



HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 7, Issue 3

Fall 2004



I'm Adopted!

Gentle Giant Goliath gets his forever home! See Page 3 for recent adoptions.



New Partnership!

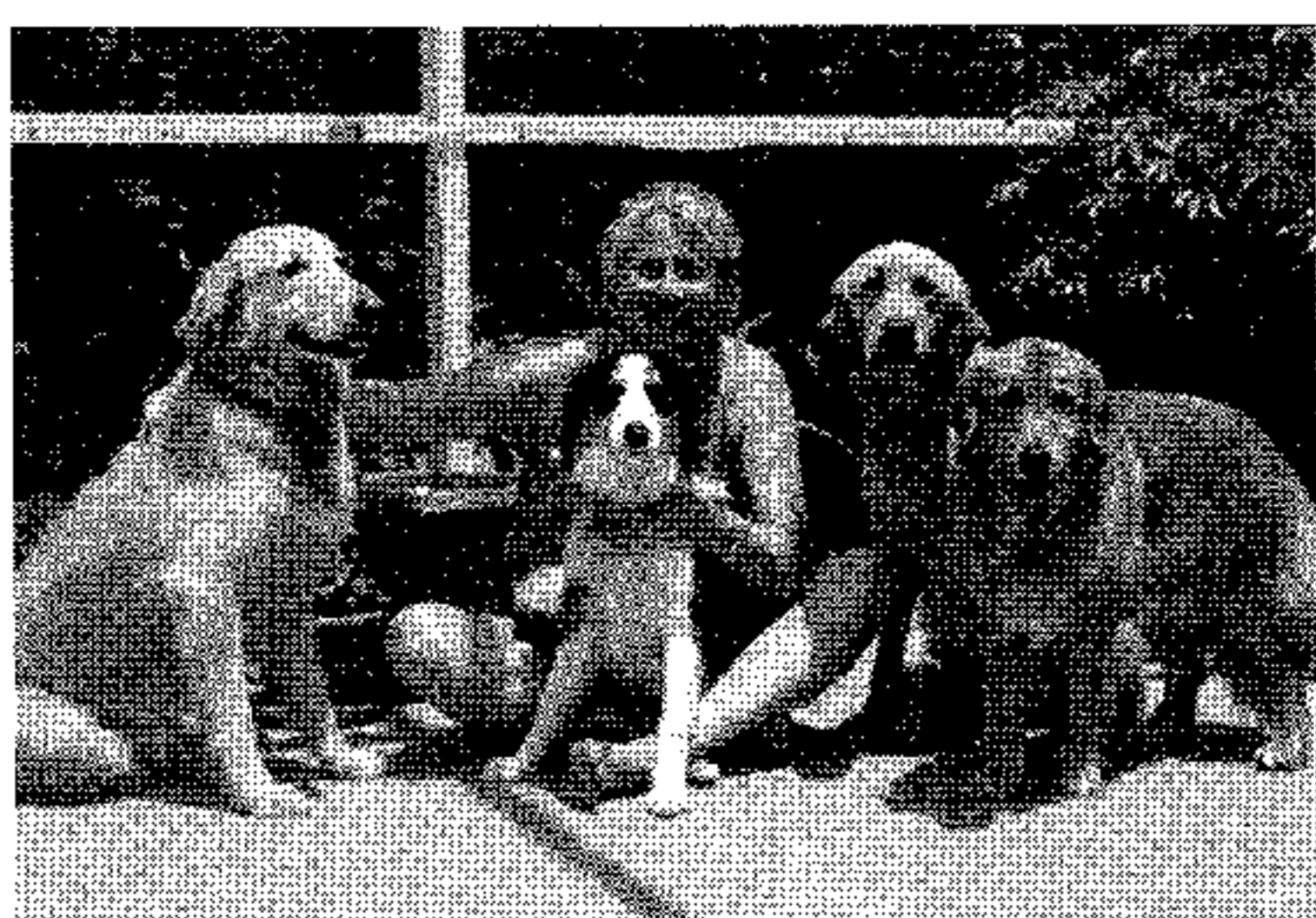
Purchase HealthyPetNet premium pet products and GRRMF receives a percentage of your purchase!

Read more on Page 6.



Then and Now ...

Dreyfuss was a senior in horrible shape when he came to GRRMF. See what he's up to today on Page 6!



Volunteer Spotlights

Wow - what can we say about our volunteers other than they're GREAT!! Meet a few key GRRMF volunteers on Page 10.

Hurricanes - The Good, the Bad and the Scary

by Carol McKee

This year's hurricane season has truly been the "best and worst of times." It brought some of the worst property damage ever seen in Florida. But it also brought out the best in many people, as friends and neighbors began to help each other clean up downed trees, damaged homes and other storm-related debris.

Rescue groups like GRRMF have to gear UP after storms like Charley, Frances, Ivan and now Jeanne to prepare for all the abandoned and lost pets who find themselves homeless. Our Intake Team has been busy night and day trying to manage the calls and e-mails about dogs needing our help. Our transportation volunteers have been racking up the miles transporting dogs from shelters to veterinarians and foster homes. And our foster network is filled to capacity.

Sunday is one of those dogs. Taken in after Hurricane Frances by Seminole County Animal Services, Sunday was full of ticks, heartworm positive and suffering from a severe upper respiratory infection. After a trip to Dr. Ehlers at 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood, Sunday is now recuperating in a foster home.

She was in pretty bad shape, but we understand that each new day brings more pep into her step, and perk into her ears. Soon, Sunday will be ready for adoption - and you can't help but feel glad about that!

Then there's **O'Connor**, who was found wandering around a trailer park after Hurricane Charley. Someone tied him up outside to keep him from wandering away, and devoted GRRMF volunteer Penny Iannone quickly hit the road to pick him up. After life as a "street dog," O'Connor was in pretty bad shape. He was filthy and full of mats. He was about 15 pounds underweight and had ear and skin infections. But the most obvious - and startling - issue was O'Connor's eye: it was severely swollen and weeping.

After several baths and an intensive grooming session, we've gotten rid of the mats, and his handsome 5-year-old golden looks are beginning to shine through. We've put him on a high-quality food and are treating his many infections and parasites. O'Connor has been evaluated by our veterinarian, as well as an eye specialist. Both concur that the eye will need to be removed.

Yet, even through all this, O'Connor has a wonderful disposition - he loves to play with toys, gets along great with other dogs and just adores being around humans. These dogs never cease to amaze all of us involved in GR rescue. How could a dog, who is obviously in terrible pain and has been through so much, still find the heart

to smile? How could a dog like Sunday, who has a lung infection on top of heartworms, still manage to wag her tail?

You see, this is why we are all involved in rescuing these dogs. In many ways, they have more true grit than us humans. And in the case of goldens, we know that they will go on to make wonderful lifelong companions for a very special family.

We're going to do our best to keep up with the influx of goldens needing our help after 3 ... 4 ... 5?

hurricanes. Even during normal times, we have a hard time taking all the dogs we get called about.

We have made a promise to O'Connor and Sunday - and many others like them - that we will do everything humanly possible to help them heal. And we have also promised that we will find them the best forever homes they could ever dream of. We think they deserve a second chance - don't you?

Of all the best - and worst - of times, this is one time in our history when GRRMF could really use your help. We exist only through your donations and through our hard-working volunteers, many of whom are still struggling to repair their own storm damage. If you could find it in your heart to make a small donation

for O'Connor, Sunday and the other special-needs dogs we have in our program right now, we would greatly appreciate it. Every dollar, or \$5, or \$20 helps! And we promise that all donations will be spent to care for O'Connor, Sunday and their compatriots here at GRRMF. From the hearts of our canine crew to yours, many doggie kisses to you!

Yes, I'd like to help GRRMF dogs like O'Connor & Sunday!

☐ Enclosed is my donation for: \$ _____

Name _____

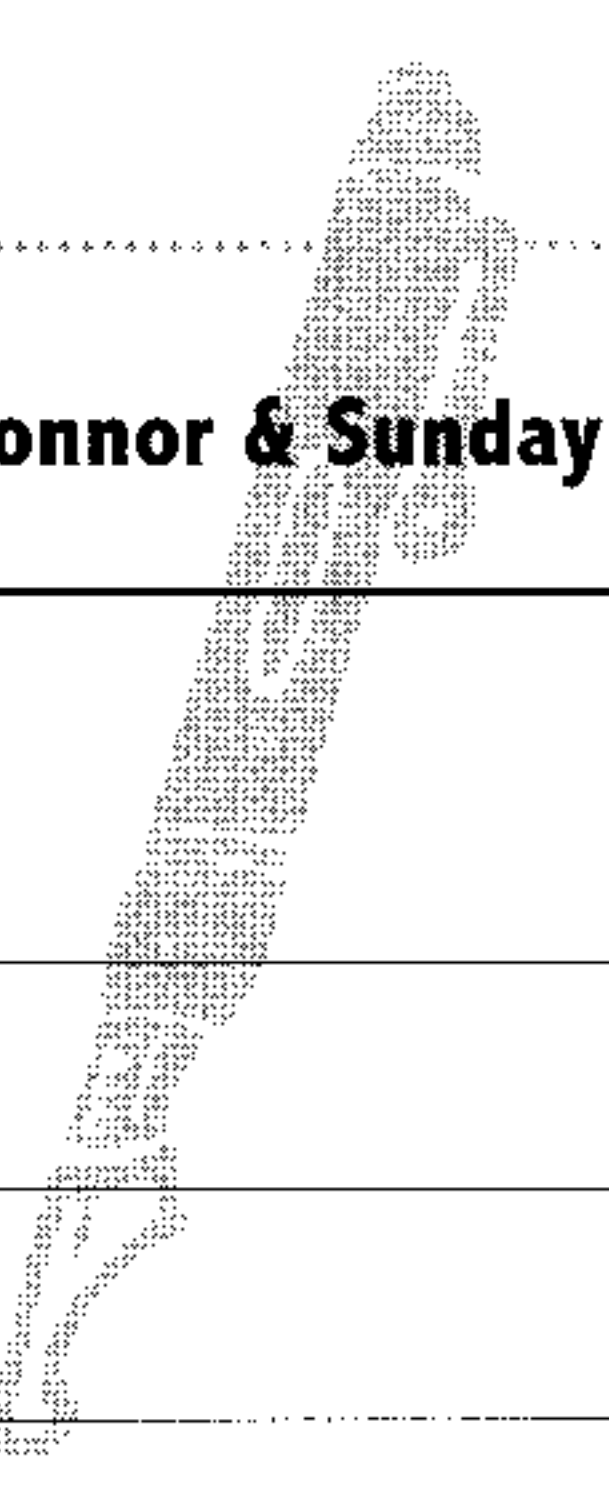
Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

☐ Yes, I'd like to consider adopting O'Connor or Sunday - attached is my completed adoption application (downloaded from our Web site: www.grrmf.org).

All donations are tax-deductible, and contributions will be listed in the next newsletter. Mail completed form to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.



Greetings from GRRMF!

We have been concerned about how our GRRMF family fared through the recent hurricanes. Hopefully everyone is safe and sound and making progress on any needed repairs.

It certainly has been a rough two months here in Florida. Having been directly in the path of Charley, and impacted by Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, it kind of feels like living in a war zone.

GRRMF has had a busy month with calls for dogs lost in the hurricane. We have even had AKC recovery calls on a few of our GRRMF dogs. It is so scary to think of your dog getting loose. Be sure to always have your dog wear its yellow AKC microchip tag at all times plus a tag with your name and phone number. Remember, if you are staying out of town, put something on your dog's collar indicating your temporary address/phone. I know when I visit my brother in Indiana, I have a special tag made up at PetsMart with his address and phone number in case the worst happened and Rocky got away. If you are only going someplace for a few days, you can make up a temporary tag. Hardware and home improvement stores carry cardboard tags for key rings that you can write info on, and if you have nothing else, use a permanent marker to write the info on some masking tape and fold it around an old tag. Or, double the tape around the collar.

We find that one of the most probable times your pet will get away from you is when you are traveling, or when you leave your dog with friends or relatives. Your dog may be nervous and unsure, causing him to act in ways outside the norm.

President's Message

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President



PLEASE consider safety when you find temporary housing for your dog. If you leave your dog with friends, do they understand the dog must be on leash at all times when out of a fenced area, that it shouldn't be left in the back yard unsupervised or have access to the yard via a doggie door when they are away from home? Does the family have children that don't understand doors should be kept securely shut? Last year, we had an incident in which a family entrusted their former GRRMF dog to a friend. While staying with the family, the dog escaped the back yard and got hit by a car. Consider that you may have taken extra steps to secure your backyard, but your friend may not have the same protection. Some dogs are escape artists and, in times of upheaval, they are more likely to try to practice their trade. While your friends or family may have the best intentions, they may not be used to your dog or familiar with how creative some dogs can be to escape. There also may be new distractions in your friend's yard that will motivate your dog to jump or dig.

If your yellow AKC tag has worn out and you need a replacement, you can go to <http://www.epettags.com/> and order a Companion Animal Recovery/Home Again replacement tag for your dog. It's only about \$6 and well worth the expense. If the numbers are blurred, as they sometimes do over time, you can have your vet scan your dog to verify the number before ordering the tag. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at info@grrmf.org or call 407.332.2840, mailbox #3.

