



Hearts of Gold

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

Volume 8, Issue 3

SUMMER 2005



2006 GRRMF CALENDARS:
Coming soon to your mailbox -
orders being taken now! Page 11



**TRANSPORTATION
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
See President's Column
and volunteer form, Pages 1-6



I'M ADOPTED!
Bob, 8 years, lived outside
until he found GRRMF
and his new mom, Denise.
Read recent Adoptions
beginning on page 2.



Dog-Gone Vacation:
GRRMF alumni dogs visit St.
Augustine, Page 5



The Ties That Bind: Montana's Story

Imagine a life where no one cares about you. Where you receive no love, no hugs, and perhaps even feel that no one would care whether you live or die.

Sounds like a pretty lonely existence, doesn't it?

But this is just the kind of life Montana lived. She was stuck out in the backyard by a family who didn't care to spend time with her. She was left to her own devices to come and go ... until one day, just before her second birthday, when Montana collided with a car, causing severe and life-threatening injuries.

Ironically, this tragic - and preventable - accident was also the moment in which Montana's life began to change. A neighbor who witnessed the accident took Montana to an emergency veterinarian, where she was diagnosed with a shattered pelvis, broken ribs and internal bleeding. Her owners, who had already been planning to give her away, said they couldn't pay her bills, so the kind neighbor called GRRMF.

That one phone call started a chain reaction, during which GRRMF's intake team and board took in all the information and made, quite literally, a life-or-death decision. For if GRRMF chose not to answer this call for help, Montana, just shy of her second birthday, was to be euthanized.

And so now, today, we write to our members with a message of hope and joy, a sense of kinship among our community of volunteers and donors, whose collective wheels were put in motion on that fateful day. Because, as you can see, we couldn't turn our backs on Montana. She needed our help. We were her only chance.

With that one phone call, Montana's life was to change forever ... and now she is blossoming under the care of a whole community of people who wanted very much to help her, who are supporting her both financially and physically, and who, every single day, in their own ways, demonstrate how much they care.

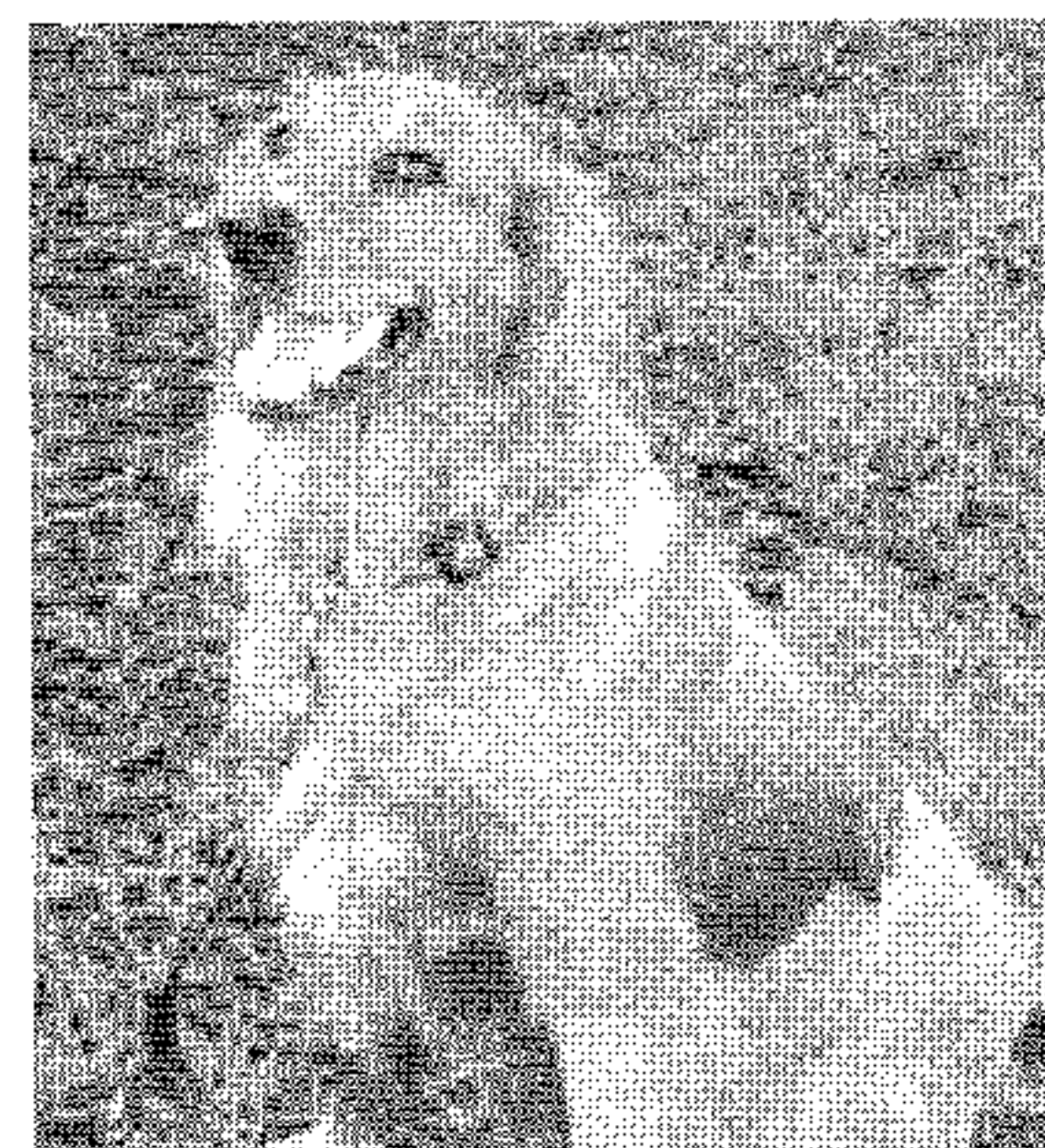
Critical Care

Tracing her steps after that initial phone call, we learn that Montana came under the care of a veterinary specialist in Tampa, who felt she had an excellent chance of recovery. Our little fighter was in the Intensive Care Unit for several days, while she underwent testing for internal injuries and began IV antibiotics. It was touch-and-go for a few days, because Montana's pelvis was shattered, yet she couldn't undergo surgery until the internal bleeding had stopped and her vital signs had stabilized.

Finally, the wait was over, as her body's defenses began to kick in. Her vital signs improved, and blood work dropped back into the normal range, which meant her internal injuries were no longer life-threatening. Surgery was scheduled, and Montana's pelvis was repaired with steel plates and screws - eight total - to hold it together. Her multiple broken ribs were left to heal on their own. As soon as she was able to stand on her own, GRRMF paid the specialist's bill - more than \$5,000 - and began making plans to transport her to Emily R. for foster care.

Montana Goes Home

Miraculously, within a few days Montana's condition improved dramatically. She was



We need our members! Thanks to all who have sent in their 2005 membership dues. If you have not done so, it's not too late! By making a donation via your membership dues, you allow our program to continue. Where would Montana and the other GRRMF dogs featured in this newsletter and on our Web site be without your help? YOU are making a difference helping to save these precious dogs. Perhaps you don't have time to actively volunteer, but please don't underestimate the power of your membership. You can still make a difference through your financial support.



President's Message

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

For the next few newsletters, I am going to highlight areas of volunteering where we need support. This time I want to talk about our **TRANSPORTATION TEAM** and the work they do. We receive calls from all over the state on a daily basis about dogs needing to come into rescue. For GRRMF to help them, these dogs need to get transported to the intake point, normally one of the veterinary facilities we use around the state. Typically, the dog gets picked up from the surrendering owner or from a shelter and is taken to one of our wonderful veterinarians for assessment prior to going into a foster home. We do this to prevent the spread of infectious disease and to ensure we are not putting our foster homes or their pets in danger. Once the dogs receive their veterinary exam, then the Transport Team must again be mobilized to get the dog from the vet to its new foster home.

We are constantly moving dogs

continued on page 2

continued on page 6

on heavy doses of pain medication and antibiotics, but her will to live was obviously very strong. The surgical tech kept us up to date on her progress, and soon, we go the news: Montana could go "home."

Emily R. was lined up as foster mom, and Montana's rehabilitation began. During the first critical week or two, Montana had to be kept crated except for potty breaks which, amazingly, she was able to manage on her own. With the pain meds and lots of TLC from Emily, Montana began to perk up.

"She was in a lot of pain after her surgery," Emily says. "But she never got grumpy with the people trying to help her. Like most goldens, Montana has a very short memory for the bad things in life and continues to look forward and trust good things will happen."

Life for Montana is still not perfect - she can't run and play yet and must stay on leash when outside until her bones have a chance to heal. But she is happy and quite content to have a ball in her mouth (just waiting for that day when she is allowed to chase it!), chew on a bone or sit by your feet for some human attention.

As of this writing, Montana is now permitted to take short leash walks, and her new favorite activity is swim therapy in the pool. Swimming will be the perfect exercise to help her shattered bones heal and send her on the road to a complete recovery, something the veterinarian is confident will happen. "Montana never complains or seems depressed," Emily says. "Through all of this, she has been very sweet and cooperative. I think we can all learn a lesson from Montana: THINK POSITIVE!"

Next Steps

Montana has obviously put a strain on our budget and our special Woody Fund for special-needs dogs, but we feel strongly she deserves a chance to heal and find a forever home. She had so little in her first two years, we've promised her a wonderful life full of swimming, toys and affection.

She has a long road ahead of her, but every day that passes brings Montana one step closer to her very own "happy ending" with a family who will love her and care for her as long as she lives. When she is fully recovered, we will find her the very best home possible, where she will be kept safely on leash while outside a fenced yard, and where she will live inside a home, with a loving and caring family. Since 1991, GRRMF has been dedicated to helping injured, ill and displaced goldens find a new leash on life. And we're happy to be able to help Montana. We hope you can help, too.

From all of us at GRRMF, many thanks to those who donated for her care. Her many benefactors are listed on Page xx. And, if you haven't donated to GRRMF in a while, we need you! We have very limited resources, and in addition to Montana have taken in more goldens this year than ever before, many needing expensive heartworm treatment or other medical care. All donations will be recognized in our Hearts of Gold newsletter and will be used solely for Montana's medical expenses. Donations in excess of the cost of her care will be used for other special-needs goldens in our program.

Yes, I'd like to help GRRMF dogs like Montana!

☐ Enclosed is my donation for: \$

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email _____

☐ I'd like to consider adopting Montana - attached is my completed adoption application (download from www.grrmf.org).

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

Special Fundraisers!

GRRMF Volunteer Julie Kielts has offered to assist Montana through the sale of custom-made sterling silver and Swarovski crystal rings, available for just \$25 per ring. Half the proceeds from the sale of each ring will go to Montana's medical care. To see a selection of the rings available, visit GRRMF's Web site (www.grrmf.org) and look for the link on the home page, or contact Julie at goldtailswagging@aol.com. **PLUS:** For each ring purchased, your name will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful, custom-designed wood-burning grooming table or portrait by Susan Fulenwider.

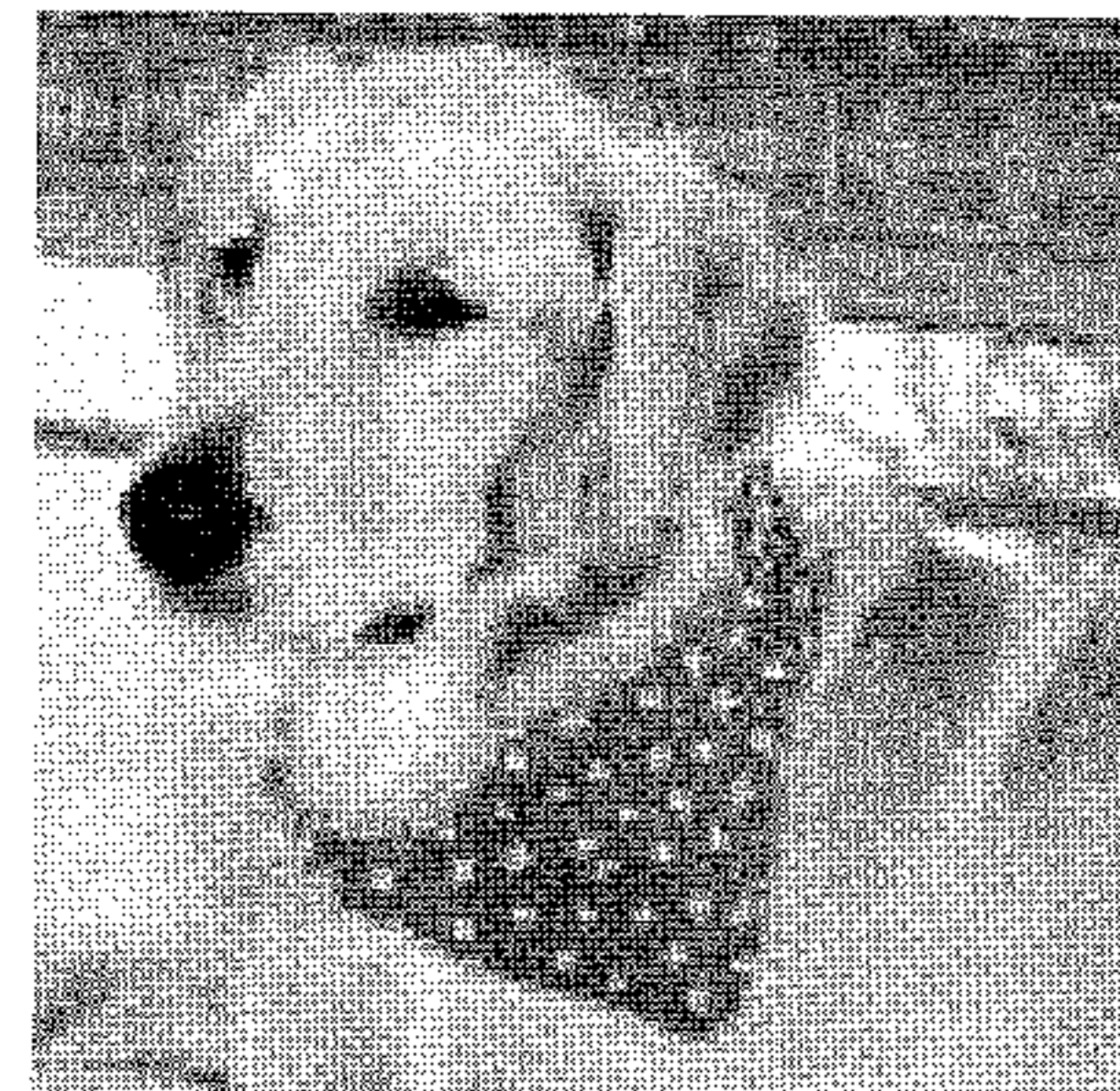
Recent



When 2-year-old **Joey** crossed paths with Carol B. on a neighborhood street one day, it was instant adoration. Joey didn't realize that on that lucky day he would stumble into his forever home. Carol B and her GRRMF alumni dogs officially welcomed Joey into their home, hearts and swimming pool. What a lucky pup!

