



HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2003

Trust:
A
Deadly
Issue
See page 11.

Waggin' Tails!
Betty Wyatt Receives
Award At National
Golden Retriever
Specialty!
See page 7.



How much would
YOU be willing to do
for GRRMF?
See Volunteer Spotlight
on page 10



YOU ARE INVITED!

11th Annual Rescue Reunion

Sunday, March 23 - Gemini Springs Park, North Orlando

Reunion Raffle & Auction Items Needed!

With the Annual Rescue Reunion fast approaching, we are in need of donated items for the Raffle & Silent Auction fund-raisers. We have had some wonderful items in the past, and every year has been better than the last.

Raffle items usually range from gift items and baskets (dog-related or non-dog related) to t-shirts, picture frames, pet-care items, games, posters and more.

The Silent Auction features more valuable items that guests "bid" on. The highest bidder wins the item. At past reunions, we've had fishing trips, balloon rides, vintage wines, restaurant gift certificates, autographed books, artwork, jewelry and much, much more.

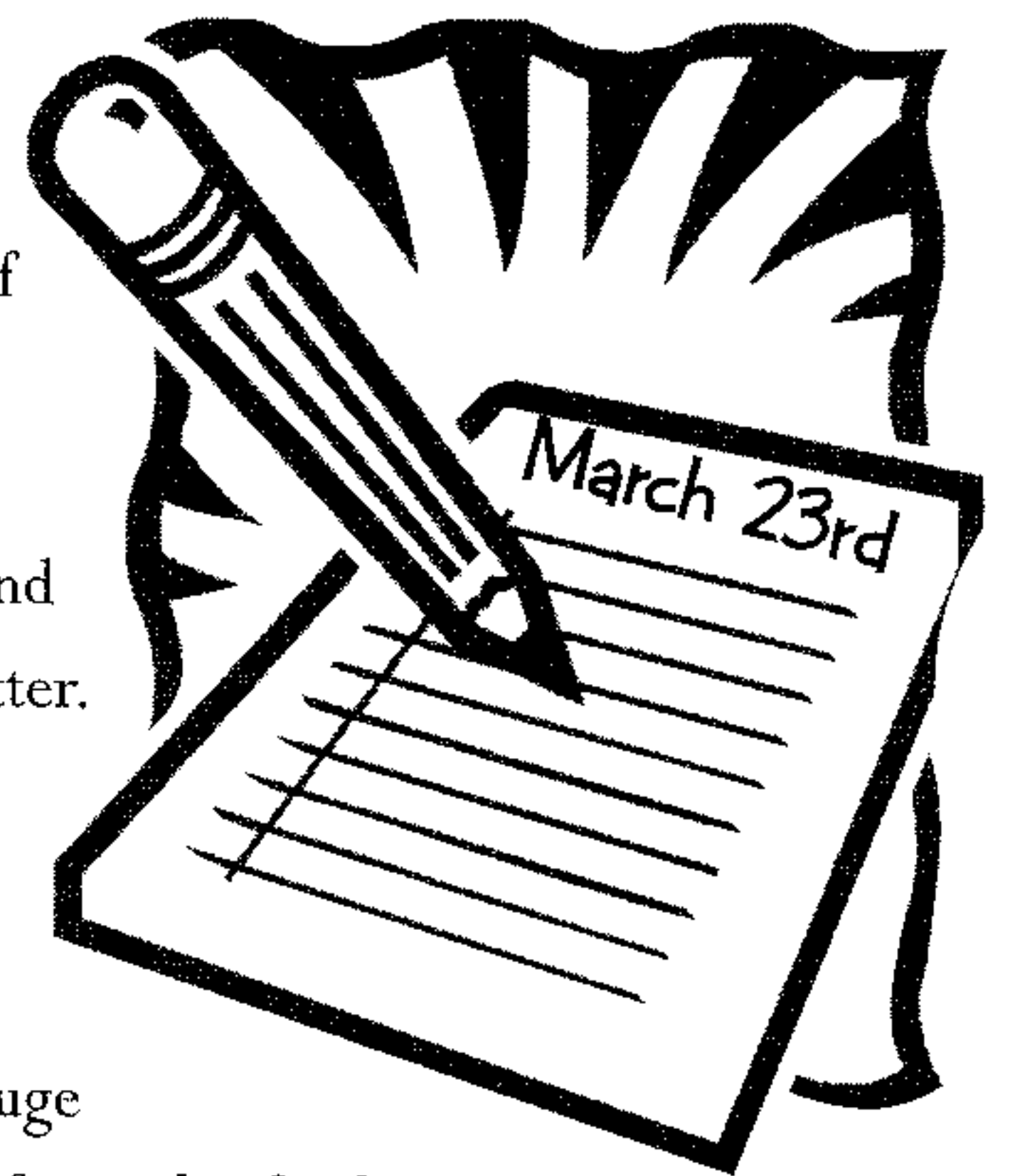
Anything goes ... so put on your thinking cap and donate, or solicit donations of new items for this year's raffle and auction. All proceeds benefit GRRMF.

To donate raffle items, contact Julie Kielts, goldtailswagging@aol.com. To donate auction items, please contact Marcia McGovern, mmcgovern1@cfl.rr.com or (407) 321-6355.

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
cordially invites you to attend the
11th Annual Rescue Reunion - celebrating
11 years and 1,195 dogs saved since 1991!

Last year, more than 300 former rescues attended. If you have never attended a reunion, we urge you to attend! Just imagine ... hundreds of beloved goldens all in one place - and rescued ones, at that! You'll meet new friends and see many of the dogs and people you've read about in this newsletter. This golden retriever event it is truly a heartwarming experience!

Gemini Springs is a beautiful "Old Florida" nature park, complete with huge oak trees, hiking trails leading to and from the fresh-water springs, bike paths and lots of natural old-Florida scenery. Easy access from all coasts and major highways!

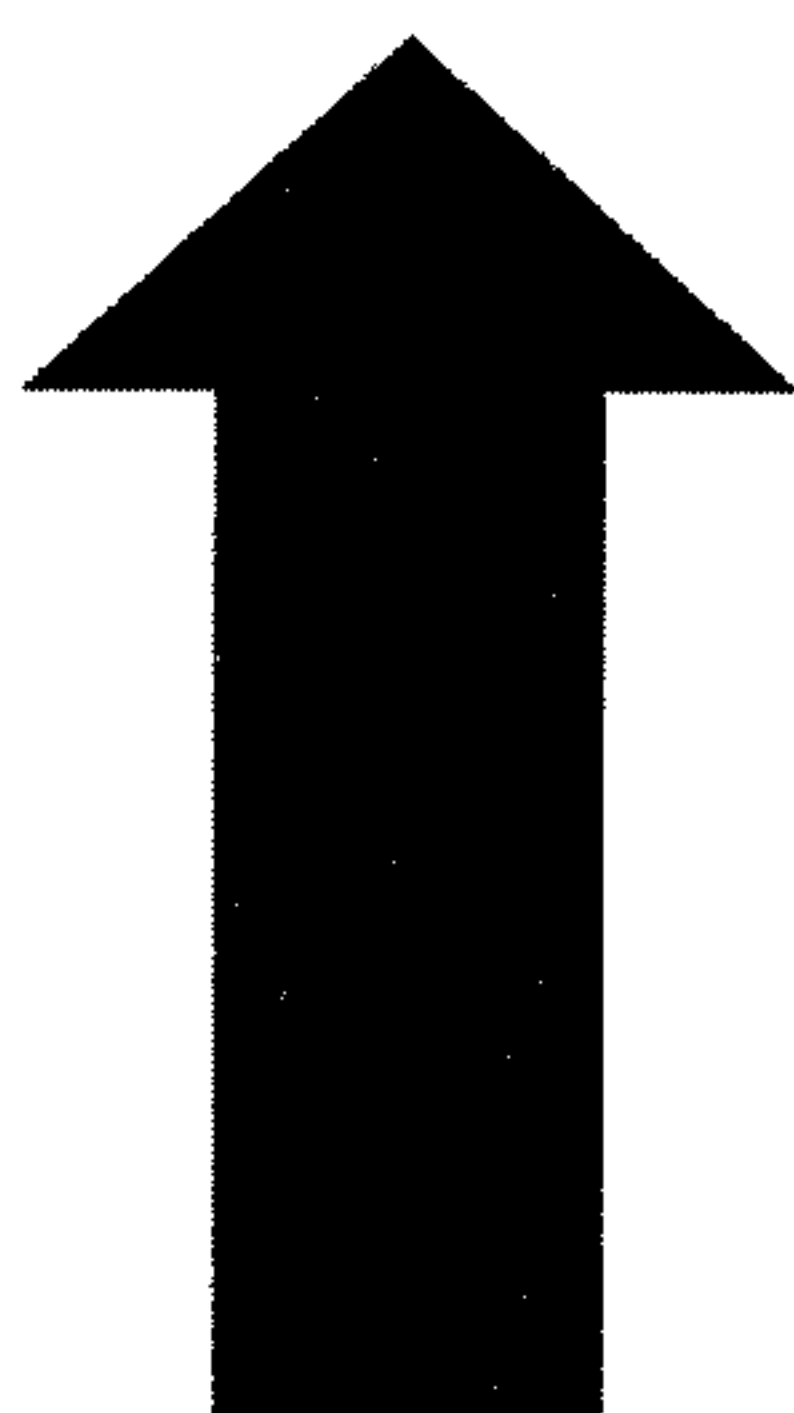


DON'T MISS IT!
Details on Page 6

It's Not Too Late!

2003 Membership Drive Still Under Way

Help Us
Reach Our Goal!



Many thanks to those of you who have sent in your 2003 membership dues. We really appreciate your support! So far, we've only reached 44% of our membership goal. In fact, 293 members have not sent in their 2003 dues, which means we have only reached membership at 55% of 2002 levels. We need a BIG push to meet our goals and help fund care for our goldens. If you haven't sent in your annual dues, please help us meet our goal of increasing our membership by 25 percent by sending it in today! A form and self-addressed envelope are included in this newsletter.

Membership start at just \$25 per year. Or for \$100, you can join at the sponsorship level, in which you help a special-needs dog. Sponsors are recognized in the newsletter.

And remember: GRRMF is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so your dues are tax-deductible. One hundred percent of your contribution will go toward helping goldens in need.

I'M ADOPTED!



Maggie Mae goes home!

This neglected and abused long-time foster deserved a family who would love and protect her for the rest of her life. Guess what - she got it! Read more on Page 3.

Special thanks to all who sent holiday greetings, especially those of you who included photos. Your messages and photos have been forwarded to our editor and will be used in future publications and/or published on the Alumni section of our Web site. These updates mean more than you know to our volunteers who work so hard to rescue and place these goldens.

Some of you may have sent me updates via e-mail. Unfortunately, my computer has been temperamental since October, when we took in the "Sarasota 23" puppies and adults. I'm afraid the flood of e-mails during that time got the better of my computer. I now have a new computer and am finally back online at the same e-mail address:

goldensunbird@earthlink.net.

My next subject is not for the faint of heart. I receive a lot of calls from people, many almost whispering, about a terrible, disgusting habit they've noticed in their dog. Sometimes it is a newly adopted rescue, and other times they may have had the dog for years. Stool-eating isn't talked about too much, or written about by many animal behaviorists.

I have researched the subject, because I, too, have a personal dog with this habit. He is an elegant-looking, laid back, sweet golden from a reputable breeder. But he is never allowed to give me kisses. Not as long as he considers previously digested food a delicacy!

What causes this disgusting habit? Some people think it is due to a missing nutrient in the dog's food. That may be true for some dogs, but my golden eats a premium diet with supplements.

I believe they do this for a variety of reasons. Some have been strays - so hungry that they literally had to eat whatever they could find just to survive. Some are females who cleaned up after their puppies. And some may just simply like the taste of it!

We adopt our rescues to people who consider their dogs part of the family. Some even call them "kids." That's wonderful, and these are exactly the kinds of homes we seek for all our rescues. However, we must also

remember that dogs are animals, with animal instincts and characteristics, and their behavior can sometimes be as aggravating as a human child's. My toddler nephew has been caught drinking out of the dog's dish on all fours. And now, I have a dog who eats stools.

We may not be able to pinpoint the reason for behaviors such as these, but there are a few remedies available for stool-eating dogs. Pet stores and catalogs offer products to help curb the habit. I have heard mixed results - they work on some dogs, not on others. Some people sprinkle the dog piles with a bad-tasting substance such as cayenne pepper or Bitter Apple. That may help ... but then again, your dog may decide it's worth a little "burn" to get to what he perceives to be a delicacy.

The most fail-safe way to prevent stool-eating is to be diligent about picking up after the dog - before he does it for you. And that means picking up after all dogs if you are a multiple-dog family.

If you have had success with breaking your dog of this habit, please let me know, so I can pass it on to others. I promise, cross my heart, that I won't tell anyone who it came from! Another item concerns digging and, well, stools. If your dog digs, place some dog stool in the hole before covering it up. In many cases, this will prevent the dog from digging in that spot again. Except, of course,

my guy, who digs because he wants to eat the yummy present I just stashed in the hole! This just goes to prove there are exceptions to everything. Isn't it great that they are all so different?

