



HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 6, Issue 3

Fall 2003

They're Here!

New GRRMF Calendars Have Just Arrived - Full-color 18-month calendar features former rescues, and is a "must-have" for all members and their families! See Page 15 to order!



Heartworms Kill!

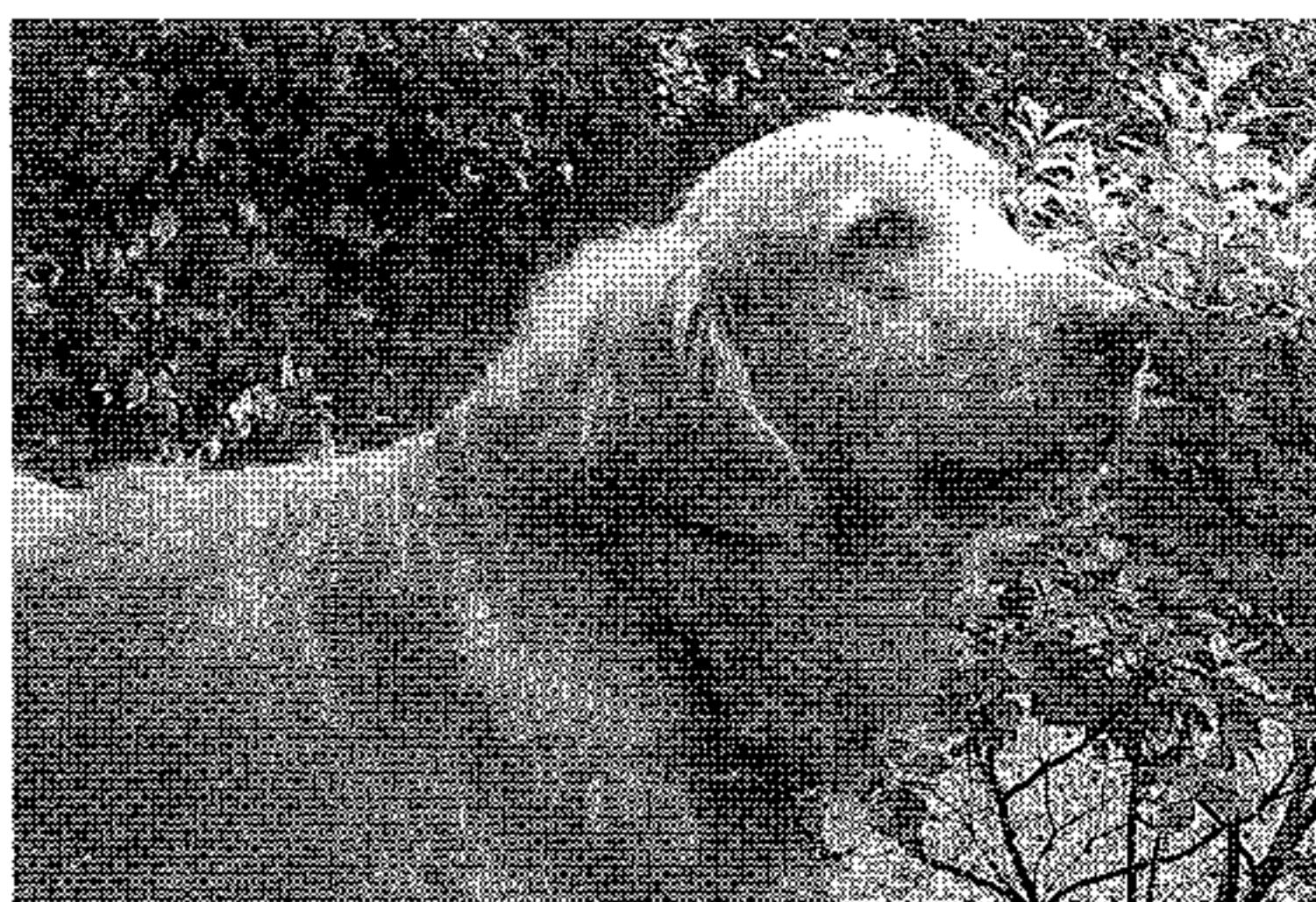
Meet some of GRRMF's newest rescues - all have been diagnosed with heartworms and are undergoing treatment right now.

Read their stories on Page 10.



FARGO Goes Home!

Our special-needs spotlight dog from last issue has found his forever home - read all about it on Page 3!



Plus ...

Give Your Dog a Job - tips from a trainer. Page 6

It Takes a Village - follow the volunteer trail that leads to Goldie's adoption. Page 11

Thunderstorm Anxiety - tips for convincing your dog that the sky is NOT falling. Page 13

And more!

New Beginnings: 23 Goldens Complete Journey to Pennsylvania

We're happy to report that as of this date, 23 golden retrievers from our rescue group are on their way to finding new forever homes ... in Pennsylvania!

Why is this good news?

As a rescue group, GRRMF handles a huge volume of golden retrievers. We rescue approximately 200 every year year. Unfortunately, there are always more we could save, and we continually have a waiting list of goldens needing to come into our program.

Now, thanks to a recently developed program with Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue, we hope to save even more.

Based in the Philadelphia/Harrisburg area, DVGRR has a beautiful facility -- appropriately named the "Golden Gateway" -- with full-time caretakers and trainers. There's only one problem ... DVGRR has more qualified adopters than they have dogs! As hard as it may be for us to believe, they currently have an eight- to 12-month waiting list to adopt a dog.

Because DVGRR has the same placement process as GRRMF - extensive application and phone screening, home visits and follow-up - and because of our dire situation

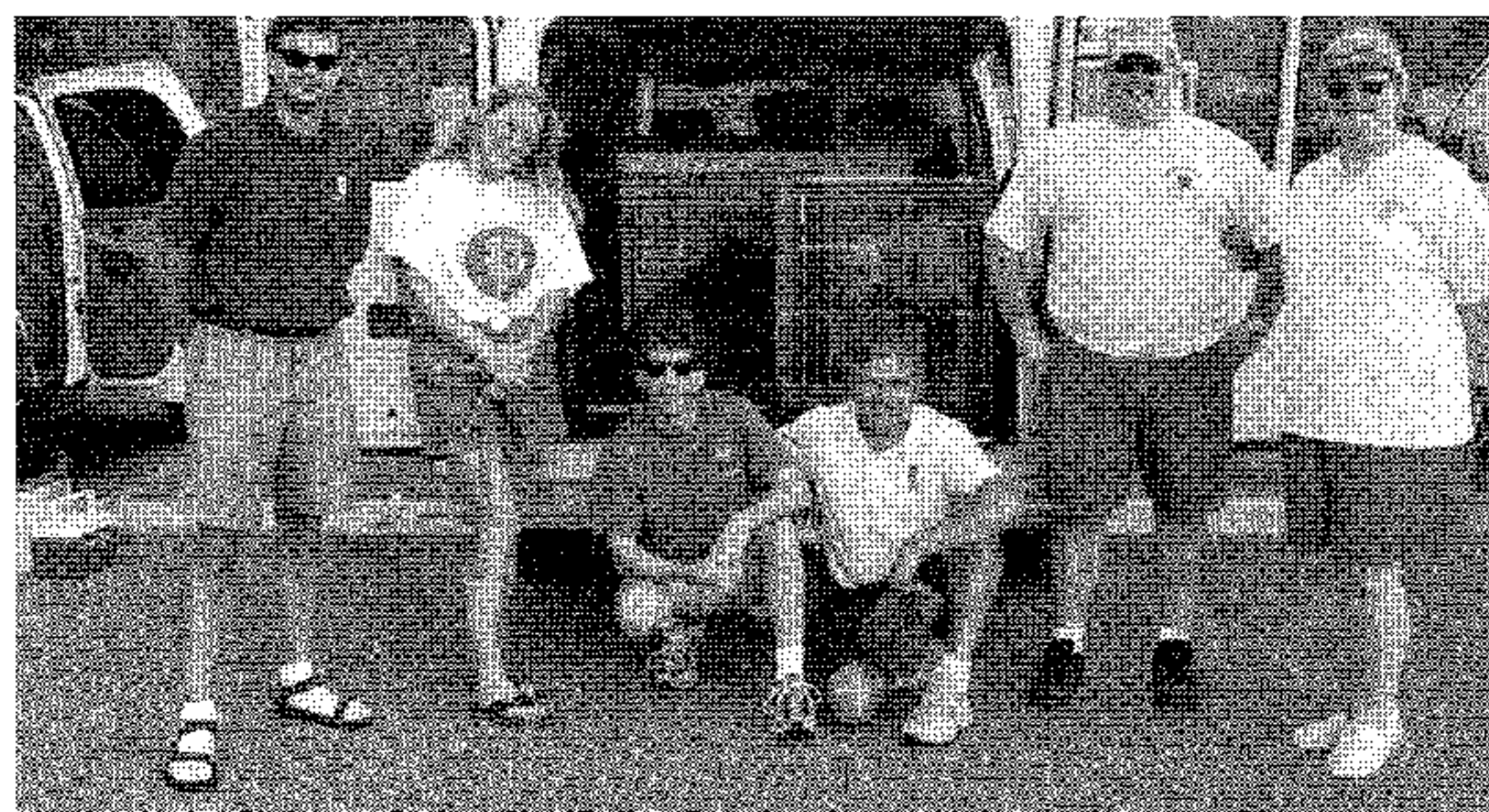
here in Florida, the GRRMF Board unanimously voted to partner with the Pennsylvania group.

"We've worked with DVGRR for years," says GRRMF President Barbara Durham. "They were instrumental in mentoring us when we were first incorporated, and they have been extremely supportive of our efforts. They are a reputable group that is well-run and well-respected. We're very comfortable in the knowledge that any dogs we send to Pennsylvania will find homes that are equivalent in quality to what we would find," Barbara says.

"We have examined virtually every contract and procedure they have, so it's like sending dogs to someone just like us. Many of the forms we use are based on DVGRR materials. They take a lifelong interest in the dogs," Barbara adds.

And since DVGRR has its own facility, the group is better equipped to handle dogs that are hard to place in foster homes - such as those who need

specialized training or have socialization/dog-aggression issues. DVGRR's obedience trainers meet daily with the dogs, and they have a huge fenced exercise area with agility equipment. DVGRR also has no problem taking seniors or dogs with medical conditions such as heartworms.



GRRMF & DVGRR volunteers meet in North Carolina to send 7 goldens to the "Golden Gateway" in July.

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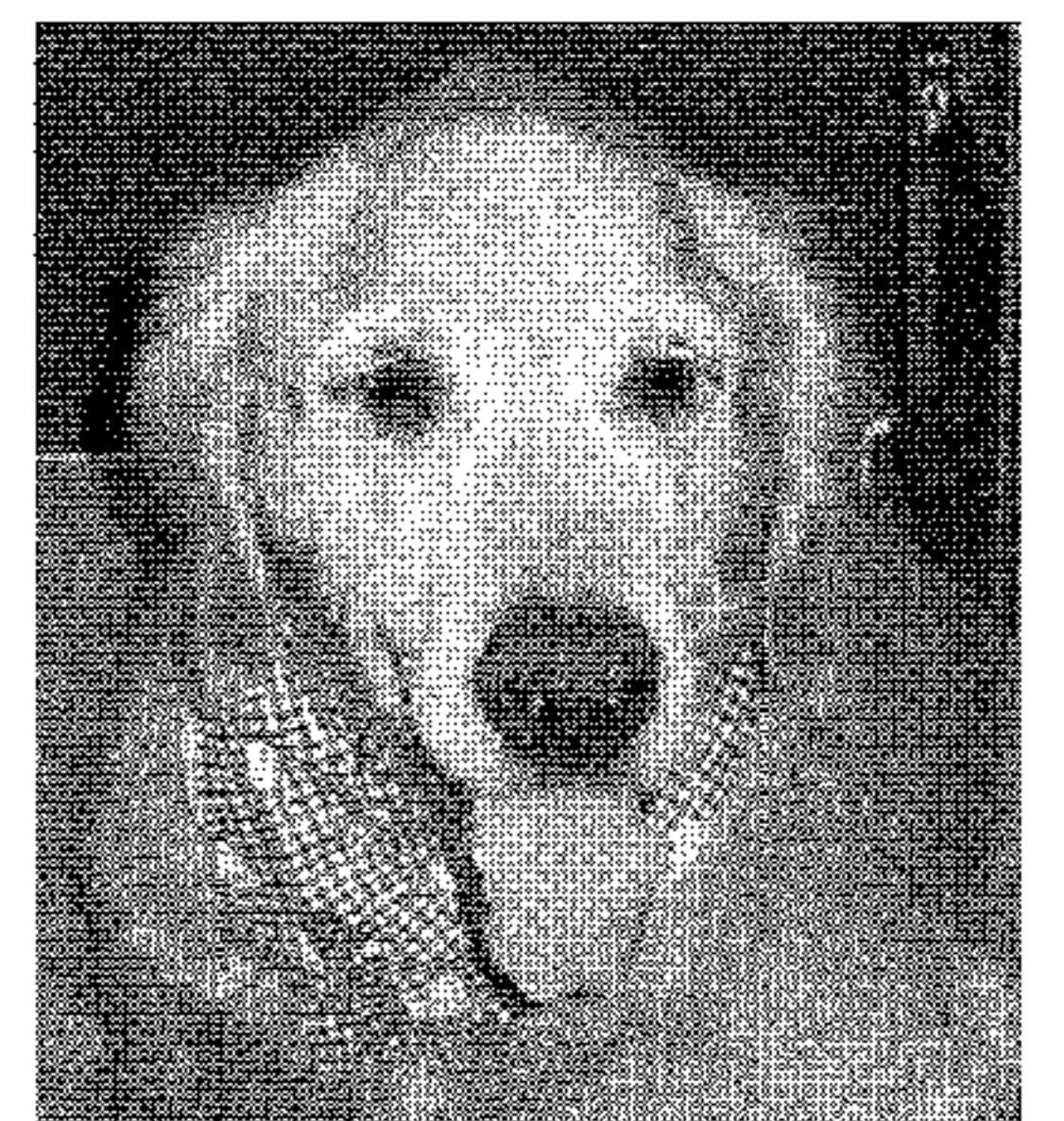
Eleven Years Young

Dreyfuss came to us in August at the respectable age of 11. He was an outside dog, tied to a chain in the backyard. The family had no fence and said they didn't want "all that hair" in the house.

After more than a decade of neglect, Dreyfuss has a long list of health issues. He is overweight, has hip dysplasia, ear and skin infections, hair loss, worn-down and tartar-encrusted teeth, entropion in the left eye and degenerative joint disease in both knees.

