



Volume 8, Issue 2

HEARTS OF GOLD

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

SPRING 2005

Lessons of Bo

By Carol McKee

There was nothing "small" about Bo. First, he holds the record as GRRMF's largest rescue dog ever - more than 200 pounds. No doubt about it, he was one big hunk of golden love!

But, by far, the "biggest" part of Bo's story is the impact he had on the lives of those he touched. I remember when the first plea for help went out to the GRRMF volunteer community. Checking my e-mails one last time before bed on a Saturday night, I was shocked and horrified by what I read. Volunteer Susan King had gone to ID a dog named Bo as a potential rescue, and she took pictures. "I am in tears. I've never seen a dog in such horrible condition. He is sweet ... despite all ... he is laying on a patio surrounded by filth, he's covered in sores, he has a huge hematoma on his ear. He weighs 209 lbs and can't get up. How can we help him?!"

My husband and I cried over the pictures, and they haunt me still. How can we help him, indeed, was the thought that kept me awake that night.

It took four volunteers and a large SUV to transport Bo from that porch, where he was hosed off now and then, since he couldn't get up and was forced to lie in his own waste. His owners apparently thought it was funny - they made "fat jokes" as the volunteers struggled to get him out of there.

Once the word got out, the flood of caring volunteers -- from transporters to financial donors to the veterinary staff and his foster parents-to-be, Michelle & Kirk Martin, seemed unending, as we all rooted for Bo's recovery. Web site visitors and GRRMF members sent donations in the amount of pounds he lost the first week, and promised to send more. The veterinary staff adored him, and cheered as he went from needing four people to help him up, to three, and then, to two.

(continued on page 2)



Help is on the way: We found Bo lying on a back porch, unable to get up, covered in sores. He weighed more than 200 pounds.



Personality plus: Bo's personality couldn't help but bring a smile to your face.

IS YOUR DOG OVERWEIGHT?

As you now know from reading Bo's story, obesity in dogs is a serious medical problem. And just like their waistlines, the problem is growing. It is estimated that 25 percent to 50 percent of all American dogs are overweight. The bottom line: If you overfeed your dog, you are shortening his or her life span.

Assess Your Dog:

■ You should be able to feel her ribs without prodding. If you can't feel the ribs, or if you have to apply pressure to feel them, your dog needs to lose weight.

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

■ Stand directly above your dog and look down at him. Can you see a waist - does his body have an indent between the rib cage and hips? It should make an hourglass figure. Too much of an indent, and he's too thin. If it's not there, or if it bulges out, it's diet time.

Weight Control Strategies:

■ Start with a high-quality dog food. Measure his food and reduce the ration slightly - if you feed 1 cup per serving, reduce to 2/3 cup. Try this for a few weeks, and reduce by another 1/4 cup if necessary.

■ Add a half-can of no-salt-added green beans, cooked sweet potatoes or pumpkin to each meal to help your golden feel full without adding calories.

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

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

■ Establish a daily exercise routine. Sniffing around the backyard isn't enough. It might help to consider it a family effort - everyone can benefit from daily exercise!

■ Beware of "diet" dog foods -- many contain fillers such as peanut hulls, which are not nutritious.



A WARM AND FURRY REUNION ...
Highlights from the 2005 GRRMF Annual Rescue Reunion in Lakeland, page 12.



THEN AND NOW ...
See what Jacob, a real "Hooligan," is up to now! Page 11.



I'M ADOPTED!
Tucker was "all ears" when his new family took him home! Read about recent adoptions on Page 3.

**DON'T FORGET
TO RENEW YOUR
GRRMF MEMBERSHIP!**

Membership dues go toward veterinary care and supplies.

Without your support, GRRMF cannot continue our mission.

Memberships start at just \$25 per year and include a subscription to this newsletter. GRRMF is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so your dues are tax-deductible.

Please see the membership form on Page 14 and mail it in today!

A BIG THANK YOU!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

I'd like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our 2005 reunion a success. It takes an entire team of people to pull it off, and Linda Arnold and the crew did a fantastic job.

Remember, there is no annual rescue reunion if we can't find volunteers to host the event! Many golden thanks to everyone involved. And, thanks to all of you who participated in activities helping to raise a lot of money for rescue.

Our goldens certainly appreciate your generosity!

As we approach the summer season, I'd like to spread the word that we need foster homes. Our limitation in rescuing dogs is mostly a function of foster homes. Our present system is to admit dogs to veterinary offices, where they are boarded for a few days while they receive their medical workups and any initial treatment. But, as soon as we bring a dog into our program, we are doing so with the foster home in mind. It is our policy to try to keep the dogs moving out of boarding as quickly as possible into a foster home. While the boarding situation provides shelter and good care, it is the foster home that readies the dog for permanent adoption by assessing him or her in home environment. Some dogs also stress in kennel environments so moving them out quickly is key.

Please consider fostering today. If you have previously adopted from us, e-mail Foster Coordinator Kelly Mehigan if you are interested in helping out: kmehigan@cfl.rr.com. If you have never adopted from us, we ask that foster home applicants fill out an adoption application (available on the Web site), write "foster application" across the top, and send it to us. No application fee is required for foster applications. We try to tailor your foster to your needs. Maybe you are only up for a senior golden who is an easy keeper, but are okay that an older dog might not get adopted quickly. Or maybe you enjoy a challenge of a young, energetic dog. We'll work hard to find an appropriate foster for your situation.

Considering fostering today!

Barbara

(continued from front cover)

Looking past his grossly obese body, Bo had a personality that embodies all we love about the breed. Bo never stopped smiling and would scoot around the clinic to be near his temporary "family." Volunteers Gregg & Tom Eddie stopped in every few days to take pictures and bring him toys and blankets. Gregg whispered in his ear that soon, Bo would be going to a real "home," where he'd live inside, sleep on soft beds, and relearn how to walk and, eventually, run. His foster folks eagerly awaited for the OK to go pick him up, and plans were made for his rehabilitation. They researched diets, talked about swim therapy at Hip Dog in Winter Park to build muscle tone. Finally, on a Tuesday morning, we learned that Bo would be leaving the vet's office that Friday. The atmosphere was positive in the rescue community - it is such a rewarding feeling when we're able to help a dog like Bo, and it's contagious. Unfortunately, the next morning, just two days before he was to go "home," we learned that Bo had died peacefully in his sleep.

Bo's untimely death shocked us all. At the time of his death, he had lost 20 pounds and was improving every day. We knew he had a long road ahead of him, but we were encouraged by his progress. In the end, it seems Bo's spirit was stronger than his body, and he succumbed to his illness ... severe obesity. Bo was only 5 years old.

It just doesn't seem fair ... if anyone deserved a chance to live, and to be loved, it was Bo. But one thing we have to remember: Bo did not die in vain. Just look at the impact he has had on GRRMF ... on you, and on me.

What are the lessons we can learn from Bo? That we have strength in numbers. That together, we can make a difference in the lives of many dogs, just like Bo. Even though we lost this one, there will certainly be more precious goldens like him who need our help. We find a common ground -- a reason to volunteer, to donate, to be involved ... to care. There is a bigger picture here.

In her book *Bones Would Rain from the Sky*, Suzanne Clothier says it best: "There is a cycle of love and death that shapes the lives of those who choose to travel in the company of animals. It is a cycle unlike any other. To those who have never lived through its turnings or walked its rocky path, our willingness to give our hearts with full knowledge that they will be broken seems incomprehensible. Only we know how small a price we pay for what we receive; our grief, no matter how powerful it may be, is an insufficient measure of the joy we have been given. It is a fragile circle. But it goes round and round without end."

Ain't it the truth. Godspeed, Bo. May you be in peace, in a body unencumbered by physical illness, and may your spirit run free. We will not forget you.

STAY CONNECTED!

Join the GRRMF
Volunteer Internet Newsgroup

All you need to do is make sure you have sent in your GRRMF Volunteer Application and be sure to sign the back. Once it is received, you will be issued an invitation to the group via e-mail. This is our main way to communicate with GRRMF volunteers, and we also share many wonderful stories and helpful tips. We also have another newsgroup specifically for foster homes and their concerns. Once a foster home completes their foster contract, they will be sent an invitation to both the foster newsgroup and the volunteer newsgroup.

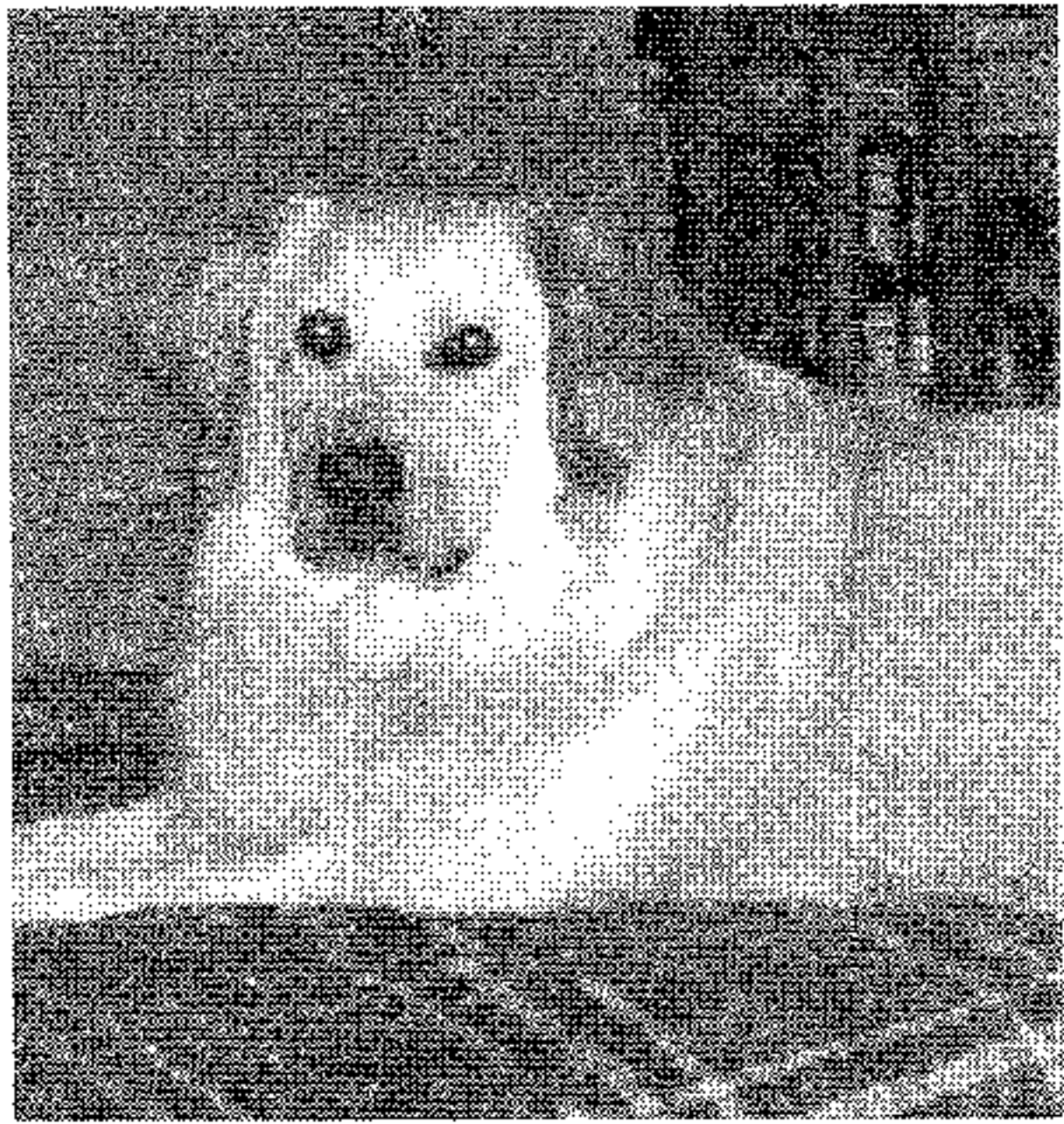


Questions about either newsgroup?

Volunteer Newsgroup: Diane Makinney: dmakinney@aol.com

Foster Newsgroup: Kelly Mehigan: kmehigan@cfl.rr.com

Recent Adoptions - Spring 2005



Dasher, 4 years, was turned into rescue by his owners, who said they wanted an "inside dog." Apparently, they gated him off in their hallway and he kept knocking

the gate down. Their interpretation was that he wanted to be "outside," but the truth is that Dasher is a real people dog and just wanted to be with them! They only had him for 5 months and had adopted him from a shelter. Dasher was overweight, but his foster mom Gregg E. saw through that and fell in love with his wonderful golden personality. "He was the best behaved, sweetest boy I've seen, and I kept questioning why twice in a short period of time he was turned away from two homes. I hung on to him, thinking some underlying problem would show up, especially once we got the weight off him." Well, 16 lbs later, he is still the sweetest boy ever... he fit in so well with his GRR brothers Cody, Spirit, Hadley and Tanner that Gregg & Tom couldn't bear to let this beautiful boy go! Dasher, now Cheyenne, is a permanent member of their household, and Gregg doesn't even mind the ribbing from other volunteers about being a "three-time foster failure!"