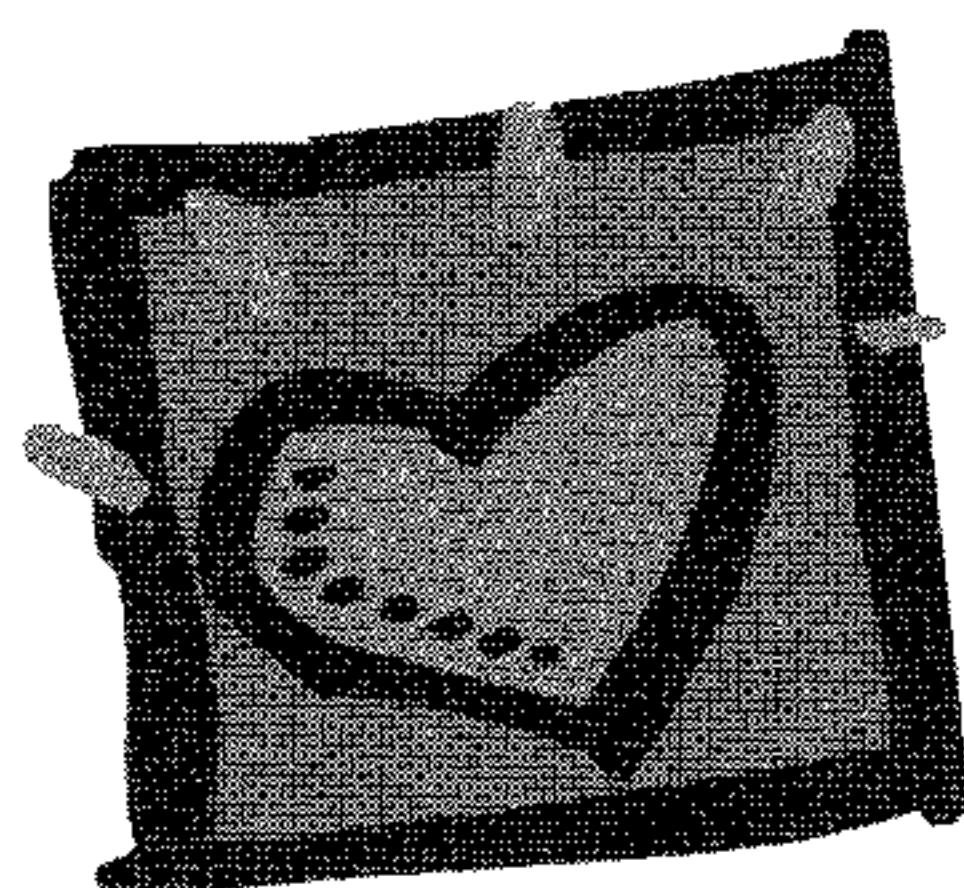
I want to thank everyone who returned our annual Adoption Follow-Up Form. If you haven't filled one out yet on your former rescue, please do so. Another form is included in this issue of the newsletter. Your questions and concerns will be addressed in future newsletters, via e-mail or by telephone.

One of the issues that has been surfacing is the subject of microchips. The microchips are registered with GRRMF, and for the dog's safety should not be transferred. We have plenty of examples for why we feel this way. A few years ago, we were called after midnight on New Year's Eve to pick up a dog off a busy highway. The dog's owners were at a party, and when it became frightened by nearby fireworks, the dog managed to open the sliding glass door and escape. It was found by an ambulance worker in the median of Orlando's East-West Expressway. Yes, that's right - right in the middle of six lanes of pavement, with high-speed traffic all around. We also received a similar call regarding a dog who escaped from a friend's back porch. In both cases, volunteers were dispatched immediately to rescue the dogs, very likely saving their lives. All microchips are registered to GRRMF, and several emergency contacts are provided to the AKC Companion Animal Recovery service. They know automatically by the lot number that the dog is from GRRMF.

My personal dogs will always be registered through GRRMF. This gives me a sense of security, knowing that if I am on vacation and something happens, someone from GRRMF will be able to respond in my absence.

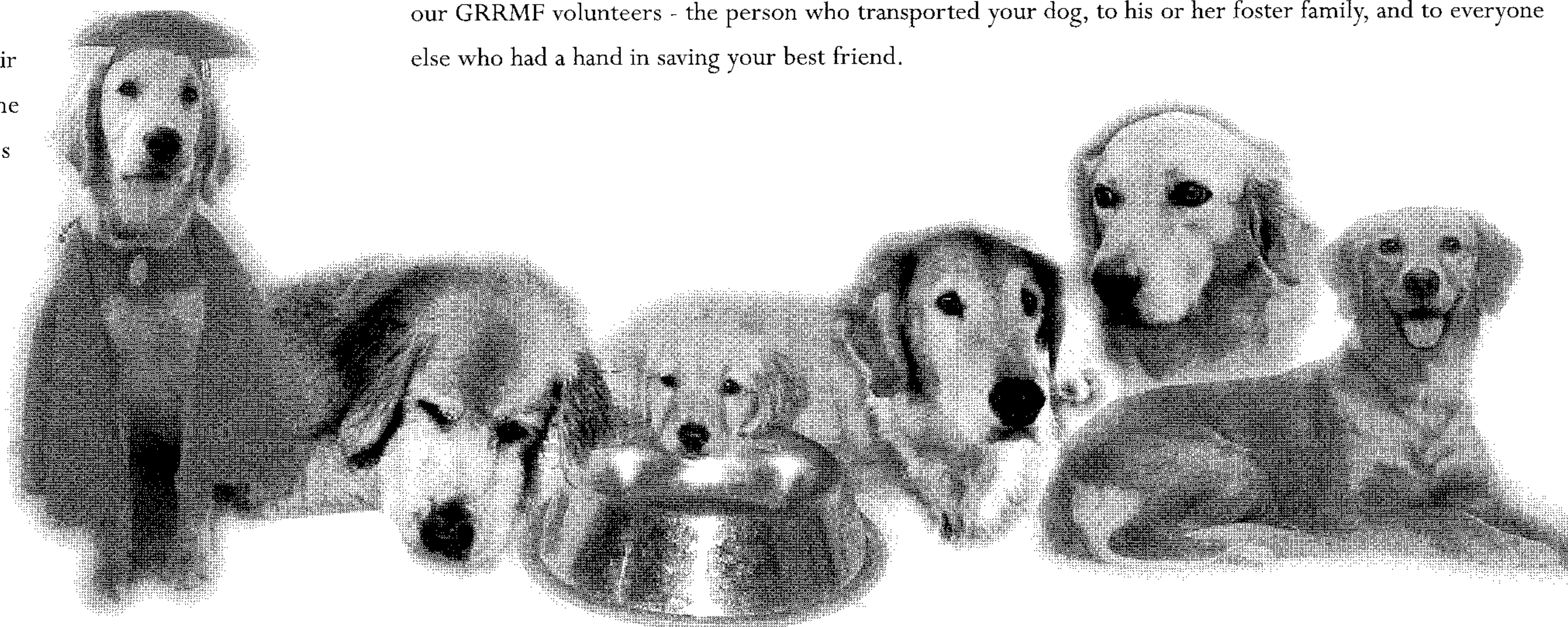
I also suggest that you purchase a separate ID tag, available from pet stores or even WalMart, with your name and phone number. This way, you will likely be notified first, but if you are not available, the microchip ID serves as a reliable backup. Please be sure to keep your address and phone number current with GRRMF, so we can notify you in case of an emergency.

I'm hoping to see all of you at our upcoming reunion. Please look me up - this means very much to all our GRRMF volunteers - the person who transported your dog, to his or her foster family, and to everyone else who had a hand in saving your best friend.



HEARTS of Gold

by Betty Wyatt, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator



Recent Adoptions - Spring 2003

Maggie Mae Goes Home

It has been many months since we wrote about Maggie Mae. For those who are new to rescue, Maggie Mae has a very sad story to tell.

She lived her entire life tied to a stake, where she was used by a backyard breeder to have litter after litter of puppies until she became too old and sick to breed. Her "owner" was going to end her life, when a Good Samaritan stepped in and brought her to rescue.



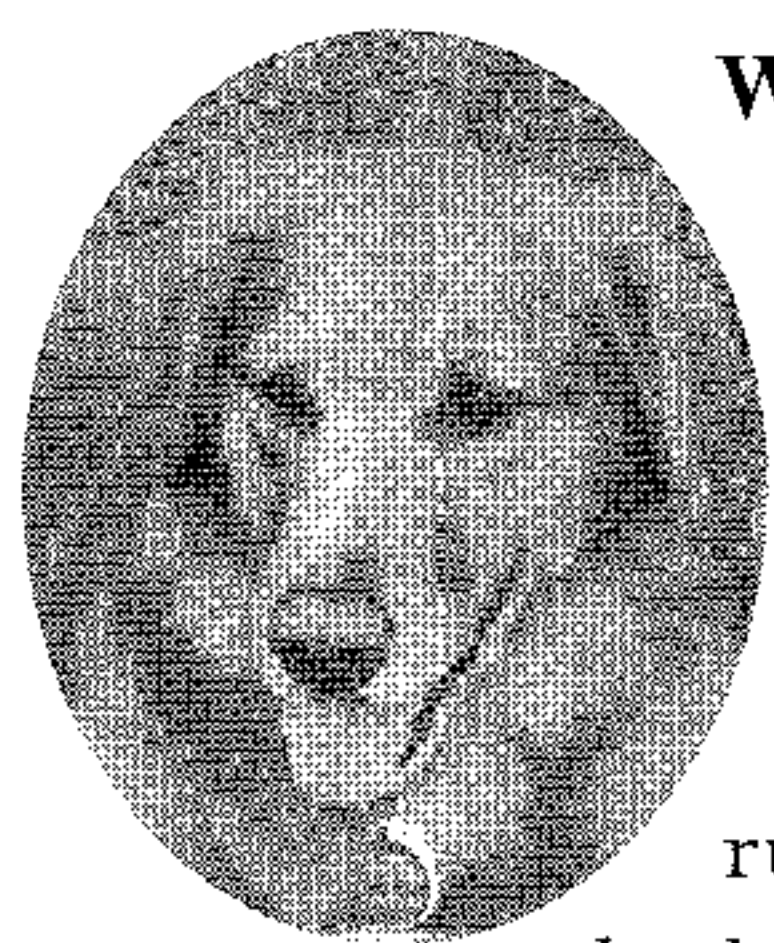
Maggie Mae had a long list of problems from her lifelong neglect. She was malnourished and had heartworms. She didn't have much hair, and her skin was black and itchy. Her ears were severely infected, and her teeth were even worse. But through it all, she smiled so brightly and seemed so happy it would be difficult NOT to love her. Maggie Mae never tired of affection and would nudge your hand for more, then smile up at you, as if to say, "I love being here, right now, with you. Please, please, love me!"

Maggie Mae was a true "special needs" dog, the kind of rescue that we exist for, but also one that is expensive and difficult to place.

As our spokesdog for the Holiday 2001 issue of Hearts of Gold, Maggie Mae wrote: "If I had only one wish this Christmas, it would be for all my friends here in rescue to find homes. I'd be willing to stay here forever, if it means someone else can get adopted. It doesn't take much to make me smile - I'm content just having a roof over my head, food in my bowl and someone to love me! Don't think for a minute that I don't know how lucky I am. Without rescue, I wouldn't be around today. . . . Of course, if you'd like to bring me home for the holidays, I'd love that, too. Betty says I have to go to someone 'really special.' Are you that person?"

Well, we're delighted to report that Maggie Mae finally got her wish! GRRMF was contacted by Mike & Jennifer M., a young couple who read her story and wanted to help. They drove from Jacksonville to visit Maggie Mae at Betty Wyatt's house and took her home that day.

In a recent e-mail, Jennifer writes: "Maggie Mae is the ABSOLUTE BEST DOG! I know you place many golden, but I am convinced she is the best dog out of all of them. We bought Maggie Mae many stuffed toys. She seems to have a preference for cordless phones and remote controls. She doesn't chew them, just picks them up and drops them on the floor somewhere in the house. She is continually offering her paw when you don't give her immediate attention as if to say, 'Hey, Look at me! Pay attention!' She is the sweetest dog I have ever come in contact with -- everyone says so! She is enjoying monthly visits to the Doggie Day Spa (our veterinarian's office) for baths and nail clippings -- I tell her it's her day of beauty. We will definitely keep GRRMF updated on her. She is a welcome addition to our home and we plan on enjoying her for many years to come. Thank you for letting her be a part of our lives!"