But Dreyfuss is also a happy, eager-to-please guy with perfect house manners. He settles in nicely wherever you are, gets along nicely with other dogs, doesn't beg for food and loves taking naps on his new soft bed. His foster mom says his tail hasn't stopped wagging since the day she brought him home. Dreyfuss is indeed "11 years young"!

He is now on a full regimen of supplements and antibiotics to clear up his maladies. A weight-control diet and daily doses of glucosamine/MSM for his hips and knees are helping ease his pain and improve his mobility.



continued on page 10

President's Message

A Fencing Issue

by Barbara Durham

Fencing - who would have thought this subject would generate so much controversy? But time and time again, our volunteers are put to task trying to explain GRRMF's policies on fences - whether or not they are required, how high and, of course, the ever-constant issue of invisible fencing.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that GRRMF takes great care in analyzing each application on a case-by-case basis. We don't require fences as part of our adoption policy. However, we will not place a high-energy ball-nut in a home with no fence. Likewise, we prefer families with children to have a fenced-in yard so that all have a safe place to play.



The same process applies to people with 4-foot fences, or those with acreage surrounded by field fencing. A 4-foot fence is not secure for a large, high-energy dog who is likely to bound right over it if he sees a cat or squirrel on the other side. Field fencing - wire fencing on poles - can be a disaster with adventurous goldens, because it takes just a few seconds for a smart dog to figure out how to bend the wire and wiggle underneath the fence. Would someone be categorically turned down with either type of fence? No. But we would screen them carefully to ensure their dog would not be permitted outside unsupervised, to minimize the risk of the dog escaping. And we would be careful to match the right dog to that type of fenced environment.

Now, what about electronic fences, otherwise known as "invisible" or "shock" fencing? We find a lot of risk in electronic fences - not just with the nature of the fence itself, but also with the people who use it. Time and time again, we take in dogs wearing these types of collars. The dogs were found as strays, and usually that's because either 1) the owner became complacent and did not replace worn-out batteries, or 2) the dog was left

in the yard unsupervised and escaped. Don't believe for a minute that a dog won't be willing to take the shock and escape if the incentive is great enough. There are other, more deadly dangers, as well. Anyone wishing more information about the safety risks of invisible fencing can e-mail or call us, and we'll be happy to send you some more information on the topic.

Does that mean that everyone who has an invisible fence is a bad person? Of course not. GRRMF is just making the determination that an invisible fence is a bad combination with a rescue dog. We realize that in our "business" we have the insight of loads of experience with these fences that a normal dog owner would not have. We fully explain the issue in a letter to the applicant so that they can choose whether to discontinue use of the fence or not.

Someone mentioned recently that this policy seemed "inflexible." Perhaps it is. GRRMF's goal is to screen applicants consistently with safety in mind. Once you've rescued and placed more than 1,200 dogs, you learn a thing or two about people, dogs and safety.

Unfortunately, many of us have learned the hard way - and the death of even one of our former rescues due to owner inattention or irresponsibility will rest on our collective souls for the rest of our days.

Some have said we'd save more dogs by lowering our standards. The problem with this mindset is that it would not only affect the dogs, but our organization as a whole. Would you want to foster for us again if your foster dog was put in a home where it was allowed off-leash and got hit by a car ... after you personally nursed that dog through heartworm treatment, behavioral issues, or whatever other baggage it carried? Would a donor be happy that we spent \$2,000 on a dog only to let it live the rest of its life outside or be killed by a car when it was left in the backyard unsupervised and escaped? Would our volunteers, who give 20-60 unpaid hours a week, be willing to invest that time in a program that subjected dogs to uncertain situations? Probably not. I know I wouldn't, and I'm not alone. We would go under without our caring and dedicated volunteers and generous donors. The fact that we have happy stories for our dogs keeps all of us going.

The GRRMF Board chose to implement carefully thought-out and uniform adoption policies. One thing to keep in mind is that people will always have different opinions -- but in the interest of our goldens, we have to be willing to work out those differences. As long as we stay focused on the dogs, it isn't hard to understand our guidelines for safety. GRRMF has been VERY successful in placing goldens, and we hope to continue for a long time to come. I think 2003 will be a banner year.

-- Barbara, info@grrmf.org or (407) 332-2840 and leave message.

Don't forget to order your GRRMF Calendar as soon as possible! They are terrific! They will make great Christmas gifts for all your dog-loving friends. Order several! This is a good way to help our goldens, and also get something for yourself, too. And, since it covers the last six months of 2003, you can start using it right away. See page 15 for details and an order form.

Recent Adoptions - Fall 2003



Many of you will remember **Fargo's** story. He was featured in our last newsletter, and because of generous donors, who opened their hearts and purses for him, we're happy to report that Fargo had his surgery and

is recuperating ... with his new forever mom! Seven-year-old Fargo was a stray. When we picked him up from the shelter, he had very little hair on his body but a sweet personality that showed through his rough exterior. He also needed major back surgery to help him walk and play better. Seems that Fargo had been injured - we will never know what happened - and suffered from a serious spinal condition. GRRMF and its many supporters came to the rescue again. So did Melissa K., who had adopted Angie, another rescue with a long rehabilitation period after hip surgery. Since she was familiar with rehab techniques, Melissa offered to foster Fargo and could not bear to part with him. So now, he spends his days with Melissa and Angie, as well as his human grandma, Jeanne, enjoying every new thing life has to offer.

Alex Adam, 2 1/2 years old, is good with cats and kids. So who else could possibly want this sweet guy but Syd, Gretchen, their 3 children and

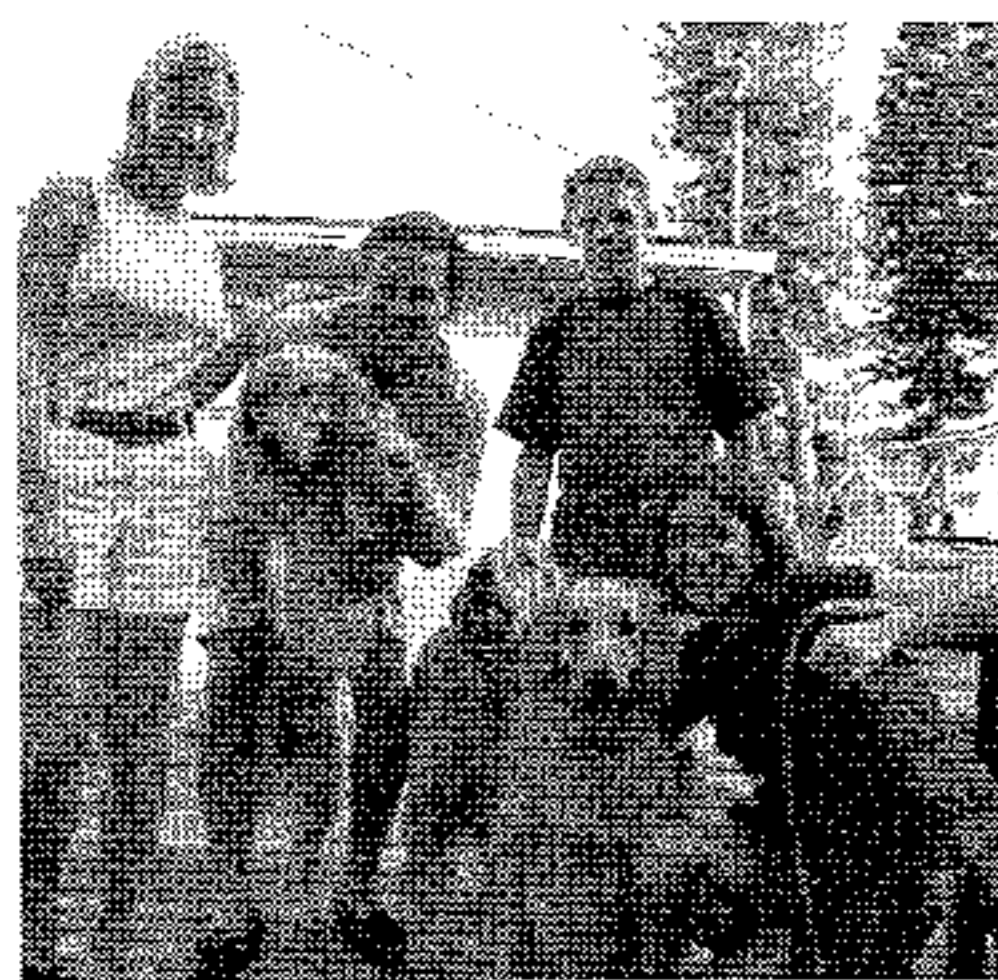


4 cats! Alex's story is not one of abuse or neglect. Quite the contrary, he was much loved but due to life circumstances his previous owner could no longer keep him. Alex's first dad was a single father of two small children, worked full time and was finishing his graduate degree. Not much time left for a young golden. Alex's owner insisted that GRRMF take him and patiently waited four weeks for a foster home to become available. He knew we would place Alex in a great home ...and we did! His new family loves him very much and assures us he has found his forever home.



One-year-old **Eve** was found as a stray on Christmas Eve. She weighed only 37 pounds and had no manners. She also was not potty trained or well socialized. But her foster mom knew that underneath was an extremely smart puppy

who really wanted to be a "good girl." In just a few weeks, Eve started gaining weight, learned to play with other dogs, figured out where to go potty and decided she loved snuggling on the couch with her foster mom. Eve also turned into a real clown - constantly making us laugh with her antics. She was still high-energy, and we made it clear that whoever adopted her would be bringing a puppy into their lives. That didn't sway Ron & Linda H., who saw her on our Web site and fell in love. We understand that Eve is enjoying her new life, where she gets to go for long walks and enjoys play time with her humans. She could care less about the family cat, which suits the cat just fine. Many thanks to her humans for ensuring Eve continues on her upward climb in life, and also for keeping us apprised of her progress through their frequent e-mails.



Oscar wandered into someone's backyard to play with their children. The family kept him for a month, but when his owners couldn't be located, 1-year-old Oscar came to GRRMF. Tampa Bay's Fox 13 Sports Anchor Chip Carter and his family adopted Oscar, now named Fletcher. The Carters report Fletcher is learning all of his doggie manners and has started agility training. Fletcher is already a TV star and on his way to becoming an agility superstar. He is fitting in nicely with his golden siblings, Clancy and Daisy, and his human siblings, too.

Chris (now Rudy, at left in photo) is a cute red boy who came from a shelter during the holidays. And what a wonderful Christmas present this young dog made - we just needed to find the right family to share him with.

Along came Wendy & Keith E., who were looking for a companion for their current golden, Alex. Chris, now Rudy, is enjoying the good life in his new forever home. He has lots of toys, a big fenced yard and even a swimming pool. Alex didn't think Rudy was such a great present at first, but he is coming around. Alex has a constant shadow in Rudy, who follows him everywhere, nipping at his heels and wanting to play. Oh, and did we mention that Rudy also is a little "love sponge"? He relishes affection, and his new humans couldn't be happier about giving



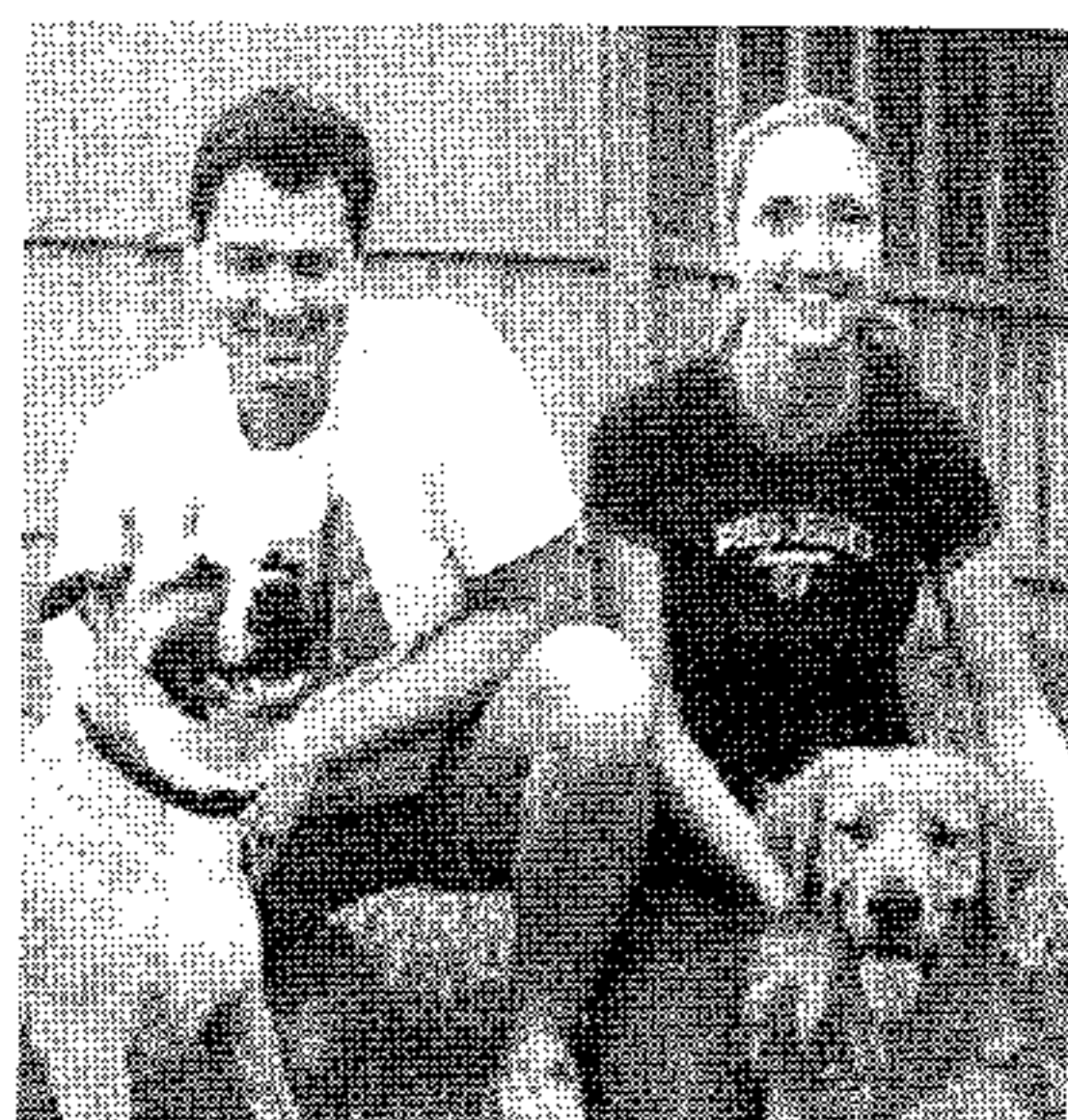
him as much loving as he can handle. This little boy is truly a "gift."