And the winner is ... **Sammy!** At a mere 10 months old, Sammy was

facing hip surgery due to his inability to comfortably get around. He was fostered and adopted by Tracy G. and family, who took care of him during his lengthy evaluations for hip dysplasia. Good news on that front - it was determined that Sammy did not need surgery, just a regular schedule of exercise to help him build muscle tone and supplements to help keep his joints limber. Sammy hit the lottery with his very own pool and cat to play with.



Heidi, approximately 1 year old, weighed just 25 pounds when she was taken to a veterinarian for help. She was heartworm positive, unspayed and had a whole colony of parasites living in her body. A good Samaritan talked her owner into giving her up and paid the veterinarian for treatment, as well as three months of boarding while she was getting fixed up, then asked the vetto find her a good home. Luckily, North Orange Veterinary Hospital knew just who to call. Heidi, now a healthy 42 pounds, was fostered by Mike and Carol M. and snapped up by

Ed & Pat H., who had just lost of their senior GRRMF dog. Now called **Honeybun**, this sweet girl lives a good life, where she is doted upon and her every wish has come true. She has a toy poodle sister named Lollipop and has already graduated from her first obedience class, with plans for an advanced class under way. She visits the local dog park, has a fenced yard and swimming pool to play in, and even went on her first road trip to visit her new extended family in New York. Pat tells us Honeybun has helped mend her broken heart, and that they love her dearly.

Danny Boy came to rescue after spending a few days in a shelter. He stayed with a veterinarian for an extended period of time while undergoing heartworm treatment. First-time fosters Sandy and Phil B. were up for the challenge of a 2-year-old boy who was originally a stray and had been sick. After just two days, Sandy and Phil knew that Danny Boy was a great dog and was not leaving. It was a match which was meant to be.

Peanut's owner turned her over to GRRMF at 11 months of age, due to no time and a pending move into an apartment. Peanut is on the small side, very intelligent, eager to please and has the cutest, little face. She has an extremely high energy level and needed to be placed in a home where her never-ending energy could be channeled in a positive direction. Along came Jeff & Cathy D., both dog behavioral therapists and trainers, looking for a golden retriever to complete their family. Peanut, now **Autumn**, was the perfect match for them. She desperately needed a job, and they were willing and able to give one to her!

After being with Jeff & Cathy for a little less than two weeks, Autumn had worked at Kritter Kamp, a children's summer workshop sponsored by the Tampa Bay Humane Society; been featured in the local newspaper; spotlighted on the news; AND attended a "happy hour" beach bash for dogs, hosted by the local radio station after "Take Your Dog to Work Day." Autumn is a busy girl! It looks like GRRMF has a new celebrity in their



Goldens Rule!

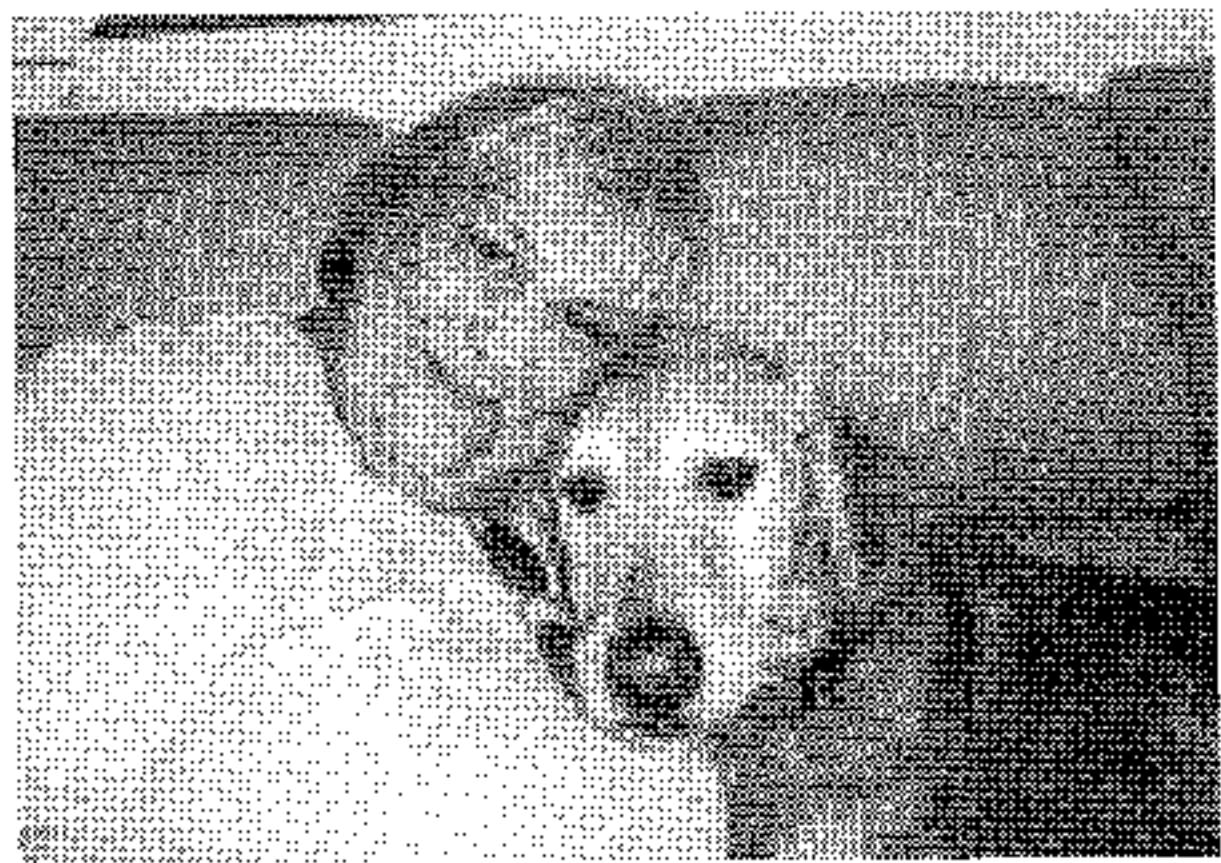
Adoptions - Summer 2005

midst. Thank you, Jeff & Cathy, for seeing potential in this little girl and making great things happen!

Princess was turned in to a shelter when her owner could no longer afford her. At 5 years old, she was now faced with possible death. GRRMF stepped in to save her from the shelter and allow her the life her little royal heart deserved. She was fostered by Regina and Marcel and adopted by Greg and Sarina H. Princess is now named **Bailey**. They report that she is very well-mannered and absolutely loves her Kong, but a tugboat on the leash. (Shocking- a golden that pulls on a leash!) Bailey loves all forms of play and is quickly becoming quite spoiled!



Dixie was an 11-year-old shelter dog due to be put down. GRRMF rescued her and sent her off to live with foster mom Carol C. and family. Nancy G. happens to live in the neighborhood and fell in love with Dixie at first sight. When she learned Dixie was up for adoption, she wasted no time in getting her application in to adopt her. What a nice ending for a wonderful senior golden gal who had no other chance but GRRMF.



After living indoors with their family for 8 years, **Bob** and **Jane** found themselves living outside. Luckily, their prior owners realized that wasn't

the best living conditions and turned them over to GRRMF. **Bob**, also known as SpongeBob Squarepants, was fostered by Remy, Haley, Wyatt and Tara, who taught Bob some confidence. He also was fostered by Donna and Chuck D., who helped Bob overcome other issues - although we're not sure if he'll ever get over the SpongeBob outfits Donna made him pose in! It was instant love when Denise made arrangements to meet Bob. They knew they were made for each other. Bob's foster parents agreed. Foster mom Donna wrote: "I have always said the most rewarding part of fostering was adoption day, when these sweet dogs get adopted by loving families. One of my favorite parts is when the family comes in the door and the foster dog knows how to play the room. All their attention is focused on these new people, as if they know, and when they open the car door, the dog jumps in, sits down and never looks back. Bob did not disappoint us. I will miss him, but he is exactly where he should be." Bob now spends his days with Phoebe, another GRRMFer and they get along Great!

Jane also lucked out - she was fostered by Jane F. and, later, Guillermo P., who told us early on that she was no trouble at all and



sweet as can be. Majorie R. and family, who adopted Travis, now Charlie, a few months ago, apparently realized that goldens can be addictive and you can't have just one. Jane was the lucky winner of this great family.

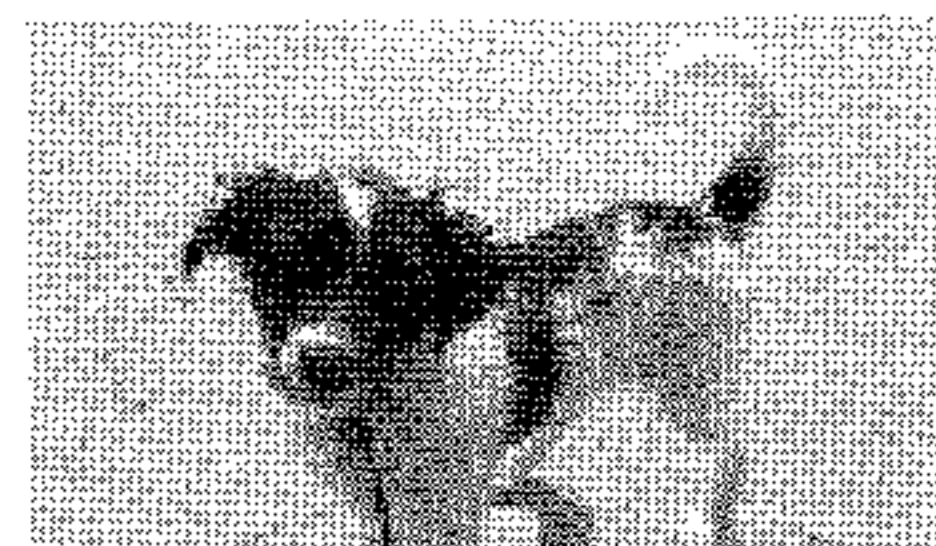
Terra came to us from a shelter. She was well along in her pregnancy, and GRRMF was the only rescue group that would take her, since the father was unknown. Within two days, Terra gave birth to 10 puppies (8 of whom lived) - and none were golden in color! That's ok - we made a promise to Terra that also included her puppies, and that was to fix their ills, take care of them and find them wonderful new forever homes. After whelping her puppies, we were able to treat Terra's many parasites, including heartworms. Once she regained her health, this sweet little munchkin went home with Bill & Pam P. She is a perfect fit in their family, and a perfect size for her new RV lifestyle. Terra's puppies adopted since our last report include:



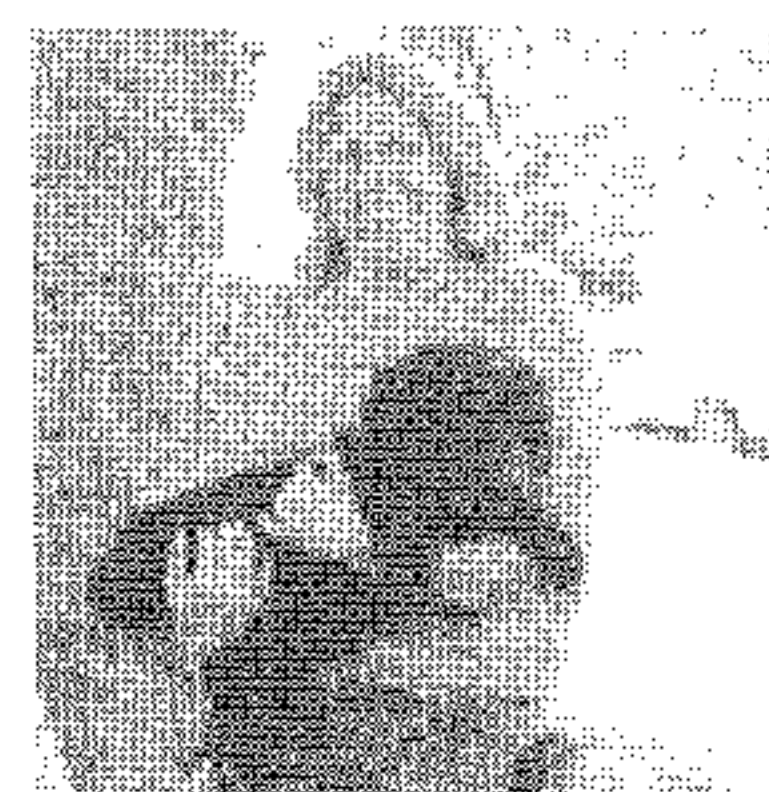
Corky, who got his name from his distinctive tail, was adopted by Laura & Martin F. His foster mom and other GRRMF friends see him regularly on the Saturday morning dog walk in East Orlando. His folks adore him and have already

enrolled him in obedience classes to help him start off on the right foot.