Woofie was one of the "Sarasota 23" adults and in pretty sorry shape when he came to rescue. He was almost completely bald on his belly, covered with ticks and had large, rough sores on his rump and elbows. He was coaxed back to health by fosters Michelle &

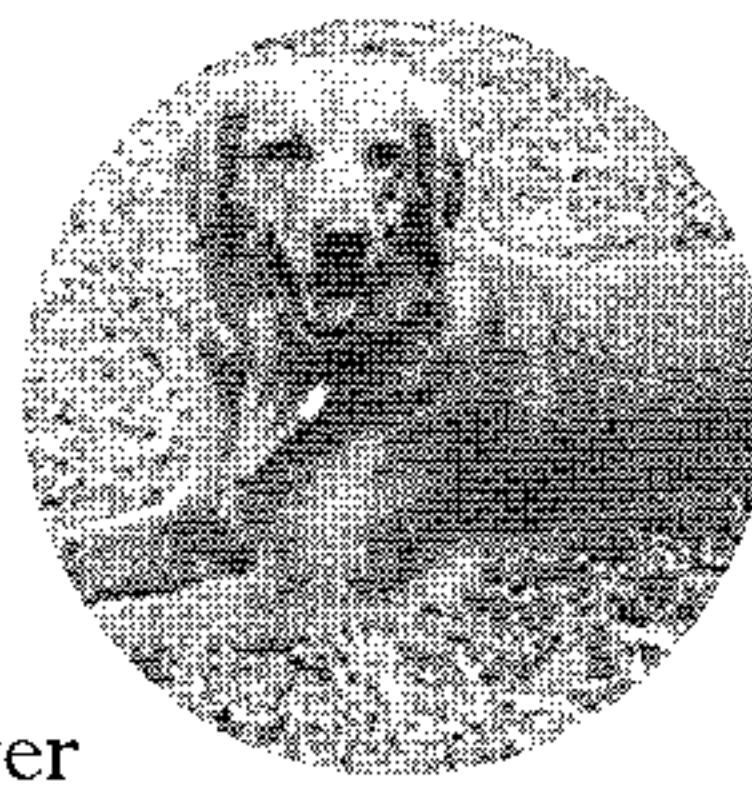
Kirk M., who pampered him with a premium diet, supplements and generous amounts of affection. Jill & Bruce L. drove all the way from South Florida to visit Woofie and took him home that day. Jill says Woofie, now called **Baylor**, has moved right in and made himself comfortable. Baylor gets along with the other family pets - four adult cats. In fact, Baylor pretty much ignores the cats, which has taken them by complete surprise. Baylor is a happy dog, eager to please and already is learning some new commands. He is learning to swim in his new pool, and the calluses from his former "life" are healing. Despite being "man's best friend," Baylor has attached himself to Jill. But then, it was Jill's idea to rescue him, so it all works out.

Ramoth, now **Haley**, was the oldest of the Sarasota 23 adults. When Donna and Chuck D. went to Apopka Vet Clinic to meet her, Haley didn't waste any time. She nuzzled up to Donna and implored with her soft brown eyes, "Please take me home! I'll be a good girl, I promise!" They took her home that day. After all she has gone through -- eye and ear infections, arthritis of the hip and spine, rashes and scars, fleas and ticks, whipworms, hair loss - Donna tells us she is "the sweetest, most affectionate dog we could have imagined." Haley and her little sister,



Tara, a 15-month-old golden girl, play well together and enjoy their long walks and trips to the dog park.

Roscoe was another Sarasota 23 adult. She was adopted by the Cox family, who renamed her Coco Chanel. She is enjoying her new life and her new companion -- an energetic springer spaniel named Shelby. Coco has recovered from her poor medical condition, and she now plays with toys and chases squirrels like a pro. Her new family is very attached to this lovable golden.



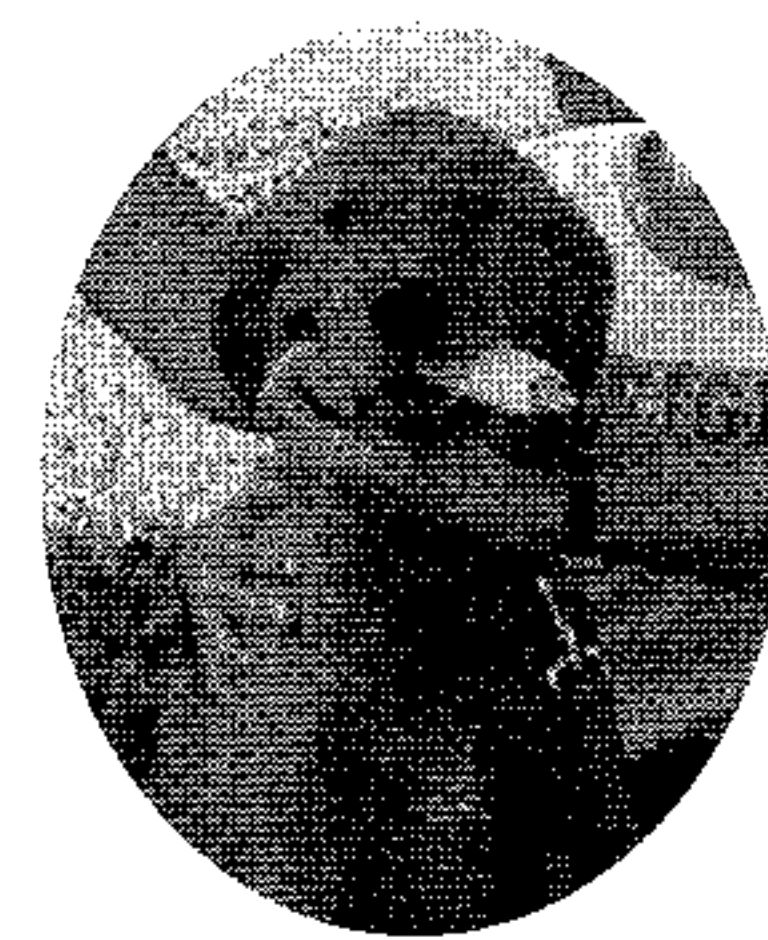
Blake was turned in at 1 year old for reasons we hear over and over again. Blake's only crime was being young, untrained, and above all ... a **GOLDEN RETRIEVER**. It only took a few days to determine that Blake was a completely normal teenager. Just like human kids, he only needed some direction. This we were more than happy to give him! Blake has gone to his new home with Carol and Tim P. and a new 15-year-old human brother, along with a four legged brother, Yoshi. Oh, and let's not forget the cat. Blake will be getting lots of love along with equal amounts of "direction." Moral of this story: "trained is loved."



Shea was turned into rescue at age 9 1/2. Her owner said she was moving and was going to euthanize the dog if rescue didn't take her. John & Gail Pfohler agreed to foster her and quickly decided to make it a permanent arrangement.

"I know you're not supposed to get puppies for Christmas, but we couldn't help ourselves. This almost 10-year-old puppy is now ours," John says. "I would like to encourage all GRRMF members to adopt an older dog. We have so many and no one seems to want them. What a shame. They bring you so much joy, sharing their last -- and BEST -- years with you. I can't think of a better way to give something back to this breed we all love."

Six-month-old Pico, now **Nico**, was surrendered to GRRMF when the novelty of a new pet wore off for the children. Nico was poorly socialized when he arrived, but he blossomed while in foster care with Suzanne and Tony R., who made sure he was a regular at puppy play group. He was adopted by the Almand family, who are dedicated to continuing his socialization and learning. His new best friend is Taylor, who already started Nico in obedience class and brings him to pet education days. And Nico says the best thing about his new family is that he still gets to go to puppy play group - his favorite activity aside from being with Taylor. Quite a turnaround for a formerly unsocialized pup!



Sabal, 6 years old, was turned in to rescue because her family could no longer afford her or the heartworm treatment. She was fostered by Regina and Marcel V., who decided they couldn't let this one go and officially adopted her shortly after her arrival.

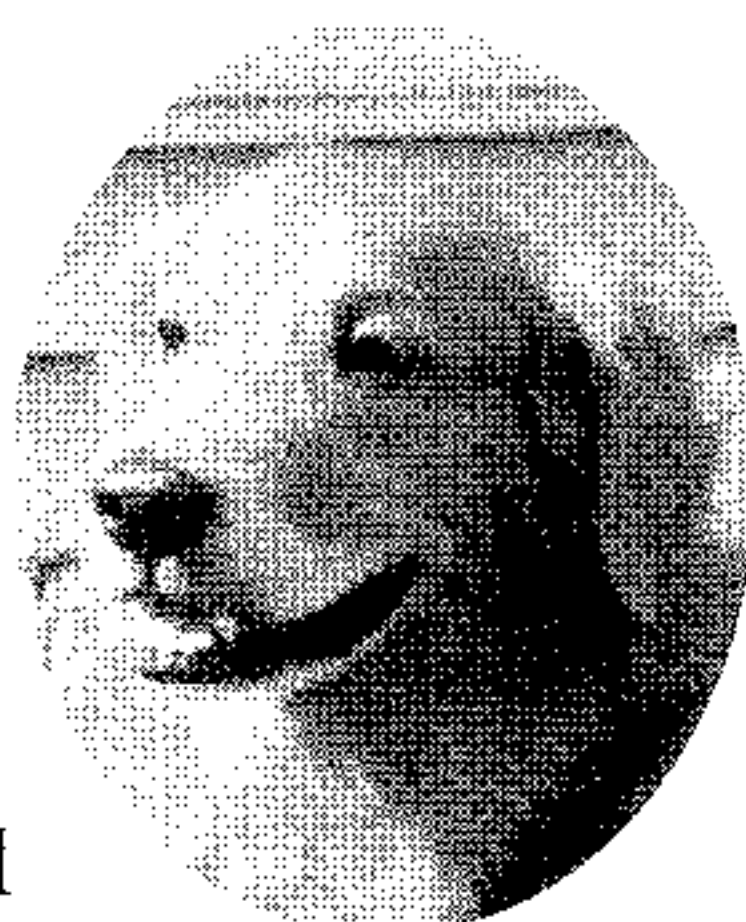
Dana was abandoned at local dog park. This young pup was fostered by Rick and Cindy O. and adopted by the Haker family. Dana now has a forever family who promise they'll never leave her. She also has a new canine sibling, and the two are fast becoming close buddies.



Dakota came to rescue at a mere 2 years old, afraid of everything and everyone. He initially was fostered by the kind folks at Apopka Veterinary Clinic, who did their best to earn

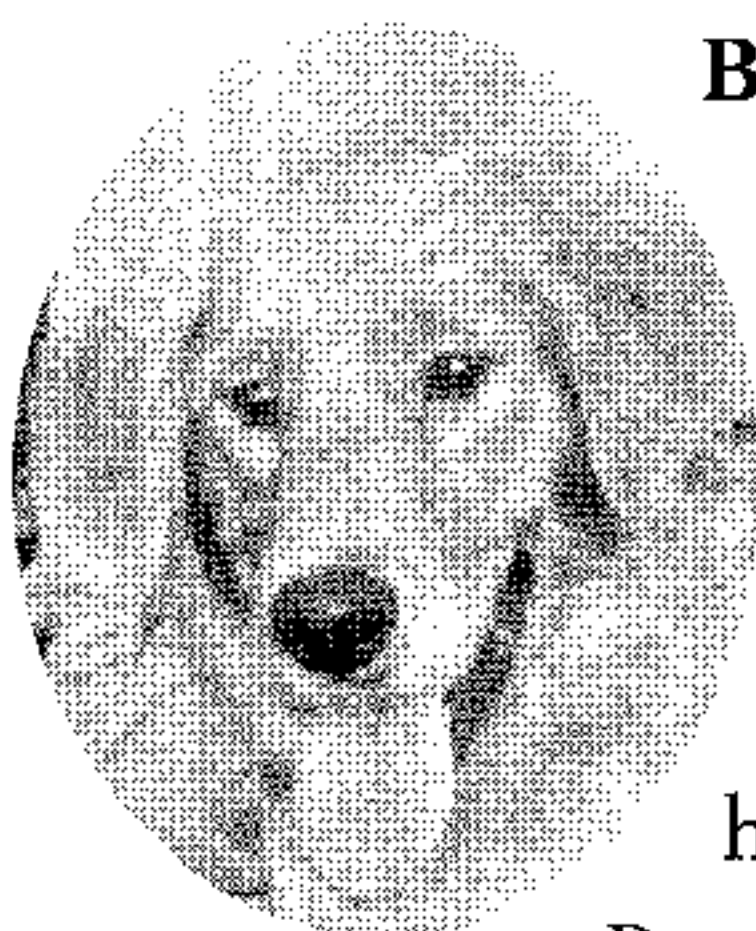
his trust. When GRRMF volunteer Carol McKee met Dakota, she made it her mission to get him into a foster home, so he could be socialized in a home environment and learn that not all humans are out to hurt him. Carol commandeered Sandy Sumner to take on the challenge. He was quickly adopted, but was turned back in after a few days when he fought with the resident dog over a rawhide bone. For the next 3 months, Sandy continued to work with Dakota, taking him on walks and to parks, engaging him in play with his foster siblings and encouraging him to cuddle whenever the mood struck him - which quickly became all the time. Sandy nicknamed him the "Secret Dakoter Ring," saying that under his skittish exterior was a true Velcro golden, just longing for someone to love him. Rob and Megan P. fell for him immediately and were undaunted by his initial shyness. Dakota now spends his days playing with his new golden sister, Madison, chasing balls and, of course, cuddling.

Rusty was turned in when his owner moved to an apartment. This handsome lad was adopted by Pat M. and Kay F. from Ocala. This 6-year-old has the energy of a puppy and now has all the toys he has ever wanted. He loves his new moms very much, especially his daily walks. We're happy that Rusty has found such a wonderful new family!