Bernie has moved to the list of adopted dogs after a year in rescue. After falling in love with his endearing personality, Bernie's foster mom, Sandy S., decided to make him a permanent member of her household. Bernie needed to find a home with both a fenced yard (after all, this is one super-active 10-year-old who needs his tennis ball retrieving "fix" every day) and someone to be home with him when the storms roll through. He has never gotten over his fear of storms and was turned in to rescue for digging in the back yard and trying to get inside when storms would come. He has both in his forever home now, as well as some canine buddies to comfort him on the off chance that Mom is not home when it begins to rumble outside. Bernie is well known at the Sanford dog park. When he arrives on Sunday mornings, tennis ball in mouth, he is greeted by his human "buddies" who never seem to tire of throwing the ball for him and trying to take the ball out of his mouth. And if they're not around, no problem - Bernie just goes and meets new friends!

Jennie was turned in due to a family illness. She was much loved in her first home, and it was a difficult decision to give her up. At just a year or so old, Jennie won the hearts of all who met her during her stay in rescue. The veterinary staff was sad to see her go when a foster home was found for her, and her transporter even fell in love during the 1-hour car ride to the foster home. Jennie's foster mom quickly realized that this girl needed a special home. And she found it with Kathy W., who was looking for a new "best friend" after losing her senior golden. A recent note from Kathy confirms that a lifetime friendship has already developed: "We are doing great! The cats are appalled, but Jennie is OK with them. They will all get used to each other eventually. We are going to do just fine together."

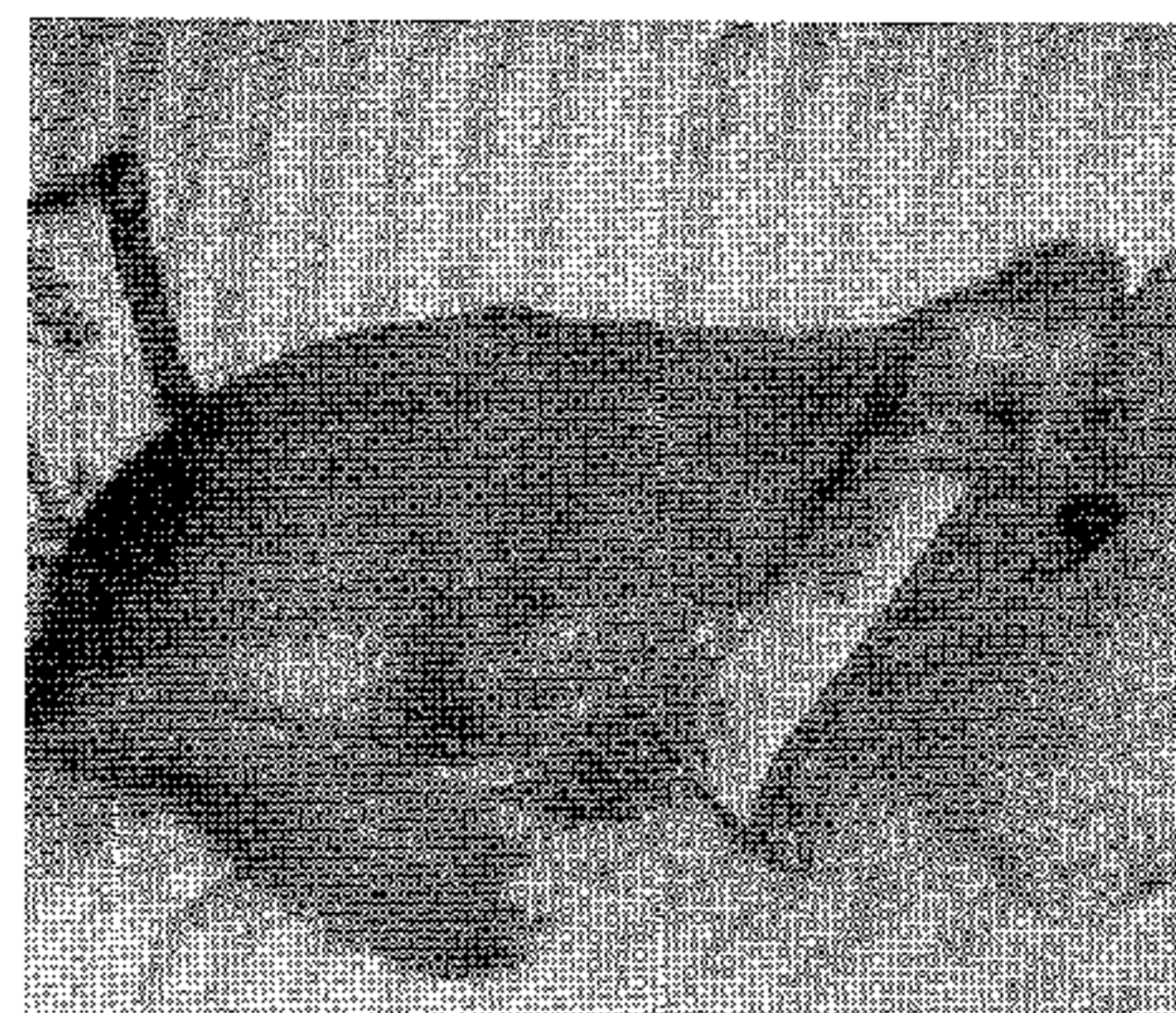




Truman came into rescue from a local shelter. He was loving, playful and a very handsome man to boot. He was fostered by Sandy S. and her canine crew

where he showed his true golden personality. He loves other dogs and water, so we knew Truman needed a home with a buddy and a place to swim. Missy and David L. and their dog Stella fit the bill. Now Truman spends his days playing with Stella and swimming in the backyard pool. If this is what they call a dog's life, it sounds like we should all be so lucky.

Whoopie, one of the "Sarasota 23" pups, was adopted out but returned when she was diagnosed with hip dysplasia. Her first owners had



several pets and couldn't afford the costly surgery Whoopie needed. Sally Anne Rowland and Charlie & Barb White tag-teamed to foster Whoopie through her surgery and lengthy rehab period, and we're happy to report that Whoopie has now found her forever home. Rick and John already had adopted one of the Sarasota 23, Tucker/Logan who had to undergo double surgeries for his bad hips earlier this year. They recently opened their hearts and their home to Whoopie, now Kira, and their e-mail reports tell us she is having a ball playing with her littermate, and that she especially enjoys "her" new swimming pool. John and Rick say they have given up trying to keep their floors clean with these two wild and crazy puppies. It's evident from their messages that these two puppies are very much loved and cared for - many thanks to their humans for providing such a great life for them!

Caitlin spent most of her first year in an outside pen along with her brother, Liam. Caitlin and Liam had to experience everything at a year old for the first time. Both were afraid of doorways, food bowls and other normal household items and noises. Caitlin spent some time in foster care and was adopted by Chris and Paul W. They are continuing to work with Caitlin to help her overcome her fears and assure us she is home to stay.

A call came into the hotline about **Parker**, a beautiful 1-year-old heartworm-positive male in an animal shelter who was to be euthanized unless GRRMF could take him in. The transportation team scrambled to get him from the East Coast of Florida to the West Coast where there was an available foster home. We immediately took him to our veterinarian for further testing - and received a very pleasant surprise! Parker tested negative for heartworms! Edna C. and her son Brady were looking for a fun, young dog to play ball and swim in the pool and thought Parker was the perfect dog for them. Edna says he is fitting in well. Parker even made a TV appearance on Fox 13 recently promoting rescue.



Tucker is a high-energy lovable guy who was bought by a college kid. Once the novelty wore off, Tucker was kept in a bedroom at the parents' house. Fostered and then adopted by Ani A., Tucker now lives with her and another rescue golden named Agape. He enjoys his long walks, playtime at the park and is quickly making up for lost time as he relishes all the love and affection that comes his way.



Wyatt came from a home where there were too many dogs and kids and not enough time or money. This small and very handsome boy was banished to the yard, but once in his foster home with

Sandy S. and her crew, he was the perfect gentleman ... well, except for a few remote controls that he could not resist taking apart to see how they worked! He found a wonderful forever home with Neal M., who wanted a buddy to spend his days with. He also has plenty of canine companions, since Neal's parents are also "dogaholics."

Rita was found wandering the Orlando area when a good Samaritan called rescue about her. Unable to keep her, he asked us to find her a good home. Rita was heartworm positive but a sweeter dog could not be found. She found a wonderful forever home with Janice W. and her canine buddy, Ozzie. Rita now enjoys



leisurely walks as she recovers from heartworm treatment and is not too sick to steal a toy or two from Ozzie and tease him into chasing her for it. Rita loves apples and enjoys a couple bites as much as a biscuit. She and Ozzie are true pals now and often lay down side by side.

Carolina came in on a moment's notice when the woman who had her could not decide between turning her over to rescue or giving her to a friend to breed. Rescue acted quickly, and Carol M. brought her to Sandy S.'s house for foster evaluation since the family proudly stated that they had "trained" Carolina to stay



outside. Carolina had perfect manners from day one. She loved to play with the other dogs, lounge on the couch and enjoy some air-conditioning for the first time in her three years.

Nancy R. was looking for a playmate for her golden, Rosie, and Miss Carolina (at left in photo) fit the bill perfectly. No more living outside for Carolina -- just the rest of her life lived in golden days.

Tenille was a stray that needed heartworm treatment and a new home where she would be loved. She got both. Jennifer W. came to Orlando from the Tampa area to see her and could not bear to leave without her. So Tenille went to her new home where she would be loved and spoiled - just like every little girl should be.

Skye & Cutie

were turned in together. Lisa & Eric M. fostered them and knew right away this special pair needed to be placed together. Along came Melissa & Bob B., who were undaunted

by the prospect of adopting "twins." They say they feel lucky to have found these two perfect goldens and couldn't be happier. **Skye, now Porter, and Cutie, now Taddy,** are enjoying their new homes and family, and it's obvious from the e-mail updates we're getting that the feeling is mutual!



Charlette came in to rescue when a new baby came and forced her to live outside. She was fostered by Maggie and Tim S. and was adopted by Cheryl and Eddie R., who now call her Lady. Cheryl recently sent us this report: "Lady is doing well in her new home. She has already made it known that she is Eddie's girl! She sleeps on the floor next to his bed and refuses to come out of his room until he is awake.



She won't go out the door until Eddie takes her out. He brushes her and puts her food in her bowl. Of course, she has already been in the kiddie pool with Eddie and she let him pour water over her coat. She has been the perfect Lady! Our neighbors and friends can't get over her sweet disposition and her love of my son. Thank you for Eddie's 'gift of gold'!"



Bobby was picked up as a stray and taken to a humane society on the West Coast. Normally, that shelter places goldens on its own and rarely calls us unless there is a

problem placing a dog. Well, it seems no one wanted this young and handsome golden. Why? Because this golden had no tail, was the reply. We sent a volunteer to take a look, and sure enough, he was the real deal. Bobby was fostered by Lisa and Dale B. who soon joined our ever-growing list of failed fosters and adopted Bobby, now known as Jake. Well, why not? He fit right in with the four cats and the rest of the family. Lisa says he's PERFECT just the way he is!

Cassie came to us from an animal shelter. She was going to be euthanized the next day if GRRMF didn't take her. Luckily, Barbara O. came through for us and went to pick up this beautiful and sweet girl, approximately 7-8 years old. Barbara liked her so much, she decided to make it permanent. Cassie is happy in her new home, and we're ecstatic that we were able to save this special girl.

"Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog."

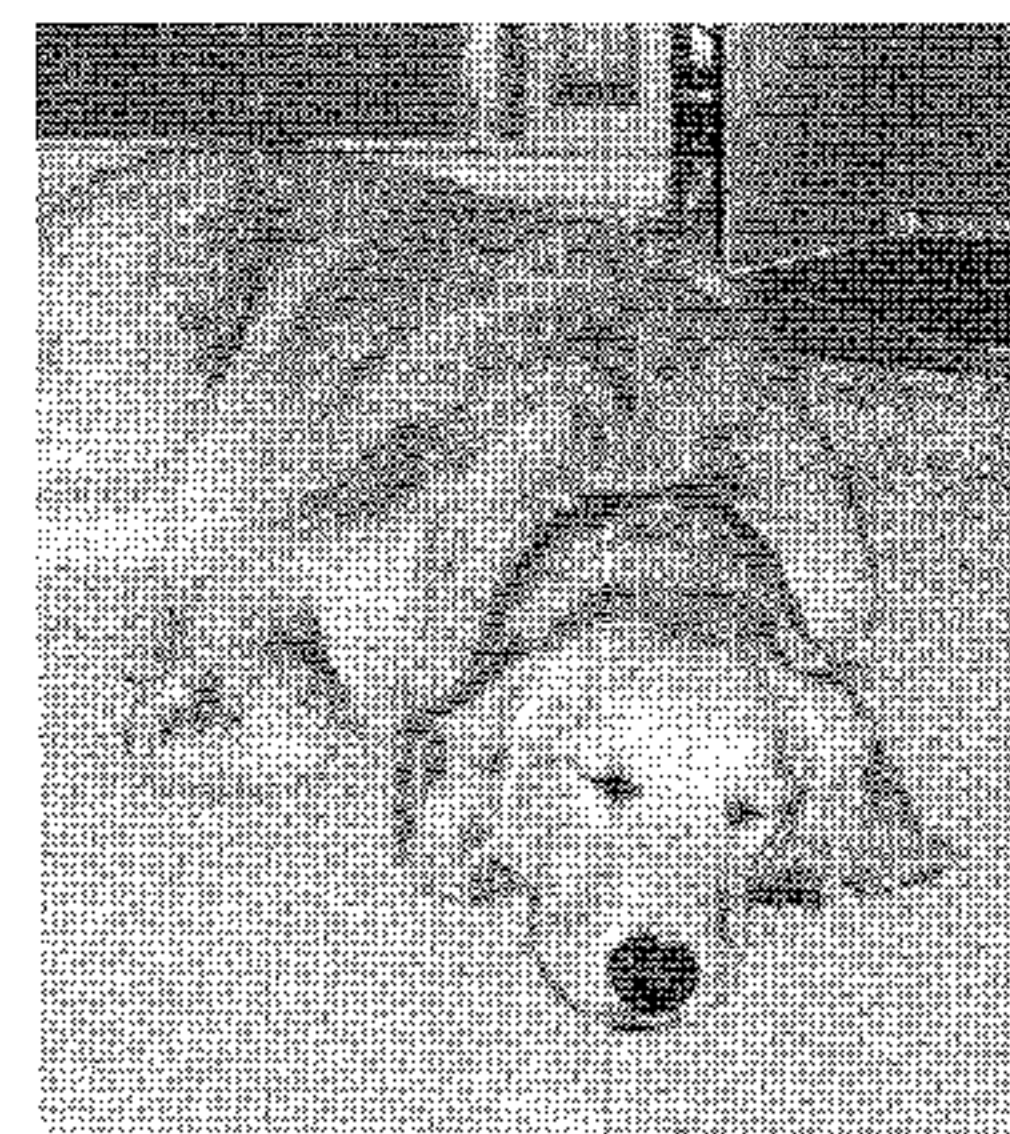
Finnian was dropped off at a veterinarian's office. A GRRMF volunteer was dispatched to take a look, and she knew he was a mix, but he was too cute not to take in. Janet D. and her family agreed to foster Finnian after he served his first role as a GRRMF dog - in the puppy-kissing booth at this year's annual Rescue Reunion! Finnian was a big hit with everyone and with Janet, too, who decided to make it permanent. Finnian the "golden hound" is now having a howlin' good time with his new forever family!