And, if your GRRMF alumnus ever escapes or is lost, **PLEASE call us immediately at (407) 332-2840, mailbox #2** - this is the intake hotline, which is monitored the most frequently - to let us know in case we receive a call from AKC Recovery or anyone else who may have found your dog. Since we have registered hundreds of microchips over the years, they know we are "golden central" in Florida and they know to call us if a golden retriever is found with a microchip in it.

One last comment: Please remember to check your dog's leash and collar periodically for wear and tear. A leash and collar is the primary tool we have for keeping our goldens safe, and worn clasps or materials can increase the risk of them breaking and your dog getting away.

Let's keep all these dear dogs as safe as possible to prevent the unthinkable.

- Barbara

Fosters - one of the lynchpins of rescue

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator and Board Member

One of the best parts of rescue is seeing a dog or puppy go to a home where it is loved and adored. The new home often thanks us for finding them the perfect fit for their family. Is it luck? Is it fate? No! It's the fosters!

Fosters are what makes GRRMF stand head and shoulders above shelters and many other rescue groups. We take the time to evaluate dogs to find out what issues they have, all in an effort to find the best home for them. In the case of outside dogs or strays, fosters teach them how to live in a home, something that is almost a foregone conclusion when people adopt.

Fosters also observe the dog to see what its likes, dislikes and peccadilloes are. Is he a counter surfer? Does he love water? Is she most at home in bed with her family at night? Does the dog need a fenced yard to burn off energy, or is she content to be by your side at all times? Does she cower around certain people or seem scared of loud noises? Does the dog see a cat as a play buddy ... or a snack? These and many other questions pose themselves to each foster home. And their observations are invaluable in placing the dog into the right home.

As a foster mom of 60 goldens (so far), every time I think I have seen it all, I realize I haven't. Every dog is unique and must be treated as an individual. I have had counter surfers, social butterflies, wallflowers, play maniacs, cuddle bugs and everything in between. Finding them the right forever home is my job. I owe that to each foster who enters my house. I would rather hold on to a dog for a while longer and put him in the right home, rather than place him a home as quickly as possible. I think our fosters feel the same way. We want to see that family ecstatic over their newest addition. We long to hear the words, "He is the perfect fit for us." This can only work if we take the time to find out as much as we can about the foster dog, as well as about the families who are hoping to adopt.

Our fosters help us achieve this goal of finding the right home for every GRRMF rescue. Not just any home - but the right home. There is a huge difference. You constantly amaze me with your patience and insight. You watch each dog as if it were precious cargo to see what would make it the happiest. Of course, goldens love a lot of things, that's part of what we love about the breed -- but you help determine the difference between a "need" and a "want." Some dogs live for the pool and so a home with a pool is almost required. One senior foster of mine had always slept on the bed (his owner was gone all day and much of the night so he found great comfort in sleeping with the scents of his human). It is so much a part of his personality by now, that I know his new home must allow him to sleep on the bed. I heard a similar story recently from one of our fosters. They bought a twin mattress to put at the foot of their bed so all of their dogs and their new foster - who is a very large gal - would have enough room. You cannot teach that type of kindness - it comes from wanting what is best for the dog and a willingness to help her feel like she's a part of your family.

That being said, fostering is not for everyone, and we understand those who feel giving up a dog after they have invested so much of themselves in it is not for them. Personally, I remind myself of the great pains we take screening every potential adopter - and I take comfort in knowing that whatever home is selected for my foster will be a wonderful one, full of love and caring. If I didn't give up my fosters, I wouldn't be able to continue in that capacity - and the dog I am adopting out now wouldn't be here. I would have missed the transformation of this dog and the happiness of the people adopting him or her. Does it break my heart to see the dog go? Yes - but I cry for me! The dog is going to a wonderful home where he or she will be loved and adored. What is there to cry about for the dog?

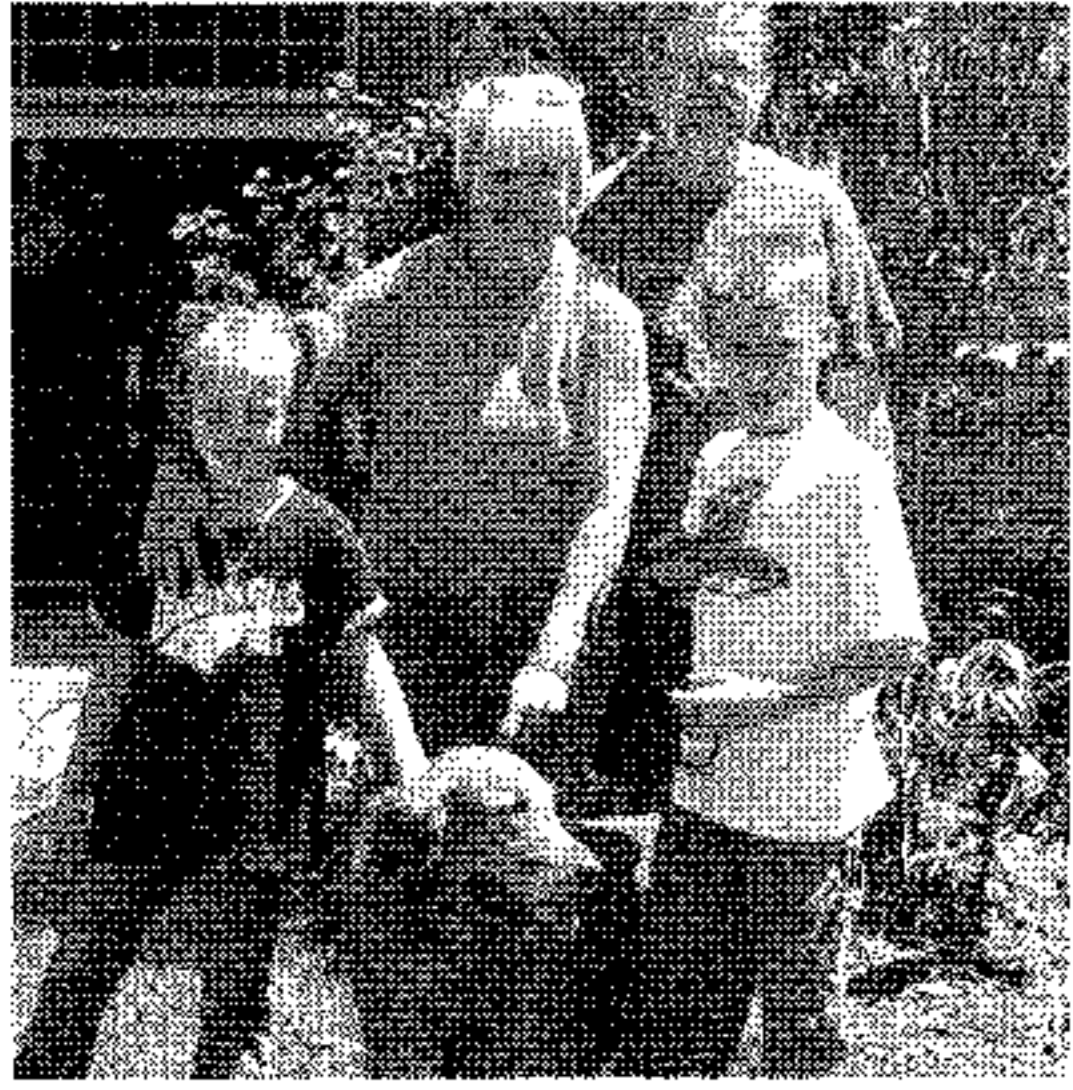
On behalf of rescue and every dog who has come to us and is now in its loving home, we thank you. Fosters are what keeps GRRMF going as one of the top-tier rescues in the country. For those who might be interested in fostering, please contact us at info@grrmf.org. We can give you information and answer questions. If you are receiving this newsletter, chances are you adopted from us and your beloved companion benefited from being in a foster home.

Remember, we can only save as many goldens as we have foster homes. The more foster homes we have, the more precious gold we can save. The need has never been greater - we are inundated with dogs needing to come in on a daily basis, and nothing hurts our volunteers more than having to turn one away because we have no place for it to go. If you're considering becoming a foster, rest assured that we make sure the foster dog is right for your home, too. For example, we will not put a 1-year-old play monster in your home if you have a 12-year-old laid-back senior in there now. It is not fair to your current dog.

For those of you who continue to foster, we cannot thank you enough. You know the feeling of seeing that sadly neglected introvert who came to your house a while ago now go to its forever home, head up, tail wagging, coat shining and with a big smile on its face. This is one of the most rewarding aspects of rescue - seeing the dogs go to new and loving homes. And it's the foster home that allows this to happen. Bless you all, and know that your "pot of gold" comes in a four-legged package.

- Sandy

Recent Adoptions - Summer 2004



Dakota, 7 years young, came into rescue when her owner could no longer care for her. This is not unusual, but what was unusual was the fact that Dakota had never been around other dogs or any surroundings other than her original

home. She was completely unsocialized, and went into sensory overload upon her admission to GRRMF. Fostered by Ani A. and her canine crew, Dakota went from a dog who literally foamed at the mouth at any new experiences to a happy golden who loved to go for walks, swim and chase tennis balls. Sandy, Jeff, Eli & Emma B. and canine sister Lacey fell in love with Dakota's antics and joy of life. Once she settled into her new home, she became the perfect addition. Sandy writes: "Dakota has filled our lives with such joy and laughter and continues to be a 2-year-old in a 7-year-old body. We all adore her, and I think the feeling is mutual."

Niles, 7 years, was turned in by his owner. Again, we scratch our heads as to why someone would want to give up a perfectly behaved, well-mannered, sweet-as-sugar golden retriever such as Niles. What we don't wonder about is what is going to happen to dogs like Niles - because we make it our mission to ensure each dog will be loved and pampered for the rest of its life. Niles' foster dad Steve L. told us everything we needed to know - that Niles is "a warm, happy, affectionate, obedient and respectful dog who loves people, dogs and cats." Caroline and Ken R. are the lucky family who got to take Niles home. They tell us he is adjusting nicely and that even the cat doesn't mind having him around.

Aspen, 4 years, was found as a stray and turned over to a shelter. Her hair was matted and her ears badly infected. Aspen wanted nothing more than to be loved and chase lizards. She was adopted once, but returned when she didn't pass muster on leash walking, among other



things. Donna D. & Chuck G. agreed to foster Aspen and had nothing but great things to say about the "little munchkin." It wasn't too long before Aspen's real family came along. Roger & Kathy M. fell in love with her at first sight. They previously adopted Finley and Mango from GRRMF and were sad when their 13-year-old golden passed to the Rainbow Bridge recently. Miss Aspen will make the family complete once again. In addition to the companionship of her new siblings Finley & Mango, Aspen has a beautiful home and a swimming pool. She is finally home!



Four-year-old **Sam** is perfect in every way. He plays well with others, is completely house trained and is quiet and laid back. His foster parents, Ray & Sue Angle, would have loved to add him to their pack, but they wisely decided that Sam had a lot to offer a new forever family,

and this way they could continue fostering. It didn't take long for Sam to find his new home. Steve & Monique Z. and their 10-year-old golden Sasha met Sam at an educational day and fell in love. What's not to love about a gorgeous and well-behaved golden?

Samantha was an owner turn-in.

The family moved here from Colorado and was staying in a motel with Samantha and a sheltie. They kept the sheltie and turned Samantha over to GRRMF. She is one of the sweetest, easy-going girls we've ever seen and gets along with everyone. While in her foster home with Barb & Frank M., Samantha met their neighbor Sam M., who fell head over heels for her. Once his application was approved, "Sam and Sam" moved in together, and we're told the "mutual admiration society" is still going strong! Barb tells us Samantha couldn't be happier, and we second that motion!