Toby was only 9 weeks old when he was turned in to rescue. His owner was devastated when she developed severe allergies to him. This adorable puppy was swept away by Javier & Barbara M., who call him their "son." Toby

has become best buddies with the other former rescue in the home, Sparkle/Cookie. He is doing great in his puppy class, with Cookie helping with his homework.



Baron was relinquished to rescue at the young age of 7 months. The cute little puppy was sent to the back porch when he exhibited typical puppy behavior such as chewing. Xrays revealed hip dysplasia, and GRRMF sent

Baron for corrective surgery. He recuperated quickly and was adopted by Kim J. and Stephanie C. Their resident golden had to have hip surgery, and Kim is a nurse, so they are well-suited to continue his recovery. Baron also is attending obedience classes to learn some manners.

Garth was turned in when his owners decided to part ways. He was a beautiful 9-month-old golden, and Daniel & Diane M. decided to foster him. They quickly fell in love, and called GRRMF to say they wanted to make it permanent. Garth is very happy and healthy in his new home.

Dabney, 10 years old, was fostered by Kathy & Greg Spilker. He is a dog everyone should hope for - sweet-natured, low maintenance and gets along with everyone. Kate D., a schoolteacher, hadn't owned a dog before, and she was looking for "an easy one." Dabney fit the bill and immediately won her heart. Dabney has a wonderful home where he can live out the rest of his life with all the care and comfort he deserves.

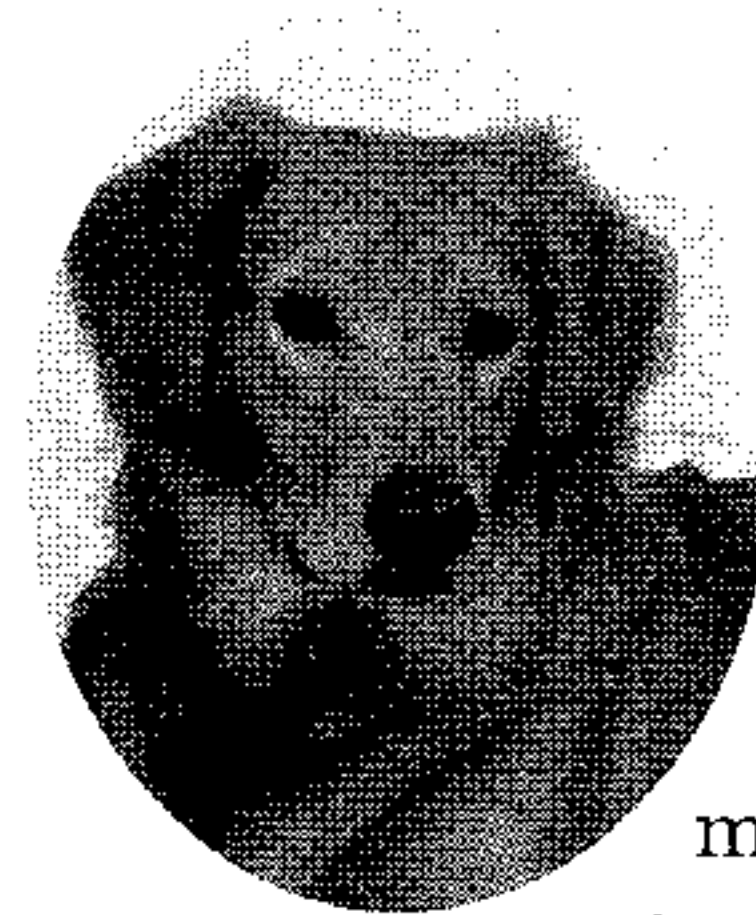
Boo came in around Halloween from a shelter in Cocoa. He had mange, so he was boarded at a veterinarian during his treatment. Boo exhibited typical behavior for an untrained 9-month-old golden. But when Darren & Cheryl M. met him, they quickly realized he only needed focus and direction. They took him home, where he made fast friends with their two miniature pinschers. Boo is now in obedience classes and is doing fantastic. He is well on his way to becoming a beautiful and well-mannered adult golden retriever.

Koa, 7 years old, was turned in when her owner decided she didn't have enough time for her after spending long hours at work. She is a pretty girl who gets along well with kids and has a wonderful temperament. She was adopted by Tammy & Rachel B., who now call her Rain.



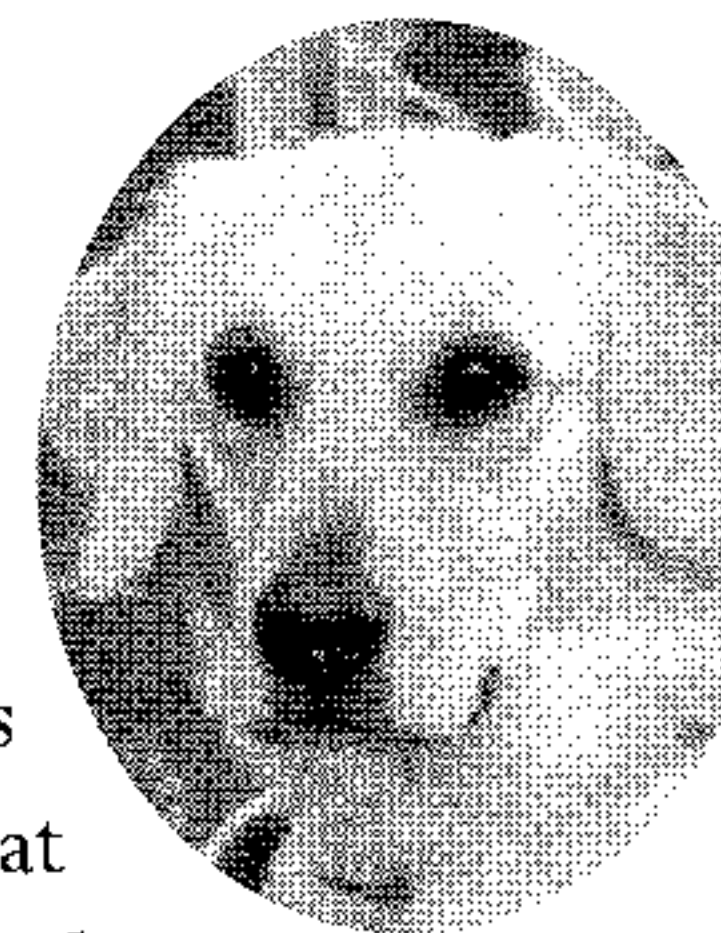
Myka came from animal services. After heartworm treatment, he was adopted by Bobbi H. and family.

A shelter worker phoned us late one evening, saying that **Daphne** and another golden would be euthanized the next morning if we did not take them. We moved quickly - Nancy Carroll arrived at the shelter first thing the next morning and took them home. While in foster care, Daphne attended obedience classes at Best Paw Forward in Sanford. She was adopted by Angie K. and is now called Ginger.



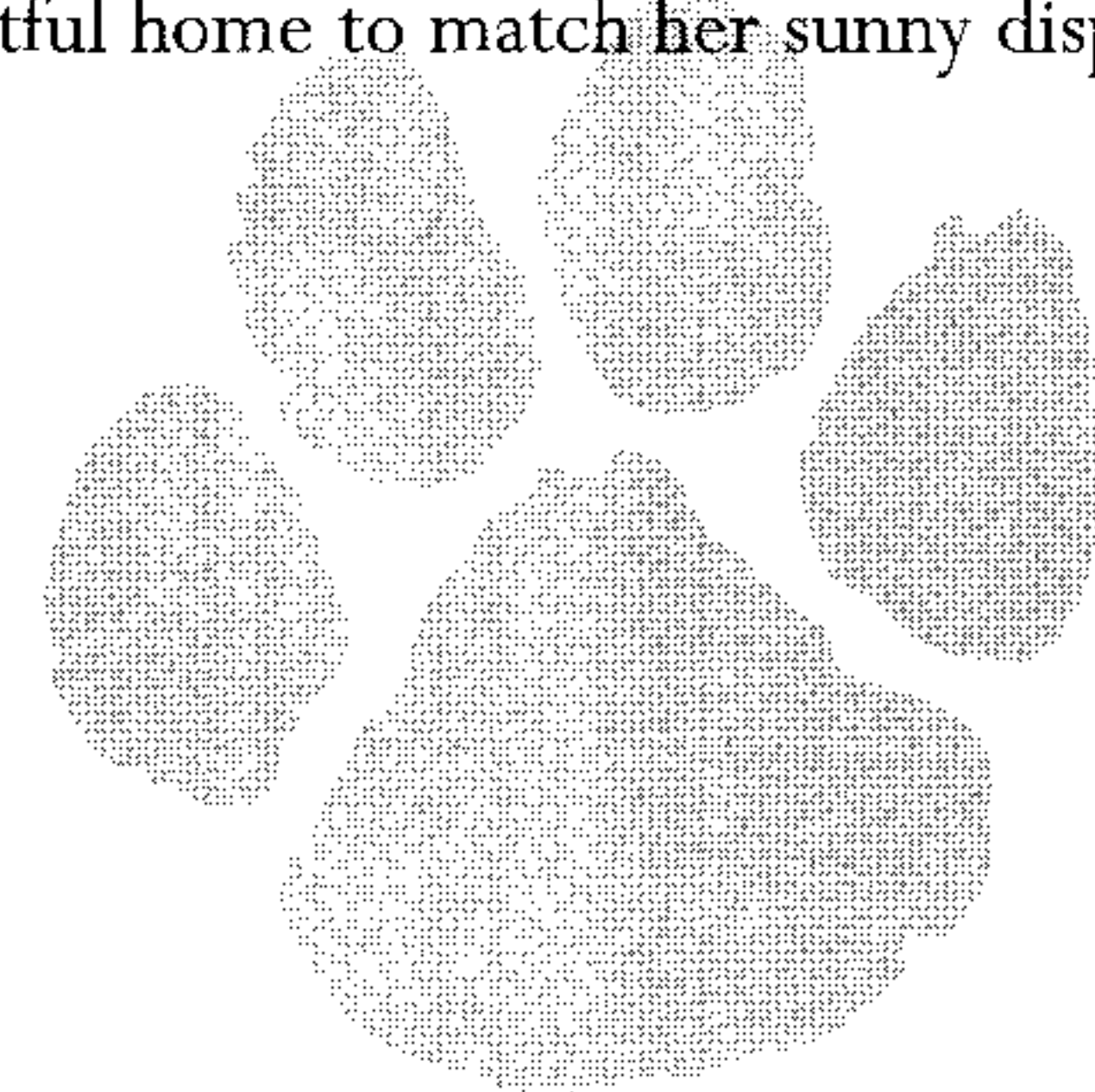
Prince was turned in when one of his owners developed allergies. This handsome young boy was adopted by Frank & Betsy L., who tell us he is making himself right at home and is a wonderful new addition to their family. We were happy to learn that Prince is signed up to begin basic obedience training at Best Paw Forward in Sanford.

Autumn was a stray, approximately 1 year old. She was treated for heartworms and adopted by Sandy, Hollace & Kelly M. Now called Nutmeg, this pretty girl with the brown eyes that won't quit is reveling in the love and comfort of her wonderful new family and home.



Mike, a handsome young golden, followed a GRRMF volunteer home while she was out for a walk on her farm. Barbara found the owner who gladly signed him over to rescue. Following surgery for hip dysplasia, Mike was adopted by Jim & Carol O. He has plenty of bed partners now, and loves every minute of his new life.

At just 1 year old, **Sweet Pea** had already had her first litter of puppies. The person who turned her in told us she had been approached by a woman in a Gainesville parking lot, who said she was taking the dog to a shelter if the person didn't want her. Volunteers named her Sweet Pea because she is just that - a sweet, little, wiggly bundle of joy. She was quickly adopted by Michelle B. & Lynn J., and we're happy to report that Sweet Pea has a delightful home to match her sunny disposition.