8 Ball, now **Molly**, was adopted by Theresa U. and family. Her foster mom, Bert H., says she misses her but is happy that Molly found such a wonderful home. She swims on a regular basis and plays constantly with her new canine sibling Snowy.



Duncan, AKA "Duncan-the-Punkin," is as sweet as can be. He was adopted by Melinda S. She fell in love with his picture and drove all the way from South Florida to take him home.



Dice was quickly scooped up by Amy C. and is very much loved in her new home.

Baron, 12, and his younger brother, Theo, were turned over to GRRMF when their family had to move.



Baron was fostered by Frank & Barb M. and adopted by Ann F. Ann loves Baron and said he fits in beautifully with her other two goldens. Many thanks to Ann for agreeing to adopt a senior dog. Our hearts go out when we get in

a senior golden, because so many people pass them over for younger dogs. Seniors may have a shorter time to spend with a new family, but they deserve to spend their final years loved and cared for, and we're overjoyed when we're able to make a match for them.

Reggie was a shelter dog. He was heartworm positive, and at 6 years, was considered unadoptable due to his age and health condition. GRRMF stepped in to help,



and my, what a save! Reggie is the sweetest and most easygoing golden of all times! He was adopted by Hank & Janice B., who have kept in contact with us to "brag" about how great he is doing. They love him very much and admit that they are spoiling him rotten. That's ok, Reggie deserves it! Reggie enjoys his long walks every day and also his playtime in the yard with dad. Reggie is fitting in so well, his folks have already talked to us about adopting a companion for him, which we know he is going to enjoy very much.

Pedro, 2 years old, was an escape artist. When he escaped the last time and came home with an injured leg from bite wounds, his owner gave up on him and called GRRMF. We fixed him up and promised him that his life as a backyard dog were over. Along came Beatrice & Richard L. and daughter Jennifer, who took him home and renamed him Rusty. A recent note sums it up nicely: "We love Rusty so much and can't tell you how much joy he has brought to our house."



Sammy Earle, at 7 years young, was faced with the situation of needing a new home. He weighed in at just under 100 pounds when he went to stay with Linda & Harold R., but with diet and exercise lost

more than 20 pounds. Linda and Harold couldn't bear to part with him, so Sammy is now a permanent member of their household. Linda said he "blends in so well we hardly realize we have another dog in the house. It was more like he picked us, making himself at home as soon as he arrived." Sammy is now a GRRMF spokesdog at educational events. Sammy and his dad are a great education team, since Harold

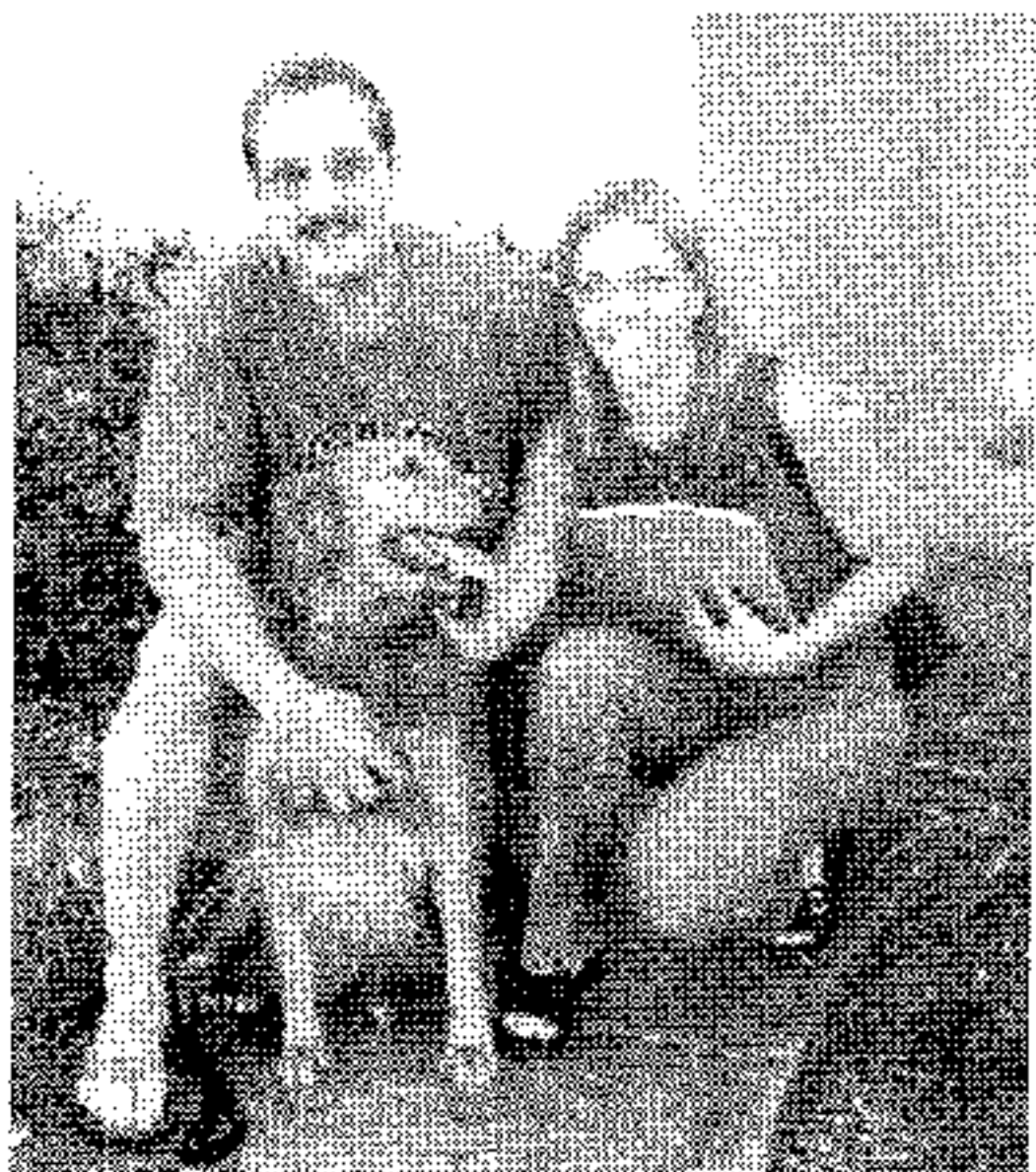
loves to talk and Sammy loves to be petted. Sammy shares his humans with golden Tango and Labrador Ollie, plus two cats.

Dreamer was at the local SPCA when GRRMF got the call about a sweet, young gal. She had been exposed to a dog who had parvo, and they couldn't risk the shelter population by putting her up for adoption. The shelter manager couldn't bear to put her down when the chances of her contracting the virus were so slim, so she called us. Dreamer

was a dream come true for Jaimie and Bob B. It was love at first sight. This energetic gal goes to the baseball field each week to cheer on her new dad as he plays. She has become quite popular with the guys on the team, but who wouldn't fall in love with a dreamy gal like her. She also recently graduated with honors from obedience school. In a recent note, Jaimie and Bob said: "We are enjoying her more than words can express. She has become the most valuable asset to our family and we couldn't be happier." Sounds like a match made in heaven and a dream come true for all!

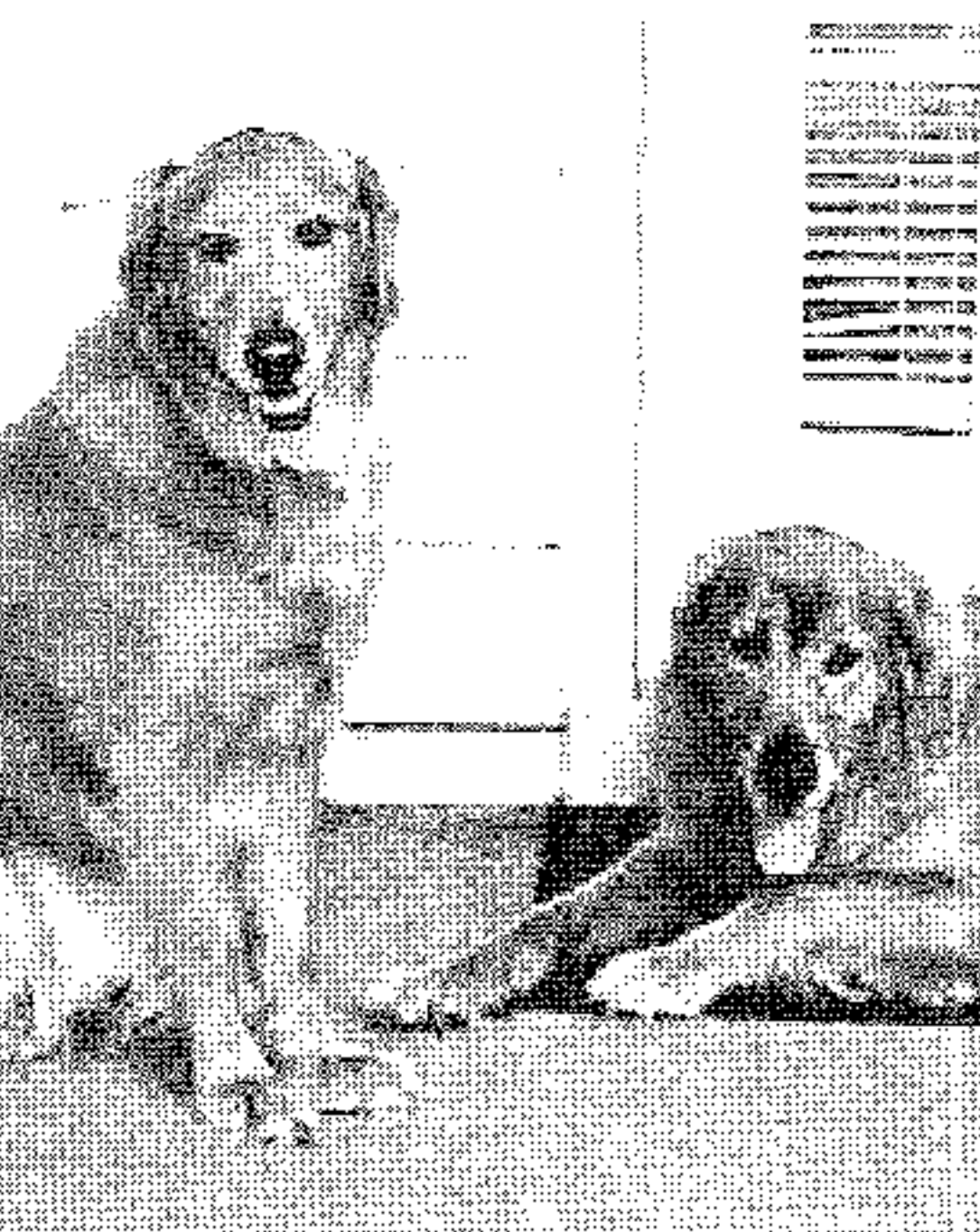
At 7 years old and 120 lbs, **Heidi** was given away at a yard sale, along with the sale of the family pool table.

A few months later, she found herself once again being given up due to no fault of her own. She was fostered by Char B., who started her on the right path with a diet and exercise. Char's patience, kind ways and strict diet paid off. Heidi was adopted by Lorraine M. and renamed "Amazing Grace" AKA Gracie. Lorraine reported that: "Gracie has fit into our family so well and acts like she has been with us for years. Gracie is exactly what we were looking for and we feel so fortunate to have found her."



What is the best thing that could happen to a senior turned over to rescue? Just ask **Casey**, who was turned in at 10 years old and fostered by Sue S and family. Casey was officially adopted by his foster family, who said he was just too GReat to let go. He is one lucky pup and is going to be spoiled and treasured.

Cashew, approximately 9 years, was turned into a shelter with her brother, Pistachio, when their owner became ill. Her brother had cancer and was euthanized. Cashew also came close to being euthanized because of her age and the fact that she was heartworm positive, but GRRMF was able to save her from that terrible fate. She was fostered by Jan J., but Cashew decided she was staying, so Jan made it official and adopted her. **Tyler**, 10, was given up when his owners divorced and moved into an apartment



that didn't allow dogs. He was fostered by Regina and Marcel V. and adopted by Jan. He turned out to be a very good match for Cashew. He's all puppy, even at 10!

When 5-year-old **Brandy Sarafina** came to GRRMF, she was stressed and very sad. She was fostered by Cindy and Rick O., who did what they could to brighten her spirits and make her as happy as they possibly could. The day that Brandy met her new mom, Judy, was the best day of her life. Brandy was now complete and totally happy. They were PERFECT for each other.