Four-year-old **McGraw**, now called Cody, came in to rescue when his family decided that they no longer wanted a dog. Cody now lives with Rick L. who says GRRMF couldn't have made a more perfect match. Cody enjoys his days and nights swimming in the pool, keeping cool and getting exercise.

Haley, 4 years, was turned in to rescue after a new baby moved into the home. She was fostered by Charlette B. and adopted by Linda & Jim Z., who say that she is the sweetest, most affectionate dog who wants nothing more than to be loved.

Shasta came to rescue at just 4 months old. Her story is a common one - she was purchased as a puppy and as she grew, she became too big and rambunctious for the family's young children. Shasta was fostered by Suzanne and Tony R., who quickly taught her some manners, as well as how to swim in a pool. Shasta now owns Lisa and Chuck B. She is living a life of luxury with fellow GRRMF rescues Diva and Deuce, and the best part is she gets to swim several times a day. Shasta also is a GRRMF spokesdog, attending regular education days in the Tampa area.



Tara was turned into rescue at the young age of 10. She was fostered by Guillermo P., who quickly realized this was a very special girl who deserved to live the rest of her life with a very special family. Along came Kathy & Jim M., who requested a senior. GRRMF loves people who adopt seniors! Tara shares her new home with another senior golden named Bo.

Jake was only 8 months old when his owners gave up on him. He was a large dog with a typical puppy's endless energy. He was fostered by Matthew and Anne Marie W.

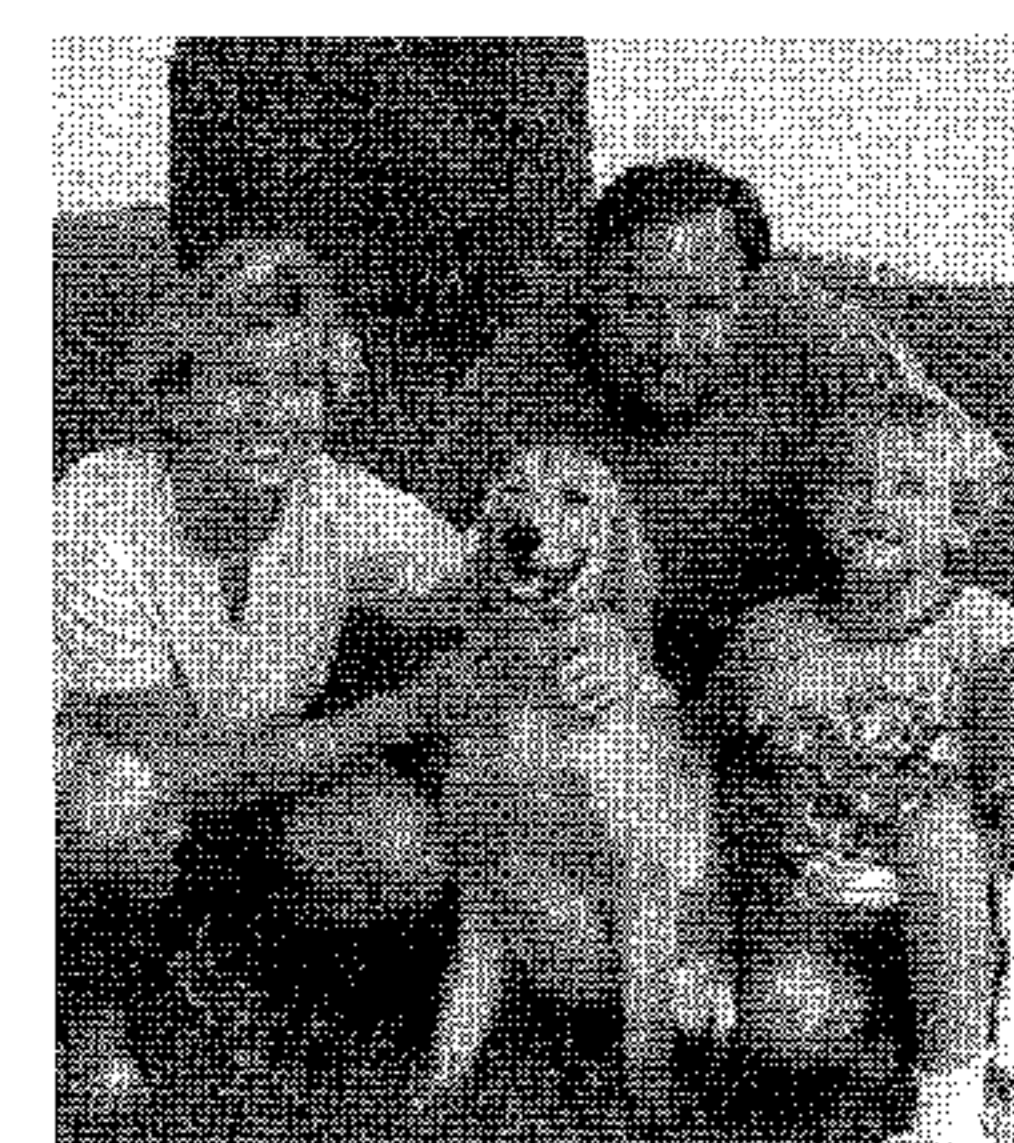


and adopted by Karla and Mike, who are providing plenty of opportunities for Jake to channel his energy. Jake goes for runs with his human, plays with his canine sister, Ginger, and swims in the pool. All this activity is sure to make Jake a tired boy - and we all know that a tired puppy is a good puppy!

Amber, age 4, was taken to a veterinarian to be euthanized because the family was no longer interested in caring for a dog. The wise vet took the dog and called GRRMF. Together, we saved this pretty girl's life that day. Amber was fostered by Regina and Marcel V. and quickly settled into her new forever home with the Hughes family. She sleeps next to Alexa's bed at night, and during the waking hours Amber always has a ball in her mouth ready to play or go for a swim in the pool. Amber has many guardian angels to thank for her wonderful new life, and her humans tell us they enjoy every minute with her.

Four-year-old **Ace** was turned in with his sister due to a new baby in the house. When baby came he was forced to live his last year outside in the Florida heat and humidity. Finally, his owners realized this wasn't a good life for Ace and they turned him over to GRRMF. He was fostered by Linda and George A., who helped this shy boy to come out of his shell. They made sure he was socialized and exercised. He even learned new basketball skills in the pool. He was adopted and is very much loved by Virginia and Steve S. They say the highlight of their evening is watching him swim and taking him for long walks.

Nigel was turned in because he was too large for the apartment his family lived in. He was fostered and adopted by Lois H. and her son, Spenser. They knew from the first day that this wonderful golden was a "keeper." P.S., the cats love him and they are glad he stayed, too!



Jessie, 5 months old, was turned into rescue when her play biting became too much for her family. This was no problem for her foster parents, Suzanne & Tony R., who taught Jessie appropriate

behaviors around humans and other dogs in a positive and structured environment,

followed by plenty of socialization activities and swimming. After just a few weeks, Jessie blossomed into a wonderful little girl. It was love at first sight for Lennie, Jerry and Siler B., and we're happy to report that sweet Jessie has found her forever home.

Casey was given up due to no time because of the children. She was adopted out and once again found herself being turned back in to rescue due to a new baby in the house. Casey was then adopted to a wonderful couple who came down with allergies, so back Casey came. Finally, Casey's luck has changed. Jennifer M. said she was willing to drive anywhere for the perfect match - and here Casey was, just waiting for her perfect family to come along. Thanks, Jennifer, for providing Casey with her forever home!

Baylor was rescued from Animal Services the day his number came up for euthanization. He had a terrible skin condition due to flea infestation, but that was quickly remedied with medication and flea preventative. Baylor is a big, strong football-player type dog who gets along with everyone. He was fostered by Rick and Cindy O., who molded him into the big teddy bear he is today. Baylor was adopted by Jeff A., who tells us he is settling in nicely and gets along perfectly with his new sibling, a female golden.



Goldie, 5 years old, lived in a backyard tied to a rope. When the call came in, GRRMF was full to the brim, but we made her a top priority, and Charlie & Barbara White agreed to foster her. But that didn't last for long. Along came Ron & Cara O., and their two children, who met Goldie and decided she needed to come home with them. Their e-mails tell us this was just meant to be: "Goldie is doing so well. We could never have imagined getting such a wonderful pet. Last night, Goldie chose to sleep on my daughter's bed -- something Merrin had hoped she would do. I checked on them several times during the night, and Goldie would lift up her head, sigh and go back to sleep. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have Goldie. Many, many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to save her."

Wounded, Abandoned ... and Now Adopted!

A very special rescue finds his forever home

The first time **JP** landed in Manatee County Animal Services, his owner claimed him before we got there. The second time, his owner turned him in - meaning JP had less than 8 hours to live before he was euthanized.

When GRRMF volunteer Sally Anne Newman-Rowland arrived at the shelter a few hours later, she learned that JP had severe bite wounds on more than **one-third of his body**. Even worse, the wounds had been left untreated for at least a week. Nauseous but still determined to save him, Sally Anne transported JP immediately to her veterinarian, where his wounds were sutured and fitted with drains, and JP was put on heavy doses of antibiotics.

"I thought I had seen everything ... until I saw JP," Sally Anne said. "If I needed another dog in my life, believe me, he'd be mine already. He has that perfect golden temperament. To me, he will always be one of the 'special saves' -- one of those we look back on as our inspiration to continue to do the things we all do for the breed we love."

We're happy to report that JP found his forever home with a wonderful and enthusiastic young couple, the Joyners. We can only surmise that JP has an angel on his shoulder, a special guardian who has been looking out for him and sending the right people to save him, all just in the nick of time. We want to thank John & Gail Pföhler and Sally Anne for saving him from certain death in the pound. Also, to Drs. Neher and Corona and staff for their expert medical interventions, and to Charlie & Barbara White for fostering JP after his stitches came out ... and lastly, to the Joyners, who have promised to provide everything he has been lacking in his first 5 years of life.

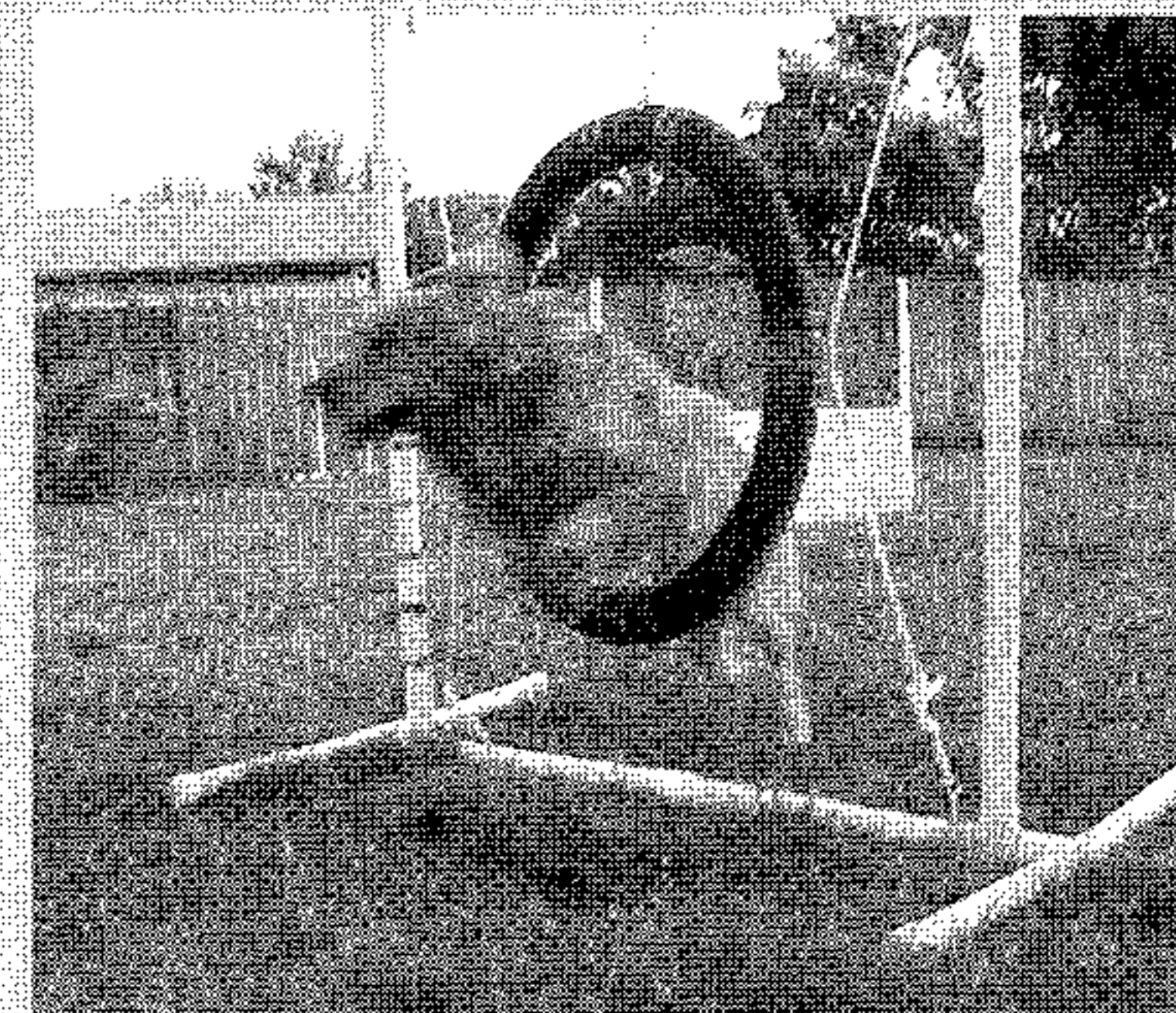
JP, may all your days be filled with squeaky toys, lots of love and tennis balls. Enjoy your new life, and don't ever look back



Give Your Dog a Job

By Susan King

Out of work, unemployed, jobless ... none of these convey good feelings. We like to have a purpose in life, a job to do, a contribution to make. This applies to our dogs as well. Our furry golden friends were bred many years ago to do a job and to work with us. In their genes is a program



that makes them want to work tirelessly for hours running, swimming and retrieving. Not letting them be the dogs they were bred to be can cause many behavior problems.