Dear Miss Stella,

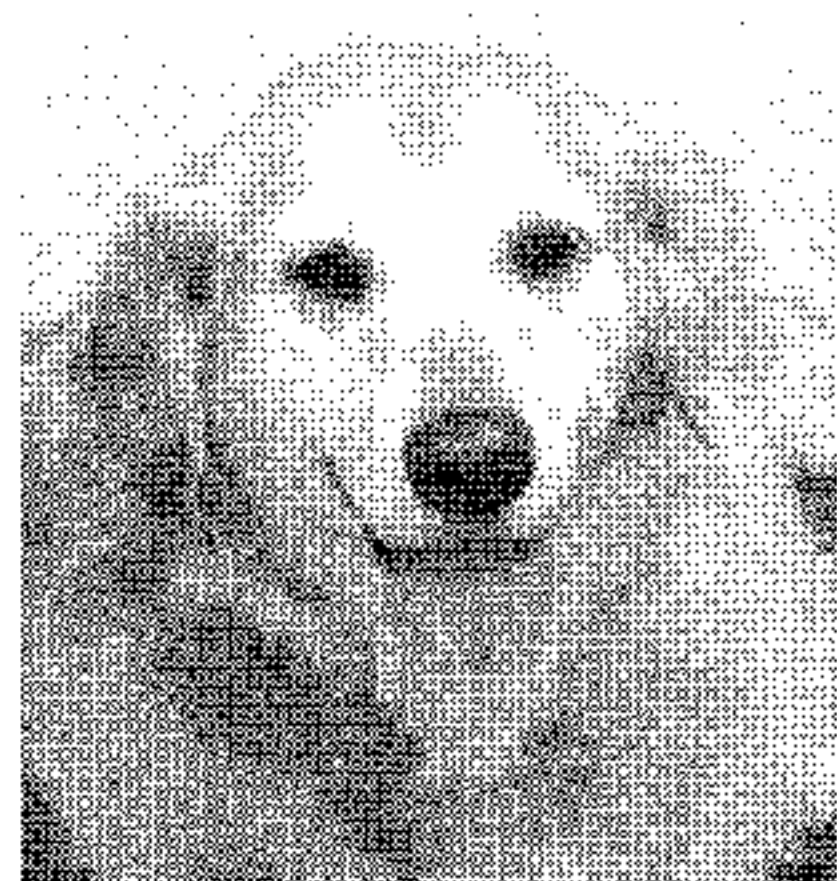
When you came to rescue, you hardly looked like the siren in Streetcar Named Desire. At 92 pounds, you could hardly walk. In fact, we thought you had but weeks to live. Twenty months later, you were proving us wrong. At a svelte 62 pounds, you looked like a new gal. While the exterior may have been more Labrador than golden, you were pure gold in every way that mattered - loving, sweet, gentle and kind. I will miss you shadowing me around the house waiting and hoping for a morsel to fall to the floor. I will miss you riding with me in the car, smiling as you looked out the window.



The neighborhood kids will miss you accompanying them on their walks to school every morning as we took our walks. The dog-walking group will miss seeing you take those two-mile walks and have more energy at the end than many of the other dogs. The birds at the park will miss having your downy soft fur to use in their nests. We had some major brushing sessions there. Your brothers and sisters will miss seeing you gather all used Kongs around you to suck any remaining morsels out of them. Only you learned to put your paw at the far end to get the suction you needed to get that last bit out! I will miss seeing you run across the yard if you even thought you heard the cookie jar open. In the end, your body was giving out even though your spirit was strong. We both knew that keeping your dignity was what you needed. You touched so many of us and we will all see you at the bridge one day.

-- Foster Mom Sandy Sumner and all your siblings

Rusty was rescued together with his brother Woody, namesake of GRRMF's "Woody Fund." Rusty and Woody were both extreme abuse cases. Rusty weighed slightly more than 35 pounds and had a large tumor on his chest. Both dogs had almost no hair and were not even distinguishable as golden retrievers. Others would have euthanized them, but our volunteers were so taken with the dogs that we decided we had to try to save them. Through months of medical care and rehabilitation, both dogs experienced a full recovery. Rusty was adopted by Paul & MaryAnne Tradelius in South Florida. We were sad to learn that Rusty joined his brother, Woody, at the Rainbow Bridge last month age the respectable old age of 13. Rusty never did appear to be in pain, but seemed sluggish one day, and when he did not improve the next day Paul & MaryAnne took him to the vet. It was there he was diagnosed with cancer. He was quiet and loving to the end. Paul & MaryAnne say they're trying not to feel sad, but rather happy in the thought they had him for several good years. "During that time he received the best of everything (my son said he won the lotto), was in perfect health and always happy and playful, and certainly brought a tremendous amount of happiness to our lives."



In Memory of Cleo

Little did I know when I signed up to foster for GRRMF that Cleo would enter my life. I asked John Pfohler if they had any old, fat dogs solely because of my 3-year-old golden, Katie, who had a multitude of health issues. I knew a young, energetic dog wouldn't work. John told me he had just the dog for me. I anxiously awaited approval and the arrival of Cleo. I will never forget the day I opened the door and there was John with Cleo. What a dog! She marched right in, grabbed the toys and made herself at home. It was that way for 2 1/2 years. Cleo had taken over and claimed us, the house and everything in it as hers. To say we miss her is an understatement. She was the happiest dog I have ever known; she loved everyone. I don't think there was a person she met that she didn't make laugh. Goodbye, Cleo, we miss you. Enjoy your cookies now -- no more calories to worry about anymore. You can even have the big ones.

Lovingly, Linda & Bill Fike and everyone who ever met Cleo

Honey came into our lives at a time when we had just lost our first golden. She joined the family like she had always been with us. She was a wonderful companion and a special dog. We will miss her smile and how she would talk to us when she wanted to be heard. Our little "curly-girly" will always be in our hearts and on our minds. She was truly a gift from God.

-- Bob & Sharon O'Keefe

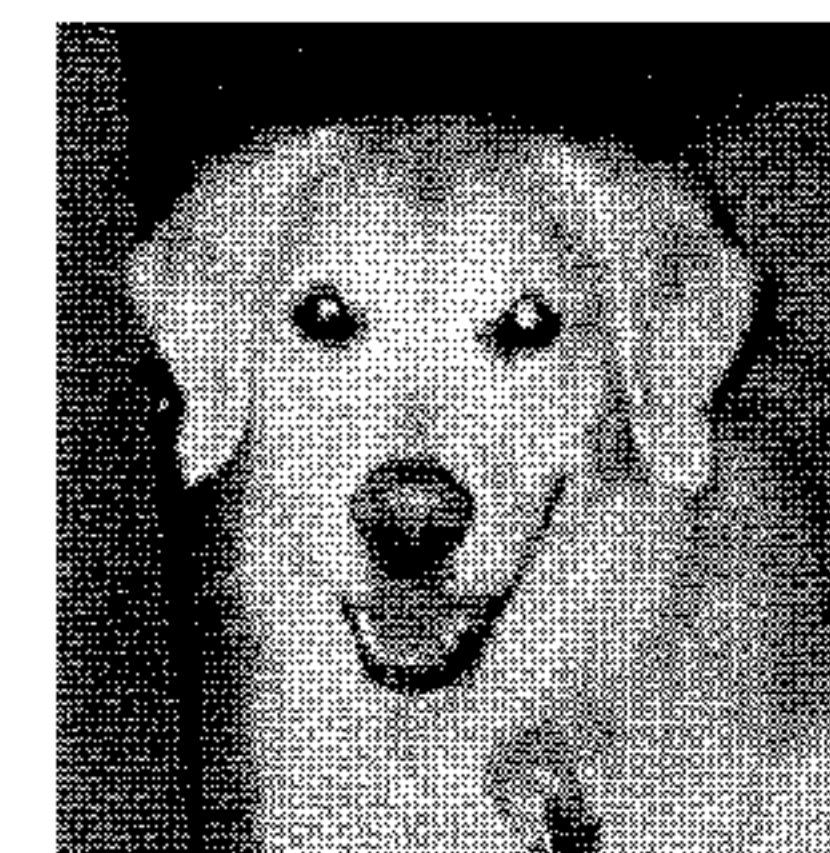


We only had Buster a little over a year, but he wasted no time in digging deep into our hearts. Buster was a perfect gentleman who LOVED to play fetch with anything he could get his mouth on. He would even try to get us to throw his bones for him! A true Velcro dog, he made sure to let us know when we weren't paying enough attention to him by nudging our hands so that we couldn't type at the computer or by simply nosing his way into whatever we may be working on, with a wagging tail and of course something in his mouth for us to throw. Buster liked having his bum scratched, so if someone petted him he would back up into them until they "hit the spot." For as long as we knew him, Buster was a happy and energetic dog, and we are grateful that his life had a peaceful ending. Buster died very suddenly just short of his 7th birthday. Our vet found a large tumor on his adrenal gland, which had gone undiscovered due to how deep it was inside his body. The day before he died, Buster took a long walk with us and played a nice game of fetch. He seemed fine. Although he died too soon, we are happy to have known him and are looking forward to meeting him again at the rainbow bridge!

-- Mark & Katherine Griffith

Tank - "Mr. T" - adopted at 7 1/2 years, departed this Earth at 12 years after a prolonged illness and will be sorely missed. He was a super trooper with a sparkling personality. One of a kind. His mate, Ms. Cracker, also misses him.

-- Ellen Prekop



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida's 11th Annual Rescue Reunion

When: Sunday, March 23, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Gemini Springs Park, 37 Dirksen Drive, Debary

Park Office: (386) 668-3810

Park Web site: <http://volusia.org/parks/gemini.htm>

Who: GRRMF members/supporters and their goldens.

All rescues and non-rescued goldens are invited!

(People- and dog-friendly dogs only, please)

Cost: \$3.50 park admission at gate, no fee for reunion.

You will not want to miss this special event!

Golden retrievers as far as the eye can see! The most beautiful sight on earth!

Many special activities planned for dogs and humans:

Exciting games (with prizes)! Raffle and silent auction. Golden Goods booth.

Photo contest: Bring your favorite picture of your golden and enter to win a prize!

\$1 donation per photo entered to benefit the Woody Fund.

Many more activities planned - we promise you won't be bored!

What to Bring:

Your dogs (on leash of course!) Picnic lunch - drinks and snacks will be available.

Lawn chairs or blanket -- some picnic tables available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Water bowl for your dog. Crate or x-pen if your dog would enjoy a "time out" during the day.

Sunblock and hat - park has many shade trees, but we do recommend sun protection.

Comfortable shoes!! Dog waste bags

Note: All dogs must be on leash and all dog waste must be disposed of per Volusia County Law or owners may be subject to county fines. Remember, your GRRMF Adoption Contract states your dog will always be on a leash! Please: only dogs that are comfortable around other dogs and people should come to this event. If your dog is stressed by the sight of 200+ other dogs and even more people, it might be better to leave him or her at home ... but please come yourself!

DIRECTIONS

This park is very easy to find - just a mile off Interstate 4 and easy access from east and west coasts!

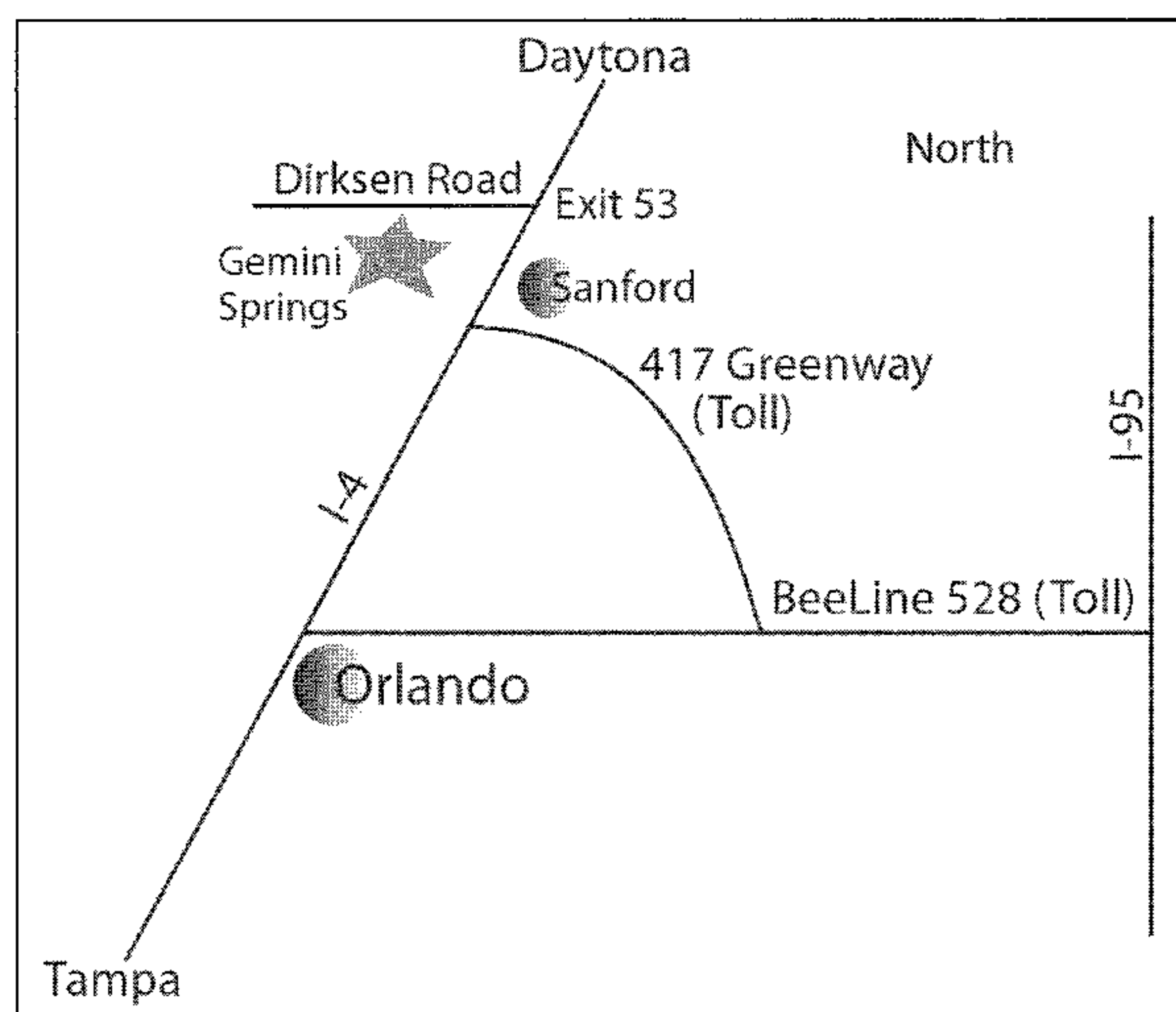
From West Coast, North, South: Connect to I-4, take Exit 53, turn right on Dirksen Drive, park is 1 mile on left. **From Brevard County:** Take I-95 to 528/Beeline Expressway (toll road), connect to 417/Greenway (toll road), go all the way north to the end at I-4. Take I-4 EAST (Daytona) to Exit 53. Turn right on Dirksen Drive. Park is 1 mile on left.