Roman is as classy as his name sounds. He was rescued by GRRMF from a local animal shelter and was a "model" golden. It's hard to believe no one claimed him or adopted him. Perhaps a 5-year-old golden isn't a popular age. If people only knew what they missed out on. He was fostered by Nancy and Tracy, as well as a few other goldens and 2 cats. Roman was adopted by Wendy J. and K-9s Harley and Muffin, all of whom have easily fallen in love with this perfect golden guy.



Scooby was turned in to rescue when his prior family decided to have another baby. At 2 years old, Scooby was not very well mannered and had a few quirks to work out with his patient foster mom Kathy R. Scooby was adopted by Mary P and family who were able to look past the wild side of Scooby and welcome him into their home. The kids think he is fabulous and Scooby gets along great with their other dog Zeke.



Remy, now named **Emmie**, was much loved and cared for in her prior home before coming to rescue. Due to unforeseen family circumstances, Remy was turned in to GRRMF. That's ok, because Remy was loved even more in her foster home. So much so that Nancy and Tracy N wanted to adopt her. But they decided they would let her go when a family came forward wishing to adopt her. Remy adopted Bert H., who tells us he is having a blast and absolutely adores her. She has quite the personality, too, which is wearing off on their grumpy old Cocker, Reggie. He is starting to develop an improved personality. How about that!

Winnie came in with her brother, Windsor. Both were strays and in terrible shape. Winnie is 9 years young - she is very active and playful, as if no one told her she is a senior! Winnie also is a "carb junkie" and was known for her counter-surfing escapades at Kathy R.'s house that landed her a bag of cookies on one occasion and a loaf of bread on another, among other food binges. Winnie was adopted and is very much loved by Shannon & John J, who said she reminds them of their former golden.

Savannah, a young girl, was an owner turn-in. They found her the year before but turned her over to GRRMF when she tested positive for heartworms. They also said she had a sensitive stomach and was jealous of other dogs. Savannah, a wonderfully cute and sweet golden, was lovingly fostered by Leah W. and adopted by Troy & Karen W.. She is the center of their lives and very much enjoys all the attention.

Ricco came to us from a shelter. He was extremely fearful and very traumatized. As such, the shelter staff determined him to be unadoptable - yet he was only 5 months old! We felt Ricco deserved a chance to be fully evaluated, and off to Sandy's house he went. Ricco was indeed very fearful at first, extremely shy with his tail tucked between his legs and into his belly. But within one day, he was romping around the yard with the other dogs in his new foster home, tail wagging and a big smile on his face. What a relief! However, although he began to trust Sandy, Ricco continued to be very shy of other people, especially men, so we knew we had to choose his new home very wisely. We've often said that there is a home for every one of these dogs - and Ricco proves us right again! Lynn C. fell in love with this little peanut and told us she felt up to the challenge. She took it slow, showing him nothing but love and kindness, and Ricco began coming out of his shell. He is now finished with his second set of obedience classes, goes to the dog park, walks with the other GRRMF dogs and people on the Saturday morning hikes and even traveled to Atlanta to meet Lynn's relatives. What a happy ending for a puppy who was almost euthanized at a shelter!



Coda was turned in by his owners at the young age of 10 months. This handsome dude was diagnosed with severe hip dysplasia, and his family couldn't afford the surgery. GRRMF agreed to take him and Dianne C. fostered him through his

bilateral hip surgeries. Dianne kept us informed throughout his months of surgeries and rehabilitation, and it was a happy day when he was finally able to begin swimming in the pool and play with his golden bro Jake. Of course, Dianne couldn't part with Coda, so he became a permanent member of her family. Coda enjoys swimming in his pool and is now able to run and play - completely pain-free! We are happy that we were able to help Coda, and his former family even sent us a letter of thanks, telling us how happy it made them to know that Coda got the chance he deserved.

You can never have too many goldens!



Saber the Sailor Man called a carport his home for three years. He was kept tied up and got little attention, no exercise ... and too much food. While in foster care, Sailor enjoyed playing with his canine companions, lost some weight and built up some muscle. His foster mom nicknamed him "Lampshade" because he was so playful and "always ready for a party." Sailor found his forever home with Lila & Dan G., who are former adopters. He has a play buddy, a swimming pool and enjoys long walks on beach.

Lulu was dropped off at a veterinarian's office when her owners moved back to Puerto Rico. She's approximately 1-2 years old and very sweet and loving. Lulu was fostered by Chris & Tommy M. and adopted by David & Julia F.

Clifford the big red dog was a very skinny shelter dog who needed medical attention for hematomas and other ailments. He was fostered by Chris & Tommy M. and now lives with Debi and Brian K., who love him very much. Clifford is quite well-behaved and very sweet. He latched onto Brian, but with time and patience, he has also began to practice his Velcro technique with Debi.

Samantha was turned in by her owner at just 6 months old for the usual reason - too much puppy and not enough time. This cute and loving golden was adopted and is very well cared for in her new home with Richard F.



Roscoe, approximately 2 years old, was found at construction site being chased by other dogs. Someone picked him up and contacted the owner, who didn't want him because he had learned how to escape his yard and was too much of a hassle. Lori & Ken C. fostered Roscoe and couldn't part with him. Roscoe now has two play buddies, including former GRRMFer Sumner.

Maude, 2 years, was owned by a teenager, and when she left for college the parents decided they didn't have time to care for their daughter's dog. Maude was well cared for and also well behaved. She was adopted by Frank & Holly F. and is greatly enjoying all the attention she's now getting.

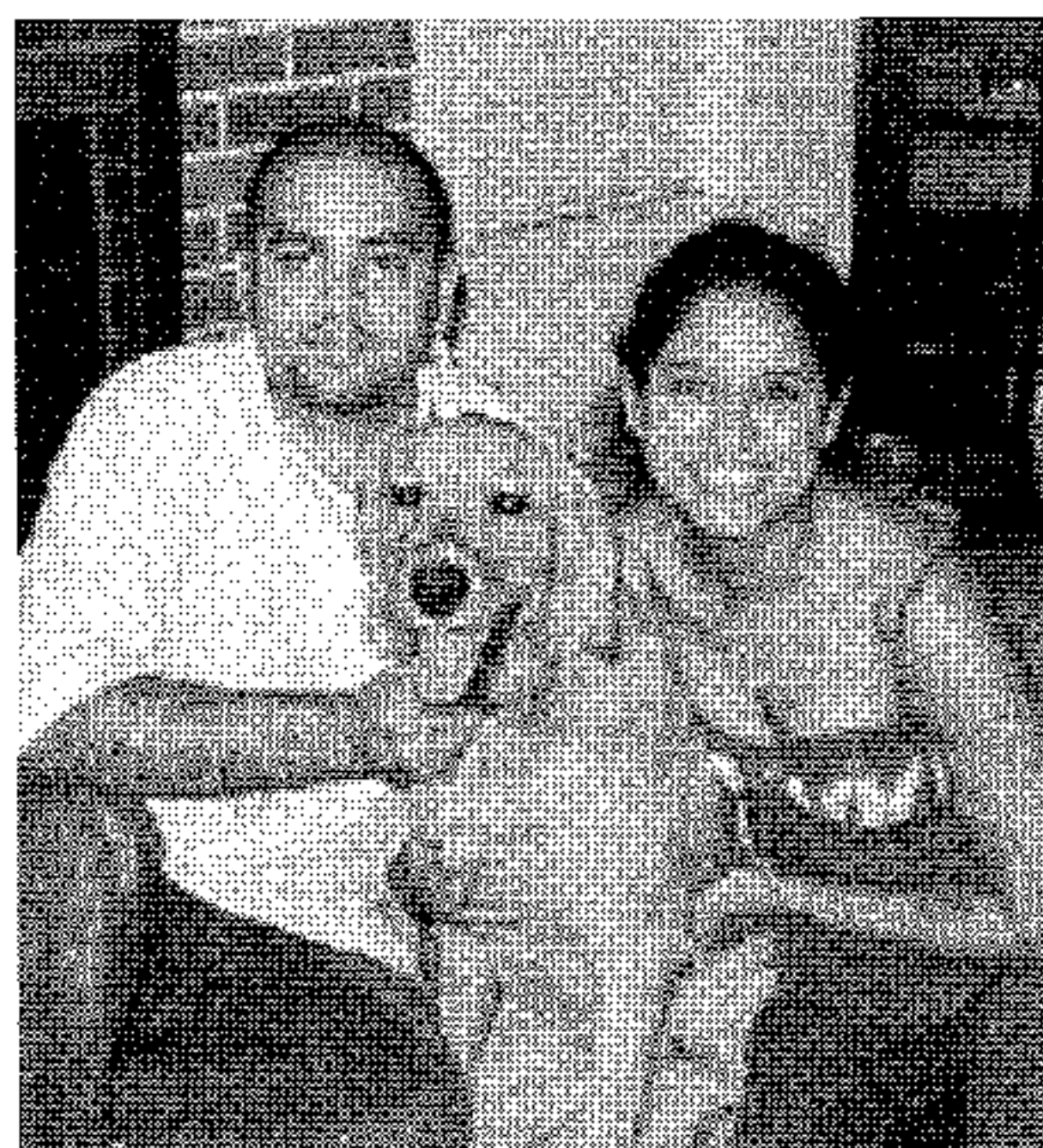


Zoey, 9 months, was completely untrained but also very sweet. She was fostered by Tommy & Chris M., who saw through her puppy exuberance and determined she really does want to be a good girl. They worked with her, and soon Zoey was learning to be a good canine citizen. She was adopted by Jason & Kara H., and GRRMF can mark this one off as one more happy ending for a rescue dog!

Ezekiel, 6 years, came in with his brother Elijah. Both were covered in fleas and had terrible ears. They had not been to a veterinarian in more than two years - and it showed! No problem, we cleared Zeke

up and began looking for his forever home. Zeke is particular about what other dogs he likes, so we knew he needed to be an only dog. Dennis & Elizabeth L. fit the bill, and they have been working with a trainer to help Zeke get more socialized. He tends to be aggressive to other dogs while on leash, but the trainer feels with some work on the part of his humans, he can learn to become more tolerant of other dogs.

Murray, 1 year, was purchased as a puppy and lived with a single mom and six kids. She loved him very much but realized she had no time for an active puppy, and when Murray started jumping on the children and playing "keep away" with their pacifiers and toys, she decided the best decision would be to find a good home for him. GRRMF was called, and Murray went to stay with his foster folks, Mike & Carol M. While there, Murray learned not to be afraid of the cat, how to sit for a treat and, his favorite, what a swimming pool is for! Murray was adopted by Mariam & Marcus M. and is now called Shiloh. They say he is perfect in every way and they are already very much in love with him. Shiloh will be enrolled in obedience classes to help him become a good canine citizen, and his new parents are looking forward to a lifetime of fun with their new "baby."



Dog-Gone Great Vacation

By Emily Rowe, GRRMF Foster Coordinator



Want to take a vacation but don't want to leave the four-legged kids behind? St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach are very dog-friendly places to visit. We recently spent a couple of days exploring St. Augustine with Lexi and Lola. They were welcomed in shops and at

outside seating areas in the restaurants. The most fun was taking the horse and buggy sightseeing ride around town. We learned about the city's history, and the dogs got to ride along. Their favorite stop was the doggy bakery where they sampled the treats. Of course, we bought some of their favorites for later.

St. Augustine Beach is about 5 minutes from the historical district. The beach is dog friendly (on leash, of course). Lexi loved the surf and Lola enjoyed chasing the birds. After a romp at the beach we returned to the dog-friendly bed-and-breakfast we stayed in for a rest. While there, I learned that there is a dog "spa" that will pamper your dog while you sightsee. They offer everything from social play time with other dogs to full grooming services.

The next day we found the local dog park for some off-leash play and exploring. For campers, there is also a dog-friendly campground close by. Everywhere we went people greeted "the girls" and told us about the wonderful goldens in their lives. It seems everyone either has a golden, had one in the past or is planning to get one! We took every opportunity to spread the word about rescue.

For more information about the St. Augustine area or other dog-friendly spots in Florida, pick up The Dog Lover's Companion to Florida, by Sally Deneen and Robert McClure.

We definitely plan to go back and explore St. Augustine some more when the weather cools off!

Volunteers Needed on East Coast!

Our volunteer base on Florida's east coast has dwindled, and the remaining few are really feeling the pressure! If you live in Brevard, Indian River or St. Lucie County and would be willing to transport, foster or attend education days, we need you!

Contact Gregg Eddie:

codyeddie@cfl.rr.com,

or Theresa Bradley: trisavy@cfl.rr.com.

between Tampa, Orlando, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Ocala, West Palm, and more -all over the state.

Why is the Transportation Team so important? These volunteers are the logistical backbone of our organization. Nothing can happen to save a dog unless we have transportation volunteers. We need mobile volunteers who can handle large dogs and have a vehicle with capacity to drive a dog from Point A to Point B. Transports happen on the weekdays as well as weekends, and sometimes we don't have a lot of advance notice. For example, if we learn of a golden that is to be put down at a shelter, the Intake and Transportation teams must act very quickly or the dog will, quite literally, be killed. Also, many veterinarians are not open on weekends, or are open for very limited hours on Saturdays, so we also need some volunteers who can transport on weekdays as well as weekends. That doesn't mean ALL volunteers have to be available at a moment's notice, 24/7. But the more volunteers we have to pull from, the better our chances are of finding someone who is able to make the run. Communication of the transport need comes from our Transportation Coordinator Sue Angle, who works with Intake Coordinator Kelly Mehigan and Foster Coordinator Emily Rowe to arrange needed transports. Usually the communication is via email, so it is helpful for volunteers to be diligent about checking their email.