Imagine being unemployed, alone at home, completely bored for days on end. Becoming a couch potato watching soap operas and game shows all day would drive most of us crazy. The same applies to our dogs. Excessive energy, jumping, chewing and aggressive behavior all can come from your dog being bored and under-stimulated. So, let's give your dog a job!

Consider the story of Oscar, a 3-year-old golden/Chesapeake Bay retriever mix found at a shelter and taken in by GRRMF. He spent several months in a boarding kennel with nothing productive or stimulating to do but watch different dogs coming and going on either side of him. Kennel attendants started to notice he was developing an aggression problem. Cleaning his ears or cutting his nails was becoming impossible. He would snarl and snap at them.

Oscar was brought to me for evaluation. Was he a candidate for adoption? Would he be able to live peacefully and happily with a family? My first night with Oscar was an

eye-opening experience. He jumped on my bed and snarled at me when I told him to get off. His teeth were flashing and he was looking for a fight.

In retrospect, I realize that he had no sense of self. He didn't understand basic pack mentality, that people were his leaders and also friends. Being bored without purpose had robbed him of this.

Oscar also had no idea how to interact with other dogs. He had no self-confidence. My four other dogs all happily approached him. Who was their new friend? Again, out came the snarls and the teeth. Feeding him was also an experience. Once the food was in front of him, it was his, and anyone else had better stay far, far away or the snarling and snapping would start.

I decided that Oscar needed a job to do. He needed to rediscover his sense of self and the joys of being a dog. We started with basic obedience. He would have to work for everything. He would have to accept and understand that people were leaders -- fun, fair and firm leaders. If he wanted to be petted, he would have to sit. If he wanted his dinner, he would have to sit and wait politely for his food. Nothing in life would be free. We worked for six weeks. We developed a bond and an understanding. We were communicating!

I was feeling much better about Oscar's future. Then one night, my husband was playing retrieve with Oscar. He brought the ball back nicely several times and then, suddenly, when my

husband went to take the ball to throw, out came the teeth! Luckily, we are dog smart and either very fast or very lucky. There was no bite.

Needless to say, I was now very concerned about Oscar's future. He had come so far. But any bite or attempt to bite limited his options for a happy future. I continued to work with him, but I knew an unreliable, unpredictable dog could not be placed with a family.

While waiting for a decision to be made about Oscar's future, a wonderful thing happened. My husband built me some agility equipment for Christmas. Since work was good for Oscar, I decided to start training him in agility. He loved it! It made him think, he burned off energy and he had a "real" job to do. His confidence soared, he started to get along with my other dogs and all his pent-up aggression melted away.

After three months, he is a completely different dog. He is obedient and loving, and there have been no further displays of aggression. In fact, a short time ago I officially adopted him. I want him to be a star!

What can we learn from Oscar's story? All living, thinking creatures need a sense of self, a purpose in life, a job to do. Train your dog in basic obedience. Teaching him to sit, stay, down,

come and heel may not seem to be the answer for an exuberant, badly behaved dog. But when you make him think, it stimulates his brain. Learning commands also opens up the lines of communication between owner and dog. Dogs need a leader, and by getting them to work for us, we establish this connection. Problem behaviors like chewing and barking go away. Your dog is no longer bored and unmotivated. He has always wanted to please you, and now he understands how!

Agility training takes this connection to a higher level. Your dog is truly working with you as a teammate. He is burning energy and thinking.

He is tired and satisfied when done. He receives praise and love for a job well done. And isn't that really what it's all about?

Give your dog a job: teach him obedience, or sign up for an agility class. Your dog will love you for it. Your problem pooch will be transformed into a happy, satisfied member of your family. They don't have to be champions ... but they do need to work!

About the author: Susan King is a GRRMF volunteer and certified trainer specializing in obedience training and behavior problem-solving. She teaches classes and does private instruction in Palm Beach, Martin and Broward counties. She offers personalized, inexpensive training options for GRRMF adopted dogs and members. AKC Canine Good Citizen training and testing are also offered. She can be contacted at 561-798-8339.

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

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* Education * Intervention * Spay/Neuter * Adoption

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GRRMF History: 1,299 Golden Retrievers Rescued! 2002 Rescues: 189

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Fargo today:
ready to go fishing
with his new humans.

For Fargo

Many thanks to all who chipped in to help Fargo, a very special rescue featured in our last newsletter.

Read about Fargo's recent adoption on Page 3!

Kristin Abel, Gladys Acoba, Doug Acker, George

Acorn, Ray & Sue Angle,

Robin Bass, Jay & Teresa

Baum, Chrissey Bergeron, Bill Bieberbach, Mary

Bland, John & Lynn Breen, Glen & Sue Brierly,

Laurie Briggs, Marie Burg, Daniel Calton, Dorothy

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& Liz Damas -- in honor of Nikki, Tana Denner,

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Dovel, Deborah Drapo, Merrilee Dulaney,

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Mollon, Kevin & Helen Moore, Ed & Jan Moriarty,

Kathryn Morris, Christine Nier, Elaine Newham,

Lena Nordell, John & Carla Ostermeier, Marie

Pacheco, Protectors of Companion Animals, Betsy

Reiney, Paul & Judy Richter, Tony & Ann Marie

Roberts, Gordon & Mary & Kaley Roe, Leanne

Rubin, Ned & Pat Rupp, Judy Santos, Michael

Savastio, Pat Shepard, Dina & Irving Smith, Erica

Smith, Sojourner Studios, Inc., Larry & Mary

Spencer, Linda Steinard, Fred & Jan Stotlin, Bill

Strain, Beth Strickland, Mary Toto, Paul & Mary

Anne Tradelius, Paula Veibel, Karen Weber, Welsh

Charitable Trust, Carol Wilder, Jennifer Williams

from Amelia, Jim Williams, Steven Young, Martin

& Margaret Zucker.

Special thanks to Fargo Electronics Inc., of Eden Prairie, MN, and Ted Duncan - when Ted saw our article on Fargo, he forwarded the newsletter on to the company by the same name, which, in turn, sent us a wonderful donation in honor of their "namesake."

Thanks very much!!

General Donations

M.R.G. Bassett, Kate Briggmann, Patricia Cisek,

Don & Penny Dalton, Shawn Diederich, Diane

Fraser, William & Judith Kraut, Arthur & Connie

Labellman, John Langley, Jeremy & Julie

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 witho

Rainbow Bridge

Amanda was dropped off at animal services. She was a sweet senior gal who had a large tumor on her shoulder. Upon examination, it was determined the tumor was cancerous and had spread to her lungs. Many thanks to her fosters Robin Donohy and Andrea Davis, who showed Amanda as much love as possible in the short time they had with this precious golden. Andrea and Amanda stopped at MacDonald's, where Amanda had a chance to savor two last "cheeseburgers in paradise" before going to the Rainbow Bridge.

Beamer was adopted by Stan Hillman in 1995. He was very much loved and so well taken care of that he lived to the incredible age of 15 years. Beamer is very much missed by his human family, and our condolences go out to Stan, as we know he is grieving over the loss of his constant companion for the past eight years.



Anne Marie & Matthew Wise adopted **Betty Sue** two years ago when she was 11 1/2. Betty Sue had been banished to the porch for three years and constantly drugged for thunderstorm anxiety. Needless to say, her new humans threw the drugs away, and Betty Sue enjoyed her days going to Matthew's doggie day care, where she was much loved by all who met her.

Juliet was adopted in 1999 by Tom & Theresa Massing. In June, she passed away at the wise old age of 14. Their daughter, Amy, chose Julie over all the other dogs because she was afraid Julie wouldn't be adopted due to her age. Julie developed some health problems, but was a devoted and gentle friend to the end. Her humans miss her terribly.

Bear was one of our first rescues. He was adopted 11 years ago by David Kenney and recently went to the Rainbow Bridge at age 13. Bear is very much missed, and we are very grateful for the wonderful life David provided for him.

"All relationships, no matter how brief, no matter whom they may be with, are opportunities for learning. The lessons we need to learn and the messages we need to hear in order to heal and grow are all around us in the natural world, in the people that fill our lives, and in the animals in our lives. ... To ask, 'What can I learn from you?' acknowledges that all of us - including animals - serve at one time or another as teachers for each other. ... When we are willing to ask this most fundamental of questions, something profound shifts inside us, creating an awareness that wherever we look, there are teachers bearing truths great and small for our lives."

- Excerpt from
"Bones Would Rain from the Sky: Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs,"
by Suzanne Clothier

A letter from Beau, beloved companion of Theresa Dolle

I had many owners the first 2 1/2 years of my life. I was given away more times than I can count and I even lived on the streets for four months when I ran away searching for my former owner. When I finally found them I was skin and bones but so happy to have completed my long journey home. But once again I was not wanted. They called GRRMF and off I went.

I remember when she came that beautiful February day. I came out to greet her, and couldn't believe it - she was telling me how beautiful I am and petting me. I ran to the gate so she wouldn't forget me, and off we went for a new life.

Mom took me everywhere with her. One of my favorite places was Paw Park where I could run and run and run after my second best friend, the TENNIS BALL. I would bring her the TENNIS BALL and she would always throw it. I had her trained well.

I did have some setbacks. I had a lump removed, and unfortunately it was cancer. We watched it but it never came back. Life was good for a while, but one day I was not feeling well and Mom took me to the doctor. My bloodwork did not look good.

I knew it was my time, but I didn't know how to tell Mom she'd have to go home alone. I can still feel her tears falling on my face as the doctor gave her the diagnosis. She stayed with me and held me and told me everything would be okay and that there would be thousands of brand new TENNIS BALLS and all the cookies I could eat at the Rainbow Bridge. She held me TIGHT, kissed me and said everything would be all right.

And then I saw them - tennis balls and cookies everywhere! I am going to miss her. She gave me the happiest four years of my life. I was very fortunate and I only hope she continues to give another dog a chance at the same happiness I had. Thanks Mom -

-- Beau

Transportation 'Angels'

by Sue Angle, Transportation Team Coordinator

Thanks to many wonderful transportation volunteers, 27 goldens have been moved from one place to another in just a two-month period. These very willing helpers pick up goldens at animal shelters or humane societies and drive them to a veterinarian, or from a vet's office to a foster home -- whatever is needed -- sometimes driving several hours one way. It is so rewarding to help a needy golden on its way to a happy family life!

Many thanks to Bibi and Warren Allard, Linda Arnold, Andrea Davis, Lisa DeJordy, Gregg and Tom Eddie, Janna Garrison, Karla and Rob Gray, Rebecca Gushwa, Marcia McGovern, Carol McKee, Suzanne Rider, Pat and Bill Shepard, Kathy and Mike Stastka, Olinda Sykes, Lynn Wagner and Pat Chesley for being active "Transportation Angels" over the past two months.

Thank you also to many others who have offered to transport and are just waiting for a call so they can spring into action, or to those I might have missed on the list above.

Where would our goldens be without all of our caring volunteers? This is an elite group, and one from which we reap rewards beyond imagination. Keep up the great work!

If you or someone you know would be willing to help with transporting goldens anywhere in Florida, please e-mail or call us. We'd love to add you to our transportation volunteers list. Contact Sue & Ray Angle: anglegoldens@att.net, (941) 351-1103, or (941) 350-9784.

Editor's Note: Ray & Sue Angle are GRRMF's new Transportation Coordinators. Thanks to these two, the process of transporting our dogs around the state - and, in the case of the DVGRR program, across state lines! - has become much more organized and efficient. We throw our leashes in the air to these two "archangels" for stepping forward and taking the lead on this improvement effort!



Glass Half-Full

by Pam Strickland, GRRMF Volunteer/Foster Mom

"Chipper, you always see the glass half full, don't you?"

Little did I know that those words, spoken by a dear friend, would become Chipper's legacy.

I knew he was special the first time I met him. I had volunteered to transport Chipper to a grooming appointment and an acupuncture treatment. When Betty Wyatt brought him outside, my heart broke and swelled at the same time. Here was a petite 5-year-old golden with a face scarred from untreated allergies ...but he had the BIGGEST smile on his face!

I nicknamed him the "Spinner" because when he'd see me, he'd start grinning and spinning around in circles. He was definitely a charmer!



He took his acupuncture and adjustment like a trooper. He took the amputation of one of his toes because of mast-cell cancer like a trooper. He never stopped smiling. And that smile would melt your heart. I know it melted mine time

and time again.

When Chipper came to live with me as a foster, I was ecstatic. Both of my goldens accepted him - even Gracie, my former foster with an abusive past who is usually very skittish around other dogs. She accepted Chipper like no other dog before, and the two became friends.

Chipper touched so many lives in such a short time. He was an instant hit when we visited residents at a local nursing home. No one saw the missing toe or the scars on his face ... all they saw was that beautiful ear-to-ear grin. And Chipper seemed to know which ones needed him. There was one resident who, according to the staff, had not spoken a word in months. Chipper walked over to her and won her over. She turned to the nurse and said, "That's an amazing dog." Indeed he was.

Chipper's health rapidly deteriorated the first week of May, and despite our best efforts to treat him traditionally as well as holistically, there was no improvement. That was when I made the most difficult decision I've ever faced. I saw it in his eyes: He was ready to go to the Rainbow Bridge.

Doodle Bug, I miss you. But I know your work here was done. You taught me so many lessons about holistic health care, but more importantly, you taught me that no matter how rotten things seem, there's always something to smile about.

So, until that wonderful day when you spot me coming across the Bridge, you have fun with all your friends. And I'll be easy to spot ... this time, I'll be the one spinning and grinning my way to you.

Lindstrom, Pat & Henry Mayer, Cinda Mersel, Laura Milligan, Kevin & Helen Moore, Neal Morgan, Carrie Roan, Lotta Rosen & Joseph Collard, Bob Shappell & Sandy, Diane Simpkinson, Sunshine Bimmers Chapter BMW, Welsh Charitable Trust, Charles & Barbara White, Jim Williams.