Oliver was a special guy who won all of our hearts. Confined to a small crate outside because he "would not hunt," Ollie was extremely thin and had lots of play



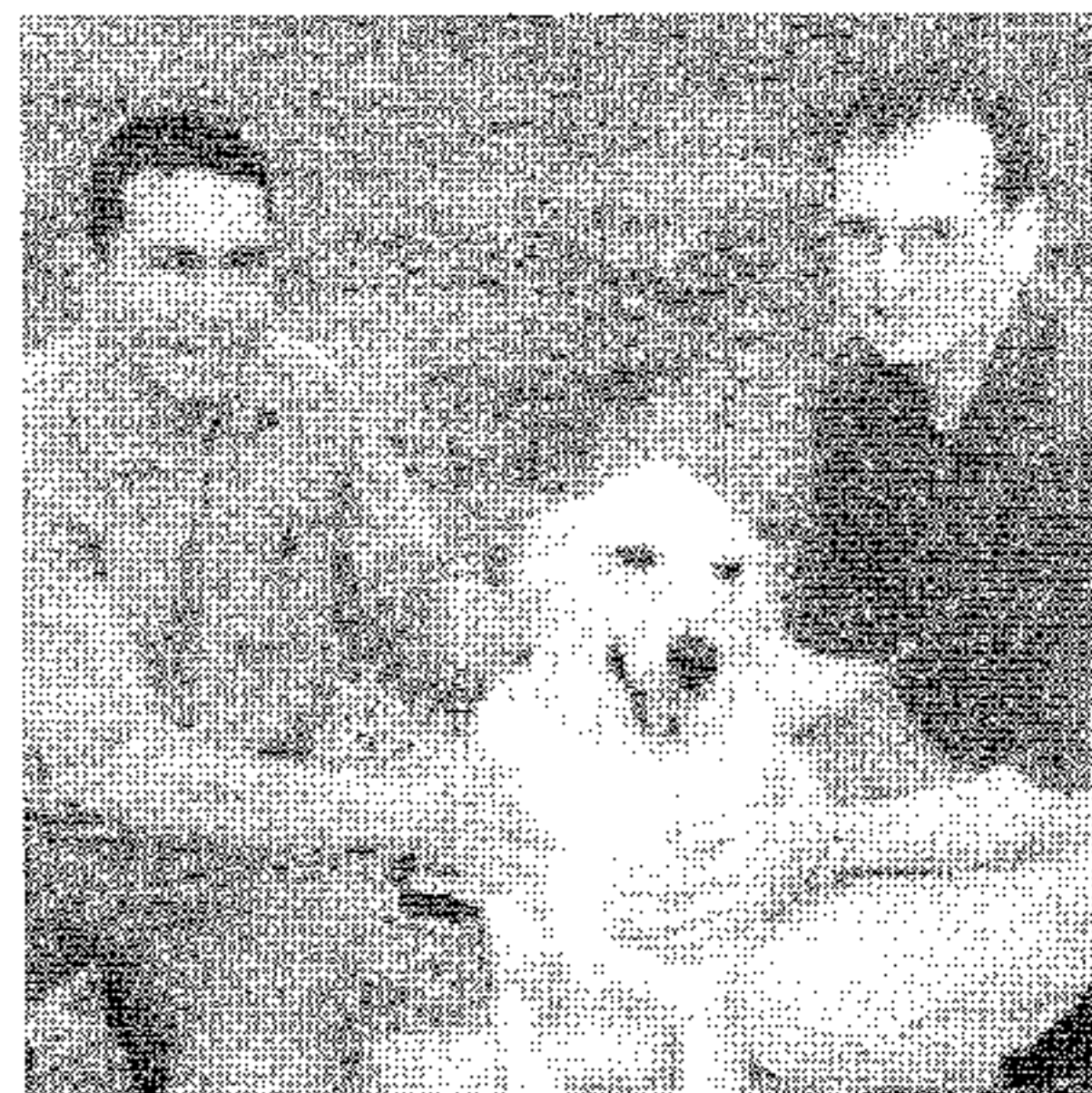
time to make up for after a lifetime in a cage. Adopted by the Z. family, he is loving his new life as the center of attention. He is always ready for anything that the family wants to do, and they feel blessed to have been picked by him. Mom Jackie says Oliver graduated at the top of his class in obedience school - good boy, Ollie! Most of all, Oliver enjoys his daily jogs with mom: "He loves it so much, and I am the fittest I have ever been because I don't want to disappoint him! He knows the whole route and never pulls on the leash."

At 9 years young, **Willa** was saved by a GRRMF volunteer from an animal shelter. GRRMF has no idea how the sweetest golden in the world ever ended up in a shelter. Willa was fostered by

Guillermo P., who helped her gain self-esteem while she was waiting for her forever home. Along came Joe D., who says that Willa is an ABSOLUTE dream come true, and that she is



really a beautiful golden, both in appearance and disposition. We aren't sure who fell harder for Willa, Joe or his rescued 10-year-old border collie, Sparky. All three are one happy family.



Dropped off at the vet to be euthanized, **Blue** came pretty close to having his short life ended. Luckily someone called GRRMF and Blue was saved. He was

adored by all who met him during his short time with us. Adopted by Gary P. and Graham, Blue's life is just beginning.

Lindsay was a stray found wandering and taken to a shelter. Rescue was called. Lindsay was fostered by Lori C. and family and found her forever home with Wendy R. who just adores her.

Trooper was found at a shelter looking thin and scared. He bears emotional and physical scars of an abusive past, including an eye so damaged it was irreparable. He earned his name through his perseverance and ability to survive his past. He is truly a "real trooper," in every sense of the word. He was fostered by Mona H. She could not bear to part with him, and neither could his canine buddy Daunte. So Trooper is now happy and lively and, our favorite part, not afraid of much anymore.

Sunshine was unceremoniously dropped off at a shelter because she was too rough with kids. Sunshine's real problem was just that she is a lively, active puppy, with no positive outlet for her energy. Adopted by Dennis D., Sunshine now has a dog play buddy and a dad who loves her very much.



Nicholas was born in between hurricanes. His mom, a golden, was found wandering a neighborhood.

She was picked up by a good Samaritan, and cared for through her pregnancy. Nick was one of her pups, and when the kind woman couldn't place him, she



called on GRRMF. Fostered by Sandy and her crew, Nick soon loved every dog and saw every day as an adventure. He was adopted by Arlene B., and he spends his days at doggie day care and playing with his canine buddies.

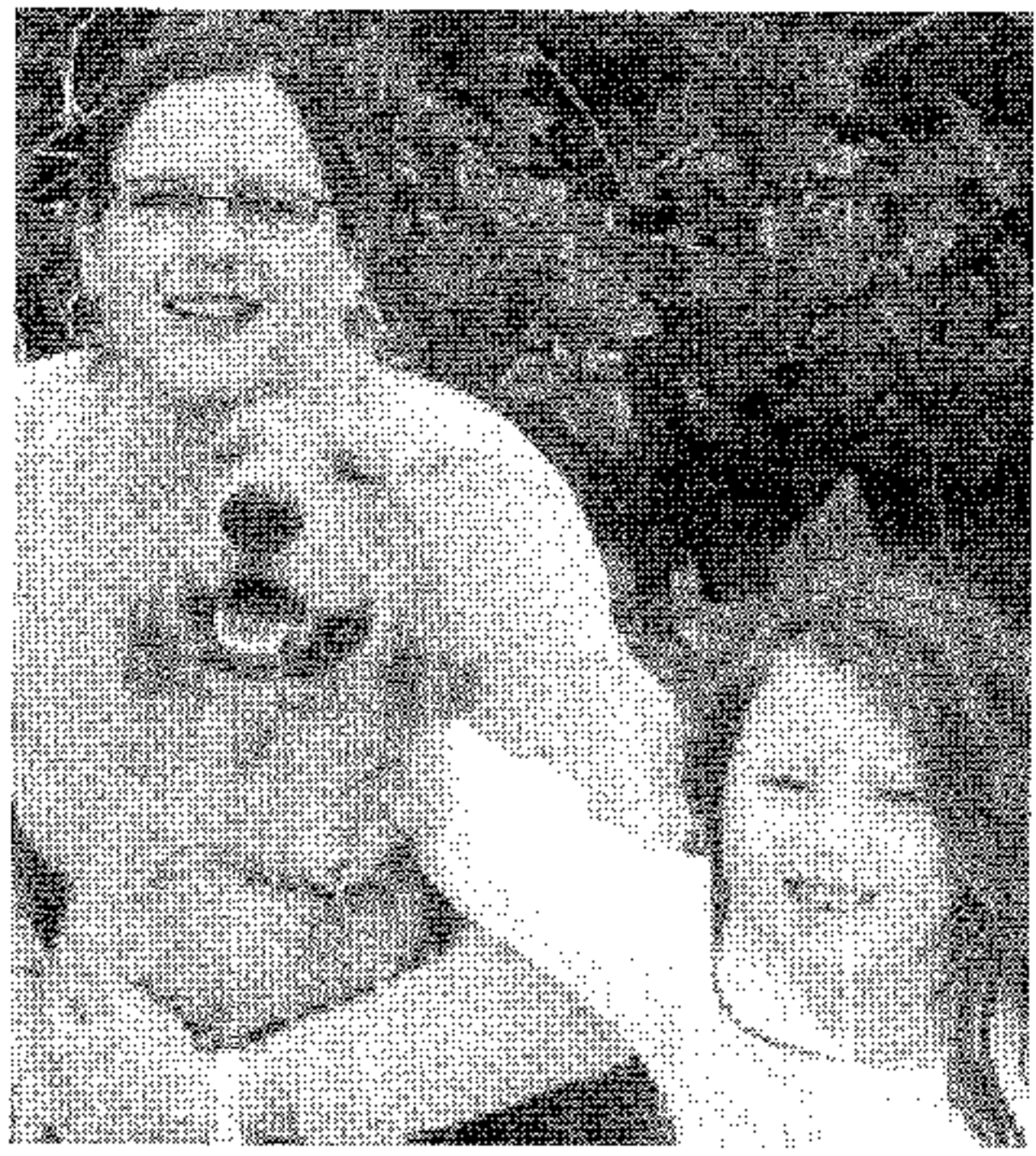


Sasha was given up because she was too energetic for the family's small kids - a story GRRMF hears way too often these days! If only people would take some time to

educate themselves and consider the long-term responsibilities of pet ownership! Well, all turned out great for little Sasha. Fostered by Chris and Tommy M., Sasha learned how to channel her energy by playing with her canine friends and swimming in the pool. She was adopted by the Pinckneys who are very much enjoying her puppy antics.

Kringle was close to being euthanized at a shelter due to being HW positive. He was fostered by Chris & Tommy M. and adopted by Jeff R. and Scott D. They took one look at Kringle and realized he was the perfect gift for their home and hearts. Kringle now lives a wonderful life filled with fun and love.





Gator was turned in due to allergies and another child on the way. He didn't have much of a life in his old home, as he was kept separate from the resident child. Not much

of a life for a puppy! This sweet boy was adopted by the Williams family, and they say that he has fit in perfectly from day one. Here's what his foster mom had to say: "To say it was a mutual love fest is an understatement! Gator loved them and they thought he was very special. When I see this happiness, it reminds me of why I am a foster mom (the pay bites but the fringe benefits are phenomenal). That little girl and that dog were made for each other. The 'GRRMF Village' has done another great job in finding Gator his forever home!"

Ty was turned into rescue due to no time and, big surprise, no obedience training. He is a high-energy guy, and Catherine and Peter H. knew that when they selected him. They say he is their "Energizer Bunny," as he just "keeps on going."



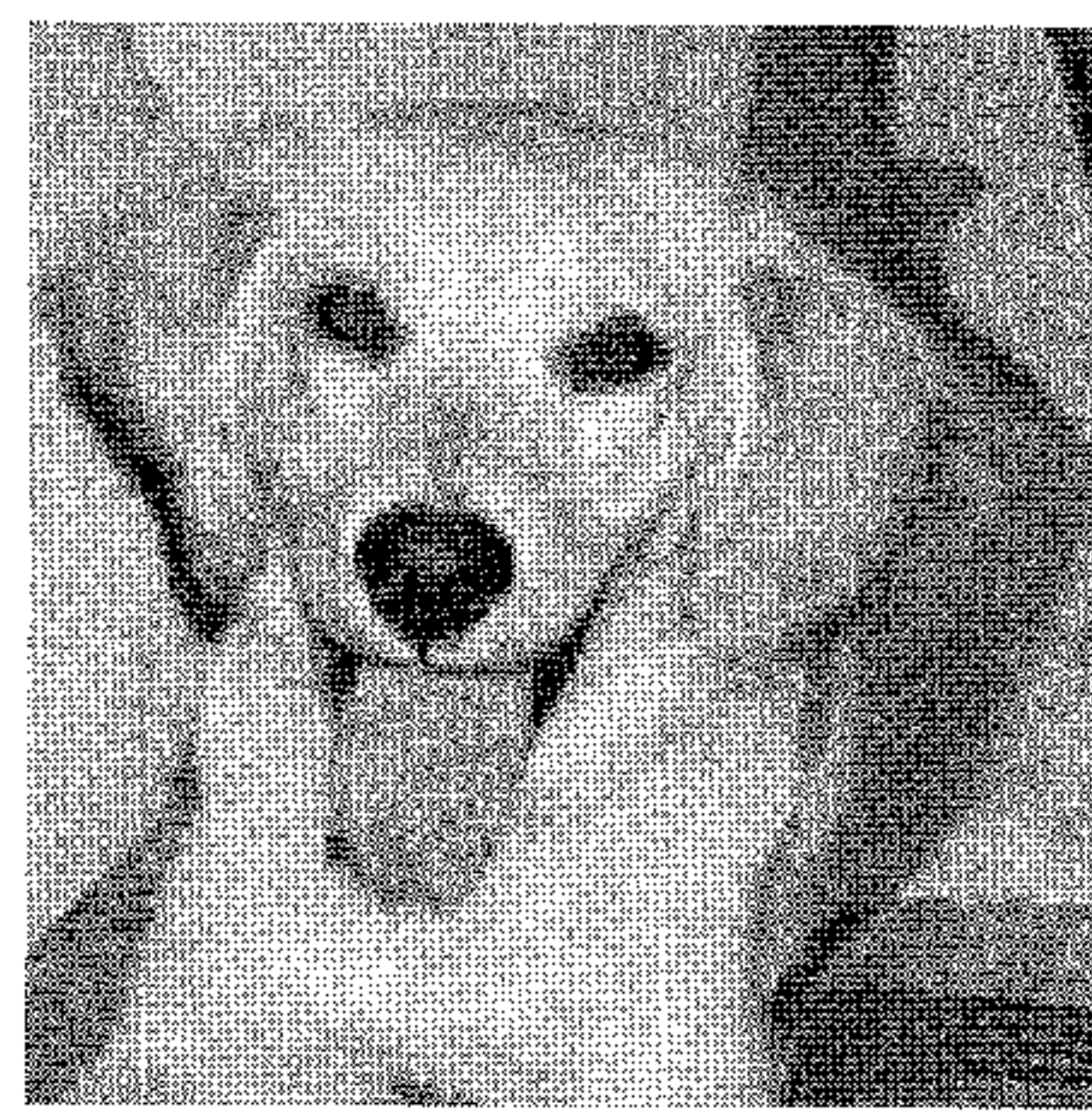
Casey, a goldendoodle - cross between a golden and a poodle - puppy was turned into a shelter when her novelty wore off for the family who purchased her. Like many puppy purchases, no research was done and they did not realize that she would get so big or be so energetic. Casey found her home with volunteer Dennis G. and wife and Noreen. She shares her new home with Amber, a GRRMF alumnus who very much enjoys having another canine buddy to play with.