Since dogs coming into our program are unknown to us, we request that volunteers leave their own dogs and small children at home during transports. This is for your safety. A strange dog should be kept away from children and other dogs until it is evaluated for temperament and physical problems. Again, our primary concern is safety - for our volunteers and the dogs we are rescuing.

If you are interested in joining our GRRMF Transportation Team, please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it to us or fax it to: (419) 781-3538.

Until next time,
Barbara

A Note From the Treasurer

By Nancy Spears

We don't like to put pitiful dogs with horrendous medical problems on our Web site and beg for help, but we are obligated to take in these golden treasures to assist them in having a chance of a wonderful life. And all of you golden lovers know that veterinary services and specialists are very expensive. Fortunately, all the veterinarians with whom we work discount their services. Even with those discounts - ranging from 20 percent to 50 percent - in the first six months of this year our medical bills have exceeded \$42,500.

Unfortunately, our sweet **Bo** (featured in the last Hearts of Gold newsletter) came to us too late, but he had three weeks of people caring for him and loving him before he passed to the Rainbow Bridge. It was worth the cost, no question. We've also had some successes this year: **Coda** with his hip surgeries; **Terra** with her pups and being heartworm positive and unspayed; and **O'Connor** with his eye removal - these three, now all adopted, have found their second chance for a wonderful life in a loving home. **Montana**, featured in this newsletter, is on the mend but will not be ready for adoption for quite a while.

Bless all of you golden lovers that help us with our problem cases. We can't thank you enough and want to applaud your assistance - and this goes for our wonderful and caring veterinarians, too. Without your aid, we couldn't continue taking in these "needy" rescues - and you know what would happen to them.

In short, thank you all for making it possible for me to pay GRRMF's bills and keep this organization afloat financially, so we can continue our mission.

PS: GRRMF fosters and volunteers occasionally receive reimbursement checks from GRRMF for medical bills or other necessary purchases. Please remember to deposit or cash it right away - outstanding checks make it difficult for us to balance the books.

Many thanks - Nancy

☐ *Yes I'm interested in being a GRRMF transportation volunteer!*

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____ Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Vehicle Make/Model: _____

Do you have the vehicle capacity to use a crate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, do you have a crate that you could use? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many dogs are you capable of transporting at one time? _____ Distance willing to travel: _____

Which days of the week can you transport? (Circle all that apply) Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat Sun

What hours of the day are you available to transport? _____

The undersigned (hereafter referred to as "the volunteer") has agreed to volunteer his/her services or facilities to Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc. (hereafter referred to as "GRRMF"). The volunteer(s) acknowledges and understands that the dogs involved in GRRMF's program may be untrained or unhealthy, and that GRRMF makes no representations whatsoever regarding the dog's temperament, health (including the presence or absence of diseases transmissible to humans or to other animals), age, ability, attitude or trainability. The volunteer assumes all risks relating to working with the GRRMF dog(s). The volunteer hereby releases GRRMF, its officers, directors, participants, volunteers, and affiliates ("GRRMF" Participants) from any and all claims, actions, liabilities, damages, and costs of any kind ("claims and costs") arising out of transportation, fostering, or any other work or activity with any dog connected with GRRMF or a dog owned by GRRMF volunteer, except that all volunteers will be responsible for actions of dogs that they personally own. If anyone in the volunteer's household makes a claim, the volunteer will indemnify, defend, and hold GRRMF and GRRMF participants harmless from such claims and costs.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Return completed form to: GRRMF Volunteers, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or fax to: (419) 781-3538

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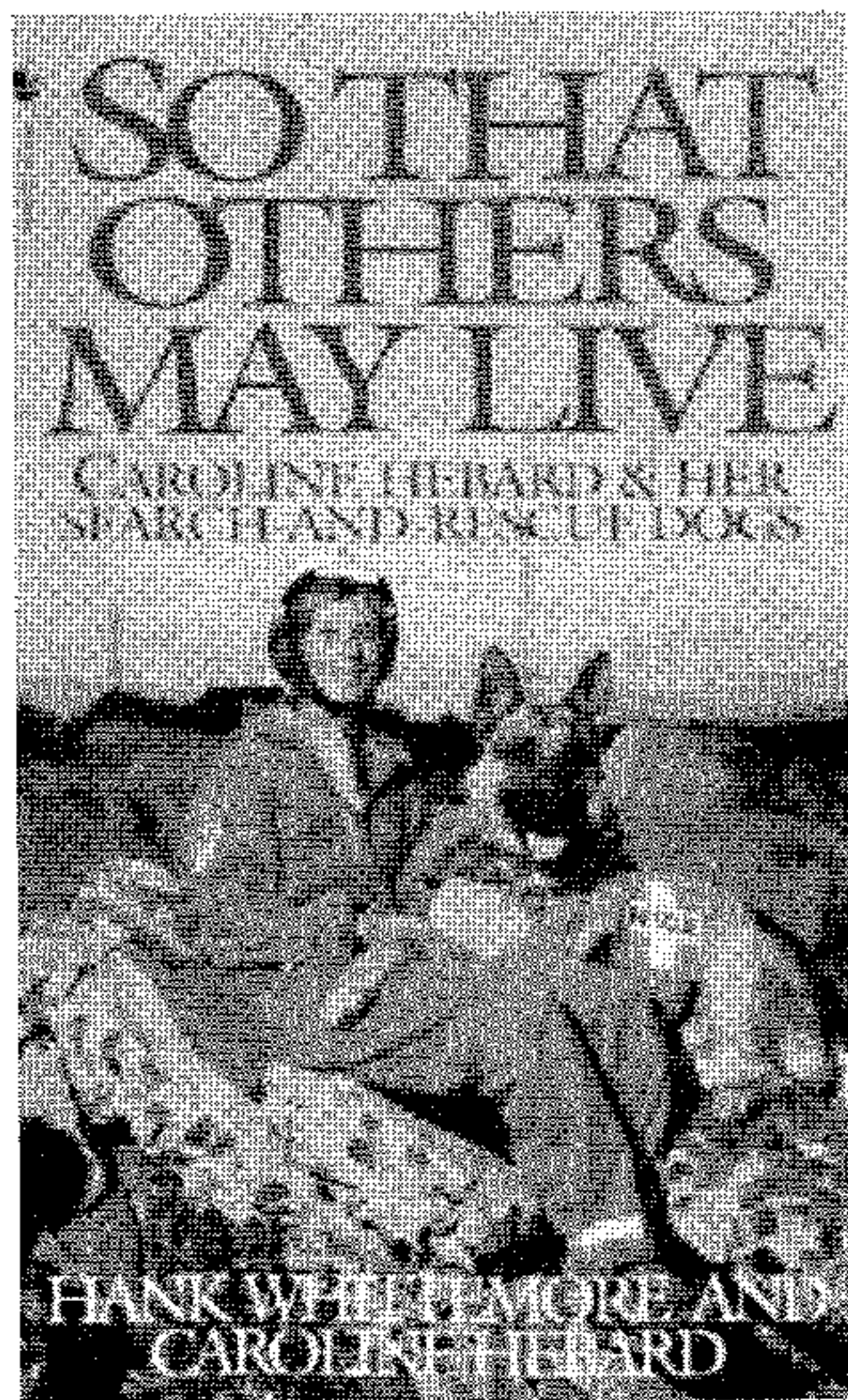
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Membership dues: \$25 / All Donations are Tax-Deductible. Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grrmf.org

Books You Must Read!

By Ellen Lindenfeld

Summer is here, and there's no better time than now to curl up with a good book! Here are some recommended readings provided by Ellen Lindenfeld, a GRRMF volunteer and regional library manager in Broward County. Linda has shared her life with goldens for 20 years, and has been involved in rescue work for 7 years.



So That Others May Live: Caroline Hebard and her Search and Rescue Dogs

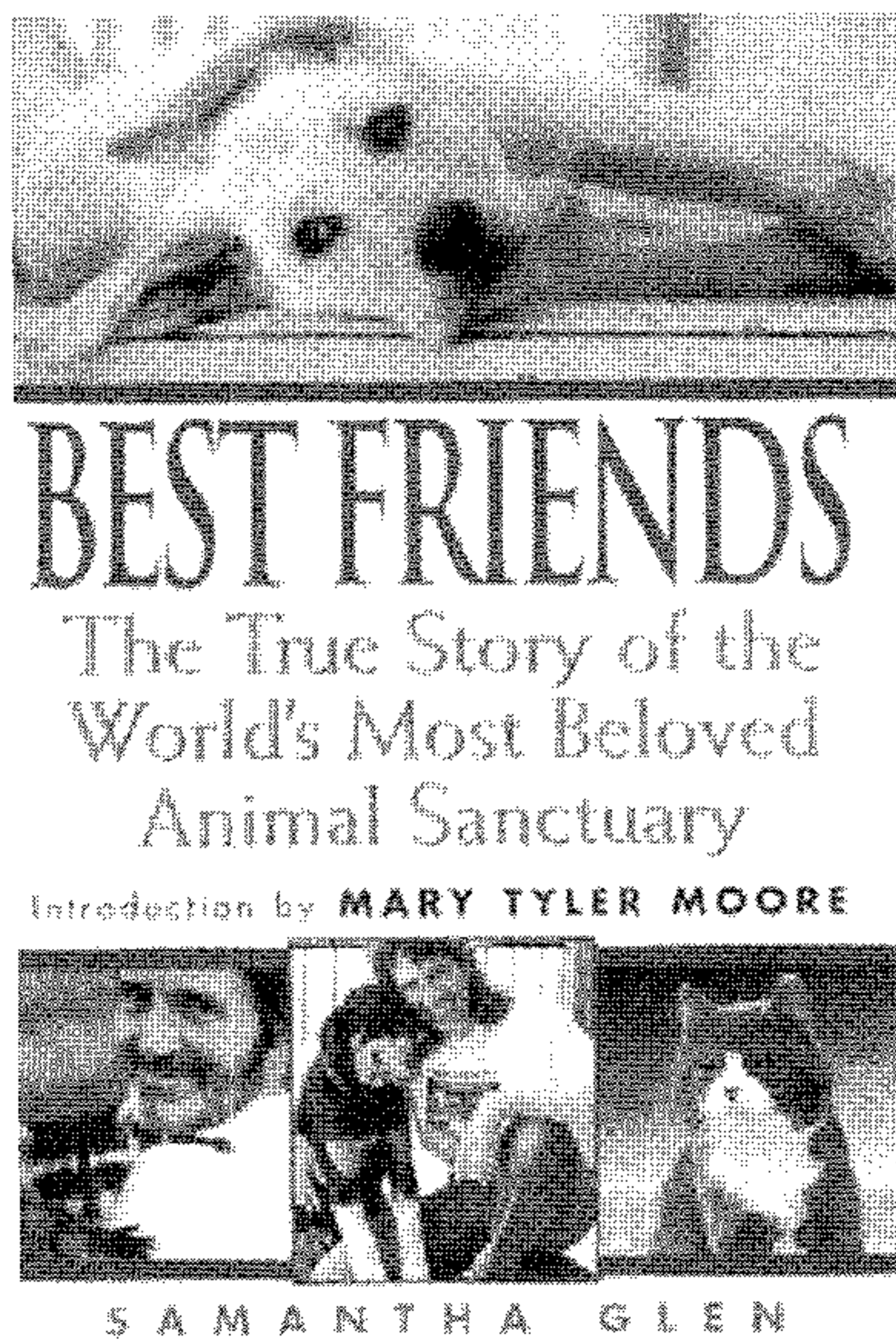
co-written by Caroline Hebard and Hank Whittemore (Bantam Books, 1995).

The Library Journal says: "This is a truly remarkable account of an uncommon woman, her extraordinary German shepherd dogs, and their combined talent and devotion. Hebard recounts with co-author Whittemore over 25 years of her life spent training her dogs, herself, and others to assist in the location

of lost persons, criminals, and disaster victims. Readers will also be impressed by Hebard's depth of understanding of canine psychology and positive motivational training techniques." Even though this book features a different breed, it is a great read, and speaks to the hearts of animal lovers and rescuers alike.

Best Friends: The True Story of the World's Most Beloved Animal Sanctuary by Samantha Glen (Kensington, 2001).

From the Library Journal: "Best Friends, a domestic animal sanctuary in Kenab, Utah, is permanent home to more than 1,800 dogs, cats, birds, horses, etc., many of them abused, disfigured and unadoptable. In recounting Best Friends' 20-year history, the author introduces us not only to the humans who brought the dream to reality but also some of the charming and needy animals who necessitated its creation. A heartwarming and inspiring tale of love, dedication, and courage." This is a wonderful book, and you will all want to move to Utah to help after reading it. I actually applied for a job with Best Friends after reading this book! Also available on audiocassette/CD.



Rescue at Work in 2005

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

While trying to come up with a column for this month, I decided to focus on what has been going on behind the scenes at rescue. For much of the general public, we are seen as a group that takes in dogs and finds them new homes. We do much more than that (education, events, fundraising, counseling, problem solving, etc.), but the path from a dog coming into the program and being part of our "Recent Adoptions" section of the newsletter is not always a quick - or easy - one.