Thank You!

 **Home visits:** Jean Albrecht, Linda Arnold, Ed Berger, Nancy Carroll, Jill Cornell, Chris Daher, Janet Dattillo, Andrea Davis, Jean Dixon, Gregg Eddie, Jodie Faist, Ann Fitzpatrick, Susan Fulenwider, Jordan German, Barbara Gurleck, Jordan German, Pam Harrell, Joanne Hell, Janice Hindrey, Sue Keiser, Peggy Litt, Ellen Lundenfield, Diane Makinney, Cheryl Maze, Debbie McGhehey, Carol McKee, Kelly Mehigan, Gail Mertz, Laurel O'Connors, Renee Perkie, John Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Robin Scott, Randi Shoemaker, Kathy Spilker, Sandy Sumner, Nicole Underwood, Lyn Wagner, Celeste & Bill Watkins.

 **Transporting dogs:** See special thank you on insert page of this newsletter.

 **Fosters:** Ani Akarjalian, Jennifer & Phillip Albright, Kristen Anderson, Linda Arnold, Charlene Bauer, Dr. Bill & Madeline Becker, Theresa & Bob Bradley, Carol Buczynski, Carol Carrier, Nancy Carroll, Bob & Mary Cooper, Andrea Davis, Penny Dalton, Janet Datillo, Jean Dixon, Barbara Durham, Tom & Gregg Eddie, Linda Fike, John Foss, Sally & Vann Frazier, Katherine & Mark Griffith, Lauren Hill, Kim James, Jan Jennings, Julie Kielts, Loyd Kiernan, Kristen Lawson, Rick Ludwig, Diane Makinney, Sara and Carlos Malave, Marcia McGovern, Lisa and Eric McGrew, Sally Anne Newman-Rowland, Cindy & Rick Owens, Cheryl Pacheco, Anne Porcaro, John & Gail Pfohler, Todd & Mary Randinelli, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Emily Rowe, Roy Scudamore, Dionis Smith, Rick & Colleen Sosteri, Pam Strickland, Sandy Sumner, Regina & Marcel Vermeulen, Barb and Charlie White, Anne Marie & Matthew Wise, Leah Wright.

 **Call Team:** Linda Cohen, Vicki Ferros, Kathy Hendrickson, Sue Keiser, Jeane Knowles, Melissa Knowles, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury.

 **Education Days/Events:** Many thanks to all who participate in these events around the state - our dedicated 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 or log onto our Web site: www.grrmf.org.

 **Hotline:** Ellen Mathieson, Marie Pacheco, Kerri Vorhies, Linda Arnold, Emily Rowe, Donna Dossing, Lisa DeJordy, Donna Swan.

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

 **Mail volunteers:** Carol & Hal Avey
 Leah Wright and Patti Sarano for responding to e-mails through our Web site, and Patti Sarano for her wonderful writeups of our dogs up for adoption.

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

 Pam Strickland for transporting and grooming services.

 Priscilla Brunjes of All Creatures Pet Grooming in East Orlando for grooming fosters at no charge. NOTE: Priscilla also offers discounts to GRRMF members and former rescues.

 Jennifer Longman for helping with foster dog placement and recordkeeping.

 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; Dr. Rick Rubinstein, 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. E. J. Rackowski, Treasure Coast Animal Clinic, Vero Beach; Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach; Dr. Pam Wood, Wellington VCA Animal Hospital, Wellington; Fox & Friends Animal Hospital, Sun City Center; Dr. Stanley Diment, Clermont Animal Hospital; Skyway Animal Hospital, St. Petersburg.

 **Training:** Courteous Canine, Lutz; Best Paw Forward, Sanford; Oviedo Dog Training Club; 3J Dog Training, West Orlando; Babette Haggerty's School for Dogs, Jupiter; John Pfohler & Sally Anne Newman-Rowland, Sarasota.

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

 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.

 Pet Supplies Plus store manager Darlene Bloom in Lake Park, Fla., for allowing us to set up for monthly education days and for donating supplies for our rescues.

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

☀ Dennis Grace of Healthy PetNet --
www.healthypetnet.com -- for donating
Life's Abundance dog food and treats for our
rescues.

☀ RDV Sportsplex for their generous
donations of tennis balls for our fosters.

☀ Special thanks to all GRRMF leadership
volunteers who serve in coordinator
positions and dedicate themselves to rescue!

Dreyfuss continued from front cover



Dreyfuss Day 1:
Pretty rough
around the
edges, but still
smiling!

Why would we take in an old dog with so many health issues? GRRMF is here to help all golden retrievers in need, regardless of age. Through our generous donors and fosters, Dreyfuss can now live the rest of his life inside, with a soft bed, plenty of toys, friends and as much love as he can handle. We can't erase his past, but we can make sure the years he has left are as enjoyable and comfortable as possible.

That's what rescue is all about.

Watch upcoming newsletters and our Web site as we continue to follow Dreyfuss' progress. If you've never considered fostering or adopting a senior golden, we urge you to think again! One hug from Gentle Man Dreyfuss, and you'll be hooked. If you're interested, call our Hotline: (407)332.2840, or e-mail us: info@grrmf.org.

Volunteer Sue Angle
meets foster mom
Emily Rowe
after transporting
heartworm-positive
Shania from
Melbourne to
St. Petersburg,
where she will
undergo treatment.



Clinton was a backyard dog for 6 years when a call came in. Animal services gave his owner warnings to provide Clinton and his son, Chucky, appropriate shelter. With the threat of a fine, Clinton and Chucky were turned over to rescue. Although Chucky is heartworm negative, Clinton wasn't so lucky. He currently is under the excellent care of our veterinarian and will be ready for adoption soon.



After delivering seven puppies at an animal shelter, Payton was turned over to GRRMF because she was heartworm positive. Since this time of year is busy for shelters, many are forced to euthanize dogs with health problems such as heartworms.



Penny is another shelter dog whose luck was about to run out after a positive diagnosis for heartworms was made. The intake team took the call and the transport team was there the next day to pick her up. Penny's treatments are nearly complete and she soon will be looking for her forever home.



The call for Bailey, 5 years old, came from another animal shelter. He was heartworm positive and sweet as sugar. They couldn't stand the thought of putting down such a sweet boy, but they didn't have room to keep him long enough to treat the heartworms. Bailey is settling in nicely at his new foster home after finishing his first round of heartworm treatment and soon will be looking for his forever home.



Take Heart: Heartworm-positive dogs need our help!

by Andrea Davis,
GRRMF Intake Coordinator

Heartworm disease continues to be a major problem for many dogs entering rescue. Since April, GRRMF has taken in nearly a dozen heartworm-positive dogs.

Heartworms are contagious, but not directly from dog to dog. Dogs acquire heartworms from the bite of an infected mosquito, which usually has acquired it from another dog.

The typical early signs of heartworm disease are lethargy, intolerance to exercise and a deep cough. As the disease progresses, symptoms become worse and will eventually lead to death. Virtually all unprotected dogs in Florida will become infected with heartworms. It takes just one bite from an infected mosquito to spread this deadly disease. A simple monthly heartworm preventative can save your dog's life.

If caught in time, heartworms are treatable. But it costs about \$500 to treat each dog. By doing some simple math, it's easy to see how these costs can add up for a small nonprofit group such as GRRMF.

You can help by sponsoring one of the dogs featured on this page, all of whom are currently undergoing heartworm treatment. Sponsorships are available for \$100, and you will receive acknowledgment by mail and in the newsletter. Even small donations of \$10 or \$20 add up. Shania, Clinton, Payton, Penny and Bailey all need you ...

**Sponsor a Heartworm
Positive Dog Today!**

**Donation form included
on back cover of this
newsletter, or send your
check with
"Sponsor (Dog's name)"
in the memo portion
of your check and mail to:
GRRMF,
Post Office Box 1449,
Goldenrod, Florida 32733.
All donations
are tax-deductible!**

Volunteer Spotlight

Debbie McGhehey



Debbie McGhehey has been working diligently for rescue. And her hard work has paid off - literally. In the past six months, Debbie and a dedicated core of GRRMF volunteers in the Clearwater/St. Pete/Tampa area have raised thousands of dollars through community events, educational days and public outreach.

"I do it for the dogs. Raising money, spreading the word about rescue - that's my way of helping the dogs.

I never get tired of it," Debbie says.

In fact, Debbie's tireless efforts earned her the title of Tampa Area/West Coast Events Coordinator. Events include regular educational days at local PetsMart stores, as well as Publix grocery stores and other retail locations. Then there are special events such as dog park openings, pet fairs, holiday-themed community activities and parades.

"GRRMF has an exceptional team over here of core volunteers who participate in almost every event. We meet regularly to discuss upcoming events and what we can do to improve our efforts," Debbie says.

"Our West Coast event volunteers are the largest, most active and productive group we have around the state,"

says GRRMF President Barbara Durham.

"Their track record of keeping GRRMF out front in the community is terrific, and their ability to raise money at events is amazing. Debbie's enthusiasm, organization and dedication have been an asset to the team, and we also appreciate each and every volunteer involved in these events.

Having worked events, I know what back-breaking work it can be, so I feel qualified to say 'JOB WELL DONE' to all volunteers involved."

Debbie first discovered GRRMF in 1999 when she did a Web search on the breed. The first thing she saw, after clicking on the "adopt us" link from the GRRMF home page, was a picture of Roxi.

"It was instant love for me. I kept checking back over several months, and there she'd be. I finally decided to send in my application. I just knew Roxi was my dog."

Debbie now shares her life with Roxi and another golden, Bubba.

It Takes a Village

A few weeks ago, **Goldie's** dreams came true. After living outside, tied to a length of rope, Goldie finally went to a "real" home ... with a loving family, a large house to call her own and a fenced yard in which to play. She has a comfortable bed, lots of toys and probably gets more attention in one day than her first five years combined.

How did all this happen? Well, it took a whole bunch of people.

Flash back a few weeks: Donna Dossing talks with Goldie's former owners and fills out the intake questionnaire, which is sent to Andrea Davis, who makes Goldie a top priority on the intake list because of her living conditions.

Prior to this, a family sends in their application to our P.O. Box, where it is picked up by Carol Avey and sent to Sandy Sumner, who reviews it and forwards it to Kathy Hendrickson's call team. After the phone screening, the application is sent to Peggy Litt to schedule a home visit. Gail and John Pfohler visit the home and send their observations back to Sandy, who approves the family for adoption.



Meanwhile, Charlie and Barb White agree to foster Goldie, and Pat and Bill Shepard tag-team with Ray and Sue Angle to transport the dog from Leesburg to Largo, then onto Sarasota.

Our Southwest Florida veterinarian, Dr. Neher, completes a thorough examination, provides necessary medical care and gives Goldie a clean bill of health. His staff sends the invoice to Nancy Spears, who will pay it.

Now, flash-forward to the near-present: The potential adopters meet Goldie and have to have her. Charlie and John take Goldie to the family's house, where it's

obvious this was meant to happen. In John's words, "We walked away like a couple of peacocks! I just wish all the people I've mentioned here could have been there to share in the joy GRRMF brought on that day to Goldie and her new family."

In the coming weeks, someone will follow up on Goldie, Carol McKee will put her in our newsletter and Tim Guy will post her picture on the Alumni page of the Web site.

Think about it: All these people working for a single golden retriever ... and we take in how many dogs a year?

None of this could have happened without the people listed above, the people who donate and the people who work really hard behind the scenes. You know who you are. Our collective hat is off to all of you ... WE DID GOOD!

Editor's Note: To anyone we may have inadvertently left off the list, please accept our apologies. Special thanks to one and all for "doing good" with Goldie and her new forever home!

It's Not Too Late! Renew Your GRRMF Membership Today!

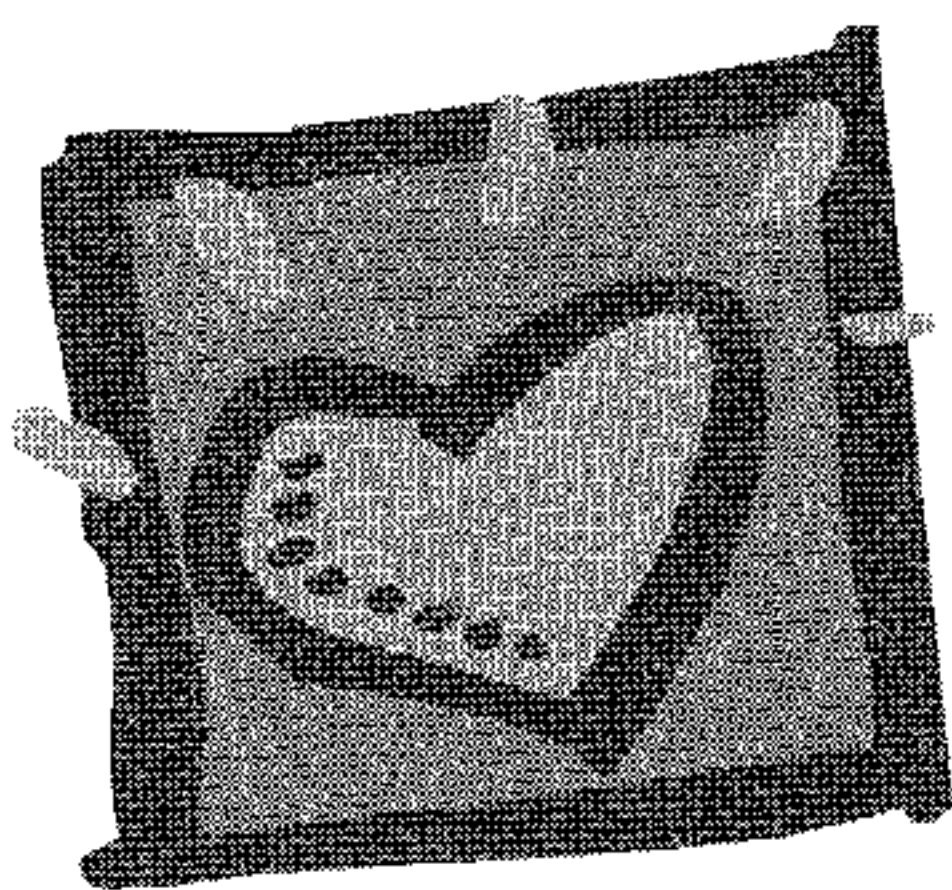
Many thanks to those who sent in their 2003 membership dues. We really appreciate your support! If you haven't sent in your annual dues, please help us meet our goal of increasing our membership by 25 percent by sending it in today!

Memberships start at just \$25 per year. Or for \$100, you can join at the sponsorship level, for 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.

