so delicious and addictive that many dogs will protect it from other dogs, from children and from you! Non-aggressive dogs, who would never consider protecting a toy or nylon bone, are quick to growl, snap and even bite someone who might try to take their prized rawhide away. Some dogs are so possessive that they will growl if you just walk near them. If your dog is possessive of food or toys or dominant with human or canine friends, you are taking a big risk if you give him rawhide.

Because of these dangers, GRRMF advises against giving rawhide to dogs. This is extremely important for families with small children that might intentionally or accidentally bother your dog when he is chewing his bone.

There are many safe alternative toys to entertain and please your dog. Nylon bones, smoked and plain beef shank (marrow) bones, shank bones stuffed with cheese and hard rubber toys are just a few safe alternatives to rawhide.

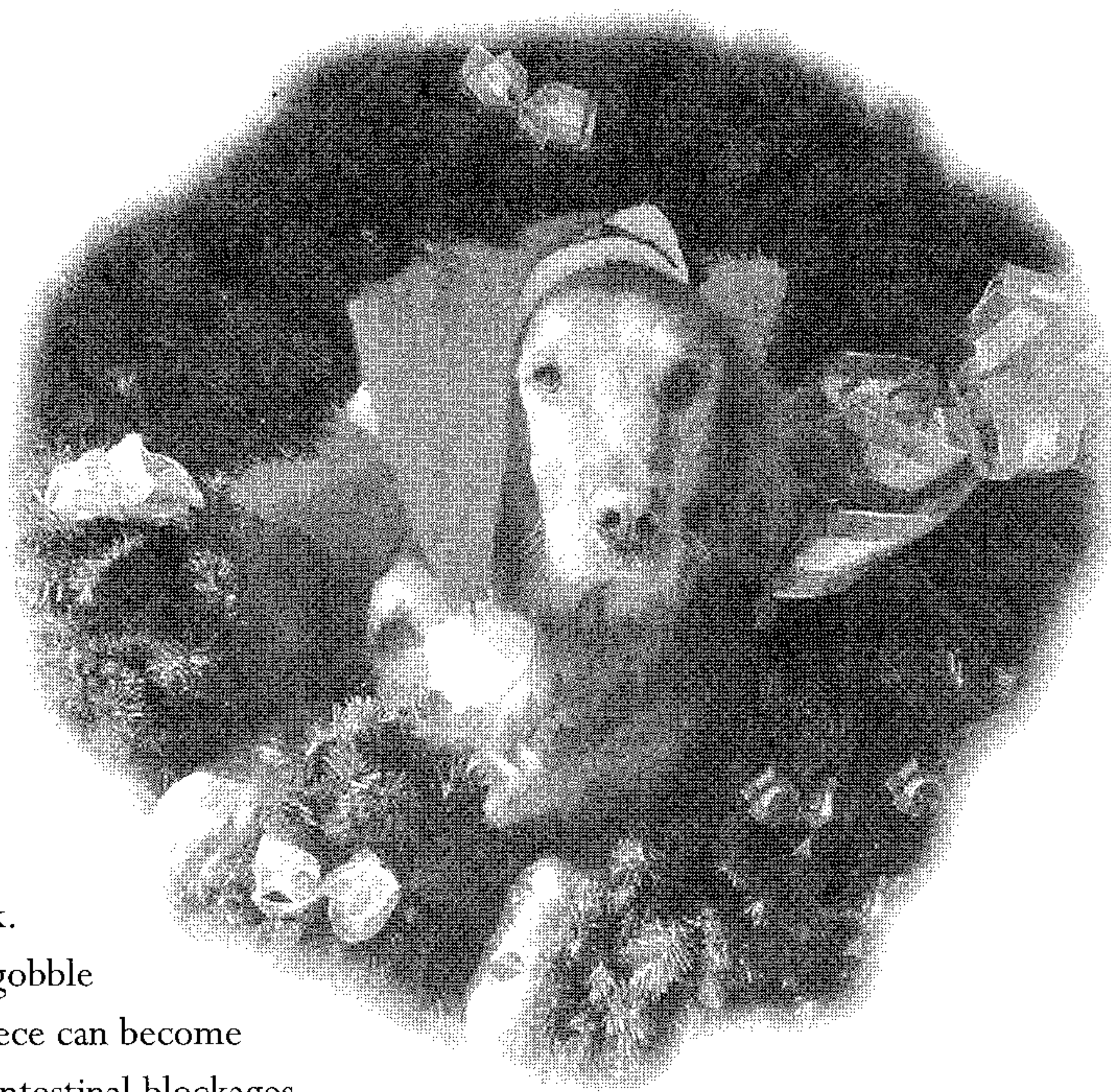
But if you must ...

If you cannot resist giving your dog rawhide, GRRMF suggests:

- ◆ Do not give him any for at least two months after adoption (his settling in period).
 - Dogs who are unsure of their surroundings and family role are more likely to act protectively than a dog who is secure in his home and understands that you are the boss.
 - ◆ Buy high-quality, American-made rawhide that does not contain formaldehyde. It is more expensive but healthier for your dog.
 - ◆ Always supervise rawhide chew sessions, especially if there are children or multiple dogs in the home. Dogs will fight over rawhide.
- If you have more than one dog, it may be best to separate them during chew sessions.

These same warnings apply to all chews manufactured from animal parts, including hooves and pig ears, which we also do not recommend.

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Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
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