Besides the obvious critical care cases like Montana, GRRMF takes in many dogs that are heartworm positive. Most of the time, GRRMF does not know this upon intake; it is diagnosed when examined by one of our wonderful veterinarians. So far in 2005, we have taken in 14 dogs requiring treatment. This is a long process that requires the dog to be in a foster home for an extended period of time until it is deemed healthy enough for adoption.

Treatment is also expensive and very hard on the dog. All of this could have been prevented with just one pill per month. It is amazing

how many dogs from seemingly caring families come in heartworm positive.

We also take in goldens who require expensive hip surgery. The family cannot afford it, and GRRMF comes to the rescue again, ensuring the dog receives whatever level of veterinary care it needs to live a happy and pain-free life. Again, the rehab time is long, the surgery is very expensive and the dog stays in rescue until given a clean bill of health.

And, of course, we also work on the obvious things like housebreaking, correcting bad habits and increasing trust. That is why each dog stays in a foster home for a minimum of two weeks (owner turn-in) or one month

(strays and shelter dogs). Our experience has shown it takes at least this long to fully assess the dog.

In the last few months, my house has been humming with fosters in and out: one heartworm positive dog, a couple of puppies who needed to learn house manners and be socialized, a young dog with mange (see photo of Cisco accompanying this article), a couple of seniors and some young ones who needed to learn how to live inside a house without going full tilt from before sunup to well after sundown. And I am just one foster home.

On the positive side, just about every dog is fixable -- and one of the best recent examples of this is Peanut (see the adoption section in this newsletter for more details). She came into rescue because the family had no time for her. It showed! While at our veterinarian being evaluated, the staff there said she was FULL of energy every minute of every day. Theresa and Bob B. fostered Peanut, and to give you a sense of her challenges, they nicknamed her "Nut-Butt." To say she was a wild child is a gross understatement. She was wired for sound 24/7. Luckily, she was also cute -- and cuteness can outweigh a multitude of sins. Bob & Theresa were patient and worked with her day in and day out. Her forever family just happen to be dog trainers, so Peanut, now Autumn, gets to work on her obedience skills every day. Recently, she achieved celebrity status when she was featured by a local newspaper and TV station participating in a summer course to teach kids how to treat animals with respect. Amazingly, in the footage former "Nut-Butt" Autumn is very calm and quite in control of her energy as she sits quietly and lets the kids pet her. Quite a nice journey from her days of being totally out of control!

This is what we do. Every once in a while, we get one that is healthy, up-to-date on shots, well-adjusted and in an age range where it can be adopted quickly (more applications come in for young dogs than seniors). I think this happens just to keep us hopeful for each one. But in reality, most of these rescues need us for one reason or another. Their chances of being adopted "as is" are very slim.

So if someone at an Education Day wonders why we don't just hand them out at these public outings, you can now tell them why. We polish these diamonds in the rough and make them gleam before they go to their forever homes.



The Cisco Kid: In spite of the discomfort he must feel covered in mange and bleeding scabs, 7-month-old Cisco still has a smile for everyone. Foster mom Sandy Sumner gives him special baths every few days, along with a plethora of medications and supplements, to help him heal. At this writing, Cisco's scabs are gone and his fur is beginning to grow back. He is in the final stretch in his battle against mange - and he is winning!

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Kathleen & Jim Frederick,
Becky Delp, Jeannine
Thompson, Cheryl Pacheco,
Colleen & Rick Sosteri,
Tracy Gartenbaum.

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.

Intake Team: Kelly Mehigan, Donna Dossing, Emily Rowe, Bert Haker.

Call Team: Donna Dossing, Penny Iannone, Carol McKee, Sue Keiser, Kerri Voorhies, Emily Rowe, Linda Helm, Judi Syffrett, Linda Rhea.

Transportation Volunteers: Sue & Ray Angle, Theresa Bradley, Pat Chesley, Gregg & Tom Eddie, Jana & Greg Garrison, Dennis Grace, Rebecca Gushwa, Lynne Halleran, Penny Iannone, Kim James, Judy Ladney, Jennifer Longman, Mike & Carol McKee, Kelly Mehigan, Barbara Odell, Emily Rowe, Pat & Bill Shepard, Mike Stastka, Sandy Sumner.

Air Delivery: Special thanks to Jana & Greg Garrison for transporting three dogs recently in their personal airplane - Pedro, Maude and Princess. They were all in different cities, so Jana & Greg logged hundreds of miles. Talk about going "above and beyond"! You guys are the BEST!

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; Bellevue Veterinary Hospital, Bellevue; 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; Animal Clinic of Lady Lake; Florida Veterinary Specialists, Tampa; Drs. Beecham & Jacobson, North Orange Veterinary Hospital, Apopka

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 Pfohler, Sarasota; JaVic Dog Training, Melbourne; Scott Holloway, Chateau du Chien, Sarasota; Susan Kendrick, Bowser College, Bowsercollege.com or 321.689.2239.

Hip Dog Therapy: for providing hydrotherapy and massage for our rescues with hip problems, Winter Park.

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 Sportplex: for donating tennis balls!

GRRMF Web site: Renee Duke, our Web Goddess, who does such a wonderful job for us - we've received comments from all over the country on the look and value of our Web site.

Meet the Veterinarians

GRRMF is fortunate to have a cast of wonderful veterinarians across the state who not only provide us significant discounts on their services, but also demonstrate an extraordinary amount of devotion to the breed. We insist on only the highest quality of care for our precious goldens, and we appreciate our vets and their staffs very much! In this column, we will highlight one of our wonderful vets each issue.

Meet Dr. Charles Steiner of Wickham Road Animal Hospital in Melbourne

Dr. Steiner has an undergraduate degree from Lake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and his doctorate in veterinary sciences from the University of Georgia. He and his family have rescued two Chihuahuas, Chewy and Tarzan, and four cats, Bug, Clyde, Tippy and Casey.

Other than his love of animals, Dr. Steiner enjoys reading and gardening and has recently been very interested in Florida native plants and plant propagation.

"I enjoy helping GRRMF because the people in the organization are a pleasure to work with," Dr. Steiner says. "GRRMF is very well organized and committed to the health and welfare of all goldens. The organization is respectful of my assessments on the goldens brought to me and will do everything reasonable to help."

"Dr. Steiner has always been very good at educating me and taking his time so that I can better understand the needs of the goldens we bring to him," says Gregg Eddie, East Coast Coordinator. "They never turn us down, even when they have a full house on holidays. Dr. Steiner will tell you a lot of the credit in helping these wonderful dogs out is due to Vet Tech Theresa Backes, who personally handles all the goldens, from care to paperwork, for GRRMF," Gregg adds.

Readers may remember Dr. Steiner and his staff from our last newsletter featuring Bo, our 200+ pound golden who passed away due to obesity. Dr. Steiner and staff worked diligently and passionately to help Bo, and treated him as if he was their own. Bo loved the staff, and the feeling was mutual. Many thanks to all at Wickham Road for their wonderful care and dedication to Bo, as well as all the other GRRMF dogs who have passed through their doorway over the years.

Many thanks!

If we failed to mention you, please let us know - (407) 332-2840 or e-mail our newsletter editor at newsletter@grrmf.org - 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!!

Note from GRRMF President Barbara Durham: Robin Scott is a longtime member of GRRMF and shows golden retrievers in competitive obedience events. I first met Robin in about 1994 when we started our two dogs in novice obedience classes together. Rocky, my golden, just loved Robin's Labrador retriever, Casey. They trained together for several years. I've watched Casey suffer terribly with allergies over the years, so when I heard Robin had finally discovered a way to improve Casey's condition, I suggested she write an article for our newsletter. Perhaps it can benefit some of our readers, as allergies are one of the most common problems in goldens. Normally, most problems can be remedied with good food, herbal supplements such as fish oil caps, and other holistic treatments, but some dogs continue to suffer. For information on holistic treatments, visit our Web site: www.grrmf.org. - Barbara

Atopica: The New Allergy Miracle

I fell in love with my chocolate Lab the very first time I saw her - she was so soft, cuddly and just beautiful. I have goldens, but Casey is just my first obedience dog and she is very special. I would like to share the story of Casey and her horrible allergies in hopes that one of you may benefit from what she has been through.

Casey was born October 14, 1994. Through the years, Casey always had dry skin and was itchy, normally starting in June through December. Once the weather turned cool, she seemed to be more comfortable. But there was a time that she was so itchy, my veterinarian at the time suggested we test her for allergies.

The results came back that Casey was very allergic to dust mites or dust. Actually, my vet said her reaction was the highest he had ever seen. I had a friend that was heavily involved in homeopathy, so we experimented and were able to keep her somewhat comfortable for about 3 years. Then that bad time of June through December turned into year round. Casey was scratching and uncomfortable continuously.

I wanted to help Casey and I wanted to try everything. After her body adjusted to the homeopathic treatments and they were no longer effective or her allergies got worse, I am not sure which, I made an appointment with a holistic veterinary specialist. There was a remarkable improvement treating her with additives to food, Chinese herbs, etc., but again, after a few months Casey's allergies got very bad and she developed a staphylococcus infection. I don't know how many of you have had to deal with staph infections, but I can tell you they are extremely difficult to treat. My regular vet would prescribe antibiotics, but about two weeks after the antibiotics were done, the infection returned.

Finally, when Casey became so miserable that she had not slept in two nights, scratching all night, my vet referred me to a conventional veterinarian specializing in dermatology. It was October 13, 2003, the day before Casey's 9th birthday, and since we had been battling these horrible allergies since she was five while treating Casey off and on with Tamerol P, I made the appointment with the specialist. The specialist did all kinds of tests and determined -- Casey was allergic to dust! All kinds of sprays were prescribed and Casey was put on a very expensive antibiotic. I was told my carpet probably aggravated her condition, and since we had been planning on replacing the carpet with tile, we proceeded to do so. Casey did not improve. In January 2004, over \$2,000 later, the specialist wrote me a letter telling me to try different foods and referred me back to my regular vet. I was in tears. It seemed as if nothing could help my little girl. My vet and I agreed to treat Casey with Tamerol P as needed, because it seemed to help her. I did put Casey on the raw-food diet for about a year, but there was no improvement.

In July 2004, the AKC Gazette published an article about a new treatment for allergies: Atopica. I was so excited, I made an appointment that very day and my vet ordered the Atopica. Apparently, it was in the early stages of distribution and

the exact treatment was not really known. One box, 15 pills, one per day. At the end of the 15 days, there was no improvement so my vet told me no further treatment with Atopica would be beneficial.

In January of this year, I decided to change vets. It was very hard to do, but the results have been a miracle. I took Casey to Dr. Steve Wiseman at the Oviedo Animal Hospital. When I walked in the door, the office staff gasped and said "Oh My Gosh" in horror. You see, Casey had bare spots all over her face, her hindquarters, both sides had very sparse hair, but she was mostly bald. I used to call her my giant hairless.

Dr. Wiseman talked with me about a new treatment for allergies which has been very successful. He explained it was very expensive but it had shown proven results. He explained that in a dog, allergens are released through the skin, whereas in humans, our eyes and nose run. Atopica, when used correctly, prevented the allergens from being released and it had to be used in conjunction with an antibiotic. So Dr. Wiseman and I decided to give it a try, even though I told him we had tried the one box before. I had very little hope. In fact, I was close to having Casey put down because she was so miserable, and many parts of her were continuously bloody from scratching. It was tearing me apart seeing her so uncomfortable.

So on March 1, I left Dr. Wiseman's office with a box of Atopica and a bottle of the prescribed antibiotics. The dose was different this time ... and so were the results. Once the 15 pills were gone, Dr. Wiseman said let's try another round. So I bought two boxes, 30 capsules. I was told it takes six weeks to grow hair. Casey was no longer on Tamerol P and I felt better about her, but I refused to get my hopes up. I had done that in the past only to be disappointed. At the end of the 30 capsules, in the sunlight - I could swear I saw hair in spots that used to be bald. So I bought another two boxes with Dr. Wiseman's guidance and approval.

Well, it was six weeks later when I had to bring Casey in for something else to be checked, and again the office staff screamed "Oh my Gosh!" - but this time it was not with pity, it was with excitement. You see, Casey looks wonderful. She looks beautiful again. There are no bald spots, her coat is rich, full, shiny and healthy. And last week when I gave her a bath, the shower had a handful of hair from shedding for the first time in two years. We have spread out the treatment - it started with every day, then every other day and now we are at every two days. It is expensive, but Casey sleeps through the night and is beautiful again. She is not miserable, she is not scratching uncontrollably and she is happy. Her allergies seem to be under control - and let me tell you that is a miracle!

Casey competed for many years in obedience, earning numerous titles, and when she turned 9 she earned her first agility title. Unfortunately, we felt the stress might have been involved in her allergies so she retired a year ago and now because of her age she will stay retired. Casey will probably be on Atopica for the rest of her life, but at least she has a life that is happy, comfortable with the allergies controlled -- because of Dr. Steve Wiseman and his knowledge of treatment with Atopica.

Coming Soon! 2006 GRRMF Calendars!

We are proud to introduce the 2006 GRRMF calendars. Available for only \$12, this professionally produced, full-color wall calendar shows off some of our special rescue dogs. All photos were submitted by adopters through a photo contest fundraiser held earlier this year. Just to name a few of our calendar dogs ... Learn about Haley, one of the "Sarasota 23" moms, see Fletcher living large in his new home, and catch up with Riley, the unruly young boy now the dog of a lifetime. We included as many of the photos submitted as we could throughout the calendar. See one of your favorite golden friends on every page of the calendar!