Membership/donation form included on Page 16.

As many of you know, I have been hospitalized for the past few months with more rehab time to go. I want to thank all the friends who have done so much for me from the day I was first hospitalized, when Barbara Durham, Sharon O'Keefe, Pam Jones and Cindy



Monaco came to get the dogs from my home and place them in foster homes or boarding. On that fateful Sunday afternoon, Dr. Rubenstein and his family

opened up his veterinary hospital so some of the dogs would have a place to go. I also want to thank all those who have visited and sent cards and gifts.

Hospitals can be very boring, and one of the things that made a huge difference to me was receiving pet therapy visits from dogs and their humans. I longed for a furry head under my hand and sometimes it was there. The first Saturday I was in the rehab facility, a Great Dane and a cute Labrador retriever peered around the curtains at me. What a surprise to open my eyes and see that Dane's face in mine!

When Lovey was adopted March 1, Pat and Jim Harrington requested a pet therapy dog. Lovey has since completed obedience classes at Best Paw Forward, and I was her first pet therapy patient! Thank you Lovey, Pat and Jim.

Then we have Chuck and Donna Dossing, along with mother Gert, who are keeping my 14-year-old dog, Violet, while I am hospitalized. They came all the way from the West Coast so I could visit with Violet.

Pat Harrington gave me a fantastic book titled *The Angel by My Side*, a true story of a rescue dog who saved his master from a life of misery. I highly recommend the book, written by Mike Lingenfelter and David Frei.

Friends from the west coast sent quite a large donation to rescue in my honor, which was much appreciated by me and much needed by GRRMF. I love you all and thanks for the prayers, too.

Other dogs who have visited me for pet therapy are:

- ▼ Shooz, Rich and Colleen Sosteri, who drove all the way from Tampa

- ▼ Chief and Edie Hoover
- ▼ Summer and Jodie Faist
- ▼ Danny and Carol Avey

In a separate box on this page are some guidelines for pet therapy I've gathered from various sources. Some I learned when I attended a four-day therapy seminar sponsored by the Delta Society in Miami. I took Violet with me when she was a puppy. Harriette Merhill allowed me to read this article to her and made some suggestions. She has been a member of the ODTC for many years and is the evaluator for certification through TD Inc.

I hope you will be motivated to share your sweet pet with others. Believe me - I now know firsthand what a huge difference it makes in someone's life. And for those who do pet therapy or know of a certification program, please let us know so we can publish this information in a future newsletter. Lastly, I want to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited me in the nursing-rehabilitation center. It meant more to me than you could ever know.

-- Betty

PS. On a different subject, I recently learned about a gentle and compassionate Web site for pet lovers who are grieving the loss or illness of a pet. Many of you have looked to me for solace after losing your pet, and I thought I'd pass this on. The support offered consists of a weekly pet loss candle ceremony, tribute pages, healing poetry and much more. The address is www.petloss.com.

HEARTS of Gold

by Betty Wyatt, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator



Betty visits with former rescue Lovey.

GUIDELINES FOR PET THERAPY VISITS

Following are some guidelines for conducting pet therapy visits. Many animals are appropriate for this therapeutic adventure, but not all have the necessary characteristics. You would need to have a sweet, mellow dog that likes to cuddle and is very friendly. Many goldens are perfect for therapy.

- ▼ Contact the facility to obtain the necessary permissions for pet therapy visits.
- ▼ Shampoo and brush your pet before the visit, both at home and before entering the facility, to limit shedding.
- ▼ Exercise your dog before going for a visit - it helps work out some of that excess energy dogs sometimes feel when going for rides in the car and visiting new places.
- ▼ Have your pet on a 2- to 4-foot leash at all times, or you may use a short walking leash on a large dog.
- ▼ The collar should be a buckle type or Gentle Leader. Gentle Leaders are especially good for large dogs. Prong collars are not allowed in most places.
- ▼ Bring your pet's health certificate with you when doing visits.
- ▼ When you arrive at the facility, report to the physical therapist, recreational therapist or nurse -- whoever is in charge of the program.
- ▼ Do not be offended if some people refuse to have a pet visit them. Not everyone is an animal lover.
- ▼ Do not turn the dog over to a resident - keep hold of the leash yourself at all times.
- ▼ The dog may not make overtures - he or she must be invited to do everything.
- ▼ No sniffing, please!
- ▼ Walk up to the person and make your dog sit.
- ▼ Ask the resident if he or she would like to say hello to your dog.
- ▼ Residents should not be permitted to feed their food to your dog.
- ▼ You may carry treats for residents to give the dog, if you wish to. However, do not do this if your dog grabs treats! A fragile finger might be damaged.
- ▼ Your dog should NEVER pick up anything off the floor.
- ▼ Remember that your dog is in a strange place and has probably not heard some of the noises it will be exposed to or may never have seen a wheelchair. Be patient with your dog and he will settle down.
- ▼ If the resident is in his or her bed and would like the dog to climb up, cover the bed with a sheet or towel.
- ▼ You may see some things that will shock you. Please do not show your feelings. These people may need pet therapy more than anyone else on that particular day.
- ▼ When you get ready to go, say goodbye to the residents and be sure to thank the person responsible for inviting you.



Betty and her 14-year old dog Violet.

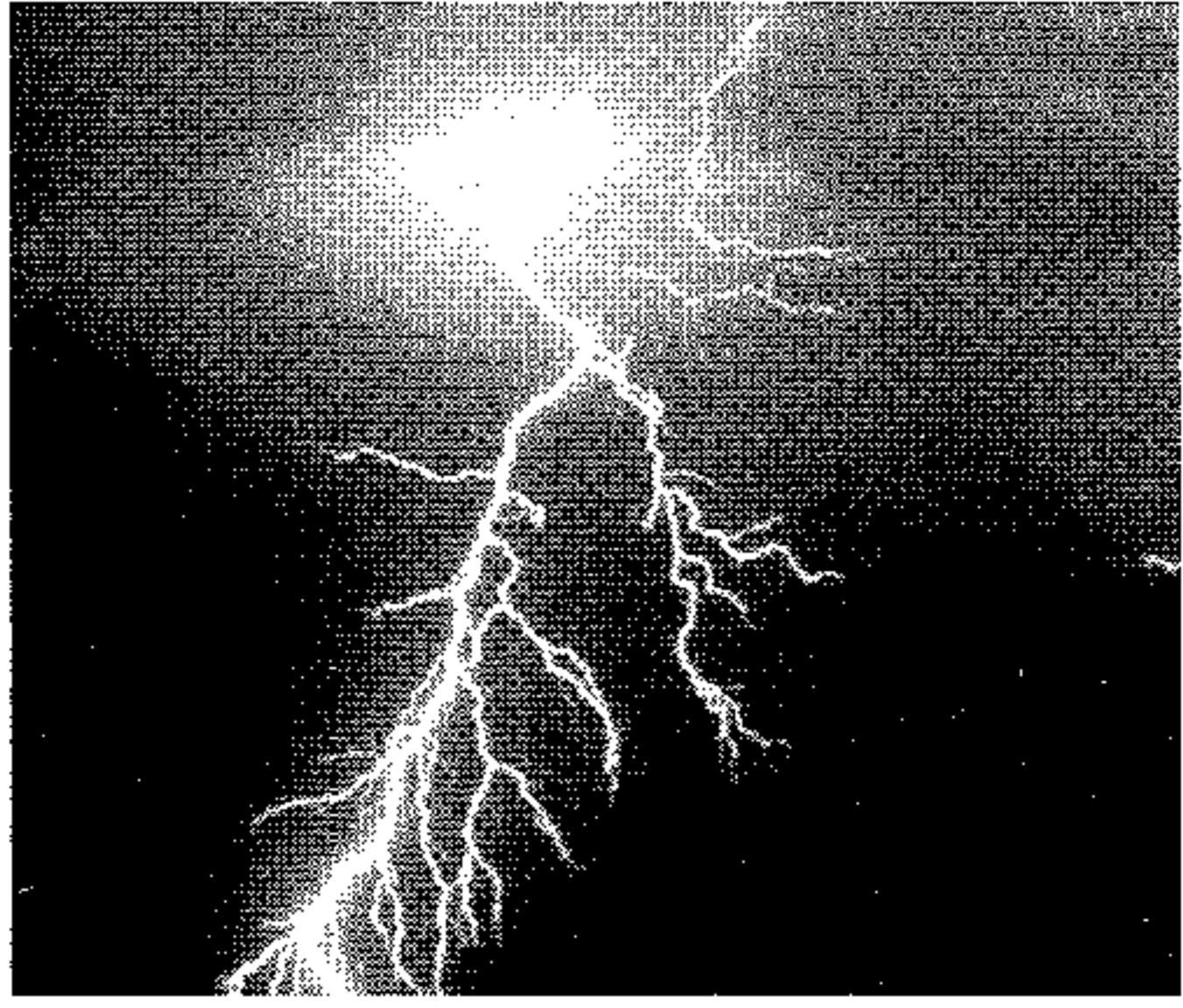
The Sky Is Falling!

Managing Thunderstorm Anxiety

by Carol McKee

Does your best friend turn into "Chicken Little" at the crack of a thunderbolt or the smell of rain in the air? Whatever triggers it, canine thunderstorm anxiety is no laughing matter, especially in Florida. And more often than not, the problem escalates as the dog ages. Like Chicken Little, do these dogs really think the "sky is falling"? Who's to say. But to them, the fear is very real. And how you deal with it can make all the difference.

Signs and Signals



Thunderstorm anxiety is fairly common in rescue dogs. Many GRRMF alumni are former back-yard dogs - left outside to fend for themselves in all kinds of weather. Others were found as strays after, you guessed it, a particularly bad summer storm. Some were turned in after their owners gave up trying to manage the dog's worsening behavior problems.

My first golden, Maggie, used to hide in the bathtub or a closet during storms. Dark rooms and tight-fitting spaces seemed to comfort her. Other signs of mild anxiety could include panting, pacing, drooling, dilated pupils or trembling.

More bothersome signs include urinating or defecating, expressing anal glands, excessive barking or chewing. When anxiety is at its worst, the dog may go berserk trying to escape, clawing at doors or crates, jumping through windows, even digging through walls. I've heard stories of dogs breaking off teeth and claws during a storm "attack." I've heard of terrible consequences when a dog "busts out" and is cut by broken glass or hit by a car. I've spoken with caring and loving owners who ran out of options and had to make the unthinkable decision to put the dog down.

What You Can Do

A good place to start is to assess your own attitude and behavior -- if you are nervous during storms, your dog will most certainly pick up clues from your behavior. Second, and also very important: DO NOT try to comfort the dog. As much as you may feel the need to do so, petting or soothing your dog for being anxious is positive reinforcement of an undesirable behavior. And don't even think about punishing a dog for being frightened - unless you want to add to that fear and anxiety.

If you are home during a storm, the best thing to do is make it a non-event. Project a calm and "in-charge" attitude, and keep your voice upbeat. Ignore the storm while going about your normal routine. Pick up a toy and engage in a bit of playtime or practice some obedience commands with your golden -- just be sure to make it fun! Turn on the TV or stereo to drown out the noise. Or try adding some "white noise" such as a fan. Closing blinds or curtains may help. If your

home has an interior room without windows, your dog may be more comfortable there during a storm.

Like my Maggie, some pets seek out small spaces such as a crate or a bathroom. If you use a crate, cover it with a blanket to add to the feeling of security. If your dog prefers the bathroom, run the fan and leave the lights on.

Medicines and Supplements

In severe cases, your veterinarian may suggest anti-anxiety drugs. However, before making that decision, be sure to discuss the issue fully - including how long the dog will have to be on the medication, long-term side effects and other health considerations.

Our experienced rescue volunteers have had good luck with holistic products such as Rescue Remedy, available at health food stores or through the Internet. Just a few drops administered between the gums and lip can help alleviate a mild case of anxiety with no side effects. The down side is that it lasts only a couple of hours, so you have to be home before the storm starts.

Another herbal remedy is melatonin, a naturally occurring hormone in our bodies that helps us sleep. Melatonin is available at any drug store and should be given prior to the storm or other fear-producing event. One or two 3 mg tablets is the usual dosage, and it should last all day/night. Be sure to check ingredients - some brands are mixed with additives that are not safe for your dog.

Some GRRMF members use aconite, available from health food stores. Give a dropper full every couple of hours whenever a storm is coming. There also are other remedies available from pet suppliers that contain herbal mixtures such as kava kava or black cohosh.

Behavior Modification

Thunderstorm anxiety is a complex problem, so it is only logical that treatments can be complex. Following are two behavior modification techniques that may help change the dog's response to the storm. They often are used in conjunction with drug therapy or supplements:

▼ **COUNTER-CONDITIONING** - This approach involves associating something positive with thunderstorms. Just prior to and during a thunderstorm, bring out your dog's favorite toy and engage him in a healthy game. Play and fear are incompatible emotions - a dog cannot be fearful and playful at the same time. Offer his favorite treats as rewards during the play session. After a time, the dog will start associating an oncoming storm with something he loves.

▼ **DESENSITIZATION** - The goal is to decrease the dog's response to the fear-producing stimulus. This method involves playing a tape or CD of a storm at low volume while engaging the dog in play or obedience activities. The volume of the tape is gradually increased for each session. This program should take place during a time of the year when actual storms will not be encountered.

Some Really Different Alternatives ...

Recently, I've read about people applying anti-static spray to their dogs' feet. There is a theory that during storm activity, the dog is repeatedly shocked by static electrical charges in the air. Behind toilets, in bathtubs - all are linked to water, negative ions and the grounding effects of metal pipes. In his book *"The Dog Who Loved Too Much,"* veterinary behaviorist Dr. Nicholas Dodman suggests that "during storms, affected dogs turn into canine divining rods, seeking out water in any of the locations it is normally found in the house. ... A sink, for example, is normally supplied by metal pipes and, therefore, acts as an electrical grounding device. A dog coming into contact with metallic sink fixtures, including the pipe, would ground itself to the earth, releasing any static electrical charge."

Another alternative remedy gaining popularity is something called an "anxiety wrap" (www.anxietywrap.com). It's a specially made cloth that fits snugly so the dog feels more secure. The science behind the wrap deals with neurophysiology and sensory receptors.

Before you balk at the idea, consider "swaddling," the centuries-old method of wrapping a baby snugly in a blanket to calm it down.

While we haven't yet answered the question as to whether the sky really is falling, we have covered a full gamut of possible solutions. If you're lucky, your dog is well-adjusted and could care less about a silly, little thunderstorm. But sooner or later, you may end up sharing your life with "Chicken Little" in a dog costume. If and when you do, I encourage you to speak to your veterinarian about it as soon as possible, and also consult a professional experienced in pct behavior issues. There's a list of trainers who provide discounts and services to GRRMF on Page 9.