Dog-Friendly Hotels in the Area:

Sanford/Best Western Marina Hotel (on Lake Monroe), 530 N. Palmetto Ave, (Exit 51C off I-4) 407-323-1910; **Sanford/Super 8 Motel**, 4750 SR 46 W, (Exit 51 off I-4), 407-323-3445; **Lake Mary/LaQuinta Inn and Suites**, 1040 Greenwood Blvd. (exit 50) 407-805-9901

WANTED:

Donations of new merchandise for our raffle and silent auction. If you have anything to donate, please contact us at info@grrmf.org, or call (407) 332-2840, mailbox #4, as soon as possible.



Questions? Hotline: (407) 332-2840 mailbox #4, e-mail: info@grrmf.org

President's Message

by Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

Volunteering for GRRMF

We have many exciting new things going on here at GRRMF! Over the years, we have struggled to get volunteers. During the past year, we've started the process of having people fill out volunteer applications, and we're trying to get people plugged into the right place in our organization to help. But silly as it sounds, we are limited even in that effort because our existing volunteers are so busy it's hard to take the time to do this!

Since we will never have the help we need unless we do a better job of utilizing volunteers, we've dedicated 2003 to improving our volunteer acquisition and retention activities. Here's what we're doing:

1. Each person wanting to volunteer will be asked to fill out a volunteer application, available on our Web site or by calling (407) 332-2840 mailbox #4. We have assigned a team to contact the new volunteer within three weeks of receiving an application. If you've sent in an application recently and haven't been contacted, we'll be catching up with you as soon as possible.

2. New volunteers will be sent an e-mail invitation to join our volunteer Web site. This site will have a newsgroup feature so we can communicate easily with our volunteers, and we'll be sending out a volunteer e-mail newsletter on the 15th of each month to keep everyone posted on activities within the organization.

3. The volunteer Web site also will have other resources such as forms, frequently asked questions, contact lists, etc.

4. We'll also use this forum to spread the word when we need help on new projects or other organizational needs.

This new process for recruiting and retaining volunteers dovetails with a recent redesign of GRRMF's admissions, foster care, placement and transportation coordination. There will be many new volunteer positions we need to fill. We'll use the newsgroup as a way of communicating available positions, so we can fulfill our mission of GRRMF as a team-driven organization with a broad volunteer base.

Presently, if a key volunteer quits or must take a break, it is very hard for our organization to manage. Simply put, we need more talent, and we need a volunteer structure that reduces the stress and workload on our existing resources. Unless we plug people in today, they won't mature in experience to the point where they will become the leadership of tomorrow for GRRMF.

There are a lot of aspects of rescue work that take experience - and it takes time to groom volunteers. Our dream is that GRRMF will continue to exist beyond the involvement of any one individual - so that goldens will be served for many years to come in Florida.

If you are not currently a volunteer for GRRMF, I would like to ask you to please consider giving your time and talents for this worthwhile cause. Even a few hours a month can make a huge difference in our organization. There is a lot that has been said about the benefits of volunteerism - the personal and emotional rewards, the good friends you meet, the knowledge you gain, the great doggie kisses you receive. But none says it better than this issue's "Volunteer Spotlight," Sally Anne Rowland, on Page 10 - "It's the BEST DRUG in the world!"

Finally, I'd like to personally invite all of you to the 2003 Annual Rescue Reunion - I'd love to meet you there! See Page 6 for details.



Waggin' Tails

Betty Wyatt Receives Award at National Golden Retriever Specialty!

In November, Orlando was the site of the National Golden Retriever Specialty - THE national golden retriever dog show of the year! We wrote about our Parade of Rescues last issue, but due to space limitations we didn't get a chance to tell you about our news. GRRMF's Adoption Coordinator Betty Wyatt was recognized by the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club after the Parade of Rescues for her outstanding contribution in the area of



rescue and for her devotion to the breed. As the plaque says, Betty's "unselfish giving of time and sharing of her knowledge has been an inspiration to many."

It was quite a moment as MFGRC's Dee Thibodeaux tearfully awarded the plaque to Betty. "Every breed club and rescue group has that certain person that comes to mind when you mention rescue. You know the type - the person who lives and breathes rescue, who always seems to have room for just one more poor, unfortunate soul. Around here, that person is Betty Wyatt," Dee said.

It is so easy to take for granted all that Betty does - she truly is amazing - and it is especially nice that MFGRC made this lovely gesture to recognize Betty's efforts over the years.

From our "Hearts of Gold" to yours, congratulations, Betty Wyatt, for your outstanding contributions over the years in saving nearly 1,200 Golden Retrievers!

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

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Membership dues: \$25 / All Donations are Tax-Deductible

Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grrmf.org

GRRMF History: 1,195 Golden Retrievers Rescued! 2002 Rescues: 189

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Thanks!

☀️ Special thanks to Deb Wilson and Pat Matthews, who made a special Santa visit to our Borders
Oviedo education day bearing gifts and generous donations to GRRMF. These ladies are the owners
of Freeman, a very special rescue dog, and they are wonderful supporters of GRRMF.

☀️ Deep gratitude to Mid Florida Golden Retriever Club for presenting us with a generous donation
at Christmas time. Their support is truly appreciated, as we are joined in our deep love of the Golden
Retriever Breed.

☀️ Marie Pacheco for mailing out adoption applications.

☀️ Many thanks to Nancy and Dick Spears for their support in so many ways, and their generosity
in funding our efforts.

**Note: The GRRMF Board sends very special thanks to all volunteers and supporters - in
our organization is growing, and we sometimes might miss a name or two. If we failed to mention
and we'll try our best to list it next time. We couldn't operate without**

☀️ To all who participate in Education Days around the state - our dedicated teams of volunteers are out there almost every weekend spreading the word about rescue with their goldens. Many doggie smooches to all of you! For schedule and locations, see Page 16.

☀️ Thanks to all who sent PetsMart Gift Cards for Christmas!

☀️ To all who participated in the Winter Park Christmas Parade on Dec. 7. We had some 30 goldens march with their humans!

☀️ 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.

☀️ Leah Wright and Patti Sarano for responding to e-mails through our Web site.

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

☀️ **Call Team volunteers:** Linda Cohen, Vicki Ferros, Kathy Hendrickson, Melissa Knowles, Jeane Knowles, Robin Mackler, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Colleen Sosteri, Kerri Vorhies.

☀️ Thanks to Loretta & Fred Bierschenck for taking it upon themselves to contact the city of Palm Beach Gardens to see if we could set up a table at their "Annual Holiday Bazaar" - and for manning our table by THEMSELVES all day on Friday & partially on Saturday! Thanks to Christy Wolnevit, Special Events Coordinator, Palm Beach Gardens Community Center, for allowing us to set up, and to Lisette Longarzo for manning our table at the last minute.

☀️ **Home visits:** Diane McKinney, Suzanne Rider, Jennifer McChesney, Sally Anne Rowland, Robin Bass, John & Gail Pfohler, Renee Perkie, Nancy & Richard Spears, Jan Jennings, Laurel O'Connor, Andrea Davis, Kathy Spilker,

Gayle Risley, Steve Jaffe, Ed Berger, Peggy Litt, Pam Harrell, Kathy Salisbury, Dr. Charles & Ellen Bartkus, Julie Kielts, Elizabeth Gleason, Nancy Carroll, Jordan German, Barbara & Charlie White, Colleen & Rick Sosteri, Linda Cohen, Terry Martin.

☀️ Roxi & Debbie McGhehey, for the great gifts they sent at Christmas.

☀️ Jim & Allola McGraw, for toys.

☀️ **Fosters:** Ani Akarjalian, Susan Andrews, Ray & Sue Angle, Dr. Rachel Beckett & Staff, Carol Buczynski, Nancy Carroll, Andrea Davis, Scott & Jill Cornell, Penny Dalton, Jean Dixon, Barbara Durham, Linda Fike, Suzanne and Walt Gallagher, Angie Kaplan, Susan King, Diane Makinney, Julie Kliets, Barbara Odell, 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, Ed Warren, Russ Winderweedle, Leah Wright, Betty Wyatt.

☀️ Pam Strickland for transporting dogs as well as bathing and grooming fosters every two weeks.

☀️ **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.

ing those we may have inadvertently left off this list. Although we try to list everyone, u, please let us know - (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor at 2boatrats@comcast.net - our help - you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of goldens!!

Volunteer Spotlight: The Best Drug in the World

This month's "Volunteer Spotlight" is with Sally Anne Rowland of Sarasota. Following are some of Sally Anne's thoughts on the work she does with rescue - something she calls "the best drug in the world."

How long have you been involved in rescue?

My first golden, Bailey, got me involved in 1997. My obedience trainer introduced me to a lady involved in GR rescue, Linc Hay. The first time I went to Linc's house and saw five goldens running around, I told myself, "THIS IS HEAVEN! One day I want to have this many dogs at one time!" Well, as they say, be careful what you wish for... we now share our home with four permanent goldens and one foster!

How did you get started?

After talking things over with the "queen of rescue" and inspiration to us all, Betty Wyatt, we took in our first foster, Noelle, now known as Belle. I was convinced I would be a hopeless foster mum and would end up keeping all of them. But the second I met Belle's new humans, I got such a great feeling. I saw these two lonely people react to the special love that only a golden can give, and I realized that I'd made a difference. Seeing a rescued dog bounce out of your home and into the loving arms of its forever family is the BEST DRUG in the world.

What areas of rescue do you volunteer for?

I've probably fostered 20 dogs total -- I've lost count. I do home visits, attend education days, and I'm now helping spearhead our newest venture -- training and grooming classes in conjunction with education days. I also co-organized, with John & Gail Pfohler, the GRCA Rescue Parade in Orlando last November. In short, there is nothing I won't do for GRRMF and certainly for the dogs ... even dressing as an elf complete with pointy shoes for Santa photos at PetsMart.

What do you find most rewarding about volunteering for GRRMF?

I do this because of a simple love for the dogs I feel privileged to share my life with. I have an ingrained need to give back to the breed. Bailey, who began it all, was purchased before I knew about rescue or reputable breeders. Just over a year ago, when he was only 5 years old, we had to make the agonizing decision to euthanize him due to "violent rage aggression," a condition thought to be

genetically linked to bad breeding practices. I don't want people to make the same mistakes I made. If I can stop one person from buying a puppy from a pet store or a backyard breeder and instead save a rescue dog, then I can sleep at night.

There are days when you do feel like it's all hopeless and you wonder if the slew of dogs will ever stop. But then, you receive a phone call or e-mail with a picture of another smiling adopted dog and its family, and you know you MUST go on.

Every day in rescue is memorable - raising money for Sherman's surgery, organizing the rescue parade, and my favorite save of all time ... Devon, a terrible neglect/abuse case. But I think the "Sarasota 23" has to be the one thing in recent memory that made me proud to be a part of the whole rescue effort. We initially took in all 16 puppies, and Dave and I ended up fostering seven of them for several weeks.

During that time, it seemed like all we did was feed puppies, let puppies in and out and mop up accidents. The house was full of pens and crates, and we all smelled like Lysol! But it's an experience I will always treasure - it's hard to beat seven doses of puppy breath all at one time!

How many dogs do you share your life with?

I currently own four goldens - Barnum, 4, Gandalf, a rescue who has fear-aggression issues, Webster, 2.5, and Sting, 1. Barnum and Webster are pet therapy dogs, and we regularly visit Hospice of Southwest Florida. I also am involved in conformation with Webster and Sting and obedience with all of them. My life is crazy at times, yet I always come home to my boys and quickly realize they are my sanity.

We also have one foster, Whoopie, one of the Sarasota 23, who is recuperating from surgery to correct severe hip dysplasia. She is one of those special fosters who will take a big slice of my heart when she leaves for her forever home. That's a day when I will need the biggest box of Kleenex Publix sells and a BIG pair of dark glasses.



The happy side of rescue: Sally Anne & Dave Rowland pose with foster Whoopie, currently recuperating from hip surgery, Barnie (middle) and Ace. Barnie and Ace were adopted from GRRMF by Charlie & Barbara White, who graciously loaned them for this photo.

Thinking About Installing an Invisible Fence?

Remember, the GRRMF adoption contract forbids the use of invisible electronic fencing for our rescues.