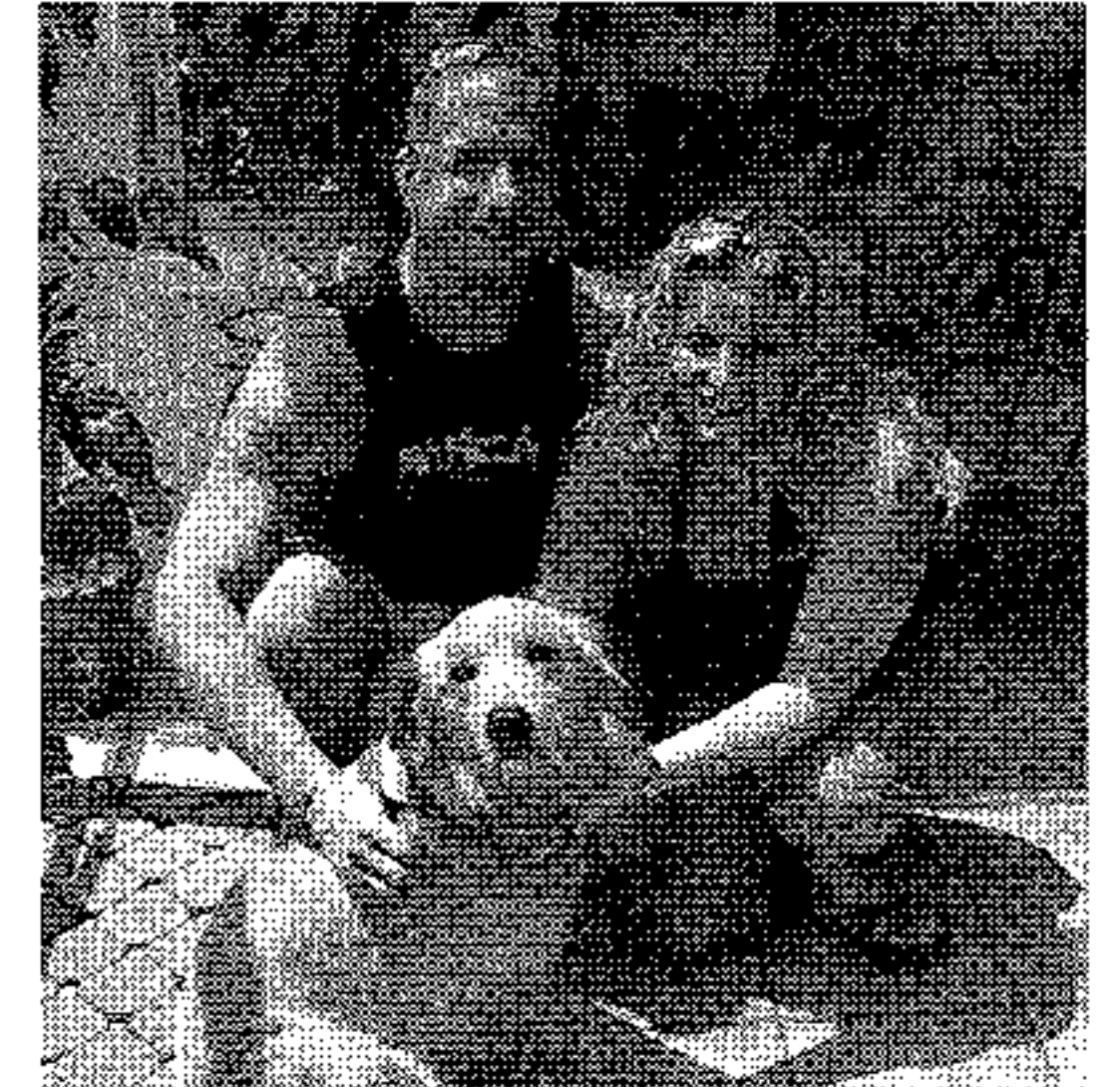
Little Miss "**Nilla Vanilla**" came to GRRMF as sweet little wafer of a golden, only 6 months old. She'd never been allowed inside, had zero training and, to say the least, she was a handful! Nilla's foster parents, Theresa & Bob B., immediately

began establishing some guidelines for Nilla as she settled into her new routine inside of a house for the first time. "The most wonderful part about fostering Nilla was watching her change and grow in to a nice puppy that someone could live with," Theresa says. GRRMF is grateful for its foster families, who help these dogs in so many ways and improve their chances of being adopted. Theresa & Bob enrolled Nilla in obedience classes, which were generously donated by JaVic Dog Training in Palm Bay, Fla. Their hard work paid off in spades, making Nilla irresistible to Nancy & Terry N., who have invited her into their home and hearts. They renamed her Regan, which means "little ruler," and we think that's just the perfect name for this little girl! Regan is very much loved by her new family, and she loves swimming in the pool and playing with a golden named Shay who visits several times a week. Nancy & Terry also have recently volunteered to foster for GRRMF, so Regan has a new temporary playmate named Chandy. We're sure she's going to show the newbie all the tricks of ruling the house!

Nikki, 3 years, found herself in rescue through no fault of her own. It's a story we hear all too often at GRRMF - a busy family with no time to spend caring for a dog. Nikki is well-behaved, fully house trained and gets along fine with other dogs and cats. What a catch she'd be for the right family! Well, sure enough, along came Robert L. and his daughter. They fell in love at first sight with this sweetheart, and off Nikki went to start her new life as the center of attention for her new human "best friends."



Handsome, young **Baxter** was a tough rescue. He came from a physically abusive past, and had the emotional scars to prove it. He was very timid when meeting new people, which made him even more of a challenge to adopt. After his heart-worm treatment was complete, we began looking for just the right home for Baxter - one that would be understanding of his scarred past and patient in earning his trust as he learned to live in a world where people weren't the bad guys. Kristen & Robert read his story on our Web site, and felt they were ready for the challenge. Baxter now has an awesome new home, where he goes for walks every day and plays constantly with his new human pals. His new humans can't say enough about how much they love their special little boy. Many thanks to all who were involved in Baxter's rescue - there truly is a home for every one of these dogs!



Dryfuss was returned to GRRMF after many years. It seems there was a baby on the way, and his humans felt they needed to give him up. We're not sure why people feel they have to get rid of the dog when a new baby comes home, but we accepted him back

without question. He didn't stay with us for too long before his new parents came to pick him up. Linda & James E. are impressed with how well-behaved and sociable their new boy is. He hit it off immediately with the senior poodle in his new home, and even the cat came around after a while. His favorite activity, aside from swimming in the pool, is his daily walks, where he enjoys greeting all his new neighbor friends - all with a smile and wag that is so endearing about a golden retriever, of course! Dryfuss is finally "home"!

Kady was quite a challenging rescue. She was too much for her humans to handle, and instead of teaching her some manners, they relinquished her to GRRMF. Charlie & Barb W. took her in and immediately began teaching her the ropes.



It was time for Kady to go to "grade school" - to learn how to behave and to get along well with others. Kady began her turnaround immediately - it was amazing to watch her progress! She was adopted by Beverly & Alan G., who call her Jenna. The new family is continuing Jenna's training and think she could be a future "star"! You can read all about Kady's journey on Page 11.



Honey is 6 years young, well-behaved and very "Velcro." She was fostered by Bert & Charlie H., who could have easily kept her forever, but knew there was a perfect home just waiting for this special girl. It's easy to fall in love with this little sweetie pie - what a wonderful girl she is! She was soon snapped

up by Albert & Barbara R., who were looking for a full-time companion and had plenty of love to go around. Honey is fitting in nicely with her new family, we hear, which doesn't surprise us at all.

Just 2.5 years old, **Sunny** came to us as a stray, but judging by the marks on his neck, we surmised that he spent his life tied to a tree. Sunny is a 77-pound lapdog, and he really is a joy to be around. While at his foster



mom's house, Sunny learned to swim in the pool and got along fabulously with everyone he met. Sunny was adopted by Anita & Andrea M., who now call him Baxter. Here's what they had to say: "Sunny/Baxter is a great addition to our family. He is sweet, loveable and follows our older retriever, Barney, also a GR rescue, all over. They are becoming good friends, and Baxter is learning the ropes from Barney. We are so happy and love them dearly."



Mossimo was turned in when his canine sibling decided there could be only one dog in the house. He was fostered by Janet D. and family, who nicknamed him "Maloney the Pony." At 2 years old, Mossimo was the size of a small pony and lacked the necessary social skills to live with people and

other dogs, but he quickly improved with the help of his foster family. Mossimo was adopted by Jim B., who calls him Maloney, and the lucky youngster now is loving life with a pool, a huge yard to romp in and a play puppy named Suzie to keep him busy.

Brady came in as an 11-week-old puppy. He had been purchased by an older couple who quickly realized this active, curious boy was more than they could handle. They loved him enough to do the right thing and let him find a new family. Brady learned valuable puppy manners from his foster mom Emily R., his two canine foster sisters and a cat. Brady was adopted by the Wallers and now has a new brother to continue teaching him proper behavior. He has an active family life, lots of room to play and the best part ... a swimming pool!

After much convincing, Donna D. & Chuck G. agreed to foster **Shadow**. You see, they "prefer" female goldens and already shared their home with two goldens - Tara and Haley, formerly Ramoth, mom of some to some of the "Sarasota 23" puppies. Funny thing ... Donna and Chuck saw immediately that this was a special golden and decided, in spite of his male anatomy, that he needed



to stay - permanently! Shadow, now Wyatt, will spend the rest of his life with Donna & Chuck. **LUCKY GUY!** The day those adoption papers were signed was one of the happiest days of Donna's life, too. She showed her love and appreciation by hugging EVERYONE. Shadow was renamed Wyatt in honor of Betty Wyatt, a very special person who devoted many years of her life to GRRMF.

The story continues ... Enter **Remy**, another 7-month-old male golden. Remy made himself right at home with his new foster parents, Donna & Chuck. Yes, the same Donna & Chuck who adopted their last male foster, Shadow/Wyatt! After a few weeks, they were hooked and decided that this gentle, easygoing, fun and sweet guy was going to stay. We are so glad Donna and Chuck have become opened-minded about the males!



Sara's prior family realized that after three days of owning her that they had made a impulsive decision. She came to GRRMF at 8 weeks and 3 days old. Sara was fostered by Pat W. and her patient husband, who thought she was the best puppy ever. They didn't even mind getting up before the sun rose to take her out to relieve her puppy bladder. She was adopted by Joan & Steve K. Sara, now called Annie, has a new canine sister named Callie. Her new family says things are going great and Annie is right on right track.

At 130 pounds, **Zeus** goes on the books as one of the heaviest dogs in rescue. He was owned by a senior couple and at 8 years old was dropped off at a shelter. The shelter immediately called GRRMF as they knew Zeus was not going to be adopted in his present condition. He was fostered by Char B., who helped Zeus gain a more "manly figure." When he had trimmed down to a svelte 83 pounds, Zeus was adopted by Brian L., who named him Prince. Brian promised to provide plenty of exercise and continue Prince's diet, so he can go on to live a long and healthy life.



he'd never had the chance to do. He was fostered and loved by Kathy R., who decided she couldn't part with this warmhearted soul. Ranger finally has his place in the sun, and we couldn't be happier!

Seven-year-old **Dusty** is the perfect dog. Both his foster parents and his new adoptive parents agree. While recovering from hip surgery, Dusty received all the TLC he could every hope for from Linda & George A. Now that he has recovered, Dusty is spending his days with Tom & Mary Ellen C., who tell us they adopted "Mr. Perfect." His favorite things in the world are 1) to chase balls; and 2) to be loved on. And he is

getting plenty of that in his new home! We're happy that we were able to provide Dusty with a new leash on life through your donations to the Woody Fund for dogs with special medical needs - that's what GRRMF is here for, and seeing the smiles on the faces of Tom & Mary Ellen, watching the tail wags of dogs like Dusty ... that's what makes it all worthwhile!

Ellie was found in a parking lot. She is estimated to be about 8 years old and had about a dozen lumps all over her body. GRRMF raised enough money to have the lumps surgically removed, and luckily they were benign. Ellie's story is one that warms our collective hearts at GRRMF. The seniors are usually very difficult to adopt, and a senior with lumps, scars and shaved spots all over body was going to make it virtually impossible! That didn't faze her foster parents, Chuck & Donna D., who patiently took care of her during her recovery period. Many members may have seen some of the pictures Donna took of Ellie dressed up in all kinds of little "outfits," which helped keep Ellie's wounds safe, but also proved to be a lot of fun! Ellie was adopted by 11-year-old Allison W. and her family, Michelle & David. They knew she was the one for them. Donna and Chuck had an extremely hard time letting this special gal go, but they, too, knew that Ellie belonged with her new family. It was truly meant to be.



Tony came to rescue at a whopping 120 lbs. At 5 years old, he was one of those sad cases at animal services who was going to be euthanized. It seems people couldn't get past his rather LARGE exterior. He was fostered by our "West Coast Weight Watchers" guru, Char B., who started him on a green bean diet. After he took off the weight and shed his "Tony the Tub" image, this handsome "tiger" was adopted by Peter and Susan F. who promised they will continue his Weight Watchers diet. Tony now is renamed Hamish and boy, is he one lucky guy! He spends his days schmoozing people at his dad's work and his evenings at home with his mom and new golden sister Ceildgh.



It seems fitting that **Maverick**, named after the pilot in the movie "Top Gun," would be taken home by a pilot and his wife. Maverick is an 8-month-old with a fun-loving attitude. Since in joining his new family, Maverick has started obedience classes, learned how to dive into

the pool and "give paw," a trick his new dad is so proud to have taught him. Maverick has also taught his new canine brother Buck - see below - to play. Mav is an all-around good guy who is now flying high, living the good life with David and Robin.

Buck has the best of luck! After being rescued from animal services by a kind citizen who had every intention of keeping him, Buck proved to be too much of a challenge and soon landed with GRRMF. He was fostered

by Suzanne and Tony R who said this guy was afraid of EVERYTHING. It took him three days to understand that it was o.k. to leave the kitchen and that he wasn't going to get in trouble for being a dog. Buck's luck changed the day he landed with GRRMF, and especially when he was adopted by Robin and David! Buck has come a long way since that timid kitchen dweller. He is a great companion for their other rescue, Maverick. Buck and Maverick play as if they have been buddies forever. Buck has truly struck gold with his new FOREVER family.