GRRMF does not accept responsibility for suggestions made in this article. It is up to individual dog owners to check with their veterinarians to determine what is best for their dogs.

DVGRR *continued from front cover*



Chris from DVGRR meets Durham.

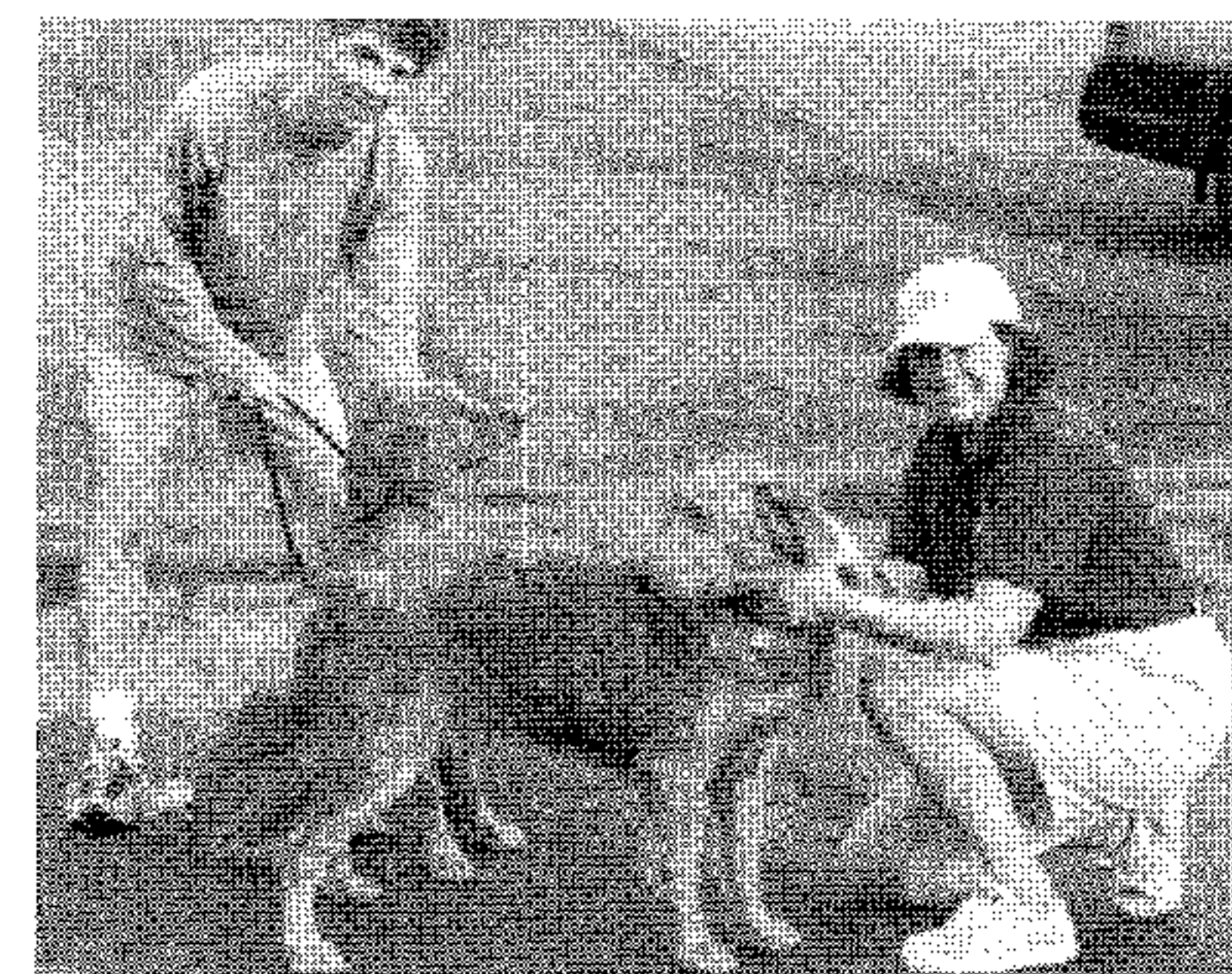
dogs -- and especially to the three dogs -- Durham, Fred & Ginger -- we saved at the last minute from the shelter. Those three were in very poor condition, and all were heartworm positive. But the DVGRR folks met them with open arms. I felt completely comfortable handing over the leashes, because I knew these dogs were going to lead the happiest lives anyone could ever hope for."

Members wishing to learn more about DVGRR can visit their Web site at: www.dvgrr.org. Click on "Golden Gateway" to read more about their facility. And look to this newsletter for future updates as the program develops.

We are currently working on a regular transport program with DVGRR. And don't worry - GRRMF's adoption activities have not slowed down in the slightest. Just take a look at our "Recent Adoptions" starting on Page 3, and you'll see that we're saving and finding homes right here in Florida for more goldens than ever before.

"GRRMF and DVGRR are sharing a vision - a world in which there are no unwanted goldens, and no goldens that have to be euthanized at shelters," Barbara says. Many thanks to our first "Northbound" transportation teams - Suzanne Rider, Andrea Davis, Marcia McGovern and Carol & Mike McKee - as well as the many volunteers involved in organizing the trips.

"This is one of the most rewarding things I've done for rescue to date," says Carol. "I was delighted to see DVGRR's reaction to these



Robin & Kris from DVGRR welcome Fred & Ginger to the "Golden Gateway."

Wags and Brags: Alumni News

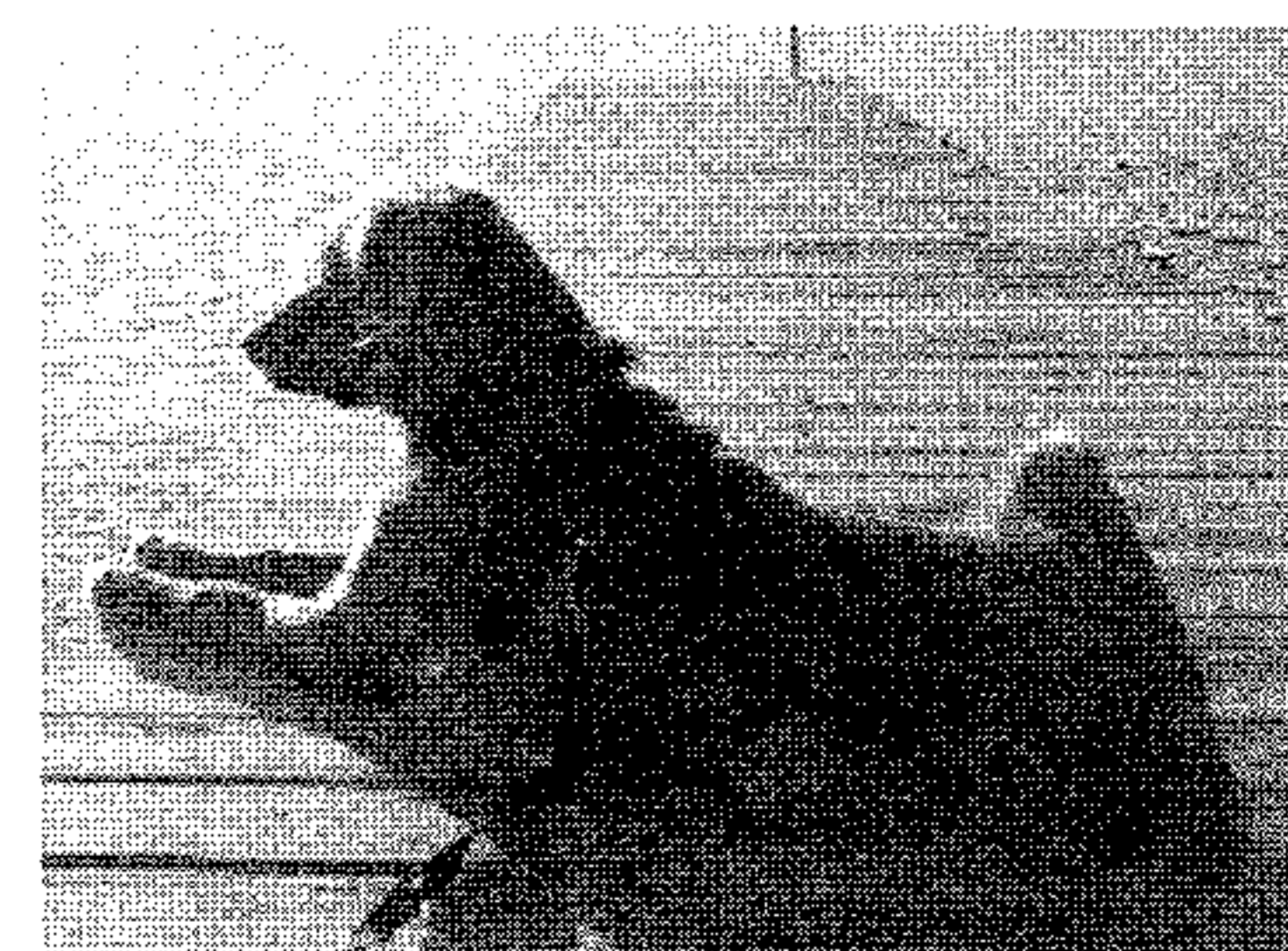
My son, Reggie, got jealous reading about all the other adoption success stories in the newsletter, so he asked me to let you all know that he has made himself right at home and is doing just fine up here in Lutz. Reggie joined our clan last October as we braced for the loss of our sheepdog mix, Buster, who had cancer. We worried our other dog, Vinny, would have a terrible time once Buster went to Rainbow Bridge. When Reggie moved in, Buster announced that he wasn't going to any bridge, refusing to give up the alpha position and refusing to die. After defying the doctor's predictions for almost a full year, Buster died in March. Now, Reggie is the alpha king, Vinny has a brother he loves and both have become dads to a new kitten, Wendy, whom we found at a gas station. I was just watching television with Vinny cuddling on my left, Reggie cuddling on my right and Wendy on my lap, moving from one brother to the other, licking and snuggling them. So much love! - Fawn Germer



Happy Birthday, Sarasota 23 Puppies!

Our infamous puppies from the "Sarasota 23" bunch recently celebrated their first birthdays. Several pups and one of the moms, Ramoth/Haley, got together on the West Coast for a special birthday party, complete with party hats, birthday cake and group swimming activities. For those who may not know the story, GRRMF took in 23 goldens - 16 puppies and 7 adults - from a home-based breeder who was arrested and charged with animal cruelty. Most were in pretty sorry shape, but our volunteers and excellent veterinarians nursed them back to health, and all 23 were adopted within a few months.

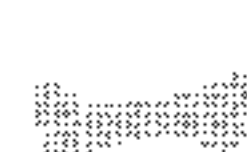
We received this note from Lourdes Bielsa, owned by GRRMF alumnus Zachary: "Zachary has become quite the 'outdoors dog.' I take him camping and kayaking with me, and we have the best times in the world. He loves swimming, and enjoys the area where the surf breaks onto the beach. Sometimes I think God sent an angel to my life disguised as Zachary. When I brought him home for the first time, he was a little unsettled, but all that has changed now. I can tell from his behavior that he KNOWS how much he is loved and welcome in our family. He is always happy and playful. My living room looks like I have a toddler in the house with toys everywhere. They are all Zach's, and he plays with ALL OF THEM. I wanted you to know how happy he is and how delighted I am with such a treasure in my life. Thank you all so much for the great things you do for goldens as well as for the people who adopt them. Zach is living proof of how great you guys are."

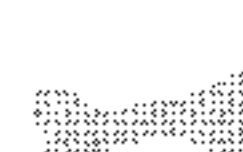


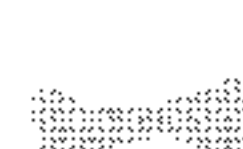
NEW GRRMF Calendars!

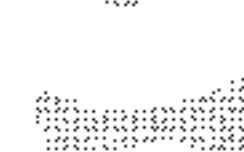
Featuring Former Rescues - 18-Month Calendar Good Through December 2004!

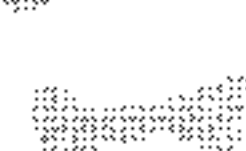
We are proud to announce our first GRRMF calendar. This professionally produced full-color calendar rivals any you've seen in stores in terms of photo and print quality - and the best part is, you may even know some of the dogs featured, such as:

 **Hope** -- who had a litter of puppies two years ago after she was taken in by GRRMF - along with some of her delightful puppies!

 **Spirit** - a puppy mill golden who was turned in after his foot was chewed off by a rat.

 **Clover** -- the "Tennis Ball Queen" with 4 balls in her mouth at once!

 **Banjo** -- the clown-faced jokester who wins the hearts of all he meets.

 **Duke of Windsor** -- now a pet therapy dog, in a beautiful fall setting.

... And more!



This calendar starts as of July 2003, so you can start using it today! Order several for gifts -- you won't be disappointed, and your gifts will benefit a great cause. Anyone who appreciates goldens will love this calendar. Many thanks to Brooke Fearn, who created this calendar for GRRMF. Brooke is a graphic artist for the Orlando Sentinel and we were truly blessed to have someone with her talents working on our calendar. Brooke's work far exceeded any expectations we had -- the calendar is one of the best we've ever seen! Thank you, Brooke, for your work on behalf of our goldens. Thanks also to our friends at Mercury Printing in Orlando for their help in bringing this calendar to fruition -- Vicki Green, John Hawk, Richard Schwartz and Dave Warde. We really appreciate their efforts in going above and beyond in helping their clients. Mercury also prints this newsletter.

of Calendars

Shipping Charge

Please send me _____ calendars @\$12.00 each: \$ _____

Shipping & Handling (from schedule on right): \$ _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ZIP: _____

Email: _____

1

\$3.00

2

\$4.50

3

\$5.15

4

\$6.75

5

\$6.90

6

\$7.00

7

\$7.95

8 or more

\$8.00

All proceeds benefit GRRMF!

Make checks payable to GRRMF and mail with order form to:

GRRMF Calendars, Post Office Box 1449, Goldenrod, Florida 32733

Pay by credit card: Use PAYPAL -- www.paypal.com, GRRMF payment ID: info@grrmf.org

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.

GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check one:

☐ General Membership \$25 ☐ Sponsorship to help special-needs golden \$100
☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund \$ _____ ☐ Capital Campaign \$ _____ ☐ Boarding Fund \$ _____

☐ In Memory Of: _____ \$ _____ ☐ In Honor Of: _____ \$ _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733
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