Shelby was given up after 8 years because her family had no time for her. Shelby is a very social dog and needed to be in a home where someone would pay some attention to her. Soft and gentle, Shelby

found her forever home with Lona T. who thinks she is just as sweet as a dog can be.

Jersey, a little sprite of a golden, was purchased as a puppy by a woman who soon realized she didn't have enough time to spend with a playful and energetic puppy.



So off Jersey went to a shelter, who called GRRMF hoping we could find the right home for her. We did. Gordon and Mary R., who have adopted from us before, thought she was a perfect fit. She was adopted on a Friday and came to the rescue reunion with them on that Saturday, as if she had been with them forever. Jersey's new name is Hannah. We've been enjoying the "what Hannah is up to today" pictures and stories!

Bogart was no longer wanted by his family and turned over to the shelter. Bogart adores people and cannot get too much attention. Big and red, he is a handsome guy. Don and Diane L. and their family fell in love with him and he with them. Another happy ending.



Coquina was bought as a puppy to be a buddy for an older dog. This did not work out for either dog, as the senior dog tired easily,

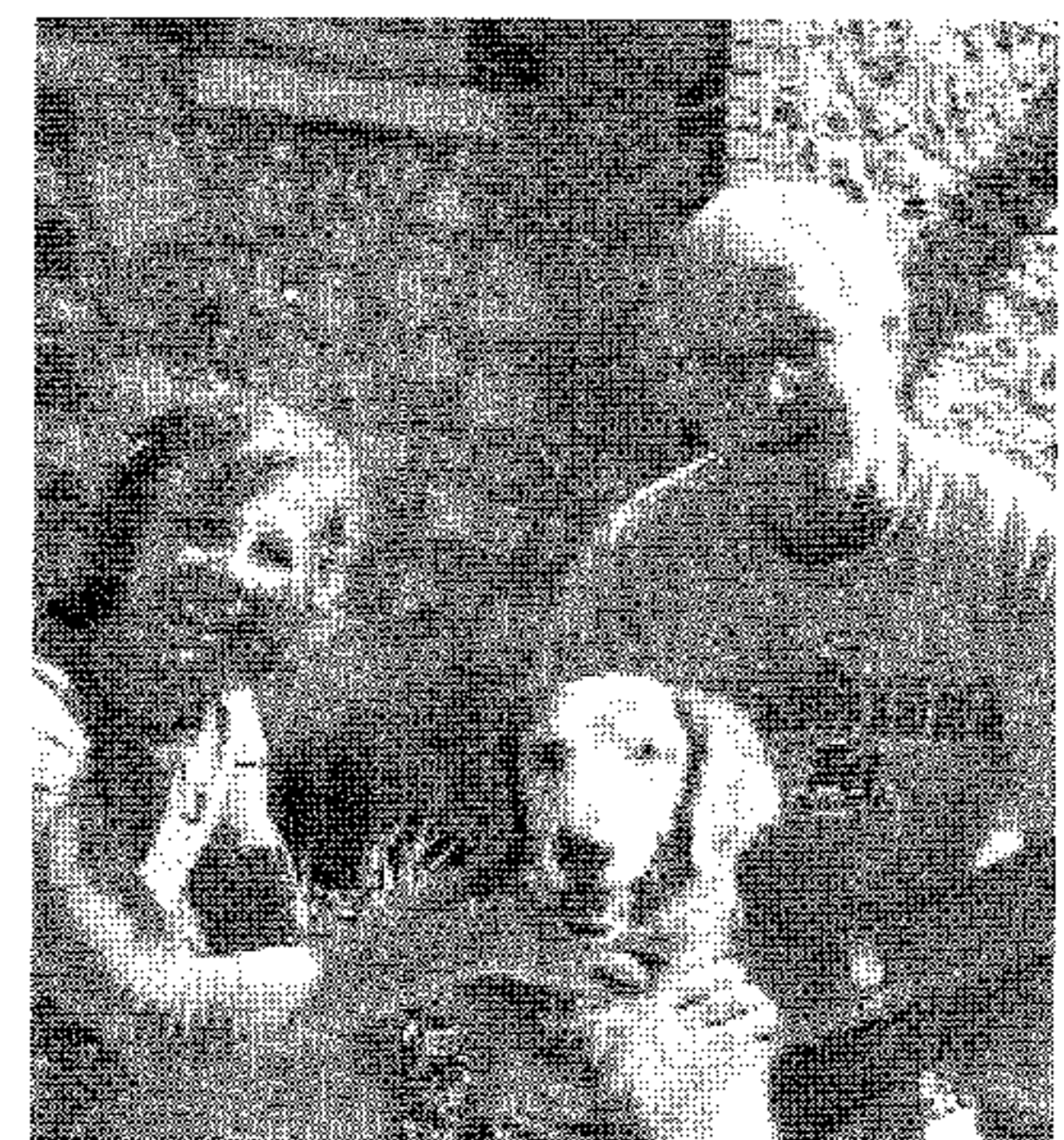
and Cokie was left frustrated, with a lot of puppy energy to burn off. Cokie needed a new home. Adopted by Valerie and Chris W. and their dog Merlin, Cokie now has a new home filled with love. She fit right in from the beginning.

This big **"Red Man"** with the soulful eyes found himself in rescue due to allergies - both his and a family member's. At more than 100 pounds, he also had a few extra pounds to lose, which



came off nicely with the new diet and regular exercise. Redman is a true "gentle giant." He loves everyone and everything and plays gently and nicely with both dogs and cats. He knows all the basic commands and is very well behaved. Most of all, Redman enjoys being by your side and relishes in every second of attention he manages to get from his humans. Sound perfect? We thought so, too, and soon Redman was off to his new home. Unfortunately, his new folks said they didn't "bond"

with him, so Redman was returned. That was all it took for Bob & Mary C., Redman's foster folks, to seal the deal - they adored him and felt it was just mean to be. Redman is now where he belongs, by Bob's side.



Chance II was turned over to rescue at 7 years old. His owners said they "no longer had time for him." We're not sure how much time it really took to keep a dog

gated in a kitchen his whole life, but we were glad to welcome Chance to our GRRMF family. We knew that this pretty golden deserved a "Second Chance," and he got it with Bob & Kathy G. Chance's foster mom Bert H. waited patiently while GRRMF found the perfect family for him. Bert said Chance was a big "mama's boy" and needed a human he could bond to. He found it! According to Bert, "Chance is a lucky boy. When he first met Kathy, he put his head in her lap, and the rest appears to be history!" Chance has a "big brother" Russ, who attends the University of Florida. Russ traveled all the way from Gainesville so he could take part in the adoption, and Chance has already visited Russ at UF. A recent note from Chance's new mom: "Oh, my gosh! We are in love! He's settled in, is eating well and enjoying nice long walks. He met my mother today for the first time and warmed up to her immediately. Even the cat got to wash his face last night! As you can tell, we are delighted and enjoying him very much. Thanks again for letting him become a part of our family. We are thrilled!"

Ginger, 2 years, was surrendered to rescue when her prior owner moved. Ginger, who previously was the center of attention, all of a sudden was being picked on by the little dogs she was sharing her new home with. In fact, the prior owners



said she wasn't very friendly with dogs. She was fostered by Bert, Chuck and family along with two golden kids whom Ginger adored. Ginger didn't have a mean bone in her body. She was adopted by Ginny and Robert S., who had the following update: "Ginger is such a dear. She is just so gentle and kind, I cannot understand how anyone could have given her a bad time. We are so happy with her I cannot tell you how much. You are wonderful people and doing wonderful things for these lovely dogs."

Thanks again for all you have done. God has a special place for people like you." Special thanks to foster bro Aaron, who bonded very strongly with Ginger. He was sad to see her go, but as a parting gift he presented Ginger with a stuffed bear his uncle had given him when he was born. Ginger reportedly carries her new bear around everywhere.

Belle was turned back in to rescue after several years, due to her owner becoming very ill. She was adopted by Dennis & Laura B., who say she is an absolute joy. Belle has settled in nicely and is very happy in her new home. Many thanks to all involved in her foster care and to her new folks for giving her another chance to have a happy life!



GRRMF took in **Shana** when her humans were facing eviction from their home due to having a pet. So they decided to re-home Shana after 9 years. Char B. opened her heart and her home to Shana for almost one year until Shana's forever family could be found. Shana was one of those perfect goldens

who could just tug at every heart string. Char had a very hard time letting her go, but it was easier knowing that she was going to live with Joanne G., who has taken over just where Char left off. Joanne has written several times to let us know that Shana is very happy in her new home, that she is well behaved, loves her walks, loves all the attention she is getting and loves being loved on. Joanne is enjoying her immensely and learns something new about her every day. Great and terrific are just two of the ways Joanne describes Shana, but the one word that describes her the most is Happy, which is now her name. Joanne thinks a lot of people passed up a wonderful dog in the long time Happy was in her foster home and believes it was meant to be.

Four-year-old **Brandy**'s human was faced with sadness and pain in her life, which led to more sadness when she had to give Brandy up. Brandy was a real "cream puff" - including her waistline. She was over-loved in her prior home with extra cookies. The happy ending to this story is that Brandy was fostered by Jonathan and Kim E., who within a few days knew that she was their perfect fit. They said she fit in like she lived with them all their lives. No more cream puffs and cookies for Miss Brandy - she is on her way to a healthier lifestyle!

Living the life of a princess is what 5-year-old **Tiara** is doing with Bill and Joyce F. After being relinquished to GRRMF by a single mom with no time or money, Tiara spent some time with foster parents Regina and Marcel V., and soon she was on her way to her very own "happy ending." Tiara now spends her days living the life of luxury and accompanying her new mom to work.

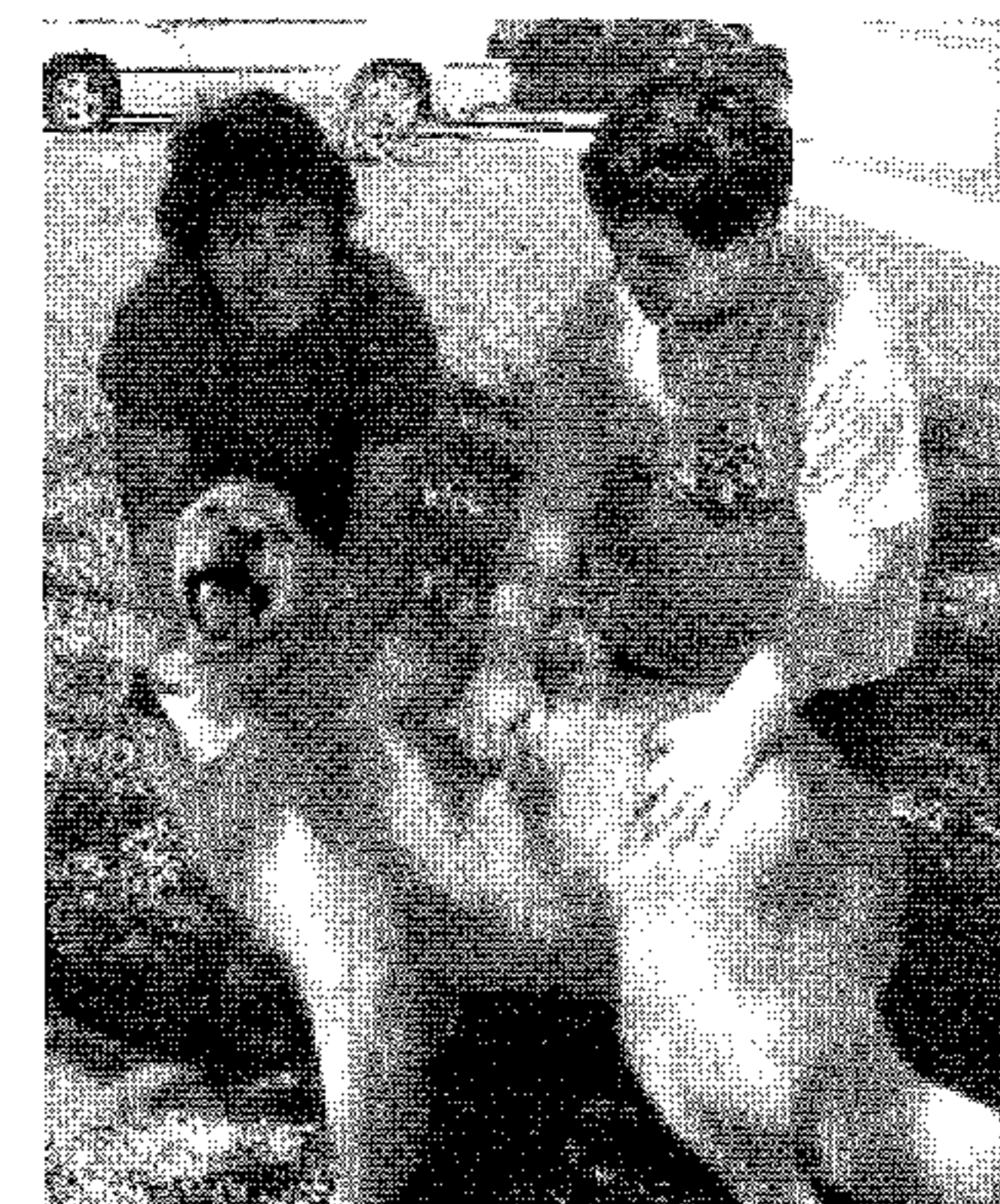


GRRMF received a call from a local shelter about a 6-year-old Golden who had been with them for six weeks, getting passed over again and again due to his age. Emily and Velma stepped in to help in transporting this wonderful soul named **Travis** by running down to the shelter and pulling him out. When they met him, they instantly fell in love and decided to foster him until he picked out his new family. His new family came quickly as he was one handsome and well-behaved golden. GRRMF has no idea why such a gentleman landed in a shelter in the first place, let alone spending 6 weeks with no one snapping him up. But their loss is his gain, because Travis has a perfect new home! He was adopted by Marjorie and Patrick R., and renamed Charlie. He will spend the rest of his days in a soft cushy bed vs. the hard concrete cell he was locked up in.