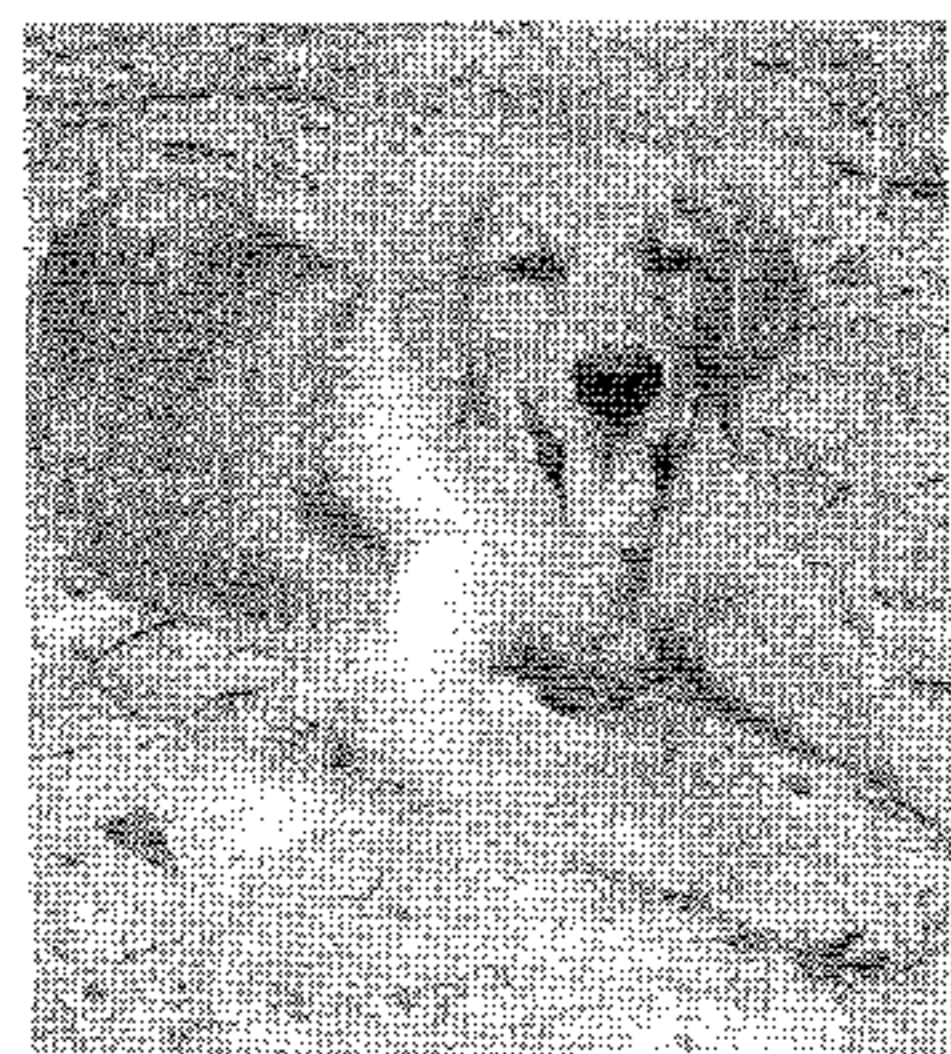
Fletcher, 14 months, is a total package. He was sprung from animal services and fostered by Linda R. She thought he was a great dog, and his new parents, Christy and Matt D., agree. A total cuddle bug and sweetheart, Fletcher is getting used to his new sister Nala and trying hard to be become the best of buds. Hopefully, we will see Fletcher at some education days on the West Coast.



When 6-year-old **Brodie**'s owner died, he was locked up behind a door in the home well-intentioned caretaker until he found his way to rescue. He was fostered by Carol B., who within one hour knew he was meant to stay. She adopted Brodie and tells us often that he is not only handsome but very smart, too! Brodie spends his days following her from room to room and has even managed to find some room on the bed between his four other GRRMF siblings.



At 7 years old, **Tamara** had spent much of her life confined in a garage. She was unsocialized, shy and scared. While in foster care with Emily and Velma R, Tamara soon began to gain confidence in herself and her personality began to shine. Emily took extra care in her fostering responsibilities to help Tamara adjust to the new world outside the garage. She provided lots of encouragement and positive reinforcement, as Tamara began to try her skills at being a regular dog. Soon, she was enjoying walks and car rides and all other aspects of life, and we knew it was time for Tamara to find her forever home. She did in Natasha, who is ready to be patient and let Tamara, now Sara, adjust to her new life as a much-loved member of the family. Sara has an outgoing canine sister who is also showing her the ropes.



Rocco hasn't met a person he didn't like. He came to rescue at just 11 weeks old. He was the last puppy left from a large litter and was presumably passed over by buyers due to his short, stubby tail. Boomer and Regina V. fell in love with him INSTANTLY and think his shorty tail just adds character. Funny thing is, Rocco has a new feline sister who also has half of her tail missing, so he feels quite "normal" in his new surroundings! Rocco is the sweetest, best-behaved puppy ever. He is a quick learner and at 4 months, goes and gets his leash if he has to go potty. Thanks to his foster mom Emily R. for her great training and TLC!

Dashing and daring **Alexander** had some rough luck early on. It seems he was purchased as a puppy by some



inexperienced folks who quickly grew tired of his young puppy antics. We took him in and began working with him. He was adopted by the Delkers and now has his own swimming pool plus a fenced yard to run and play in. They couldn't get over how well-behaved he was and are enjoying watching him grow and blossom into a beautiful gentleman.

Jenna came to rescue at 9 months old. She was given up for the all too common reason of "no time." At first, Jenna was quiet and unsocialized. In a short period of time, she came out of her shell and became a sweet, gentle cuddle bug who loves people and dogs alike. She was adopted by Gale and Paul M. and their canine crew. She now has days filled with love and play - just what every golden girl deserves.



Goliath, an 8-year-old gentle giant, was turned in by his owners. The family said they didn't have time for him, and it showed in that Goliath was a whopping 116 pounds, apparently due to a diet high in Pop Tarts and pizza, and he had chronic ear infections. While in foster care with Sandy S., Goliath lost 25 pounds and his ear situation was soon under control with good food and regular cleanings. Goliath was ready to go to his new home as long as they agreed to two requirements: daily walks and his most favorite activity - car rides! Catherine H. and Paul W. thought he would fit perfectly with their prior rescue Dolly Madison. Goliath was a true gentleman to her and also to the cat. He can be seen cruising around town in the back of an SUV, loving life and all it has to offer.

Shilo, a sweet and handsome 5-year-old, was turned in when the owner's boyfriend moved in and was allergic to him. Rebecca G. fostered him and immediately knew what a golden treasure had just landed at her doorstep. No way could she give him up! So Shilo now enjoys his days with Rebecca and her canine group. He is very much loved.

Marcie's time was up at a local shelter. She was very fat, had skin problems and was diagnosed with hypothyroidism, a very common condition among older dogs. Rescue took her in, and foster mom Kathy R. walked her each day -slow, short walks at first - to get the weight off. Regular exercise together with a rationed high-quality kibble mixed with green beans helped Marcie "Buddha Baby" lose those extra pounds. Charlotte V. went to meet her, and when Marcie put her head in Charlotte's lap, there was no looking back - this girl was going home that day! Now appropriately called Angel, this is one very pampered and loved golden girl.

Bear, a gorgeous 1-year-old blonde boy, was turned in to rescue because he was "too big" and his owners didn't have time for him. His foster mom quickly saw that Bear was a typical golden retriever puppy who had no training or socialization. He just needed some guidance, which she was happy to provide. Gale and Paul M. fell in love with Bear and knew that with some obedience training he would be a wonderful companion for them. They love this sweet boy who has not met a dog or a person yet that he did not love. They renamed him Bali, because he is both exotic and a bit wild!

Hunny's future was bleak at a local shelter. That is, until volunteer Randi S. stepped in to rescue this sweet 7-year-old and foster her. It took no time at all for the entire family to fall in love with Hunny Bear and want to make her a permanent part of the family. Hunny has finally found her forever home!



Our funny **Valentine** was turned over to GRRMF at just 4 months old when she supposedly growled at one of the children in the family. Our first order of business was to test Valentine's temperament with a professional trainer. What we found was simply a sweet little golden puppy. Valentine was adopted by Jo H. and now has a fenced yard, swimming pool and play buddy Lucy to spend her days with. She is now called Rose, one of Jo's favorite flowers.

Cameo was relinquished to rescue at a mere 11 weeks old. The reason? After just three weeks, Cameo's owner said they were "over the puppy stage" and that she was a "terror." We expected the worst - but got a real treasure in Miss Cameo. She's just a typical puppy who was unlucky enough to end up with humans who weren't educated in how to raise a pup. All she needed were lots of appropriate toys to chew on while she teethed and to learn that her crate was her bedroom. Cameo had perfect manners in public and often "lunched with the ladies" at a local outdoor restaurant with foster mom Sandy and friends. Volunteers Cheryl and Jay M. adopted her and agreed with us - that she is perfect! Now called Ginger, at last word she was snuggling in bed with mom in the mornings, just the way she likes it!



Found through an ad in the paper, **Teddy** was a shy little guy who just needed to be loved. He found it through Penny and Guy I., who fostered him and could not bear to part with him. He is quiet and sweet and now has brothers to play with so he will never be lonely again!

Five-year-old **Summer** was relegated to the garage for growling at her owner when the woman grabbed her collar. Summer's luckiest day was when she met the volunteers with GRRMF, who had her temperament tested in her foster home and never saw any signs of aggression. This perfect little blonde angel wanted only to be loved. Denise M. and her son Philip were ready to add a loving dog to their family and promised to take care of her and never lock her up in a garage. Summer loves her walks and play time and is losing some of her excess weight and getting back her girlish figure.



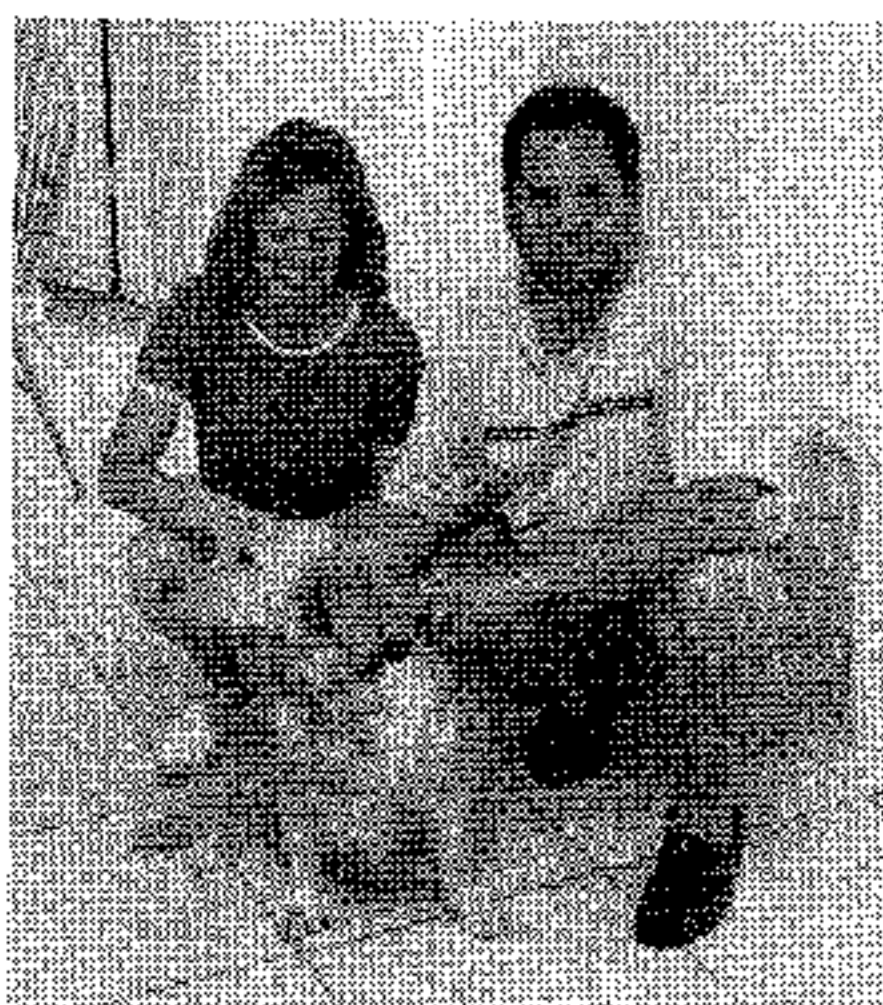
When **Lily's** intake form was completed, we had a feeling she was a perfect gal. So did foster parents Deb and Cary C., who adopted her shortly after her arrival. At 3 years, Lily, now Emma, has successfully

completed her journey to finding her permanent family. In addition to her humans, Emma shares her new home with former "Sarasota 23" puppy Josey. Sister Josey has taught Emma many fun things like how to swim and play at the dog beach. One of the cutest talents that Emma has is the ability to turn simultaneous somersaults. Emma absolutely loves her new home and family and would like to pass a big thank you along to all of those that support GRRMF! Emma has already become a local celebrity in promoting awareness of GRRMF by recently making the front page of the Clearwater Times!

Six-year-old **Hudson** is a model of perfection; that is, if you'd like a lap dog disguised as an 85-pound golden retriever! Hudson was picked up as a stray by Animal Services. After receiving a bath and much needed medical care, he was placed in a foster home for some much-needed love and affection. Hudson had heartworms and would spend the next couple of months undergoing treatment. It wasn't long before fosters Maggie and Tim reported that Hudson had captured their hearts. They couldn't bear to part with him and adopted Handsome Hudson.