These types of fences are currently receiving a lot of hype from the companies that sell them. Electronic fences use a sensor contained with a collar placed around your dog's neck. The collar distributes an electric shock to the dog if it goes close to an underground buried wire, usually placed around the perimeter of a property. This is supposed to stop the dog from crossing the boundary of the yard. The systems are relatively inexpensive, which is, on the surface, enticing to a new dog owner.

What the manufacturers don't tell you is that shelters across the country are reporting increased numbers of stray animals found wearing these collars. They also don't tell you that many dogs will run right through the boundary if the incentive is great enough, such as a passing cat or dog.

More things you should know:

- ◆An electronic fence offers no protection from theft. Yes, theft. Believe it or not, there are people who steal dogs for a profit - usually by selling the animals to research laboratories. And guess what one of the most popular breeds of research animals is? Golden retrievers. Any intruder can enter your yard with this type of fencing.
- ◆An aggressive animal, such as another dog, can enter your yard and attack your dog. Your dog is completely vulnerable.
- ◆We've already said that some dogs will escape if the incentive is great enough. It is also common for these same dogs to be wary of re-entering the yard, knowing they're going to get shocked if they do so.
- ◆The sensor collars run on batteries. What happens if the battery dies? Hundreds of dogs each year are lost, hit by cars or picked up as strays simply because the owners neglected to replace a dying battery.
- ◆There have been several reports of collars malfunctioning - short-circuiting - so that the collar repeatedly shocks the dog, over and over again, until the collar is removed. Dogs have been severely traumatized and even died from electrocution due to this malfunction.

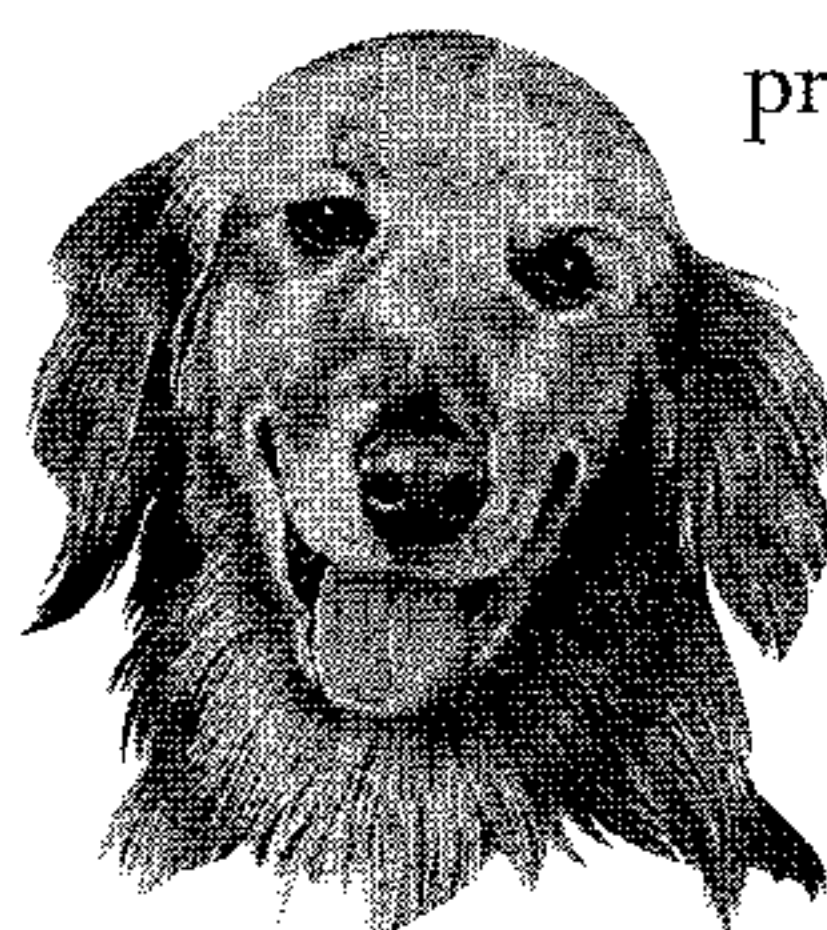
Shocking information, isn't it? If you weigh the risks, we think you'll agree ... an electronic /invisible fence is not a good option for your dog.

Trust - A Deadly Disease

by Sharon Mathers*

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog, a hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease. Or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called "Trust."

You knew before you ever took your rescue dog home that it should not be trusted, especially if it is a dog that was a stray and, therefore, has no "history." The organization that provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head.



Dogs steal off counters, destroy anything expensive, chase cats, may need to be housetrained and must never be allowed off lead unless in a securely fenced enclosure.

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice of the rescue group, you escorted your dog into his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. The house was "dog-proofed."

Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage was stowed in the cabinet under the kitchen sink or in a can with a tight lid, cats were isolated and a gate was placed across the living room to keep at least one part of the house accident free. All windows and doors were properly secured, and signs were placed at strategic points, reminding all to "Close the door"!

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes nine-tenths of a second after it is opened and that it is really latched. "Don't let the dog out!" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is "No!")

You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your dog becoming more civilized every day. The seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it, your untrained but wonderful new companion has turned into an elegant, dignified friend. Now that he is more reliable and sedate, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning! And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

Then one of your friends suggests obedience classes, and, after a time you even let him run loose from the car into the house when you get home. Why not? He always runs straight to the door, dancing in a frenzy of joy and waiting to be let in. And he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that disproves the rule. (Sometimes late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then come right back in.)

Time passes - it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was a new family member. He would never think of running out a door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway.

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often the incubation period is much longer. He spies the neighbor dog across the street, or perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running. Suddenly he forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping out doors, jumping out of windows or, coming when called due to traffic.

Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever. Your heart is broken at the sight of his still, beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

Every morning, my dog, Shah, bounced around off-lead, exploring. Every morning for seven years, he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter. Please read this every year on your rescue dog's "Gotcha Day" lest you forget.

*Source: Sharon Mathers raises and occasionally shows salukis. Shah was one of her favorites. She lives in Phoenix. This article was originally published in 1986 in *Canine Concepts*. The article was revised by Deb Orwig, Resources Director, Rescue A Golden of Arizona, and published in their magazine, *Golden Tales*, October 2002. Reprinted with permission.

Capital Campaign Update

by Marcia McGovern

First, let me sincerely thank all of you who diligently donated to the Capital Campaign in 2002. Your gifts are greatly appreciated! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Many of you are wondering what is happening with the campaign. Last year at this time, we were looking at purchasing a facility with enough property to build a new facility at a later date. Unfortunately, this plan did not come together for us. Due to the tragedy of 9-11, charitable donations lagged considerably for all charities this past year as did grant money that we hoped to earn.

In addition, after meeting with the city, we discovered there were many restrictions on our target property including zoning, environmental and flood plain information that may have made it impossible to build a new facility in the future.

After careful consideration, the GRRMF board decided to keep moving forward with the Capital Campaign but add some time to the timetable and look forward to building a new facility as originally planned.

We will be applying for grants again this year, as well as having several fundraising events. At the end of this year, we will evaluate our situation and project a target date to start looking at property for a new facility. In the meantime, the capital funds are invested and earning interest.

If you have any questions on the Capital Campaign, please contact me:
mmcgovern1@cfl.rr.com or (407) 321-6355.

Hot Spots

In a recent article on hot spots, we suggested a product called CoolSpot 2000.

Katy Koktavy, president of Rescue A Golden of Arizona, saw our article and was kind enough to let us know that their rescue organization carries this product - for \$5 less than the CoolSpot Internet site!

CoolSpot 2000 is made from organic fruit extracts that historically have been known for their great responses regarding skin. The product is specially formulated for pets. CoolSpot has a natural bitter taste to deter your pet from licking, chewing and biting. This gives the botanicals the opportunity to work while giving your pet a chance to rest comfortably.

While GRRMF cannot endorse any product, many of our members have reported great results with CoolSpot.

To order a supply from RAG of Arizona - with all proceeds benefiting their rescue group - contact: koktavy@cox.net. Cost is \$25 each or \$45 for two. Price includes shipping. The RAG of Arizona Web site is located at: www.golden-retriever.org.

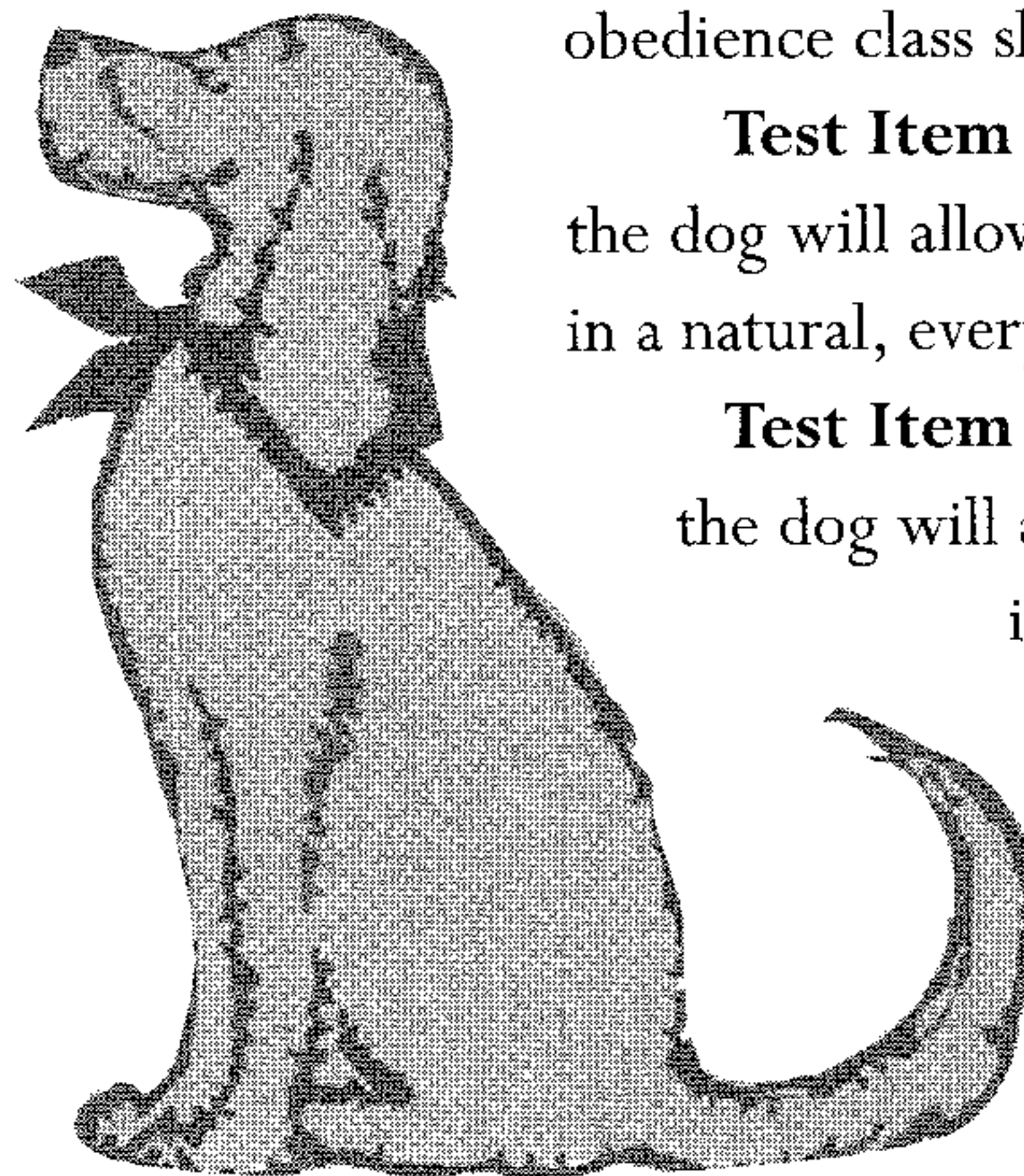
Is Your Dog A Good Citizen?

Take the AKC's Canine Good Citizen test at our Rescue Reunion and find out!

GRRMF volunteer Susan King has just become a certified evaluator for the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen test and has graciously volunteered to hold CGC testing at GRRMF's Annual Rescue Reunion on March 23.

So that Susan doesn't have to spend the entire day testing dogs, the test will be limited to the first 10 dogs that apply. There will be a \$10 entry fee for each dog tested, with all proceeds benefiting GRRMF.

The purpose of the Canine Good Citizen Program is to ensure that our favorite companion, the dog, can be a respected member of the community. To receive the CGC certificate, dogs take the 10-item Canine Good Citizen Test. Any dog who has completed a basic obedience class should be able to pass the CGC test.



Test Item 1: Accepting a friendly stranger. This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Test Item 2: Sitting politely for petting. This test demonstrates that the dog will allow a friendly stranger to touch it while it is out with its handler.

Test Item 3: Appearance and grooming. This practical test demonstrates that the dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so. It also demonstrates the owner's care, concern and sense of responsibility.

Test Item 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead). This test demonstrates that the handler is in control of the dog.

Test Item 5: Walking through a crowd. This test demonstrates that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

Test Item 6: Sit and down on command - staying in place. This test demonstrates that the dog has training, will respond to the handler's commands to sit and lie down and will remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

Test Item 7: Coming when called. This test demonstrates that the dog will come when called by the handler.