Makayla, 7 years, was a well-mannered lady who found herself without a home. She was pulled from animal services by a GRRMF volunteer and fostered by Kristy and Wade until she found her new home with Cookie and Stu, along with a new golden sibling. Hooray for Makayla!

Goldie Blue was rescued from a shelter and sent to the Sumner Boot Camp, where he went from 110 to 98 pounds. He is a beautiful golden boy and picked Cathy and Matt F. to go home with. As soon as these two boys met, it was apparent they were meant to be together. Cathy committed to keeping Goldie, now named Grady, on his green bean diet, and bought a case the very next day. They have started Grady on a new exercise routine of regular walks and swimming and tell us he is continuing to lose those extra pounds.



Miss **Sadie Mae** was being mistreated by her owners when a kind warm neighbor stepped in to save this sweet gal. She was fostered by Bert, Chuck and family, where she learned all about living the good life. She was adopted by Crista and Mark R., who renamed her Kai. They just adore her and she them. Kai now lives with 2 other goldens, a few cats and a new human boy as well.

Cody ranks up there among the top 5 scale tippers, coming in at around 150 pounds. While in long-term rehabilitation with foster folks Darcy and Kinzie W., he dropped enough weight to equal another dog and blossomed into a beautiful mahogany-colored boy. He was hard to let go, but Darcy knew it was meant to be when Vickie and Jim K. took him home.

Kirby was going to be euthanized at animal services. The boy with the sad-sack face and weepy eyes was pulled by a GRRMF volunteer, who saw through his many maladies into his heart of true gold. Kirby was treated for heartworms and underwent eye surgery. While in foster care with Lynn W., he became a "new dude" both emotionally and physically. That new attitude earned him a forever home with Elizabeth and Ellis Michael, who renamed him Rusty.

Laddie, a beautiful boy, was turned in with his litter mate Lady when their owner died. Laddie was fostered by Melissa and Ed W. and adopted by Pat and Louie L. His new parents say Laddie is shy and spooks easy if you have anything in your hand, such as a water bottle, camera or cell phone, but are carefully working him through it with love and patience. They are enrolling him in obedience classes to help with the bonding process and are in it for the long haul.





"Lady Luck" was kind to our **Lady**, too. She was fostered by Bert H. and adopted by the parents of one of Bert's former fosters, Rainey. By the time they left Bert's house, Rainey and Lady looked like they had never been apart.

Bear, 5 years, came to us unneutered and with skin problems. His foster mom Rebecca G. fell in love with him - who wouldn't! - and worked very hard to improve his coat and skin. Bear was as

sweet as they come, and we knew he wouldn't last long. He was adopted by Brian L., who adopted Zeus/Prince from GRRMF last year. Although it was tough letting him go, Rebecca realized that Bear was going off to lead a wonderful new life with Brian and his new canine brother Prince. All's well that end's well, we say! Bear is very happy in his new home, Rebecca has gone on to foster again, and this story can come to a happy ending!



At 10 years old, **Mandy** was given up because her owner had allergies and asthma. Mandy is 10 years "young," full of spirit and enthusiasm. She is the perfect lady - very gentle and loving, and completely housetrained. She was lovingly fostered by Jim & Pat H. and adopted by Jim and Donna T., who formerly adopted 12-year-old Brandy from GRRMF. When Brandy passed to the Rainbow Bridge, they were looking for another golden companion, and they know a secret - they love the seniors! Anyone who has not accepted a senior golden into their house has missed out - there is nothing in the world like "old gold"!

Just 2 years old, **Sarge** came from out of state. His owners moved to Florida and left him tied outside. Seeing him left outside, vulnerable and alone, a kind neighbor asked if they could take him in ... and called us. Sarge was fostered by Barb & Frank M. and adopted by Terry & Kerry B. and their golden gal Katrina. He is now called Callahan. Terry's recent note says it all: "He is the most incredible golden I've ever met. He is so smart I can't get over it. He's taken to everything really well and he is very happy. Katrina started off a bit cranky about him but they seem to be making friends. Callahan brings his ball with him when he drinks and drops it in the water dish and then takes it back when he's done. He can't figure out why I spend so much time laughing. We can't thank you enough for all you've done for him. He is just what we needed and we are so grateful to you for caring for him until it was time for him to come home."



Buddy came to us from a family who thought he was getting too mouthy with the kids. They were living in an apartment while building a house, and they didn't like it when they let him run free on their land only to have him swim in the pond and get all dirty. Buddy was only a baby (7 months) and just needed some training and a leash. His new family adores him and renamed him **Tucker** as that is what he does best. He has a Labrador retriever and a human boy as play buddies, so Tucker is getting plenty of opportunities to use up all that reserved puppy energy. He sleeps in the bed with them and is also getting some much needed training. He was adopted on Easter Sunday, so foster mom Kelly M. made him wear the ears. How could anyone resist that sweet little bunny boy?

LOVING OUR GOLDENS

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

This month, we had one of the most heartbreaking stories ever. Bo, a 209-pound golden, was being given up by his family. Who can forget those horrific pictures of Bo - fat, swollen, unable to get up on his own, looking like a dog twice his age (he was only 5). He looked like a manatee.

What was most horrendous about this story was that the family fed him candy and cookies and thought it was funny that he was so fat. They failed to give him his thyroid meds but fed him sweets every day.

It took four people to carry him on a stretcher to the car. It took four people to get him up just to go out to potty. Needless to say, his former "family" (I use that term very loosely) never took him out, so he was forced to lay in his own mess until they would hose him off.

The whole story is heartbreaking. He came to GRRMF, and many wonderful folks worked very hard to get him back on the road to good health. In situations like this, it is heartwarming how people come together. With good diet and thyroid meds, Bo had lost over 20 pounds. Unfortunately, his heart had taken too much abuse over these past five years and, despite our best efforts, Bo passed in his sleep on April 12th.

We all know that we would never let our dogs get like this. We love them too much. But how many of us can say that our dogs are in tip-top shape with little or no extra weight on them? I know that my Gracie is like her mom and fights the battle of the bulge every day. Both of us love sweets and tend to carry our weight on our middle. It is a struggle every day. But after seeing poor Bo, I am making an extra effort for all of us to keep trim. I want as much time as I can with all of my kids. So more green beans and less kibble in the dinner and carrots or animal crackers as snacks are the norm (at least for my dogs).

We do more walks now and play ball or chase every day. Take a peek at your golden. Can you feel the ribs easily? Do you see a waist? Do they look fit or kind of loose and soft? Love your golden enough to give him or her the gift of a long life. I would rather Gracie had fewer treats now and more nights to snuggle in bed with me.

Sandy

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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

Rudy came to us on October 1, 2001. He was truly a godsend. His love and devotion were unmatched. When he wanted to have a little extra attention, he would come up to you, put his paw in your lap and look at you with those big, beautiful brown eyes until your heart melted (usually no more than 15 seconds) and you gave him more loving. He had hip problems and arthritis and later developed spondylosis. Last month, he also developed cancer which left him in unbearable pain. Amputation would have ended the pain, but he wouldn't have been able to support himself with the hip problems. He went to the Rainbow Bridge yesterday and will truly be missed. We all loved him dearly and will miss him, but find solace in knowing the pain has finally ended and he is running with all the others who have gone before him to pave the way.

Sandra & Virginia Curtis

It is with great sadness that I write. Jon and I were at the Emergency Clinic with **Devon** (formerly Bobby) for most of the late afternoon yesterday. Although he had seemed fine in the morning, when I got home he didn't want to get up, had loss of bladder control and his gums were white. He felt cold to the touch even though his temperature was normal when I took it. X-rays showed an enlarged heart to the point where it was pushing the lungs off to the sides and back. He was critically anemic and, while they couldn't be sure it was blood around his heart without doing a needle biopsy, he was definitely not doing well. They suspected he might have tumors on his heart, his spleen, and other areas but didn't see the point in doing more X-rays considering what they could already see. So, as hard as it was, we said goodbye to our big red boy, thanked him for all the love and joy he gave us for the years he was with us, and, at 13+ years, sent him quietly to the Rainbow Bridge. I thank you for the day Jon and I met and fell in love with Devonshire. His skin condition and the fact he needed medication twice a day was making it difficult to find him a forever home. With lots of trial and error we finally got his skin condition under control with some quality food and supplements. His ears were always going to need monitoring, which was OK with us. He has blessed us a thousand times over with his silly ways, his comical cowlick and his love of life. Hug your dog.

Love, Linc & Jon Hay

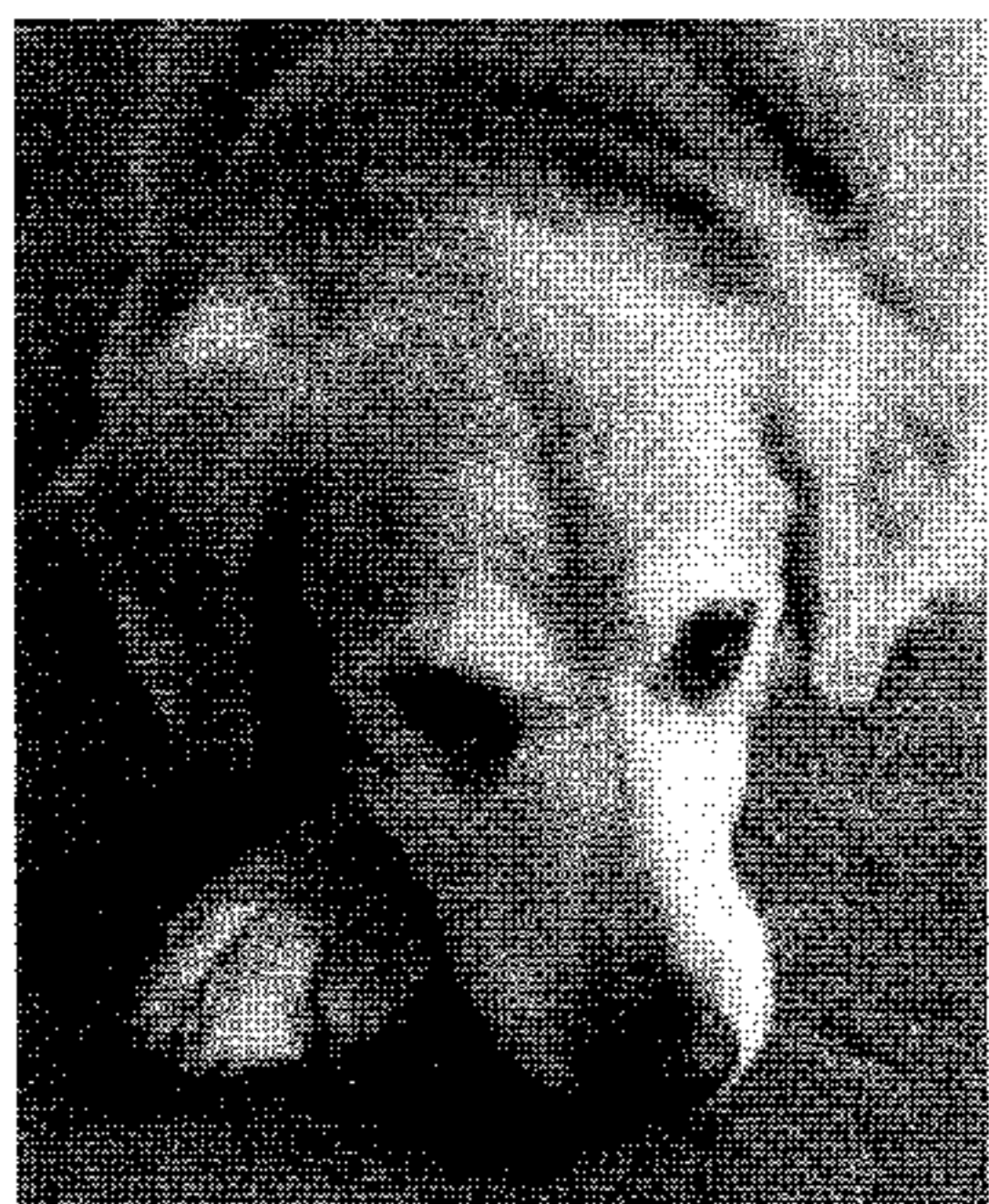
Only four short years after we adopted our adored **Sundance**, we went through the grief of losing him. When our eyes met with Sundance's over the counter at Dr. Steiner's office, we knew we were meant for each other. Sundance was always at our side and seemed to sense our feelings. As his days came to an end, he continued to limp his way to us to be near, even though it was painful. Without any effort, Sundance brought us comfort happiness and continuous love. Finally the day came, I went to our vet to buy more pain medicine. My husband was beside Sundance when I walked over with the medicine bag, Sundance caught my eyes and I truly believe he was telling us "it is time - I've had enough." His paws were shaking. So, with that look, we brought him to be at rest with our other two goldens Trigger and Brandy. God bless you Sundance.