Sierra was turned in to rescue by her prior family who had her for seven years. She was not very well taken care of so it was her gain to be placed in the loving GRRMF foster home of Regina and Marcel. She was adopted by Doris and Charles T., who tell us they are dedicated to her care forever.

Wonderful **Ben** was turned over to Animal Services and picked up by GRRMF. This nearly perfect 4-year-old was being fostered by Carol and John R. as he went through heartworm treatment. The day he received his clean bill of health he also received a wonderful new family. He was adopted by Donna and Bob W., who waited patiently for Ben. Bob reports that Ben is "SUCH A GREAT DOG" and gets along well with GRRMF alumnus Molly.



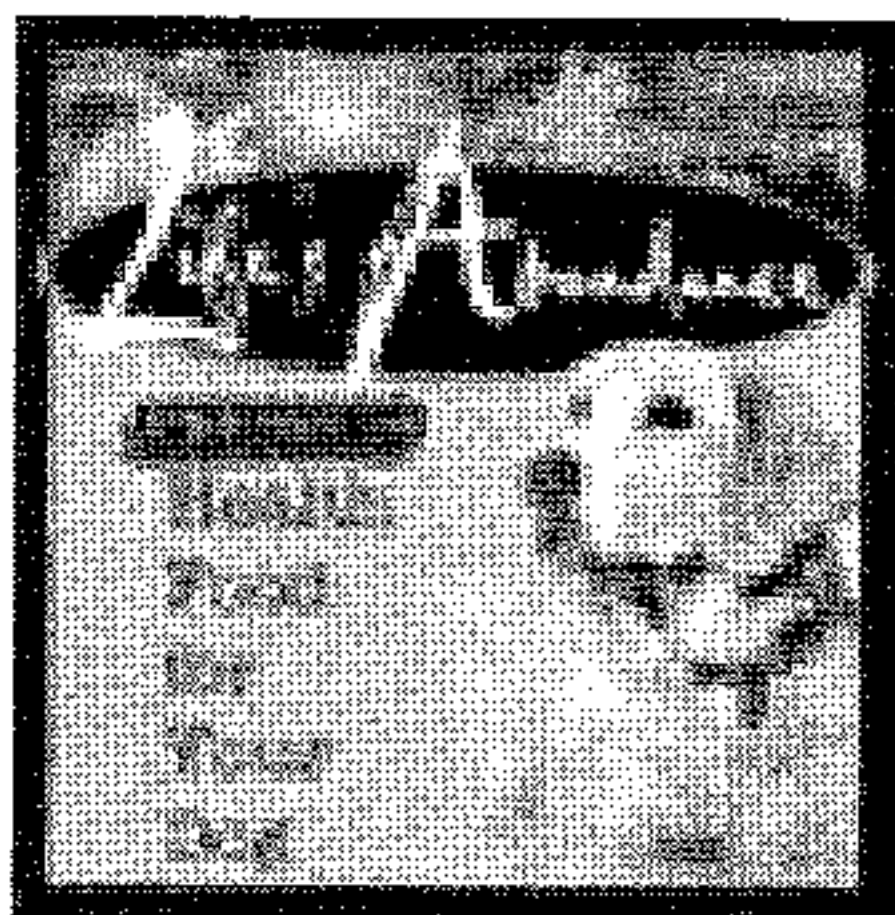
Kassidy was taken in by a rescue group in a remote area of Florida. She tested positive for heartworms, and the rescue group pleaded us to take her, as they didn't have the funds to pay for treatment. Our

biggest challenge was transporting Kassidy. Along came our transportation "angels" the Garrisons, who met Kassidy & her rescuers at an airport and flew her in their private plane to Orlando for treatment! Even better, once treatment was completed, the Garrisons again traveled to Orlando and flew Kassidy to her foster home on the West Coast. Kassidy was lovingly fostered by Sue S. and family and adopted by Joe and Kay Z.



Junior, a 3-year-old red boy, was given up due to a divorce. This water-loving boy found his forever home with Larry and Janet G. and their daughter Lindsey. They think he is a wonderful addition to their family and he has fit in perfectly since day one.

Shamrock, a sweet 2-year-old boy, was given up when his owners expanded their family and had no time for him anymore. This is one of the main reasons that goldens are given up -- no time for the dog anymore. Shamrock had a "lucky charm", though, because it wasn't long before he found his real forever home! Shamrock was raised around kids, so he was placed with Melissa and Dave N. and their family who were looking for a kid-friendly dog. They say he meshed perfectly with the family from day one and is very much loved.



GRRMF Announces New Partnership with HealthyPetNet: Feed Your Dog, Save a Dog's Life!

Visit GRRMF's Web site to order: www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html

GRRMF is excited to announce a new relationship with HealthyPetNet, manufacturer of Life's Abundance pet foods. Purchase ANY product from this company, and HealthyPetNet will donate a portion of the purchase price to GRRMF - it's that simple! These quality products are delivered right to your front door. "Feed Your Dog, Save a Dog's Life!" You win. Your pet wins. And GRRMF wins!

We've been feeding our foster rescues this food for many months now and are very impressed with the quality of the product. These are premium products, developed by 20-year holistic veterinarian and health expert Dr. Jane Bicks. Several GRRMFers already use these wonderful products - and now we invite you to join them in providing wonderful nutrition to your golden while, at the same time, helping to raise much-needed funds for GRRMF!

Great food, delivered right to your door, at a significant savings ... and GRRMF gets a donation on top of that! What are you waiting for? By becoming a preferred customer and having your dog's food delivered to your house, you'll save 20% on ALL your purchases, plus GRRMF still benefits!

Many thanks to Dennis Grace, who adopted Amber from GRRMF - she is one of Isabelle's puppies - and is now a representative for HealthyPetNet. Dennis was instrumental in setting up this program, and he also donates a 40-pound bag of Life's Abundance food each month to GRRMF. Dennis is a firm believer in nutrition and is so confident about these products that he's offering FREE SAMPLES to GRRMF members. If you'd like to give it a try before ordering, write in for a free sample kit of Life's Abundance food for your pet today. Please include your name, address, email, and the number and type of pets you have. A personalized package will be mailed promptly to you. E-mail Dennis at: healthypet43@hotmail.com, or call him at: (407) 595-5118. To order and donate a portion of the proceeds to the rescue effort: Visit GRRMF's Web site: www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html.

Available products include:

- ◆ Life's Abundance Premium Dog Food - Hormone- and steroid-free chicken meal, powerful anti oxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, probiotics and chelated minerals. NO byproducts, corn, wheat or dairy. NO artificial flavors or dyes, and NO chemical preservatives.
- ◆ Canine Zone Weight Loss Food for Dogs - Patterned after Dr. Barry Sears' Zone Diet.
- ◆ Nutritional Supplements and Healthy Treats for Dogs, Cats and Horses

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

This is the first of what we hope will be many stories of precious gold who came to GRRMF neglected, in pain and, sometimes, emotionally unstable. That was then. And in this column, we bring you the "now" - their awe-inspiring transformations that can't help but make you feel proud to be a part of this organization.



For those of us who see a lot of "then" dogs, seeing them happy and healthy, coats shining, ears perked up, tails wagging ... well, it'll get you every time!

Our inaugural "then and now" story is Dreyfuss. Many of you may remember this sweet 11-year-old from last summer. Dreyfuss had lived his life outside with one family. When the family decided to move, they decided Dreyfuss wasn't invited. He came in looking so pathetic that at first I thought he was a Labrador retriever based on his short hair. It was just the result of an incredibly poor coat, not to mention the discharge from the eyes, ear infections, ruptured Achilles tendons from years ago and hip dysplasia.

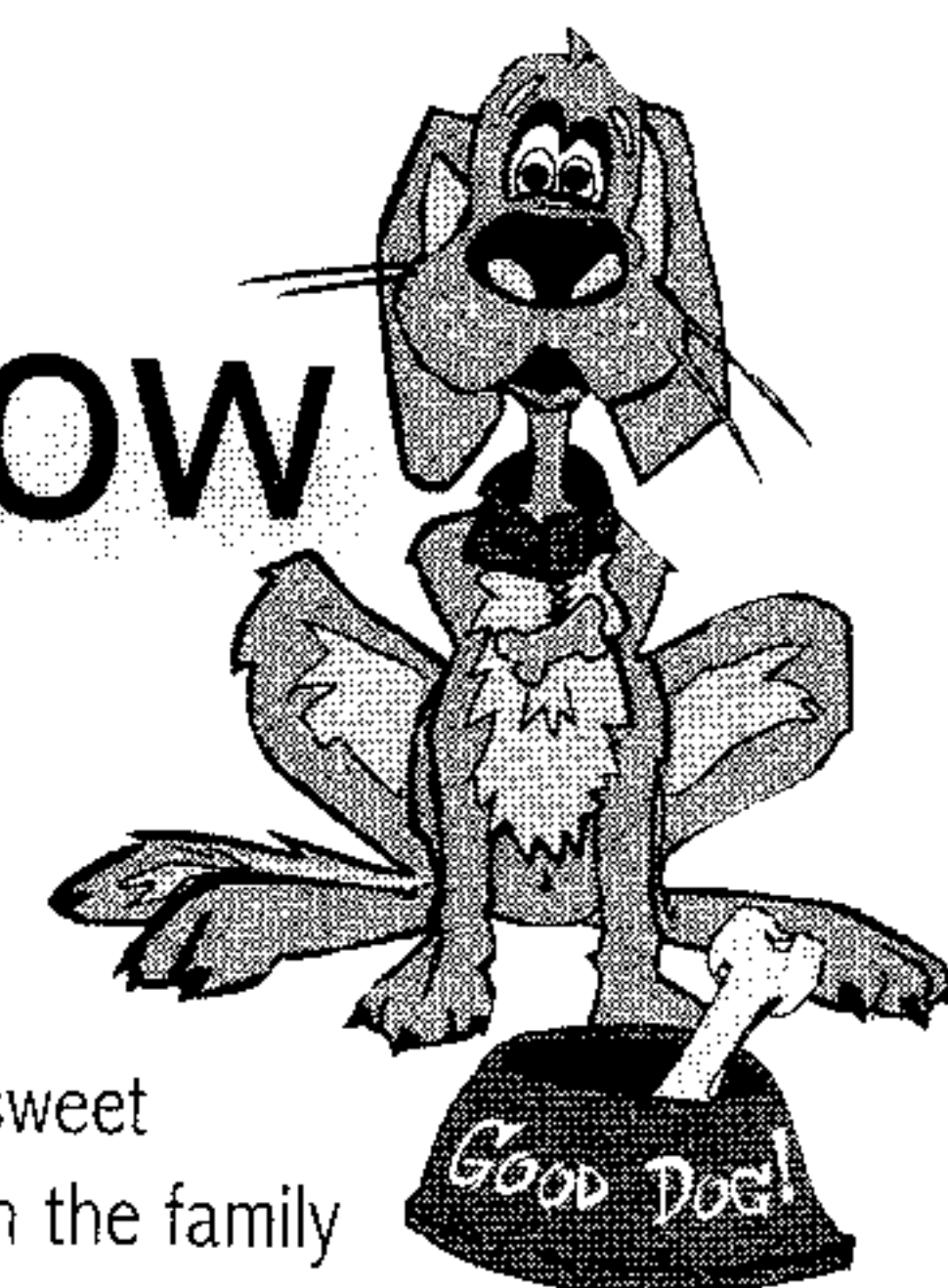
Just one year later, you can see that Dreyfuss is a different dog. In fact, even though I fostered and loved him for months, I didn't recognize him when I visited his forever home recently! Dreyfuss has a long, shiny coat and a spring in his step I'd never seen before. He looks completely happy and is very much loved.

Volunteers Penny and Guy I. adopted Dreyfuss last year after reading his story in this newsletter. They are true lovers of "old gold" and very much wanted to take him into their home and hearts, so he could spend the rest of his life pampered and loved. Dreyfuss has several canine siblings -- one thing he loved at my house was playing with the other dogs -- a big swimming pool and all the snuggling he wants.

A true golden ending for some wonderful senior gold.

SEND US YOUR STORIES! Do you have a "Then and Now" story you'd like to share about a former GRRMF dog? Send submissions and photos to: GRRMF Newsletter Editor, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or email to: 2boatrats@comcast.net.