Test Item 8: Reaction to another dog. This test demonstrates that the dog can behave politely around other dogs.

Test Item 9: Reaction to distraction. This test demonstrates that the dog is confident at all times when faced with common distracting situations.

Test Item 10: Supervised separation. This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners.

Equipment

All tests must be performed on leash. Dogs should wear well-fitting buckle or slip collars made of leather, fabric, or chain.

Encouragement

Owners/handlers may use praise and encouragement throughout the test. The owner may pet the dog between exercises. Food and treats are not permitted during testing, nor is the use of toys, squeaky toys, etc. to get the dog to do something.

Failures - Dismissals

Any dog that eliminates during testing must be marked failed. The only exception to this rule is that elimination is allowable in test Item 10, but only when test Item 10 is held outdoors. Any dog that growls, snaps, bites, attacks or attempts to attack a person or another dog is not a good citizen and must be dismissed from the test.

For a complete description of the CGC test procedures and a registration form, visit our web site - www.grrmf.org and click on the button that says "Canine Good Citizen."

So don't miss out! If your dog can't do all of the above items, start working on that training with him now! It's not too late!

GRRMF Volunteers Clean Up at Recent Events!

In December, scores of GRRMF volunteers manned the annual PetsMart Pet Pictures with Santa booth. Thanks to the efforts of organizers Suzanne Rider, John & Gail Pfohler, Sally Anne Rowland and Debbie



Santa's Little Helpers: Lead Elf Lisa Beck and Santa Paws (AKA Debbie McGhehey) pose for a picture with PetsMart Countryside Store Manager Don Iuzzolino in Clearwater.

McGhehey and their loyal staffs, Petsmart will be sending GRRMF a check for nearly \$4,400!

A very special thanks to all the store managers and staff for their hospitality and support. Without these people, we could

not have had such phenomenal success. The Clearwater store manager has already stated he wants GRRMF exclusively this December. WOW!

Thanks to the following volunteers:

Charlie & Barbara White, Bill Wilder, Sally Anne Rowland, Linda Fike, Linc & Jon Hay, Colleen & Rick Sosteri, Mike & Linda Morris, Tom Cartwright, Matthew & Anne Marie Wise, Matthew & Cheryl Pacheco, Lisa Beck, Cheryl Maze, Anne Pocaro, Kathy Lerche, Emily Rowe, Kenna Ashley, Jody Kaufman, Cindy & Rick Owen, Suzanne Rider & Mom Jane, Bob Carlson, Tom Cartwright, Bob Anderson, Sue Keiser, Kathy Cartwright, Diane Simpkinson, Mary Beth Liermann, Kristen Anderson, Jan Strock. Due to the large amount of volunteers, we are afraid we may have missed a name or two. Please accept our apologies in advance, and understand that your efforts are very much appreciated!

In another holiday event, Christmas Under the Oaks, West Coast volunteers raised more than \$1,100 for rescue. Volunteers also spent many hours educating visitors about rescue. The pictures of the Sarasota 23 puppies drew them in! A special thanks to all the hard work from our volunteers, especially the new ones.

Murphy Love

By Susan J. Ardouin

This is a story about learning to love again. We lost our beloved 5-year-old golden retriever, Amber, unexpectedly on April 1, 2001, from an autoimmune disease. She was diagnosed with this progressive disease and within five days passed away at home.

Amber came to us through an ad in the paper from a family who lived in apartment and could not give a 1-year-old golden the running room she needed. We brought her into our house and gave her the best home and love a dog could ever want. We are childless, so she became our baby and we nurtured and loved her every day. The sudden shock of losing her at only 5 years old was almost too much to bear. I cried for days after she passed way and sought medical attention for my total despair.

My husband went on the Internet and found Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida. He thought it might help if we considered getting another dog. I told him I wasn't ready for another dog only two short months after Amber left us, but gave me the application form and said another dog might help us get through the sadness.

I was amazed at the care the volunteers take in placing rescued dogs. When I received the first telephone call to discuss my application, I knew this was someone who really cared about placing a golden in the right home.

I became nervous before the home visit, because I realized I might not be selected. However, my fears where unfounded. Our volunteer suggested that Murphy, who had been at a veterinarian's clinic for a few weeks, would be a good selection to have a "weekend" stay with us to see how we would bond.

Our first impression of Murphy was that she needed a bath and seemed a bit sullen. Murphy did not want to be outside, nor did she want to play. We decided to take her for a walk, but she would only walk a few hundred feet before lying down. The next morning, we tried the walk again with no improvement.

After two days, the volunteer contacted us and asked how things were going. I told him we were not bonding and would take Murphy back on Monday.

At the time, I did not realize that Murphy was sad also. Her owners left her at the humane society after keeping her for 7 1/2 years. They decided they wanted to start traveling and didn't need or want her. She was at the shelter for a while, and then crated at a veterinary clinic for a few weeks more. I imagine she was wondering where she was going next.

On Monday, I called the volunteer and told him we would foster Murphy until he could find another home for her. We bought her a couple of squeaky toys and eventually she brought them to us to play. We walked her every day, and each day she would walk a little further. By mid-week, I started getting attached to her, and she began to trust me. I realized I was beginning to love again. Murphy was growing on us.

The reason I am writing this story is to remind prospective adoptive family members that some of these dogs are either neglected or traumatized by their previous owners who have given them up. I look at Murphy now and realize I almost gave up the "perfect" dog. She is well-behaved, quiet and has a personality that wins everyone over. People who meet her cannot believe she was given away.

The best part of the story is that Murphy has given me the opportunity to love again, which I truly did not think was possible. She is 8 years old now and has the best years ahead of her. This has been a wonderful experience, and one that I would recommend to anyone.



Adoption Follow-up Forms:

We Want to Hear From You!

Thanks to all who sent in the Annual Follow-Up Form that was included in the last issue of Hearts of Gold. You may not realize it, but reading these forms is a major morale booster for the volunteers who work day in and day out in rescue. We pore over these forms, anxious to hear how our former rescues are doing. We laugh at the cute pictures, and we reflect on our memories of when and how your dog came to GRRMF. Best of all, we relax, knowing that our former rescue is safe and happy in his or her forever home.

Don't ever think you or your dog is forgotten. We can assure you, we remember each and every one of you! If you haven't completed your form, please do so as soon as possible. Think of it as a way you can give back to GRRMF - by motivating our volunteers to continue to do the sometimes difficult, often heartwrenching - but always rewarding - work they do!

The Adoption Follow Up Form can be found in this newsletter, on the back side of the Membership Form. Should you need a new form, e-mail us at info@grrmf.org or call the Hotline: (407) 332-2840.

Dog Bites, Dog Fights: Do You Know What To Do?

By Diane Makinney, South Florida Region Coordinator

I recently had the opportunity to attend a seminar on dog aggression conducted by a dog-training pioneer Captain Arthur J. Haggerty. You may wonder why someone who owns golden retrievers -- a breed known for good temperament -- would go to a seminar on dog aggression. Unfortunately, cases of aggression in goldens seem to be more prevalent in previous years. The exact cause is difficult to pinpoint, and I suspect it's probably due to several factors.

The golden retriever is the second most popular breed registered with AKC, second only to the Labrador retriever. Because of their popularity, goldens are being overbred to meet the demands of the pet-buying public. Other contributing factors can be directly associated to poor socialization and lack of obedience training.

Those of us who own dogs, no matter what breed, and anyone involved in rescue should learn some basic "survival skills" when it comes to the subject of dog fights and dog bites. Not something we want to have to worry about with our precious goldens, but remember, above all else, goldens are DOGS. And given the right circumstances, any dog - including a golden - can and will bite.

The first thing I learned from Capt. Haggerty was what to do if you are bitten. His advice was excellent, but easier said than done as most people's instinctual reaction in a dog-bite scenario will be wrong. The result will be more damage than necessary. When a dog bites, his teeth cause a puncture wound. Our first reaction will be to pull our hand - or whatever part of our body was just bitten -- away. However, when we do, instead of just a puncture wound, we wind up with punctures AND tears in the skin and tissue. So, remember: If a dog bites you, STOP! DO NOT PULL AWAY! (Repeat this phrase as often as necessary.)

The second thing I learned is if a bite wound occurs, it is best not to get sutures. By doing so, the toxins from the dog bite are trapped inside your body, putting you at further risk of infection. Instead, clean the wound thoroughly, apply an antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin and cover with a butterfly-type bandage, which will allow air to circulate and the wound to heal from the inside out. The exception to this rule is if the bite is serious enough to require surgery.

The other, perhaps more important thing we learned was how to break up a dog fight. Again, Capt. Haggerty's advice might test your instinctive reactions.

The biggest mistake people make when trying to break up a dog fight is getting in the middle of it. This may be your first reaction, but if you do this, you'll need to remember the first two things I just told you, because more than likely, you will get bitten. A much safer and more effective way to break up a fight is to pick the dogs' tails STRAIGHT UP -- thereby throwing them off balance. Once you manage to stop the fight (don't let go of those tails), you'll need to separate the dogs. If you are close to a doorway and can manage to get the door open, shove one of the dogs in and slam the door shut. If not, do your best to remove at least one of the dogs from the room (or the immediate vicinity if outside). Usually, only a few minutes of separation is needed. Dogs "forgive and forget" quickly, so if it happens in your own "pack," don't fret about long-term consequences.

Another method to break up a fight is to grab the dogs by the hind quarters and lift. Then use your hand to grab a rear leg. If you're on the right side of the dog, use your right hand to grab the leg. Other methods include throwing a blanket, towel or other soft object over one of the dogs. This may or may not work.

There were many other things I learned from Capt. Haggerty. If you are interested in learning more, visit his Web site: **www.haggertydog.com**. These two items were probably the most important to learn for anyone who owns dogs. Yes, even a golden retriever! Hopefully, this will never happen in your lifetime. But if it does, I hope you will remember these tips.

Editor's note: GRRMF does not endorse any one trainer's methods but includes this information as a reference to our members. As a dog owner, you should be familiar with what to expect and how to react. If your dog should ever show signs of aggression toward people or other dogs, we strongly advise that you seek the help of a certified trainer familiar with these issues. Contact us for a recommended trainer in your area of the state: (407) 332-2840 or info@grrmf.org.

Have you already sent in your 2003 dues?

If you have, we appreciate your support! This newsletter has a pullout membership form. We'd like to challenge all our members to pass it on to a friend that might be interested in joining GRRMF! Make our family grow by helping us increase our membership base and meet our membership goals. All donations are tax-deductible.

Training Tips: Attention!

Hey you, buddy. Yeah, I'm talking to you. Get your attention? Good!

So, why should it matter if your dog looks at you? Because the single, most important behavior you can train a dog to do is to actively look directly at you and wait for a cue. You cannot give your dog a life-saving cue if he is not paying attention. You can't get your dog to sit when the doorbell is ringing if he is not paying attention. Without attention, you have no control over your dog.

The Rules

- ◆Never give your dog a cue until you have his attention. This will teach the dog to watch you carefully and that he will only get rewarded if he looks at you first.
- ◆If you lose your dog's attention, immediately work to get it back before continuing any training or command.
- ◆Make it fun for you and your dog. Who wants to just stare at you if it's not fun?

Games

All games you play with your dog should start with attention. First, the dog looks at you, then the game starts! Don't forget that playing a structured game with your dog does more than just provide exercise. It builds on your relationship and helps reinforce your status as alpha.

You can play:

- ◆Any form of retrieving.
- ◆Catch me if you can - dog chases you.
- ◆Get it - dog runs to toy or food.
- ◆Be creative. Invent as many games as you can!

And remember, reward eye contact -- it is the most important behavior you will ever teach your dog!

Training Tips: Canine Signs of Stress

In any situation, a stressed dog is more likely to become aggressive.

To prevent aggression, it is important to be able to "read" your dog's behavior and monitor it for signs of stress.

One or more of these behaviors can signal that your dog is becoming stressed:

- ◆Panting ◆Pacing ◆Shedding ◆Diarrhea/bowel movements ◆Urination ◆Licking the lips
- ◆Holding breath ◆Tensing muscles ◆Coughing ◆Sneezing ◆Turning away and/or avoiding eye contact
- ◆Trembling ◆Shaking (as if the dog were shaking off water) ◆Yawning ◆Sweaty paws
- ◆Increased activity ◆Decreased activity ◆Scratching ◆"Spacing out"

Stress can be caused by confusion, frustration, feeling overwhelmed, pain or fear.

An important goal of obedience training is to build confidence in the dog, not stress him out or erode his self-confidence.

If you observe any of these behaviors during training sessions, stop the session immediately.

Then ask yourself how you can make the session a more positive experience for both of you.

As always, GRRMF recommends you consult with a licensed and certified dog trainer who specializes in positive reinforcement training methods.

If your dog exhibits signs of aggression, it is critical that you seek professional help immediately.

Aggressive behavior can escalate quickly - the tragic result can be the death of your dog through euthanization.

Source: Courteous Canine, Inc. www.CourteousCanine.com (813) 949-1465, e-mail: Angelica@CourteousCanine.com. Reprinted with permission.

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 obtain a volunteer application available at www.grrmf.org or by calling 407.332.2840.

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.



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