Bill and Lorraine Fritz



I'll never forget the first time I saw **Bo**. My initial reaction was horror and sadness, but I soon found myself with a big smile on my face. Bo was lying outside at Dr Steiner's office, sniffing the air with his eyes at half mast and a big grin on his face. It made me realize he was happy, or as happy as you can get when you weigh that much (202 lbs.). I and the gals at the clinic quickly learned his likes and dislikes. He had his way of communicating with facial expressions, sliding across the floor or barking at you - we realized it was his way of helping us to help him. Bo had so much personality and took full advantage of his special VIP treatment at the clinic. Bo was a typical golden in that he loved people, attention and belly rubs ... but this boy had more attitude than most people I know, and a will to live that was unbelievable. Unfortunately, his body did not have the same will. That last week, I whispered in his ear about his new foster mom, Michelle, and you know what, I swear he understood. I told him they had set everything up for him, and that they couldn't wait to get him home. I told him how proud and excited we all were to know him, and how many people out there were rooting for him. Rest well and play hard, sweet Bo, and know that you were and always will be loved by so many.

Gregg Eddie GRRMF Volunteer



With a heavy heart, we write this letter to inform you that, after a brief battle with a brain tumor, our lovely **Kayla** passed away on Jan. 25. She was 13. We adopted Kayla at 7 years old in 1999. She came from a family whose baby developed allergies, so they couldn't keep her. The minute she walked through our door, we knew we'd found our girl. She loved to go for hikes in the mountains and would lie down in the creek, letting the water flow through her mouth. She was a typical loving golden, a favorite among the kids in the neighborhood, always ready for hugs and lots of petting. Kayla brought us 6 years of love and laughter, and we miss her every day.

Paul & Delanie Tondera, and Kirby,
GRRMF #280

Our beloved girl **Annie** has gone to the Rainbow Bridge. She died peacefully and in our arms on Dec. 15, 2004, due to rapid onset of cancer. Annie was 12 ½ years. When in rescue, Annie was described as "one of the dearest and sweetest dogs around." She was all that, and more. She was a beautiful, loving girl and we were blessed to have her in our lives. We miss her dearly.

Ellie, Larry & Jackie Hauser

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Thank you all who brought coins to the
reunion - \$165 was collected in pennies,
nickels, dimes and quarters. It was greatly
appreciated.

THANKS!

☀️Home visits: Gregg Eddie, Ann Fitzpatrick,
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☀ **Applications Team:** Sandy Sumner, Peggy Litt, Pam Harrell, Carol McKee.

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

☀ **Recordkeeper:** Jennifer Longman.

☀ **Info@grrmf.org emails:** Ellen Mathieson.

☀ **Veterinarians who donated or discounted goods and services:** Dr. Bill Ehlers, 434 Animal Hospital, Longwood; Advanced Veterinary Hospital, Holiday; Affiliated Veterinary Specialists, Maitland; All Creatures Animal Hospital, Lutz; Animal Hospital of Treasure Island; Dr. Athey, Orange City Animal Clinic; Belleview Veterinary Hospital, Belleview; Dr. Michael Berkenblit, Village Animal Clinic, North Palm Beach; Dr. Kevin Conrad, Sunset Point Animal Hospital, Clearwater; Dr. Robert Difonzo, Movement Improvement, Oviedo; Dr. Constance DiNatale, Veterinary Acupuncture, Winter Park; 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; Dr. Wiseman, Oviedo Animal Hospital; Dr. E.E. Musgrave, Cat Hospital/After Hours Clinic, Pinellas Park

☀ **Education Days/Events:** Many thanks to all who participate in educational events around the state - our dedicated volunteers and their goldens 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 Pföhler, Sarasota; JaVic Dog Training, Melbourne; Scott Holloway, Chateau du Chien, Sarasota; Susan Kendrick, Bowser College, Bowsercollege.com or 321.689.2239.

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

☀ **Medical supplies:** Christa Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis for donations of Frontline, Advantage, heartworm preventive and other medical supplies..

☀ **HealthyPetNet/Life's Abundance:** to Dennis Grace, who arranged and coordinates the "Feed Your Dog, Save a Dog's Life" program for which GRRMF gets a percentage of proceeds from the sale of Life's Abundance holistic food and treat products for dogs and cats - www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html.

☀ **RDV Sportsplex** for donating tennis balls!



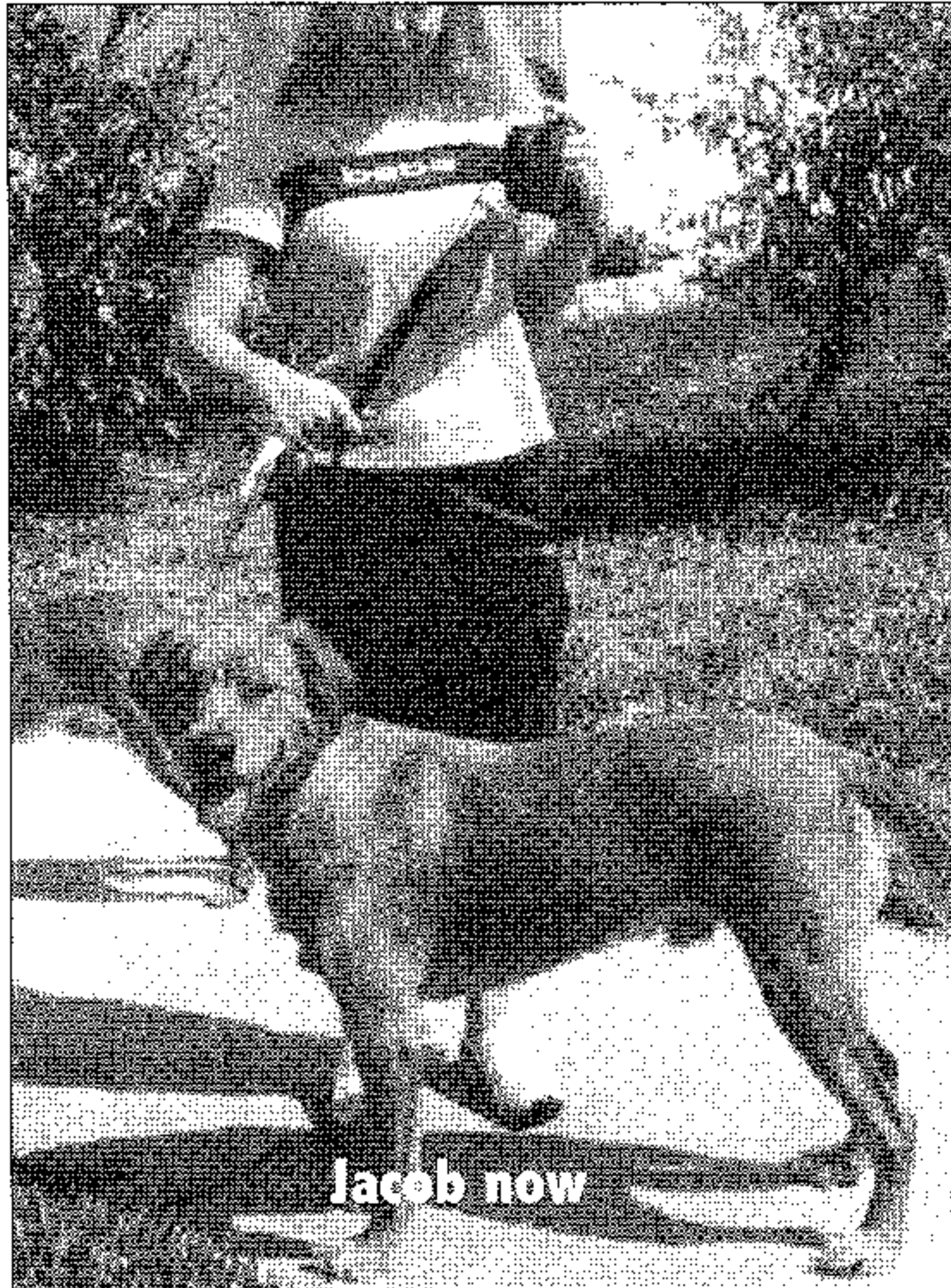
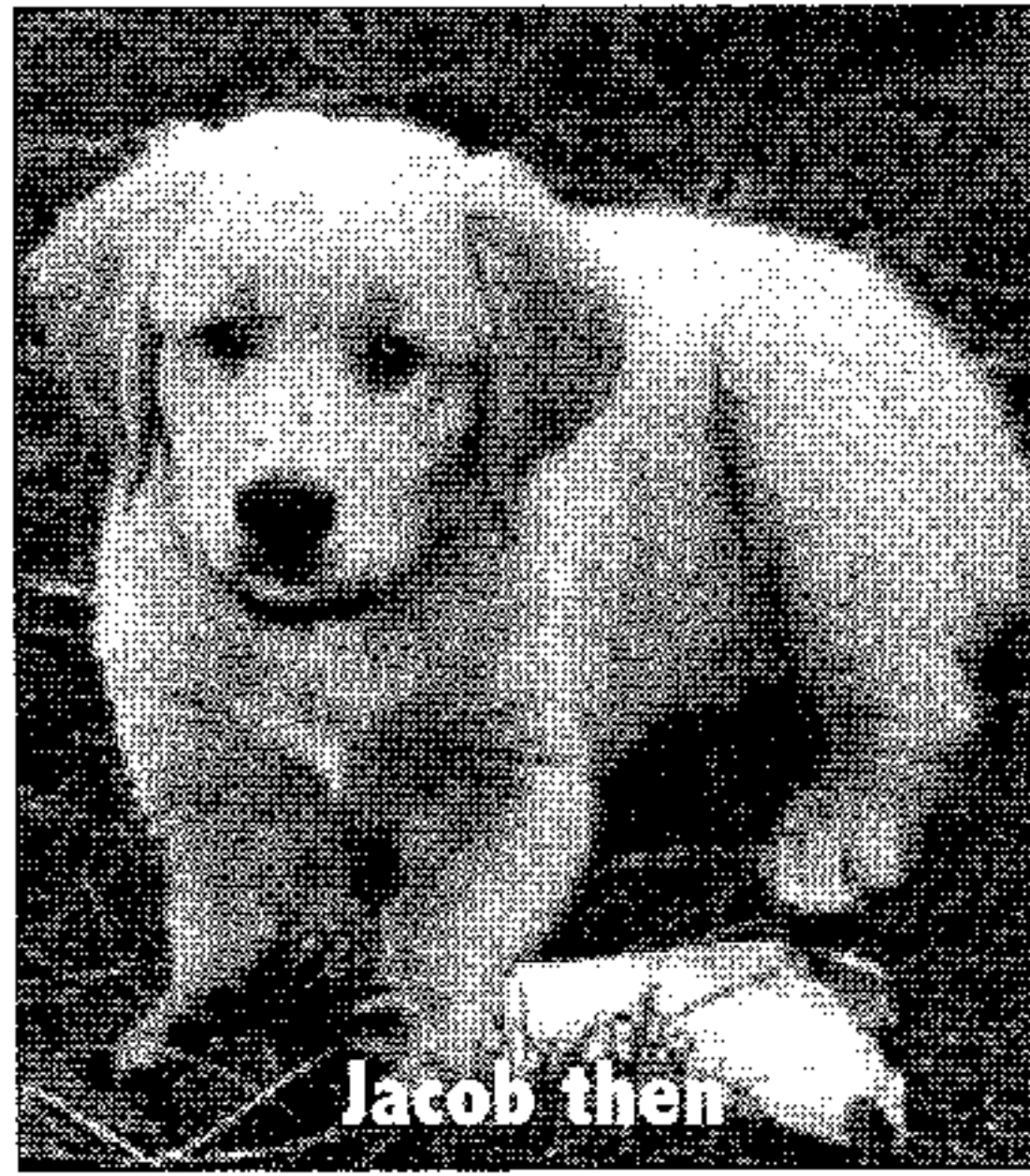
Hey Dog, Picture This! 2006 Calendar Photo Contest

Time is running out for your golden to be a star in GRRMF's 2006 calendar. The deadline is June 30. Thirteen photos will be chosen by our panel of judges to be included in the calendar - one for every month and a cover photo.

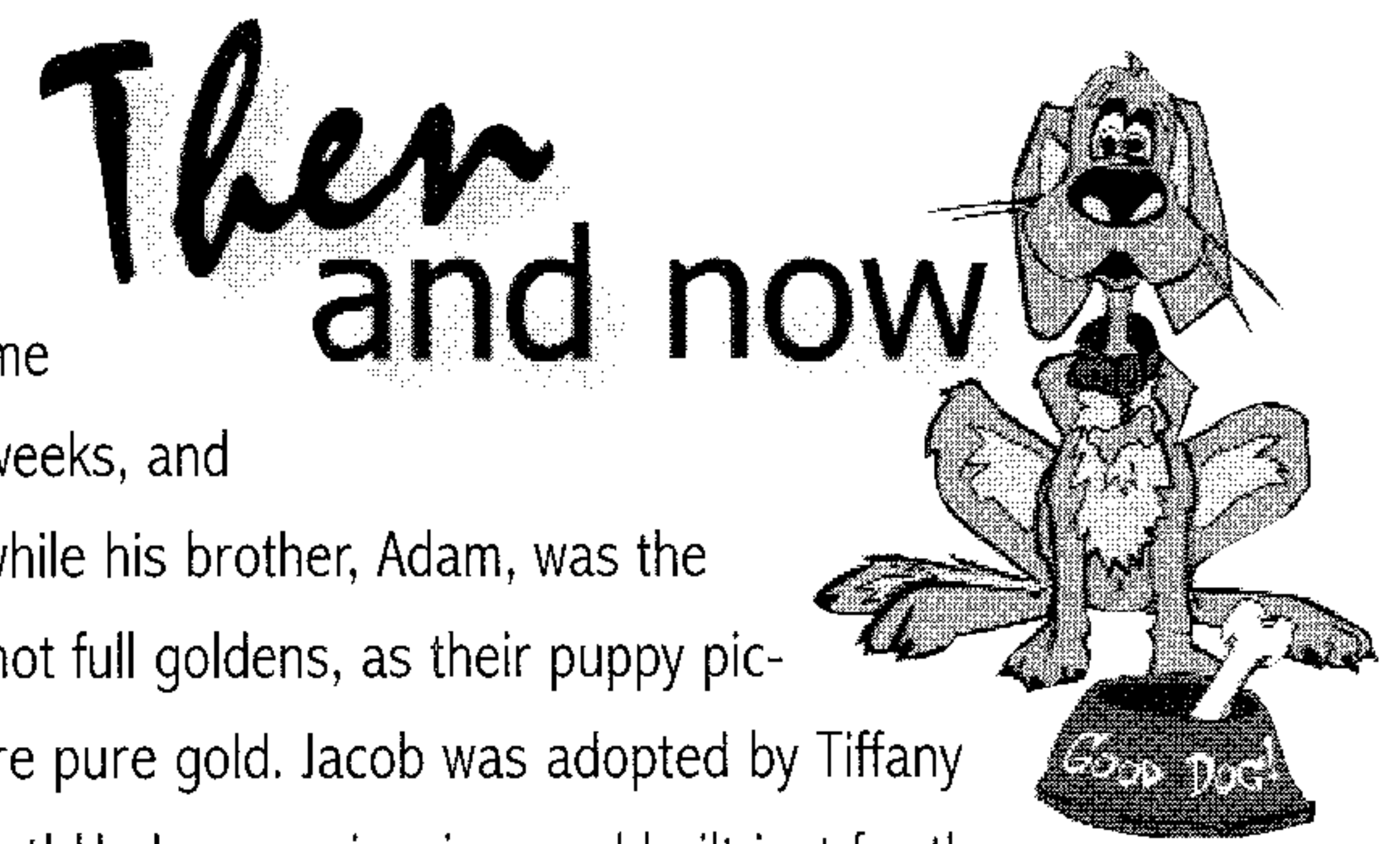
You can also submit your dog's "gotcha" date or birthday, so everyone knows when your dog's special day is. Please visit www.grrmf.org for details and online submissions, or simply mail your entry in with your check for \$5 per photo or "gotcha" date to:

GRRMF
Attn: Photo contest
P.O. Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

If you have questions, please email
grrmfphotocontest@tampabay.rr.com



Jacob was one of two shelter puppy brothers who came into rescue late 2003. The pups were very young, just 8 weeks, and were the cutest little golden pair. Jacob was "go, go, go," while his brother, Adam, was the mellow one. As it turned out, Jacob and his brother were not full goldens, as their puppy pictures would have had us believe. But their personalities are pure gold. Jacob was adopted by Tiffany and her canine buddy Ginger. And wow, did this boy luck out! He has a swimming pool built just for the dogs, a huge fenced yard for ball chasing and, the best part, a mom who could not love him more. His name is now Hoolie (short for Hooligan) and we had a chance to see him again during a recent visit to Orlando. What a love Hoolie is, as sweet as they come! Which just shows that you don't have to be 100 percent golden to be 100 percent "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: 2boatrats@comcast.net.



Senior Corner

Tiki came into rescue at the tough age of 12 when her owner passed away. A friend asked us to take the half-blind, half-deaf girl with the sore feet and a few too many pounds (the last one a familiar theme these days).

No dog is too old for GRRMF to embrace, so in Tiki came. She was, indeed, packing a few too many pounds, but the green bean diet has helped her slim down by 10 pounds so

far. The sore feet were from excessive licking, and a dose of SeaMeal each day seems to have taken care of that.

We never believed that Tiki was deaf - she can hear the food bin open from anywhere in the house! But her eyes were another story. Sadly, Tiki suffers from entropion, a condition where the eyelashes grow inside of the eyelid instead of the outside. For 12 long years, Tiki tolerated the constant irritation of eyelashes on her eyeball. And those 12 years caused much scarring, requiring two kinds of drops two times per day just to relieve some of the pain.

Tiki had to have a small growth removed from her body, so while under anesthesia, Dr. Ehlers of 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood opted to try to work on the one eye that caused her most of the pain. We wouldn't have put her through the surgery, but the growth had to be removed, so why not see if we could help her eye at the same time? Success! Tiki has a new leash on life. For the first time since her arrival at GRRMF, she runs after the tennis ball, is the first in line to get her meds and is very vocal when her dinner is not served fast enough. She wants to be petted now, something she did not care for before, when all she wanted to do was sleep (she probably wanted to keep that eye closed). Which all goes to prove that you can teach an old dog some new tricks.

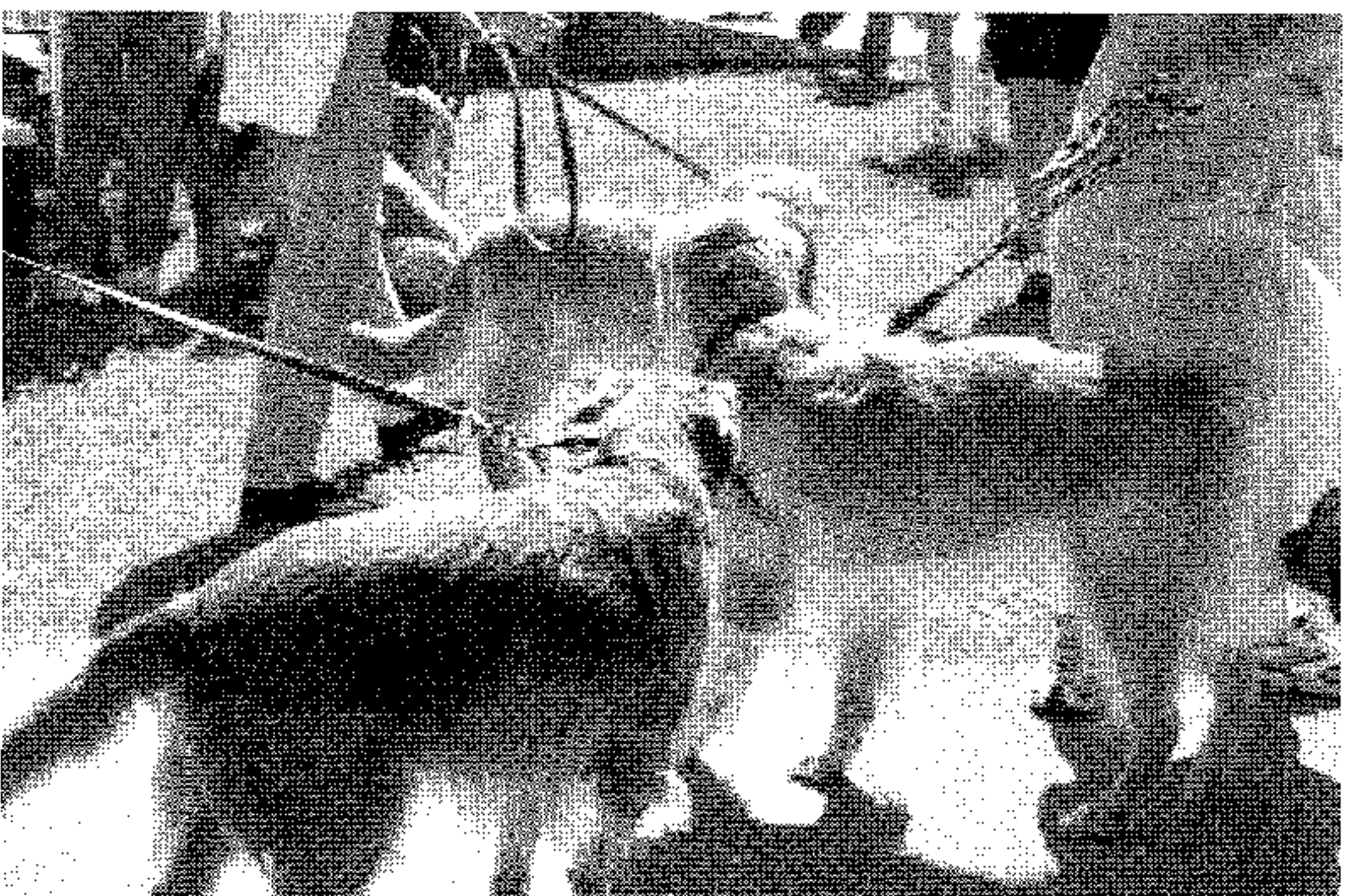
'Dirty Little Habit' Cookies

Does your dog indulge in "coprophagia"? It's a long-winded term for, well, poop-eating. As disgusting as it is to us humans, the habit is not uncommon among canines. We've received a lot of requests recently to share a recipe which some of our members use to help curb their dogs' appetite for "critter crunchies." Here we go:

2/3 cup flour
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon water
1 1/2 teaspoons ammonium carbonate, also known as "baker's ammonia" - available via www.lorannoils.com

All ingredients should be room temp. Mix together, but don't beat too much. Drop from a spoon on a greased baking sheet. These cookies spread a lot so give them room. Bake at 450 for 6 minutes. You'll smell the ammonia during the baking time, but it has no residual odor. Remove from sheet and cool on rack. Recipe makes approximately 3 dozen small cookies.

Give a small cookie to each dog in the family every day.

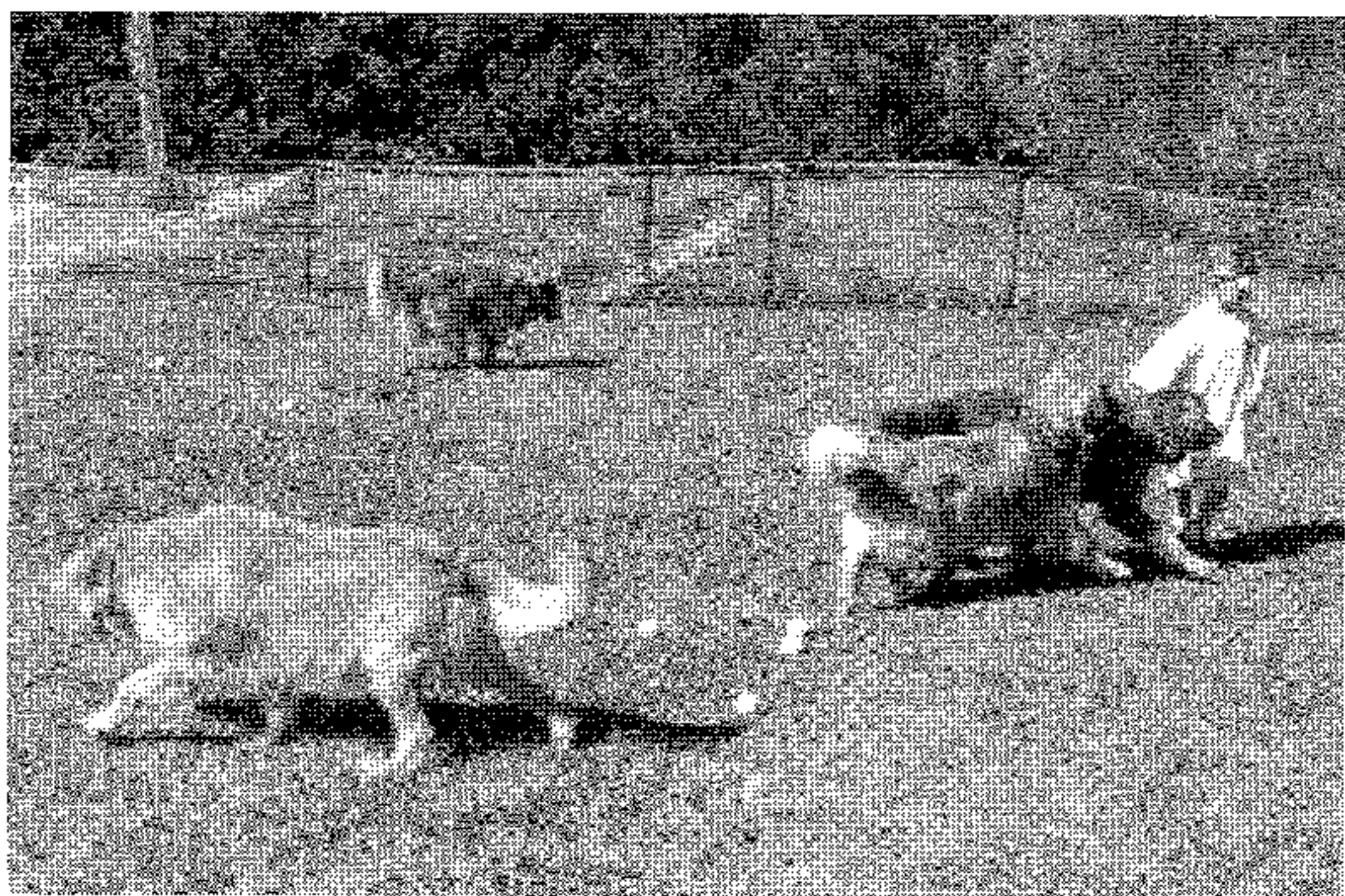


On the morning of February 19, we loaded our golden girl Brandy into the car and set off for the annual Golden Retriever Rescue Reunion at Lake Parker Park in Lakeland. On the drive, my husband joked about attending a dog party where Brandy wouldn't know anyone-akin to attending someone else's high school reunion.