Then and now



RAINBOW BRIDGE

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay awhile and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same. Anonymous

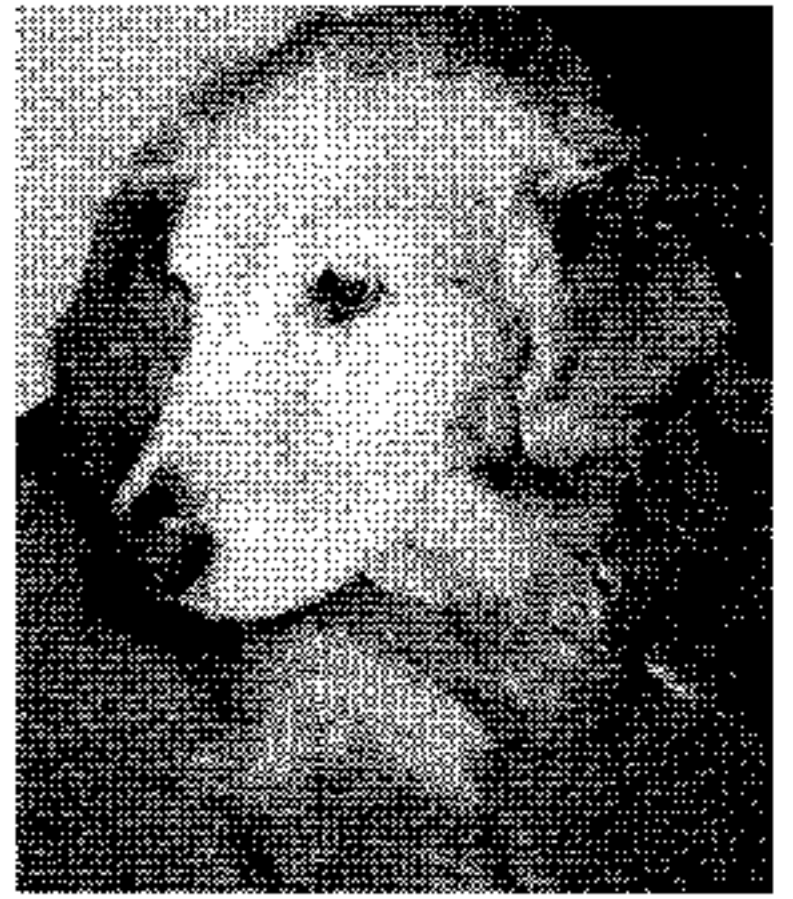


Ben, GRRMF dog #805, was helped to the Rainbow Bridge in July at his home by his mom, Kathy, and Dr. James Califf, a golden owner himself. Kathy writes: "In my all too short time with my sweet old soul, he brought me great joy, devotion, affection and companionship. Even though adopting a senior dog might mean less time together, it was a thoroughly rewarding experience. Thank you so much for bringing us together." -- Kathy Maltby

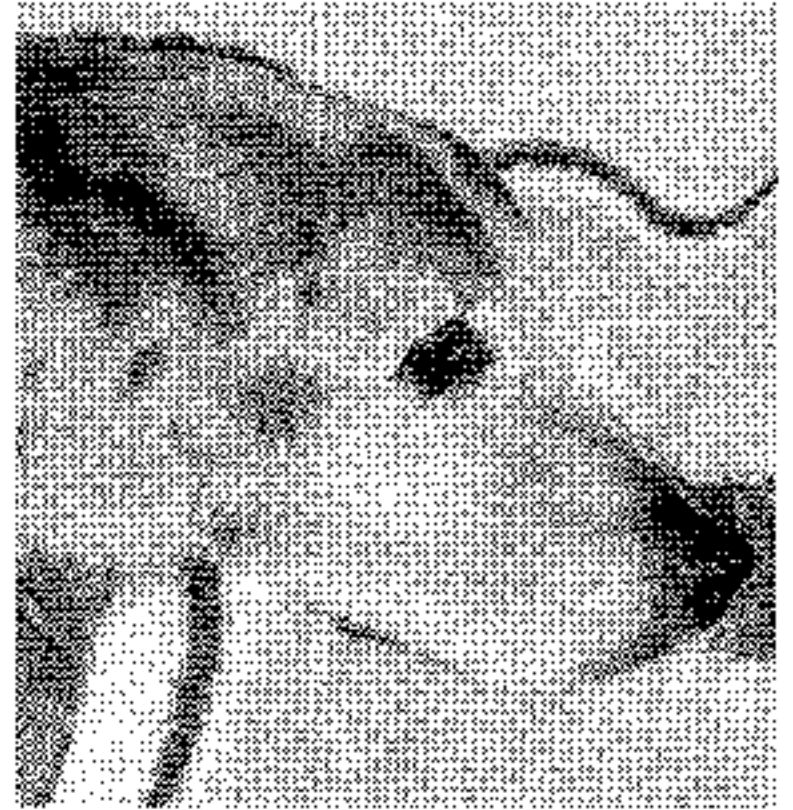
Dear GRRMF Friends:

A sad note to let you know that one of your wonderful rescued goldens has sadly had to be put down due to a massive tumor in her body cavity. **Casey** was with us 6 years and she was a fabulous, loving companion. After a very bad start in life, she came to us through your group. We spoiled her with love and attention and thoroughly enjoyed her time with us. Once the tumor was found after a brief time of lethargy and being off her food, there was only one decision left to make, and we chose to let her go rather than subject her to major surgery that only gave her a 25 percent chance of surviving a few more months. We wanted you to know that she was loved and cared for and that we thank you for being there to help these dogs go on to better lives.

With great respect for your efforts, Ernie & Maggie Mello



Rusty was on his last day at the Melbourne Humane Society when the call came in May 2000 from Kathy Spilker with an urgent need for a foster home. She said he was an old guy about 10 or 11 years old, with a laid-back, sweet disposition and she felt he was worth saving. We decided to foster him and when we picked him up from Dr Steiner's he came into the room and greeted us in dog talk, then laid on the floor and rolled belly up for us to rub his belly. We brought him home to meet his foster brother Brady and he kissed Brady on the muzzle. Both dogs got along well and knowing older dogs rarely get adopted we decided to adopt him. We had four years with him that we wouldn't have had if we hadn't received that call. Kathy was right -- he was definitely worth saving. Older goldens have so much to give. Sadly, in the end his spirit was willing but his body was not. He went to Rainbow Bridge on June 21. He will always be in our thoughts and hearts. Until we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge ... run free Rusty. -- Dave and Nancy Lowerhouse



Trevor was a really great golden. He was ready to have his 7th birthday when we adopted him from GRRMF in November 1999. Trevor was a very well trained and lovable addition to our home. We were only lucky enough to have him with us for four and a half years, and they were good years because of his companionship. He loved playing with his Frisbee and even attempted to play up to the day before he died. He is greatly missed and will continue to remain in our hearts for a long time to come. Trevor crossed the Rainbow Bridge on May 4 due to cancer. -- Charlene and Dan McLeod

Our sweet **Rembrandt** went to the bridge much too soon. The call came in from Animal Services about a senior golden left in the backyard after a family had moved. He was not doing well in the outdoor runs of the shelter; in fact, he was dying of heat exposure. Sandy S. answered the call, and soon he was recuperating in the comfort of air conditioning.

Rembrandt was the happiest, sweetest, most tolerant dog ever. He never stopped smiling, despite his arthritis, hip dysplasia, heartworm disease, two huge cysts and, eventually, cancer. He loved to play with the puppies and would escort Sandy from place to place as she served meals to the other fosters. When his body could no longer work for him, he smiled at Sandy as if to say "It's time; I have loved being with you".

He went peacefully to the bridge to be with his buddies for now.



Twelve-year-old **Bubba** was unceremoniously left in a shelter's overnight dropbox with a note on his collar saying they "had no time" for him. How much time could this sweet soul take? He joined Sandy's household like he had lived there his whole life. He was her "plug-and-play" dog whom she could take anywhere. Bubba would go on long dog walks, attend GRRMF Educational Day events and always be ready to sit up for a treat. People could not believe he was 12. When he was diagnosed with cancer, Sandy kept him on as a Hospice dog and treated him as one of her own. Bubba made lots of friends during his time with GRRMF and Sandy, and he is missed by all who knew him. He was the quintessential golden - happy, smiling, and gentle. He is gone from us too soon, but we take comfort in knowing that he was very much loved and cared for during his final months. With Sandy by his side, Bubba was helped to the Rainbow Bridge when the cancer took control just a few days after Hurricane Charley visited Florida. Our thoughts are with Sandy and the canine crew as they deal with the loss of this special boy.

Shortly after **Ninja** came to live with me as a foster dog in July 2003, he was diagnosed with a nasal carcinoma. In spite of the blockage in his nasal passage and the constant flow of "goobers" from his nose, Ninja was a happy dog. He refused to let the tumor bother him.

He loved chasing lizards, riding in the car, and was rarely without his hedgehog in his mouth. My favorite memory of Ninja is the day I noticed him staring at the golden retriever pictured on the wall calendar. He stood on his hind legs to try to reach the dog on the calendar. Ninja was as cuddly as a teddy bear which earned him the nickname "Ninja-Bear." He loved to snuggle and get hugs. When the tumor invaded his eye, I made the difficult decision to help him to the Rainbow Bridge on August 3, 2004. He stole my heart in the year that I had him and I miss him daily.

He was playful, funny, smart, resilient and affectionate-a very special boy. -- Jan Jennings



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GRRMF History: More than 1,500 Goldens rescued to date! 2004 rescues through October 1: 162!

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THANKS!

Big doggie kisses to our Golden Friends:
☀️**Home Visits:** Linda Arnold, Dawn Avolio, Carol Buczyniski, Nancy Carroll, Mary Chaundy, Pat Chesley, Irene Clifford, Jill Cornell, Penny Dalton, Jean Dixon, Donna Dossing, Gregg Eddie, Jodi Faist, Jordan German, Steve Jaffe, Judy Ladney, Terry Martin, Cheryl Maze, Renee Perkie, John Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Gayle Risley, Emily Rowe, Anitra Ruth, Randi Shoemaker, Colleen Sosteri, Sandy Sumner, Nicole Underwood, Lyn Wagner, Barbara White.
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☀️**Admissions Hotline:** Linda Arnold, Donna Dossing, Pam Marshall, Emily Rowe.
☀️**Call Team:** Linda Cohen, Vicki Ferros, Nancy Forster, Kathy Hendrickson, Penny Iannone, Sue Keiser, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Kathy Rozzo.
☀️**Transportation Volunteers:**
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Note: The GRRMF Board sends very special thanks to all volunteers and supporters - including those we may have inadvertently left off this list. Although we try to list everyone, our organization is growing, and we sometimes might miss a name or two.

Betty Taylor, Lynn Wagner, Rodney Wilcox.

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

☀️**Mail volunteers:** Carol & Hal Avey.

☀️**Master recordkeeper:**

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Clearwater; Dr. Robert Difonzo,

Movement Improvement, Oviedo;

Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary

Acupuncture, Winter Park; Dr. Bill Ehlers,

434 Animal Hospital, Longwood;

Fox & Friends Animal Hospital, Sun City

Center; Dr. Charles Gerhart, Southwest

Ocala Veterinary Hospital; Drs. John

Kirsch & Matt Oakes, Tampa Bay

Veterinary Surgery, Largo; Dr. John

McLemore, Gateway Animal Hospital,

St. Petersburg; Dr. Myburgh, Bright

Cross Animal Clinic, Venice; Dr. Martin

Neher, Palmer Ranch Animal Clinic,

Sarasota; Paddock Park Animal Care

Center, Ocala; Dr. E. J. Rackowski,

Treasure Coast Animal Clinic, Vero

Beach; Dr. Charles Steiner, Wickham

Road Animal Hospital, Melbourne; Dr.

Michael Schroeder, Animal Medical Clinic,

Spring Hill; Dr. Leland Simmons, Sand

Lake Animal Clinic, Orlando; Skyway

Animal Hospital, St. Petersburg;

Dr. Spencer, Gateway Animal Hospital,

St. Petersburg; Drs. Topor, Green

& Buchanan, Livingston Animal & Avian

Hospital, Lutz; Dr. Pam Wood, Wellington

VCA Animal Hospital, Wellington;

☀️**Education Days/Events:**

Many thanks to all who participate

in educational events around the state -

our dedicated volunteers and their gold-

ens are out there almost every weekend

spreading the word about rescue, which

is invaluable in finding homes for our

goldens! For schedule and locations, see back cover or log onto our Web site:

www.grrmf.org.

☀️**Staffs of** PetsMart, Pet Supermarket, Petco, Border's Bookstore and other businesses across the state, for letting GRRMF set up educational booths. We are grateful for all their support of our organization.

☀️**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, Sarasota; JaVic Dog Training, Melbourne.

☀️**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!

☀️**Dennis Grace of HealthyPetNet**, makers of Life's Abundance pet food, for donating food and supplements to GRRMF and also for setting up our new "Feed Your Dog, Save a Dog's Life" program - for every order GRRMF members place, GRRMF receives a percentage of the proceeds! Check it out: **www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html**.

☀️**Innova dog foods** for donating samples of California Natural food.

☀️**RDV Sportsplex** for donating tennis balls for our fosters and adopted rescues.

Call Team Volunteers Needed!

GRRMF is in need of volunteers

who may have a few hours a month to give

and who have e-mail access.

The Call Team is responsible for following up

on applications received and talking

with applicants about flags noticed

on the application such as potential off-leash

activities, fence types, nutrition, etc.

If you are interested,

please send an e-mail to **info@grrmf.org**.

Calling all volunteers!

Reunion Volunteers Needed ...

We are currently seeking to staff the 2005 GRRMF Rescue Reunion Team. We need someone to lead organizing the reunion, plus team captains to run our booths for raffle, silent auction, games, grooming, golden goods, food, welcome desk, etc.

Right now, the jobs are totally up for grabs, and if we can't find a team and a leader, we can't have a reunion!

Think of all those sad golden faces and tails falling, if they hear that we can't have a Rescue Reunion! That's unthinkable!

Last year was such a wonderful event and everyone had a great time.

We were so fortunate to have John Pfohler and Sally Anne Rowland heading up the effort.

If you are interested this year, please contact Barbara Durham at red2dogs@aol.com as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Do You Have Fundraising Experience?