The calendars will be ready for shipment in September, but you can place your order early ... we expect to sell out. Order several for gifts - you won't be disappointed and your gifts will benefit a great cause. 100% of the proceeds directly provide services to homeless, abused and neglected golden retrievers.



Calendars are only \$12 each!

JUST TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP:

5 calendars will vaccinate and deworm one golden

10 calendars will spay or neuter one golden to help reduce overpopulation

30 calendars will provide heartworm treatment for one golden

80 calendars will provide hip surgery for one golden

ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ calendars @ \$12.00 each: \$ _____ ; Shipping & Handling (see chart): \$ _____ Total Amount Due: \$ _____

BULK ORDER: Order in bulk and Save!

5 calendars \$55 + S&H \$5 = \$60 total

10 calendars \$100 + S&H \$5 = \$105 total

15 calendars \$125 (that's just over \$8 per calendar! + S&H \$5 = \$130 total

20 calendars \$160 (\$8.00 each!) + S&H \$5 = \$165 total

SHIPPING CHARGES # of calendars:

(1) \$2.50; (2) \$3.00; (3-4) \$4.00; (5 and up) \$5.00.

All proceeds benefit GRRMF! Make checks payable to GRRMF and mail to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733; To pay by credit card, use PAYPAL: www.paypal.com, GRRMF payment ID: info@grrmf.org

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE HELP US SELL OUT! Do you know golden lovers? We are asking you, GRRMF's biggest supporters, to help sell our beautiful calendars. If you are interested in taking part to help homeless goldens through this special fundraiser, please e-mail Andrea Davis: peachybean@tampabay.rr.com for an order form and more information. Sell to your friends, family and co-workers. And don't miss great golden prizes for the top sellers. Check the Web site for the most up to date information.

THANKS TO OUR GRRMF STARS!!

Many thanks to all who submitted photos and "Gotcha Dates" to help with this fundraiser. We've raised hundreds of dollars already, and we haven't even started selling the calendars yet! We received so many wonderful photos, our judges had a very difficult time choosing only 13 to be "pin-up" goldens: 1 for each month and a cover dog. And if you don't see your golden featured as a dog-of-the-month, check out the bottom date section - we tried to use as many photos as we possibly could. It is truly heartwarming to see how happy and healthy our former rescues are today. You made our year!

Dog-Friendly West Coast

By Emily Rowe, GRRMF Foster Coordinator

The west coast of Florida is a great place to find dog-friendly parks. City, county and state parks have fenced playgrounds for pooches. Most of these provide "poop bags" for easy pickup after pets and water fountains for dogs and their humans. It's important to read and follow the rules at these parks so they remain open and a pleasant place to visit.

In Pinellas county, the fenced dog parks are called "Paw Playgrounds." Some favorites include Anderson Park and John Chestnut Paw Park in Tarpon Springs, Walsingham Park in Largo, Walter Fuller Park and Lake Vista Park in St. Petersburg. In Seminole, there is a Paw Playground at Boca Ciega Millenium Park. Visit www.floridapets.net for a more complete list and directions.

Dog Parks that include swimming areas are Honeymoon Island State Park in Dunedin, Davis Island Dog Park in Tampa and Fort DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg. Most of these parks also allow leashed dogs on the walking trails, so you and your four-legged pal can both get exercise!

One more dog-friendly place is Shell Key. It is an island that is only accessible by boat. Dogs are not allowed during nesting season in the Spring. Be prepared if you visit this park, because there are no facilities and you must take everything with you that you bring - even trash.

What better way to spend a few hours than playing and relaxing with your dogs! And during your adventures to any of these west coast parks, if you see someone with a golden or two, be sure to stop by and introduce yourself - there's a good chance you may come across a GRRMF volunteer and/or alumni!

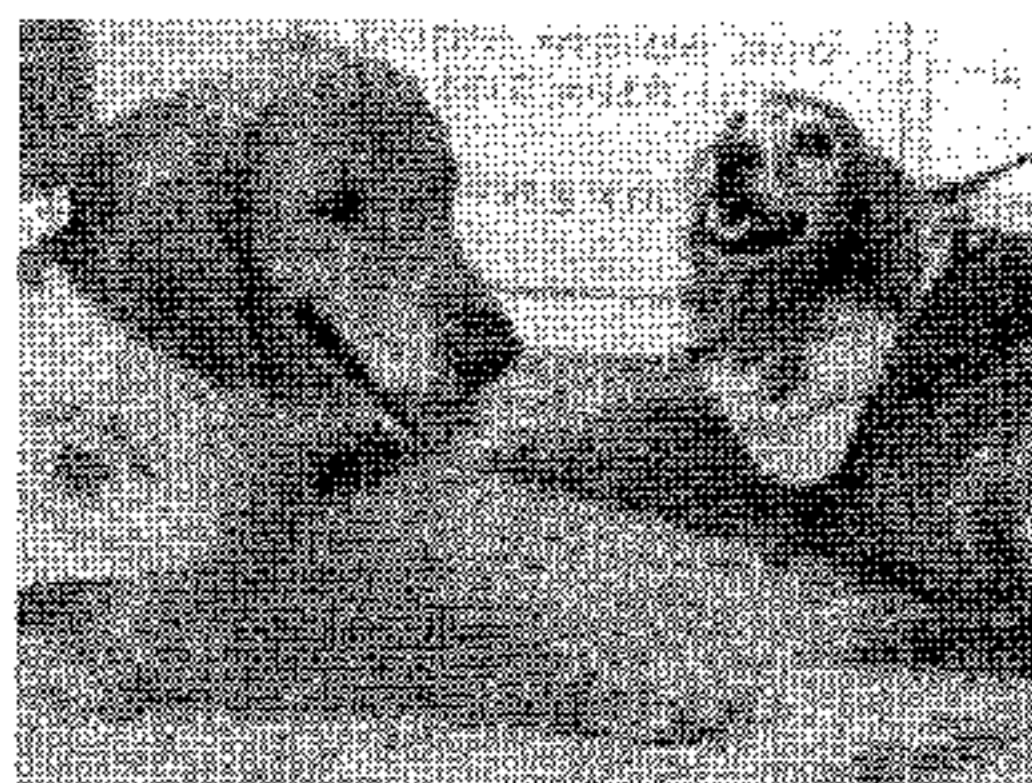
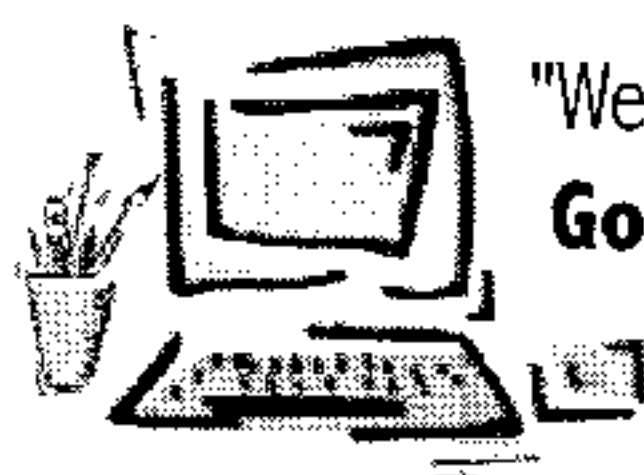
Corner **Email**

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.



Charlie (formerly Travis) and **Willa** not only found wonderful forever homes, but they are now GRRMF "ambassadors" on Florida's West Coast! Their many fans while in foster

care sure do enjoy seeing these two at education days. It is obvious that they both have found their perfect families. Thanks to Debbie McGhehey for sending the photo our way.



"We wanted to give you an update on **Goldie/Grady**. He's doing just great. We took him to PetsMart this morning and found that he weighs 94.1 lbs., so he's lost 3 lbs. this week! I am so proud of him! He is still all about the food though and looks so forward to mealtimes. He's been walking two miles with me every day and he is really a great walker, even on a busy street, doesn't get distracted by traffic or other smells. I know he enjoys that time when I come home from work and he gets very excited when I get his leash. He seems to have a special bond with my son Matt, and I can't seem to sit down without him wanting me to touch him. I love petting him, he's so soft and fluffy! Thanks for matching us up with this truly great dog!" - Cathy F.



We are just thrilled that we were able to bring **Mandy** home yesterday. I'm sure she is going to be a good fit. The stars were lined up just right yesterday and everything fell into place. I'm ordering the Sense-ation harness for her, but will be trying the Gentle Leader on our first walk. You can be sure we'll see you on the trail! (Seminole Trail in Winter Park, Fla. - many GRRMFers meet there every Saturday morning for a nice nature walk with their goldens - join us!) Thanks for all your help. - Donna T.

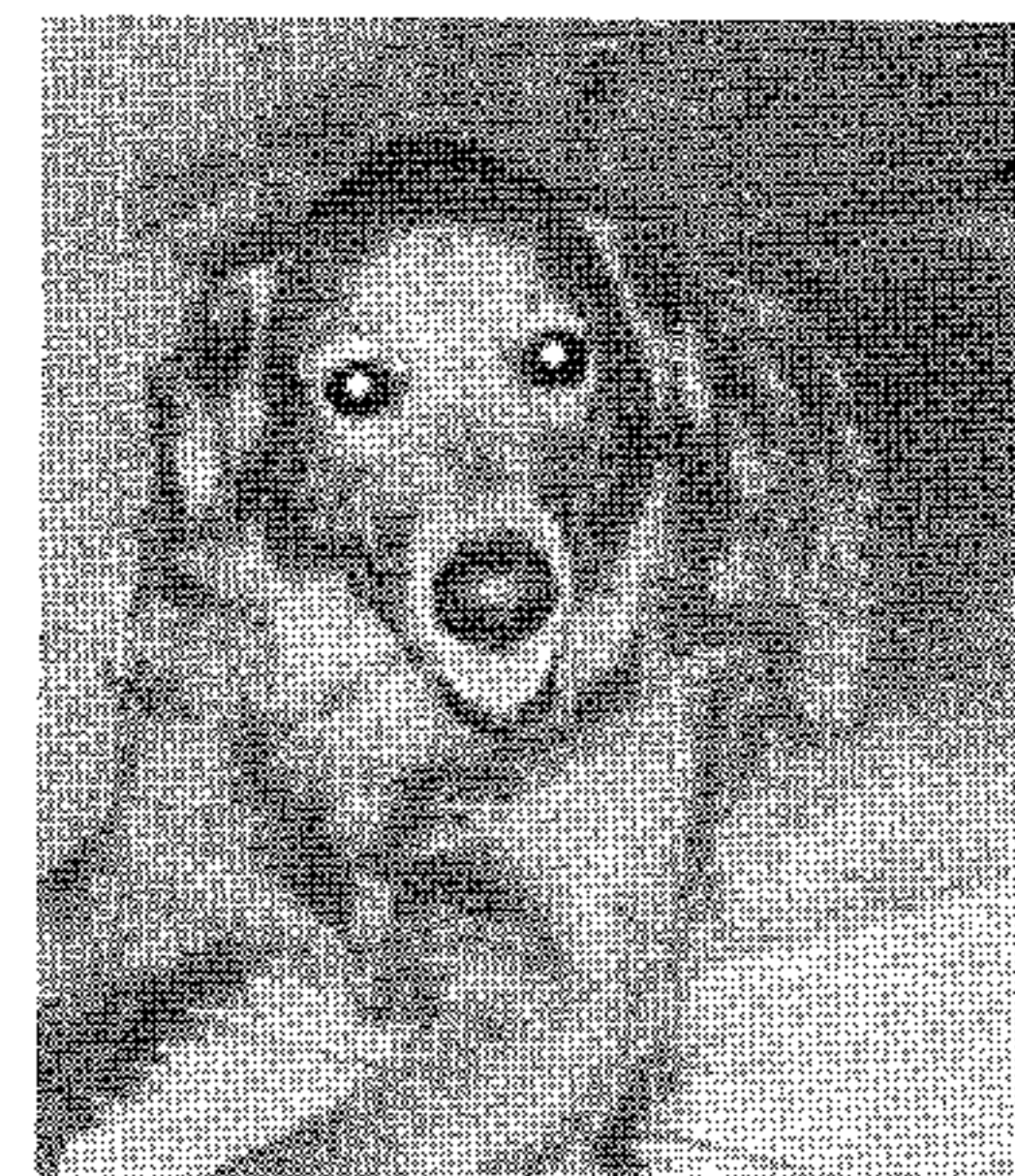
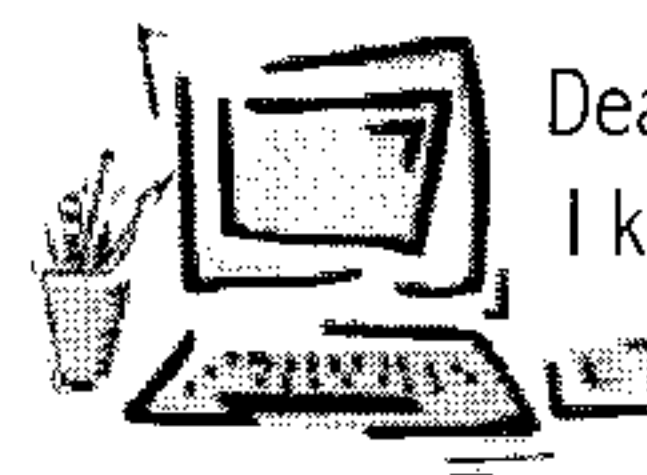


Just a quick note to say thank you again. **Bear** is adjusting very well and both he and Prince (formerly Zeus) get along just fine together. We haven't had to deal with a single issue yet. My daughter absolutely adores him, and Bear and I are becoming "buds" very quickly. He's settling in nicely. - Brian L.