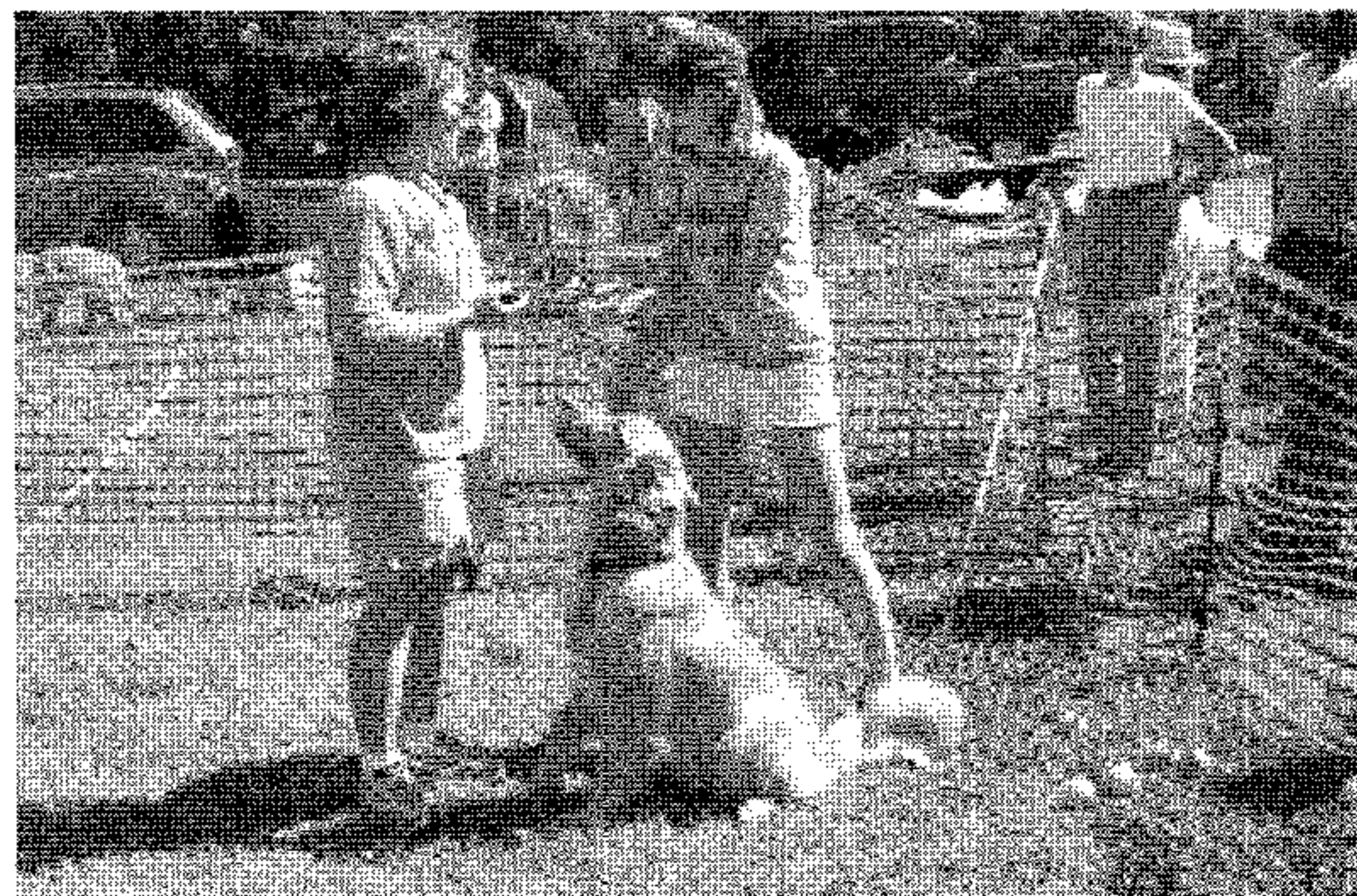
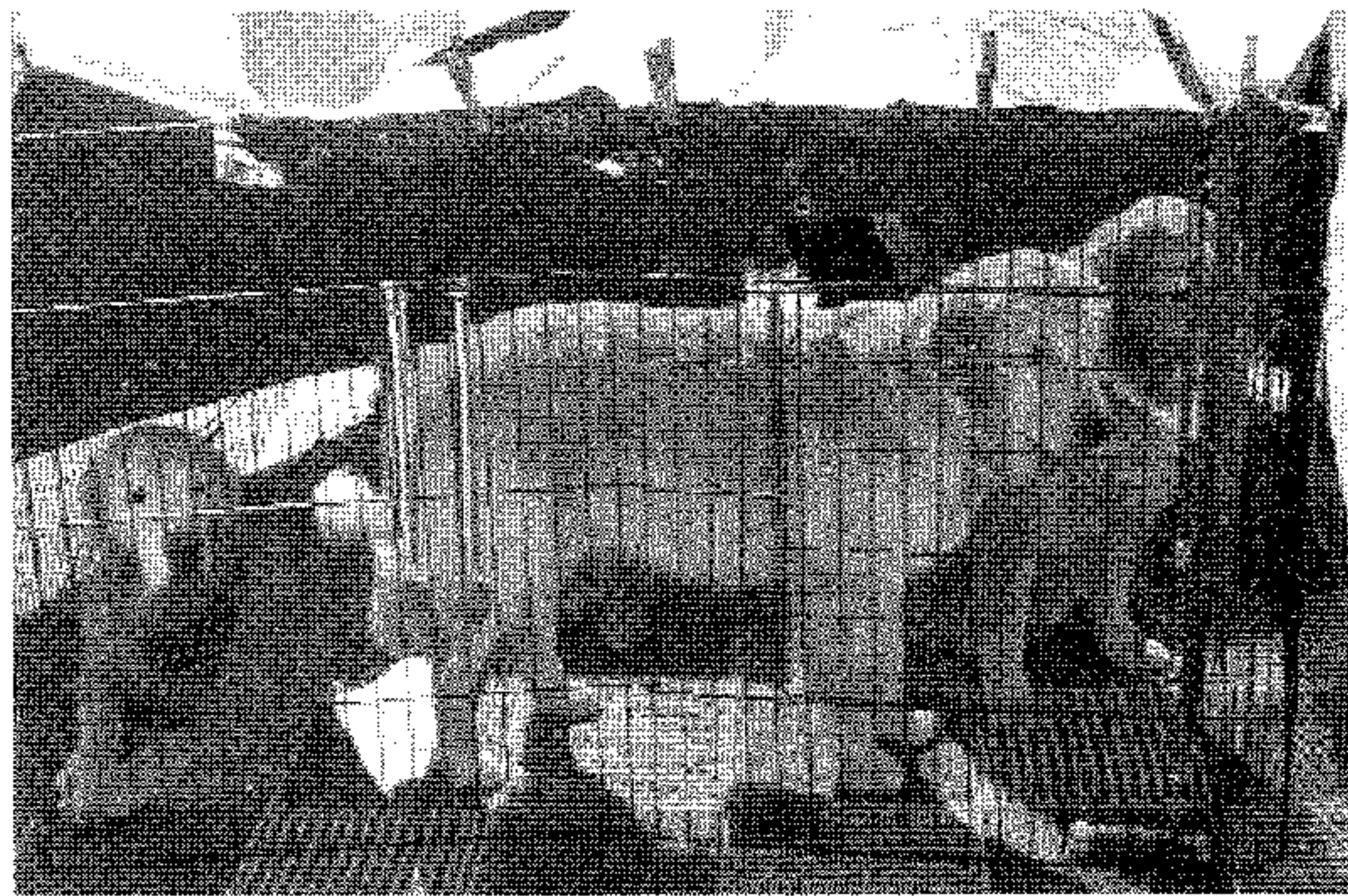
The minute we arrived, however, he changed his tune. This being our first reunion fundraiser, we were both in awe at the number of dogs that greeted us. At least 200 polite pooches were at the park, and the variety of the breed was awesome: There were short goldens and tall goldens; their coats were curly, straight, blonde and red; they sported bandanas in pink, blue and green (one even carried his own backpack); they had long noses and square noses, fluffy ears and flat; and some sported gray facial hair. But they had one thing in common: Each might have been dead if not for Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida. Oblivious to this fact, the dogs sported giant, side-tongue smiles, meeting and greeting, getting pats, treats and snuggles. Like most rescues, Brandy is a bit shy, but it wasn't long before she was approaching other goldens with the requisite butt-sniff greeting and wagging her tail like mad.

We were overwhelmed with the sense of community in this group. Owners, donned in golden retriever socks, hats and T-shirts, chatted with other owners like old friends. Foster parents reunited with now-healthy dogs, trading stories with forever families. Dog sitters visited with clients. One owner, who designated herself the treat lady, took to spraying canned Easy Cheese on goldens' noses. Others gave out treats and hugs. Walking through crowds of goldens, I found it difficult not to pat each one on the head and tousle their hair.

We decided to check out the booths. The silent auction booth, which had goodies from scrapbooks to treats and framed art, raised more than \$1,200, while the Golden Goods tent raised a whopping \$2,550. We also stopped at the grooming booth, which resulted in a new "ear-do" and tail trim for our girl for only \$10. Groomers, volunteers from the Mid-Florida Golden Retriever