GRRMF is seeking someone with management and fundraising experience

to oversee and coordinate fundraising activities throughout the state, with local team leaders working with him or her,

to develop a plan for fundraising throughout the year. GRRMF already does a lot of fundraising,

but we'd like to get better organized and have a plan for each year, with specific goals.

We also would like to potentially develop one or two large-scale fundraisers a year, like a dog walkathon.

This person must be team-oriented, be capable of managing events and people, and also be sufficiently detail-oriented

to make sure we maintain adequate records for each fundraiser so our Treasurer can keep them on file for IRS requirements.

We need someone willing to take on this responsibility who has a bias for action and the motivation to help our precious goldens

by raising money to fund their care. If you're interested, please email Barbara Durham at red2dogs@aol.com.

If we failed to mention you, please let us know - (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor at 2boatrats@comcast.net - and we'll try our best to list it next time. We couldn't operate without your help - you make a difference in the lives of hundreds of goldens!!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If it weren't for the generous GRRMF volunteers, the nearly 1,500 dogs we have saved would only be a dream. With no paid staff, volunteers are literally what makes rescue possible. There are way too many of these wonderful folks to feature just one. Meet a few of our hard-working volunteers, and watch for more spotlights in upcoming issues of Hearts of Gold ...



"I enjoy working with rescue because the dogs are great and the people are so dedicated to helping the dogs. I hope I can make a difference in the lives of the dogs." Emily is pictured with her two permanent GR rescues, Lexi & Lola (formerly Ava).

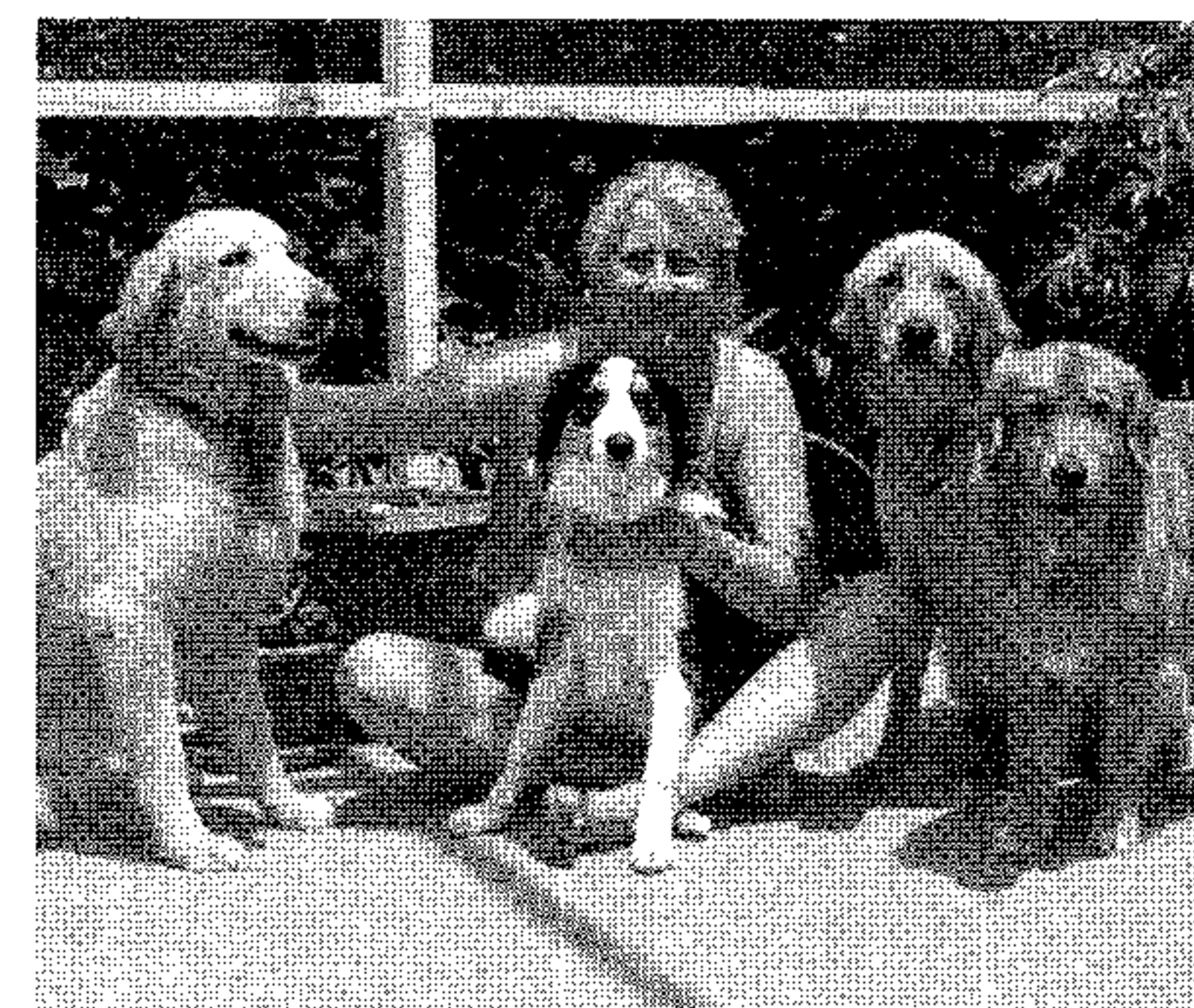
Emily Rowe

Emily is the West Coast Foster Home Coordinator, participates in education days and is on the Hotline and Home Visit teams. She started her journey with GRRMF about five years ago when she moved from a condo to a home. What is the most important feature of a new home? A golden, of course! Emily says her favorite part of rescue is seeing a dog starting a new life with its new family. "It really warms your heart to know a dog's history and knowing his or her new life wouldn't be possible without rescue and the generous people who open their homes to these dogs," Emily says.

"I LOVE being able to see those golden smiles and wagging tails when they are finally in their forever homes." Sue is pictured with Rocky, Keegan, Saxon (a "Sarasota 23" puppy) and Kaliegh.

Sue Keiser

Sue has been volunteering for GRRMF for about 2 1/2 years and first became involved after adopting JD, now called Keegan. Now she works on the phone interview team, conducts home visits, participates in education events, helps evaluate dogs and occasionally transports. The only job Sue doesn't take on is fostering. "I am definitely a foster failure - I even get attached during a transport," Sue says. She loves hosting the annual "Sarasota 23" birthday/freedom party and seeing all of those infamous pups reunite with their siblings.



"I have always said that we get more from rescue dogs than we give to them." Donna and Chuck are pictured with Tara, Haley ("Sarasota 23" mom), Wyatt and Remy.

Donna Dossing & Chuck Graves

Donna & Chuck got involved with rescue after adopting one of the "Sarasota 23" mother dogs, Ramoth now called Haley, and attended a PetsMart "Santa Paws" fund-raiser for GRRMF. They enjoyed the event and decided they wanted to get more involved. Now they do transports, the intake hotline, home visits, education days and fostering. "The best part of rescue is fostering and adoption day. We enjoy seeing the same look in the new owner's eyes that we had when we adopted Haley. It is so rewarding," Donna says. Whenever a call for help goes out, Chuck's motto is, "Let's do it!" Their equal interest in the dogs is something they can share.

"The satisfaction I get from helping these deserving dogs is immeasurable. I am very proud to be a part of this incredible organization of such dedicated people." Penny with GRRMF alumni Rudy, Mister, Dreyfuss, Opie, Bailey, Teddy and foster Chance.

Penny Iannone

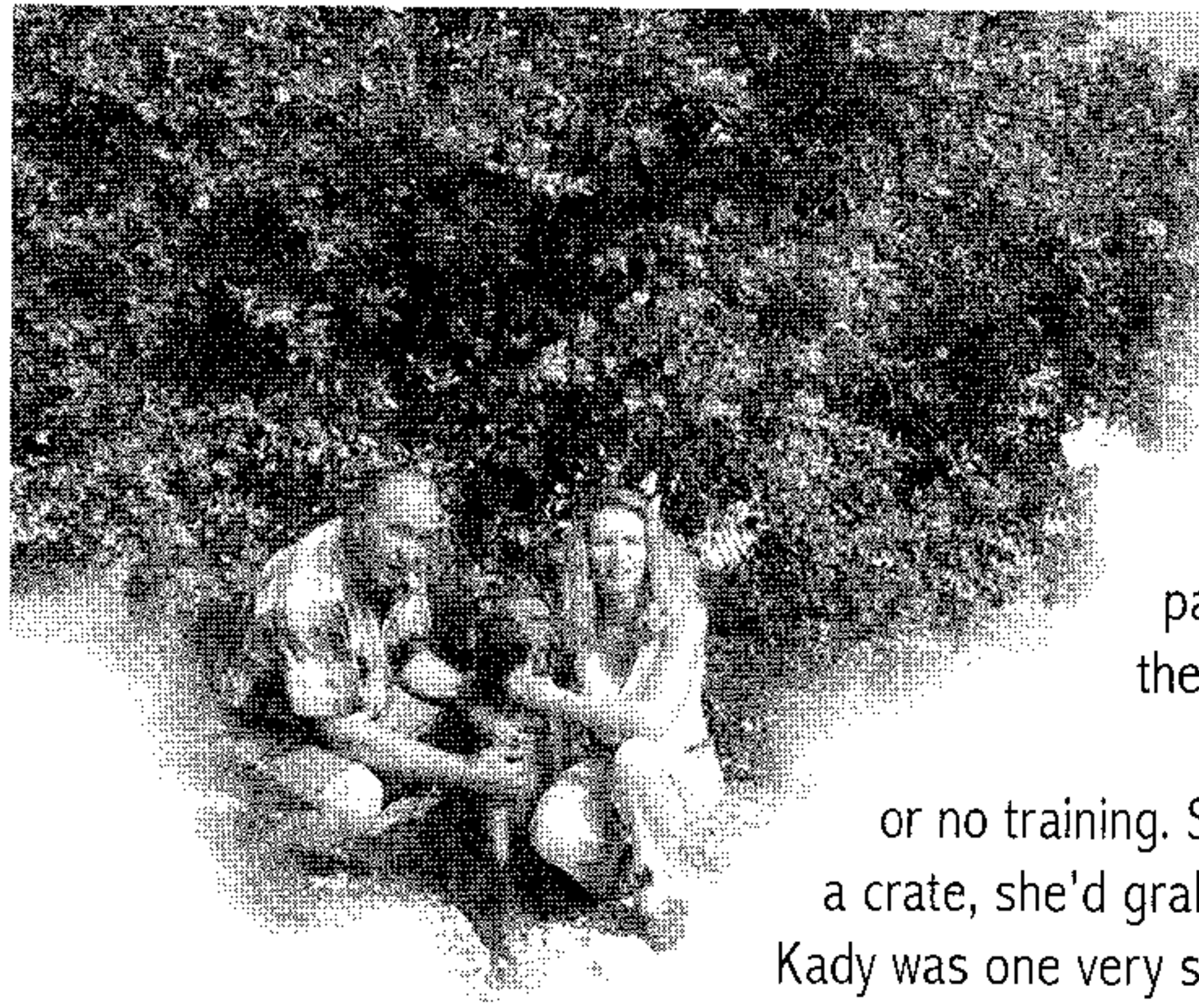
Penny is what we call an all-around GRRMF volunteer. She does just about everything and anything to help needy dogs. Penny does phone screens, transports dogs all over the state, conducts home visits in the Ocala area, scouts area shelters and helps with intake. Penny often takes on the difficult task of going to ID dogs. "I can't begin to explain all the emotions that hit you when you are there, rescuing a dog from the terrible life he or she has been living. It's a feeling like no other," Penny says. "I'll do anything that needs to be done to save another golden. When I look into the empty face of a golden I just took part in saving and see that first glimmer of hope in his or her eyes, it signals the beginning of the return of the dog's spirit. It is their way of saying thank you -- and that's all the thanks I need to keep volunteering."



"I love rescue, I do it for the dogs." Linda with Tiki, Arizona, Lady, Michelob, Benedict and foster Pelli.

Linda Arnold

Linda heard about GRRMF through a friend and knew it was something she wanted to be part of. She loves everything about helping these dogs. Linda coordinates the hotline, drives all over the state with her husband George picking up dogs, conducts home visits and is one of our invaluable foster homes. Her favorite part of rescue is seeing the dogs get their forever homes. Being on the hotline, she hears each dog's story from the beginning and finds it rewarding to see their outcome.



Kady's Story: From Trials and Tribulations ... to Triumph!

by Carol McKee, editor, Hearts of Gold

The first few days were a series of tests. One-year-old Kady tried the patience of her new foster parents, Charlie & Barbara White, and she tried the patience of her new foster siblings.

"When we first got Kady, it was immediately apparent that she'd had little or no training. She bugged the other dogs relentlessly, she barked whenever she was put in a crate, she'd grab toys and run from you, just for the fun of it. But it was also apparent that Kady was one very smart little girl," Charlie says. "We took her to a couple of obedience classes, and it was unbelievable how well she responded. We were elated to see such a turnaround."

"Kady has come a long way in a short time," Barb adds. "When we took her to PetsMart, she was terrified. And at the first obedience class, she seemed bewildered at all the dogs playing before class started. By the third class, she began to focus on me - she became very attentive and quickly picked up 'stay' and 'heel.'"

Kady's first humans had given up on her. Luckily, Charlie & Barb were a little more patient. And it's paying off, big time. But more on that later.