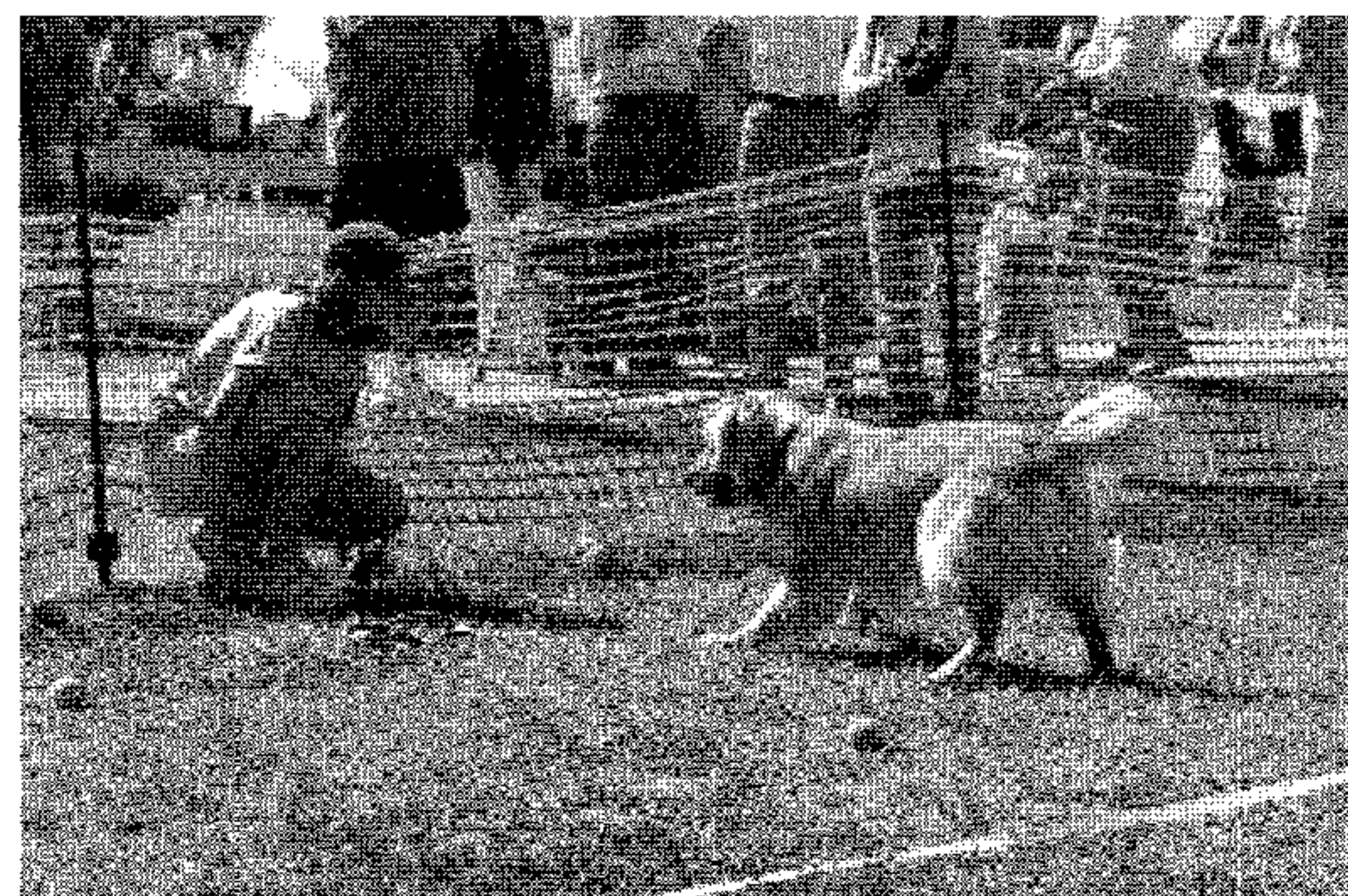


Spread the word ... adopt



& Furry n i on

een-Galante



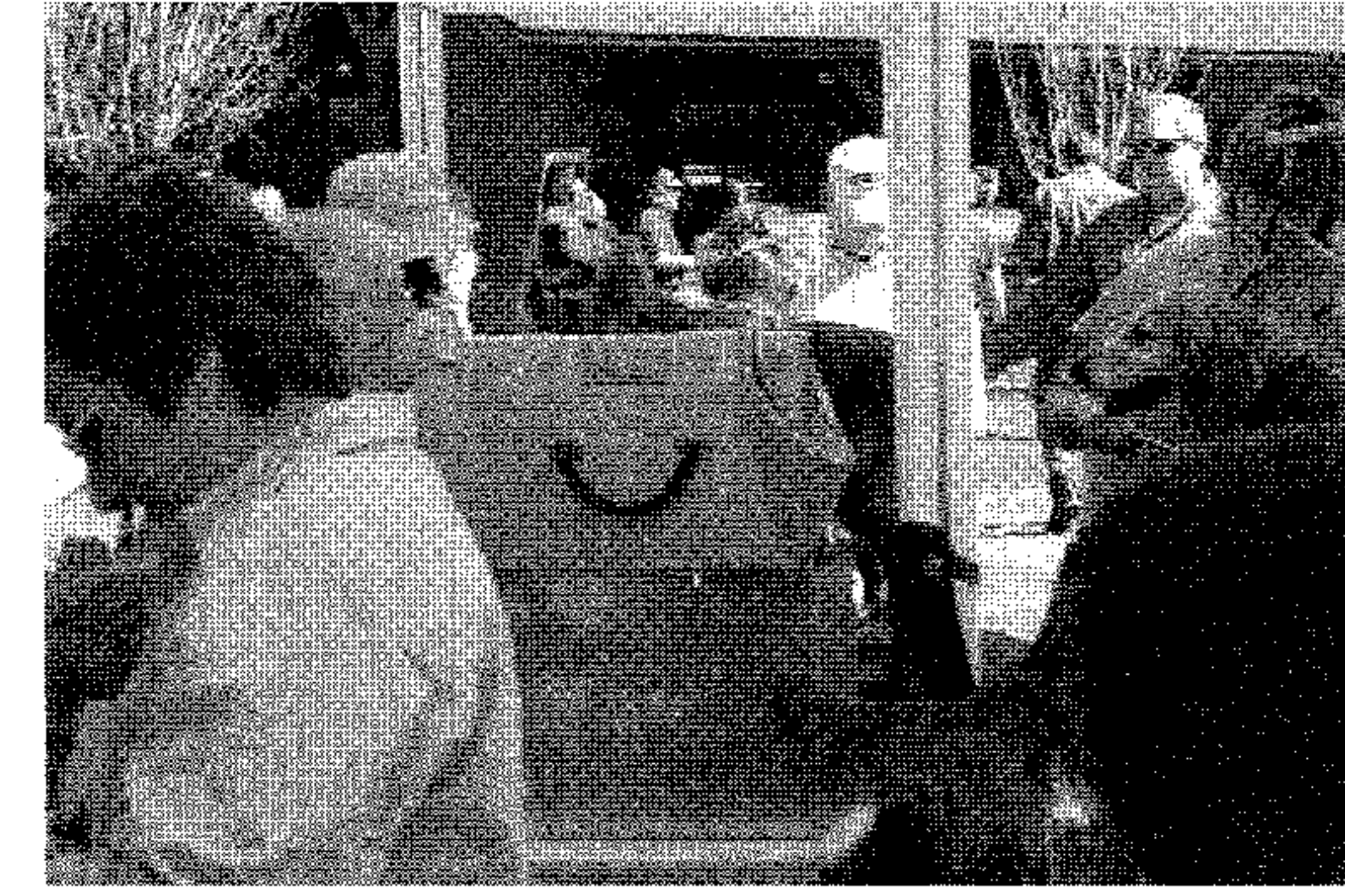
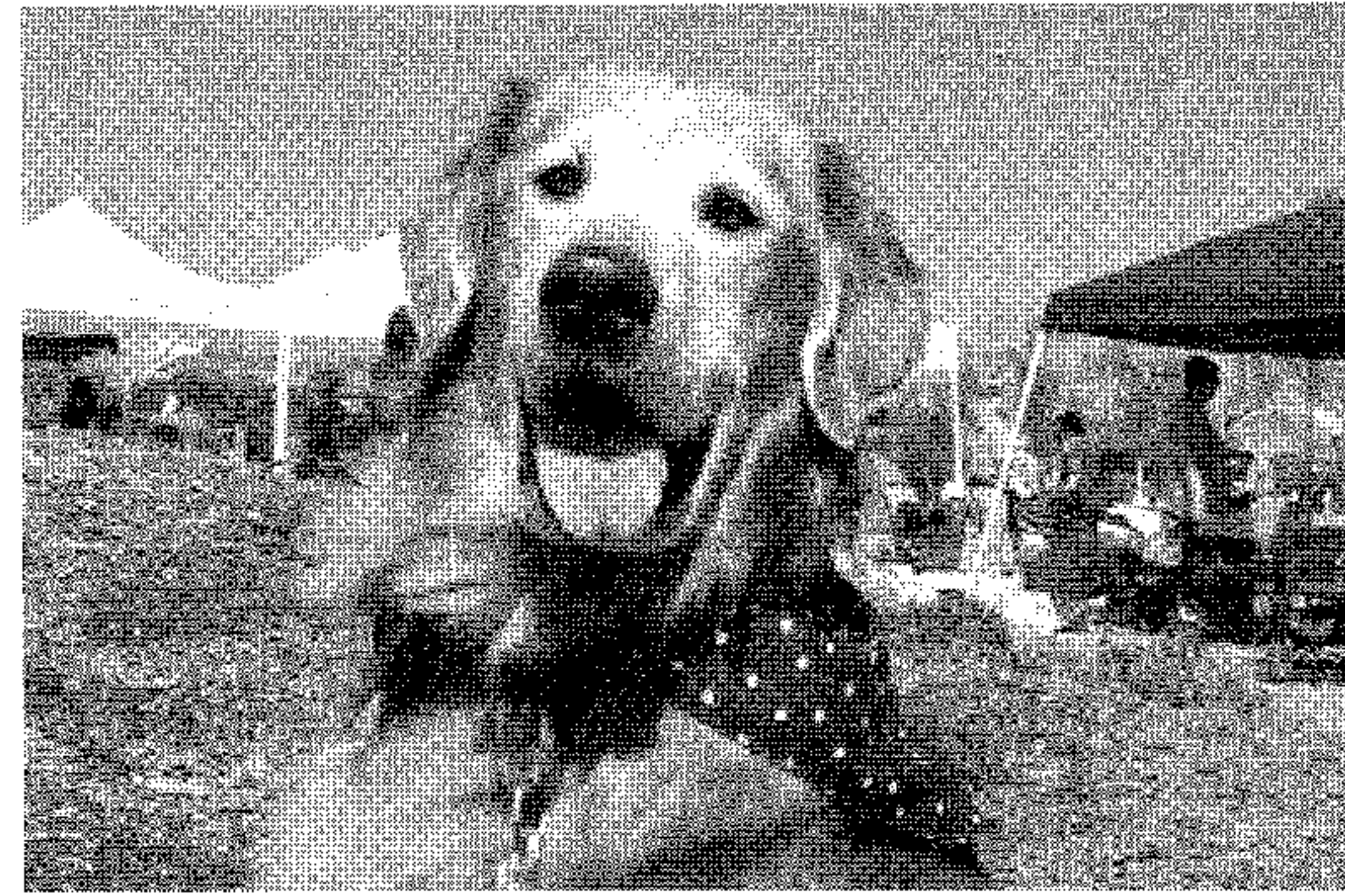
Club, not only worked hard to pretty up nearly 80 dogs but matched the earnings from the booth. Our groomer took careful time with us, sharing a number of tips.

GRRMF president Barbara Durham was thrilled for the help. "Special thanks to the groomers who worked all day and MFGRC for generously matching the proceeds from the grooming," she says. "The fact that MFGRC members came out to support us was very special, and we're not experienced enough in grooming to be able to pull that booth off without MFGRC."

The raffle was a big hit, drawing owners and goldens into a screened pavilion. Humans politely shushed each other in order to hear if they were the lucky winners of a number of gift baskets filled with everything from gourmet dog treats to T-shirts to pictures, food bowls and canine accessories. In all, the raffle earned about \$1,330 for rescue.

At the Golden Olympics area, we first witnessed the Bobbing for Biscuits event, where one dog jumped into the kiddie pool and plunged face-first into the water, eating a record total of 28 biscuits in a mere 60 seconds. The next dog, however, wasn't as eager. A bit of a princess, she stayed outside the pool, only eating the biscuits her owner fed to her. The sit-stay competition was just as much fun to watch. Well-behaved goldens perched behind a designated line while a judge ran up and down, enticing them with cruel lines like, "Who wants to go for a walk? How about a ride? Anybody want a cookie?" In the end, it was a cookie placed just out of reach that called the winner. A tennis ball fetching contest later demonstrated the true retrievers of the bunch.

All told, it was a golden day at the park, and for a great cause. "I want to thank everyone who helped," said Barbara. "This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it was a great year. We really count on this money to keep us going, as vet and medicine costs continue to rise." And with the more than \$7,500 raised from this year's event, GRRMF can guarantee more tail wags and golden smiles.



pt a golden!! (Or two!!)

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida Membership Application/Donation Form

Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2005 MEMBERSHIP! Your membership provides funds to save homeless goldens -- for veterinary care and supplies. Without your support, GRRMF cannot continue our mission. This year we're offering ... NEW MEMBERSHIP LEVELS!

Please check one:

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN CIRCLE: \$1,000 or more**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription
- ▼ Beautiful Golden Retriever etched Cookie Jar or set of two wine glasses by artist Sharon Sherwood -- see our web site for details
- ▼ Submission of two photos or "gotcha" dates for GRRMF calendar photo contest ▼ 4 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo
- ▼ SPONSORSHIP OF ONE GOLDEN with your name published in our Hearts of Gold newsletter next to the golden you've sponsored

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN GUARDIAN: \$500**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription
- ▼ Golden Retriever Specialty Item -- beautiful golden retriever embroidered canvas tote
- ▼ Submission of two photos or "gotcha" dates for GRRMF calendar photo contest ▼ 4 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN SPIRIT: \$250**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription
- ▼ Golden Retriever Specialty Item -- GRRMF insulated coffee mug
- ▼ Submission of two photos or "gotcha" dates for GRRMF calendar photo contest ▼ 2 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN SPONSORSHIP: \$100**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription
- ▼ Submission of one photo or "gotcha" date for GRRMF calendar photo contest
- ▼ 2 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo
- ▼ Your sponsorship helps a specific dog in need. You will receive a letter informing you of the golden you are helping

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN FRIEND: \$50**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription ▼ 2 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo

☐ **GRRMF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription

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 Goldens. (\$100 donation will purchase an inscribed brick to be placed at the new shelter.
To order an inscribed brick, return this form with your \$100 donation or call the GRRMF Hotline: 407-332-2840, Mailbox 4.)

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

☐ \$_____ for this purpose _____

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

☐ \$_____ in honor of _____

Mail form to: GRRMF, Post Office Box 1449, Goldenrod, Florida 32733

SEE OTHER SIDE - GRRMF ANNUAL ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP FORM

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.

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc. Annual Adoption Follow-Up

If you adopted a dog from GRRMF, please let us know how he or she is doing.

The information you provide is valuable in setting future adoption guidelines and in tracking common health issues in golden retrievers.

Most of all, we just want to hear from you and your golden! Please feel free to attach additional comments and photos!

General Information

Owner's Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dog's Name When Adopted: _____ New Name (if changed): _____

GRRMF Dog #: _____ Year adopted: _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Dog's Age: _____

Medical Follow-Up

Check current vaccinations: ☐ Rabies ☐ Bordetella ☐ Parvo/Corona ☐ Distemper ☐ DHLPP

Receives monthly heartworm prevention: ☐ Yes ☐ No Product name: _____

What type of food do you feed your dog? _____

Please check any medical problems that have developed since adoption:

- ☐ Eyes ☐ Ears ☐ Skin/Hair/Coat Allergies ☐ Teeth/Gums ☐ Arthritis ☐ Thyroid ☐ Weight
☐ Seizures ☐ Murmur ☐ Growths/Cancer ☐ Dysplasia

Status of medical problems and medications taken: _____

If deceased, indicate date and cause of death: _____

Behavioral Follow-Up

Describe your dog's personality by marking each with "O" for Often, "S" for Sometimes and "R" for Rarely/Never

☐ Friendly ☐ Outgoing ☐ Confident ☐ Reserved ☐ Affectionate ☐ Obedient

☐ Fearful - describe: _____

☐ Possessive/Protective, especially of: ☐ Yard ☐ Food ☐ Toys ☐ Crate ☐ Owner

☐ Other (please indicate what) _____

☐ Aggressive, especially about _____

☐ Bites when _____

☐ Chews ☐ Jumps ☐ Barks ☐ Housetraining Problems ☐ Separation Anxiety ☐ Storm Anxiety

Please attach a separate sheet describing any behavioral problems you are having.

Have you taken an obedience course with this dog? ☐ Yes ☐ No List any titles earned (obedience, tracking, etc): _____

Has your dog participated in therapy work? If so where? _____

Comments

We are always striving to improve the program so please help us by sharing your comments on your dog, the adoption process or the program in general:

2005 Membership Dues Attached: ☐ General Membership ☐ Golden Friend ☐ Golden Sponsorship ☐ Golden Spirit ☐ Golden Guardian ☐ Golden Circle

(See other side for new membership categories.)

Please see other side for additional details on annual membership dues. Keep your newsletter coming by renewing your membership today!

Return using the enclosed envelope or send to: GRRMF, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733.

Forms may also be faxed to 419-781-3538. Questions? (407) 332-2840, e-mail: 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: PetsMart, Melbourne / Petco, Viera/Suntree

TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER: PetsMart, Citrus Park/Tampa -- Every first and third Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon

PetsMart, Countryside/Clearwater - Every second Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

PetsMart, Tyrone/St. Petersburg - Every first Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. / PetsMart, Trinity - Every third Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon

SARASOTA: PetsMart, The Landings/Sarasota -- Every first Saturday / PetsMart, Bradenton - Every third Saturday -- noon to 3:00 p.m. for both

ORLANDO: PetsMart, Waterford Lakes/East Orlando - Every second Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Borders Bookstore, Oviedo - Every third Saturday, 7-9:30 p.m. / PetsMart, Lake Mary - Every first Saturday

PALM BEACH/EAST COAST: Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park - Every fourth Sunday -- noon to 4:00 p.m.

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.

Email Corner

Following are e-mail "pupdates" we've received recently.

If you'd like to share some news about your GRRMF alumni, please send it to: info@grrmf.org.

Hi GRRMF -

Just wanted you to know that I'm fine and had my second Christmas with my family (Ron, Linda and the cat, Carolina). It was great, and I was snooping in all the packages. I received much praise from my elderly grandparents (ages 83 and 84) for my good behavior. They all ask me about my life on the streets, but I can't tell them. But I do get a gleam in my eye when Linda talks about my Aunt Sandy ... So far, no snow up here in our vacation place in NC. I was not that impressed with it last year (but my family was for sure). Thanks for taking me in and starting me off on the right paw.

- Eve

Dakota has filled our lives with such joy and laughter and continues to be a 2-year-old in a 7-year-old body. I was joking with Jeff and stated, "maybe we should adopt another Golden to play with Dakota?!" His jaw dropped, his eyes became huge and he just stood there and shook his head. In my book, that's neither a yes or no, so it's a MAYBE! We are planning a trip to the "doggie park" in Sanford and hope to see some of our GRRMF friends there.

- Sandy, Jeff, Eli, Emma, Lacey and Dakota

Summer is wonderful. We are very happy with her. She and Philip are the perfect match. I hardly get a hug anymore, they go to Summer. She was fine during the hurricanes. She just snored up her own storm with us in the closet. Thanks for finding Summer for us!

- Denise, Philip and Summer



Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 1449
Goldenrod, FL 32733

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