Is Kady a "problem dog"? Not really. She's just a perfect example of what happens to a golden retriever puppy if it doesn't get the direction and attention it needs from its human companions. And she's also the most common type of rescue GRRMF deals with - 1- to 2-year-olds with no training, no manners ... and lots of bad habits. Adolescents who have put their previous families through so many trials and tribulations, they finally got the better of them. And so, GRRMF and fosters like Charlie and Barb come to the rescue.

The Happy Ending ...

Soon, Kady was progressing so nicely, it was time to begin looking for a forever home for her. Along came Beverly & Alan G., who were delighted to meet Kady and took her home to meet their other resident golden, Joey.

Alas, Kady's adoption was less than perfect. She started picking on Joey, a submissive golden who began avoiding her at all costs. Kady, now known as Jenna, showed some aggressive behavior with him, and Bev contacted Barb. There was trouble in paradise.

The first order of business was to get Kady/Jenna back into obedience classes, and Bev also consulted with professional trainer Ed Wilson, who provided some specific recommendations to quickly correct her over-assertive behavior.

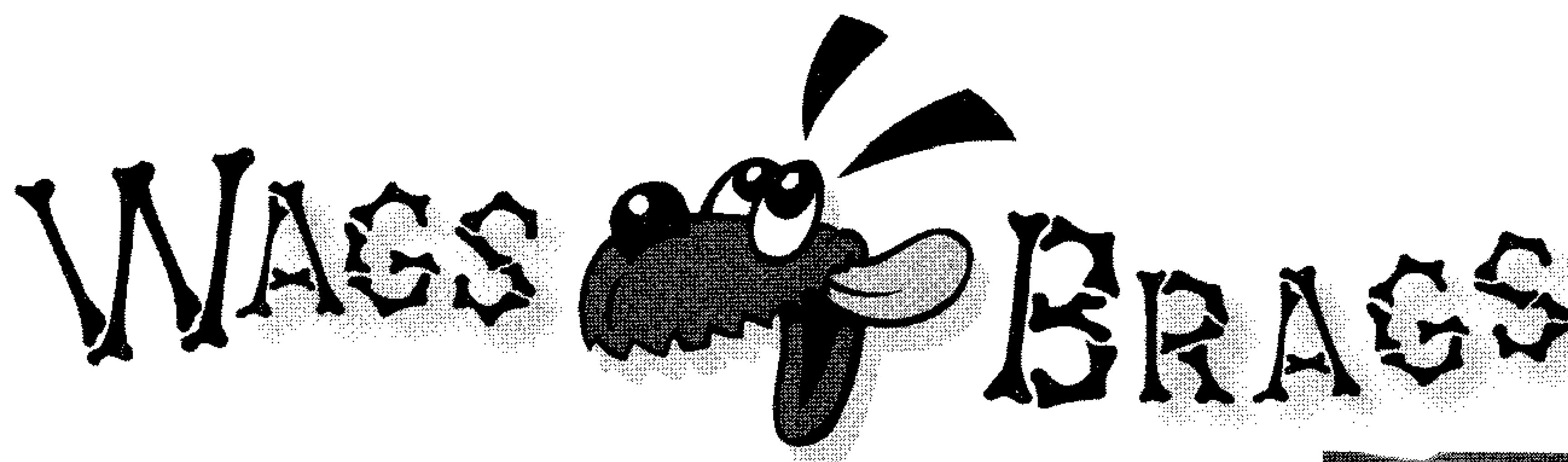
Jenna was just as quick to pick up on the new "leave it" command, which Bev and Alan were instructed to use "very consistently," together with a sharp sound to get her attention, then a yummy treat when she responded.

"Jenna listens extremely well, I think she is above average in intelligence," Bev says. "She is a pleasure to work with, very focused and attentive, especially for such a young golden."

Today, Jenna is the star of her ongoing obedience classes. Bev sees "great things" ahead for her - Canine Good Citizen certification ... maybe even agility classes. "She is so quick to learn, and she moves like lightning. She just aces her classes," Bev says.

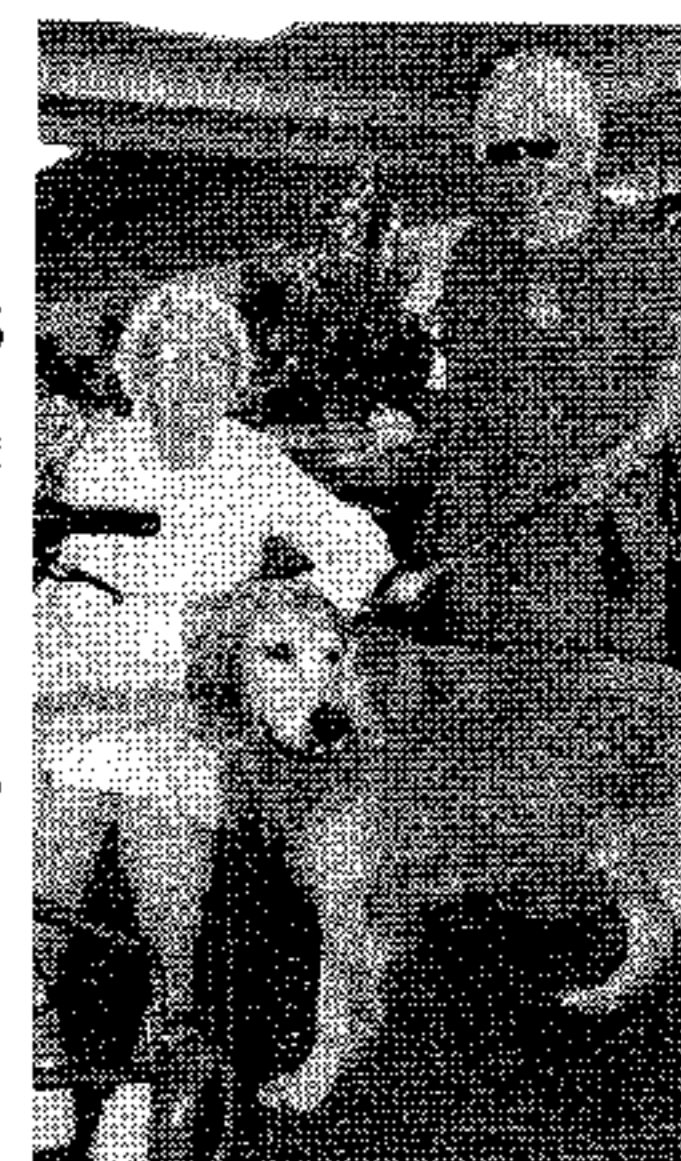
Things at home have improved as well. "It's taking time to establish trust between Jenna and Joey, but they seem to be well on their way," Bev says. "Joey's confidence has returned, since Jenna quit picking on him. She, in turn, is enjoying a playmate, which she lost when she scared him into submission."

The message is clear: All Kady/Jenna needed was someone to guide her, show her what's expected, show leadership and help her become a "good girl." This positive direction is something she obviously didn't get early on, but she's getting plenty of it now! Many thanks from GRRMF to Bev and Alan for sticking with her and not giving up when Jenna began asserting herself in the only way she knew how. Also, kudos to Barb & Charlie for providing her the opportunity to grow and learn - something that is invaluable to these dogs, and something that only our fosters can help with.



Good Deeds Define Benson's New Life

Benson, a senior golden, was on death row when GRRMF rescued him out of Animal Services. He was adopted by Michael Smith and accompanies his human on visits to his 91-year-old mother in an assisted living facility. From doggie death row to community service ... we couldn't have written a better ending for Benson's rescue story! Here's what Michael has to say about his new best friend: "Benson could be the world's most gentle and mellow dog. Nothing upsets him. A true Velcro golden. On our visits to the assisted living facility, all the residents go 'ga-ga' over him, and he just eats it up. Benson loves to jog with me in the morning, and I try to take him to the dog park at least 3 or 4 times a week. He enjoys boat rides, and he really loves playing with his "pack" that includes former GRRMF dog Justis, who has hip dysplasia, and Sadie, a 7-year-old pound pooch."



Unleashed is Unloved

by Tamara Znak, President, Delaware Valley
Golden Retriever Rescue

If we've said it once ... we've said it again and again ... unleashed is unloved. DVGRR has a strict, no off-leash policy and frankly, we sometimes get flack for it. Often, those applying to adopt from us ask, "do you mean that I can NEVER play Frisbee with her in the park?" Or they sometimes try to tell us that they are able to train their dog so well that a leash is not necessary.

As I sit writing this column, I am less than two hours past striking my neighbor's dog with my vehicle. I cannot fully describe the horror of seeing a dog I know run out into the street in front of me and not being able to avoid hitting her. I cannot full describe the sickening sound made when I hit her. I cannot fully describe seeing her in my rear view window tumbling in the middle of the street. Nor can I describe the disbelief, shock, fear, anger or terror I felt as I ran up to her bloody body lying in the road. I can't begin to list all the thoughts swirling in my head as I drove to the emergency veterinarian, my neighbor cradling his wife's dog in his arms.

One thing I can describe: how awful it is to realize that we don't know if she is going to survive, and that one simple object could have prevented this tragedy - a leash.

In spite of all this, I think the only one feeling worse than the dog (and me) right now is her owner. He knows he should have never left her unsupervised outside without a leash. What makes people as a whole (myself included) feel we can beat the odds? What makes us so sure the unthinkable will never happen to us? What makes us think that the mere ten feet between the car door and the front door is any safer than a heavily traveled road?

No matter the situation, I'm sure there are times when we've all felt we could beat the odds, that the odds wouldn't dare catch up to us. My question is: are we sure enough to place our dogs' lives on the line? How sure are we that that squirrel or neighborhood cat won't dart out and tempt our dogs into harm's way?

Frankly, no amount of confidence should lull us into complacency. It takes a split second, a blink of an eye, the beat of a heart for nightmare to unfold. This is why DVGRR insists on a no off-leash policy. There is no greater way for us to ensure that our dogs are loved and protected. **Please remember: unleashed is unloved.**

Reprinted with permission

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!

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!

PALM BEACH: Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park - Every fourth Saturday

If you are interested in helping, stop by at one of the above times/locations! Or call 407-332-2840, or e-mail info@grrmf.org and we'll hook you up with the Team Leader for that location. Check our Web site under "events" for the latest schedule in case of last-minute schedule changes.

ALL memberships/donations are tax-deductible.

E-mail: _____

Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly "HEARTS OF GOLD" newsletter and is on a calendar year basis. Memberships received after September 1 of any year automatically carry forward to the next calendar year.

Please check one:

☐ **General Membership \$25** ☐ **Sponsorship \$100** (for helping a dog in need — you will be recognized in our newsletter and receive notification of the special GRRMF dog you are sponsoring.)

☐ **Gift Membership \$25** for: Name _____ Address _____

Donations

☐ \$_____ to be used for general veterinary care for rescue dogs.

☐ \$ _____ to the Woody Fund for care of goldens with difficult medical problems.

 \$ _____ to the Capital Campaign for a home for Golden's.

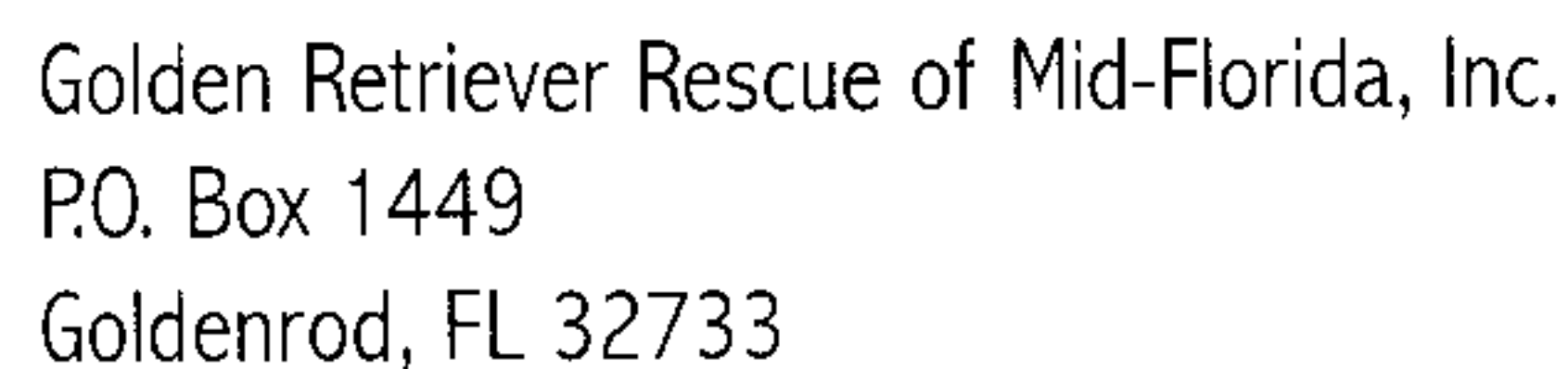
☐ \$ _____ to the Boarding Fund to help house goldens on a temporary basis until a foster home can be located.

☐ \$_____ for this purpose: _____

☐ \$ _____ in memory of _____ Send acknowledgment to: _____

☐ \$_____ in honor of _____

Mail form to: GRRMF, Post Office Box 1449, Goldenrod, Florida 32733. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



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