Oggie - now spelled Augie after the cartoon character "Augie Dawgie" - is doing wonderfully. We adopted him in December 2003 and he was pretty depressed for several weeks. It took us close to a week before he was even eating well.

Then he started to blossom. He lost his extra weight more to exercise than the green bean diet. In fact we were concerned that he had hip dysplasia, because he began limping. It turned out to be that he was just using muscles he hadn't used in a while! He loves to play Frisbee and swim. He is good with other dogs, cats and loves the kids. He wags his tail so much that we have named the different varieties, such as "circle tail" and "side swiper." He also talks to us, not barking but friendly moaning sounds when we greet him. He loves to sleep beside us on the sofa in the evenings while we read to the kids or watch TV. He does have thunderstorm anxiety but is not destructive. He usually will go hide until it stops. He has also been known to counter-surf so we make sure all the food is put away. I recently took him to my daughter's second grade class and gave them a little speech on GRRMF. They fawned all over him! I was very impressed with the questions the kids asked and hopefully they will become responsible pet owners. It seems that I have talked a number of people out of getting a dog lately and I tried to impress on them the commitment it takes to be a good dog owner. - Jana G.



Dear Sandy (GRRMF Adoption Coordinator):
I know it has been a while since I have written but wanted to let you know how **Coquina/Cokie** is doing. Cokie is one funny pup and keeps us laughing with her antics. She and Merlin have been getting along great, like they have always been together. We couldn't have asked for things to go smoother, it was just meant to be. We are attending "school" and she is a star pupil and learning all of her manners. Merlin is getting a good refresher course at the same time! Every morning, we go out and play for a least 45 minutes ... well, I throw tennis balls, she chases after them and Merlin chases after her. It is a sight to see. Again, thank you for the time you give to GRRMF. Because of you, we have a wonderful golden girl that has made our home complete. - Valerie, Cokie and Merlin



Hi Bert and Charlie (GRRMF fosters):
Thought we would update you on **Ginger**'s swimming efforts. She is now at the point where she jumps right into the pool. Plus, she is better at staying in longer rather than just jumping in and coming right out. She will not go in by herself, which is OK with us. She especially likes to hop in after a walk--don't we all! She continues to be a sweetheart. I took her to PetsMart last week to buy more food. We spent about 30 minutes there. She did a lot of sniffing. I pulled some doggy beds off the shelf to see if she might have a favorite one. She would have nothing to do with any of them. I guess she thinks she already has our bed, so why would she need her own! - Bob And Ginny



Spread the word ... ado

GRRMF Safety Tips

Many of these are included in the GRRMF adoption contract. But it doesn't hurt to get a little "refresher course" now and then when it comes to safety for your best friend!

We received the following email through our info@grrmf.org mailbox:



Hi, my name is Heather. I discovered your site about two years ago. In the past two years, I have regularly visited your site and have been amazed at the kind of care and compassion that your group gives to these amazing animals. You are truly heroes. I simply wanted to express my sincere appreciation for having a heart for rescue. Think of what would happen to these sweet Golden Retrievers if not for your intervention. My husband and I are the proud owners of Bentley, a 5-year-old Golden. Bentley has been such a precious addition to our family. We love him more than words can express. All that being said, I just wanted to encourage you. I want you to know that there are many of us out here who think you are just incredible. I thank you for all your hard work, time and dedication to animals who may not have a chance if it were not for you.



McKee, who now lives in Michigan with his humans Gale & Paul, has found his own way to make a difference in society ... McKee is a blood donor! Yep, he donates blood to the Midwest Animal Blood Services, one of only a handful of animal blood banks in the U.S. There are eight dog blood types, and common reasons for blood transfusions in dogs include trauma, Von Willebrand's disease (blood-clotting disorder) and some infectious diseases. McKee's mom, Gayle, is very proud of her little red boy. "This was his first time, but he was a real trooper," she said to a local newspaper reporter. McKee was featured in the article and an accompanying photo. Another GRRMF rising star!

GRRMF-Approved 'Dog Door'

In April, GRRMF participated in the 2nd Annual Doggie Art Festival on Park Avenue in Winter Park, Fla. GRRMF volunteers were there all day talking to the public about golden retriever rescue and responsible pet ownership.

This annual event is hosted by The Doggie Door, which is a wonderful specialty shop for dog lovers located at 356 Park Avenue South, right on the "main drag" of quaint and posh downtown Winter Park. The Doggie Door is owned by Brian Wettstein and Jeff Brow, who over the years have supported our organization again and again. They are absolutely wonderful to us! At this year's art festival, they had a raffle and fundraiser, with proceeds shared among four animal rescue groups. We were ecstatic when Brian and Jeff presented GRRMF with a check in the amount of \$1,325! Wow!

Many thanks to Brian and Jeff for their ongoing support of GRRMF. This has been a very expensive year for us, with many sick and injured dogs, so this money went directly to vet bills.

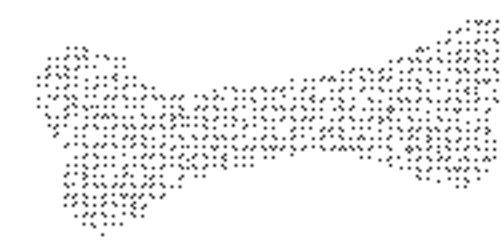
Please support the people who support us by visiting The Doggie Door the next time you are in Winter Park - and tell them GRRMF sent you! If you don't live in the Orlando area, please visit their online store: www.thedoggiedoor.com.

Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

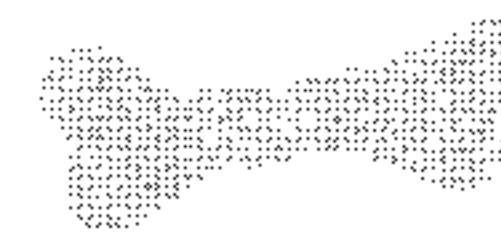


Retractable (flexi) type leashes are not recommended in many situations, such as busy streets, congested areas or busy public events. It is too easy to lose control of your dog. Save retractable leashes for swimming and walks in open areas.

Otherwise use a strong 4 - 6 foot leash and use a tight grip. Put your hand through the handle loop.



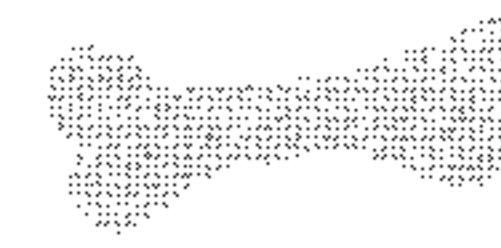
Training collars such as choke, chain or prong collars should never be left on all the time. There are many instances of dogs being choked to death wearing these collars. If you use them, they should only be used for walking or training exercises, and you should also receive training in the proper use of these collars.



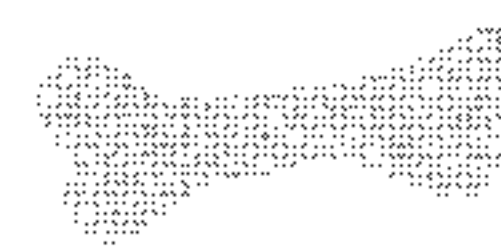
Dogs should never be permitted to hang their heads out of a moving vehicle. Foreign objects can injure the eye, there is the possibility of an ear infection, the wind can damage inner ear canals, and it is more dangerous in case of an accident. Best to use a dog seat belt type device to keep your dog contained in the car.



When traveling with your dog, avoid feeding him just prior to driving, to avoid carsickness.



Never leave a dog in a parked car when the weather is warm - which in Florida is almost 12 months of the year. If you roll down the windows, the dog may escape or be stolen.



Be careful about letting your dog automatically go up to and sniff strange dogs. You don't know anything about the other dog; some dogs are prone to aggressive behavior with the owner on the end of the leash. Also going nose to nose is a good way to transfer illnesses.



Never let a dog ride in the back of a pickup truck.

Be careful of walking your dog on hot pavement; it is easy for the pads of their feet to get burned.



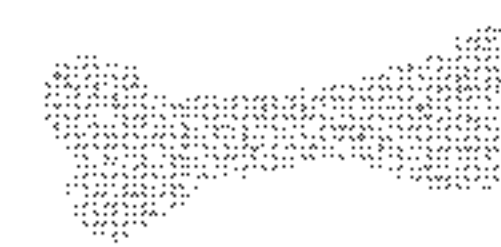
Doggie doors should not be used to let your dog have access to the backyard when you are away from home or if the dog is not able to be supervised in the yard. Close them off! Access to the pool or yard can result in the dog digging out, jumping the fence or drowning in the pool.



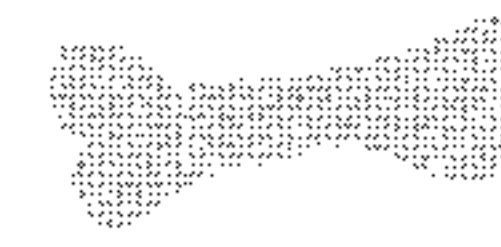
Always keep your dog on a leash when in an unfenced area. It only takes one instant for your dog to run off and get hit by a car.



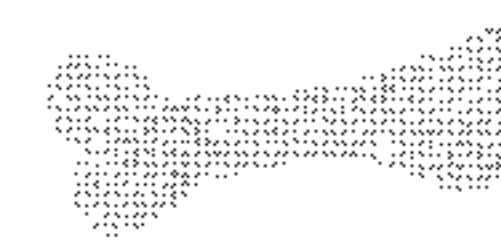
Don't let your dog chew rawhide bones that can cause an obstruction or damage to the digestive tract. Supervise your dog when giving the any kind of bone.



Always carry water with you when you are with your dog, especially in your car. Think about if you had car trouble in the summer in Florida while transporting your dog; how will you keep your dog from having a heat stroke?



Be careful when taking your dog to the beach. The radiant heat off the sand is much hotter for the dogs than for people. Only go during the cool time of the day in the warmer months and keep plenty of fresh water on hand.



It is unsafe for a dog to ride in the front passenger seat of a vehicle, In case of an accident and the air bag deploys, the dog could be injured or killed the same as a small child.



If you have a pool, remember that your golden can easily drown if allowed to swim unsupervised. In case of an emergency, teach your dog how to get out of the pool if they should fall in. Introduce them to where the steps are so they will not panic and can get out of the water. But never let them have access to a swimming pool when you aren't there to watch them. They are like children and need constant supervision.

pt a golden!! (Or two!!)

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



It was love at first sight when I met Prince on Sept. 4, 1998, and looked into his soulful, sad brown eyes. It was also the best day of my life. **Casey** (the dog formerly known as Prince) was the gentlest, sweetest soul in the world. Clearly, he had been abused in his past, and watching this senior boy learn to trust a human was like watching a flower bloom very slowly. For 6 ½ years, he continued to blossom. He was my best friend. One month after he went to the GRR reunion, he had his spleen removed and they discovered lymphoma. He recovered well from surgery, but he seemed to want to visit his favorite places to say goodbye. After only one chemotherapy treatment, he succumbed to the lymphoma in his backyard. I knew he was only a temporary gift, but when he went to the Rainbow Bridge on April 3, I felt that I had lost my heart. Casey was the love of my life and I treasured every day I had with him. Words are completely inadequate to express how much he enriched my life or how profoundly I miss him. Be happy, my sweet boy, and wait with Elsa and Ninja until Mommy can be with you again. - Jan Jennings

Monty came into my life in September 2001 after I had lost Rufus, my first rescue dog a few months earlier and had spent a whole summer without any canine companion. Suzanne Rider asked if I could take in Monty (then Houston) as a foster during his last couple of weeks of heartworm treatment as he had to be kept quiet and he wanted to play all the time with the other dogs at Suzanne's. The second I saw him, I knew he was going to be my Monty - it was "love at first bite" (bitten by love of course!). Monty was the quintessential Golden Retriever - big, handsome, always loveable, sometimes mischievous and a wonderful goofball! In May, he developed an ailment that no one could diagnose with any certainty and was in pain and was not enjoying the quality of life he was used to. He was not only a beloved pet but my best friend. I only hope that I was worthy of the wonderful love he gave me over the past 4 years. His sister, Phoebe, and I will miss him and love him forever. - John Foss, Phoebe & Landi



Our pretty boy **Dave** passed away yesterday after 7 years of insulin injections, thyroid medication, and in the end, bone cancer. He was the BEST boy ever. Everyone in our neighborhood knew Dave by name as he just loved seeing people on our walks. We adopted Dave 8 years ago from GRRMF. He was truly a great dog and we are going to really miss him. - Marie and Bill Murray

Our precious **Cody** went to the Bridge on June 13. Cody was our first adoption through GRRMF and was a true GOLDEN ANGEL from day one. He became the love of our lives, our PetsMart, special events and home visit representative for 9 years. Cody enriched our lives tenfold, and through him we became very active in rescue. Words cannot express how much we miss him, but look forward to the day he will meet us at the Bridge. Godspeed Cody, you are forever in our hearts. - Mom and Dad Eddie, Spirit, Hadley, Tanner and Cheyenne



We are very much heartbroken about our beloved dog **Cesar's** passing. Cesar came into our lives 10 years ago after being rescued from euthanasia by owners who no longer wanted him. It was fate that brought us together. Cesar was such a blessing to our family. He shared his devotion, sweetness and companionship with us for 13 years until his legs would no longer work or support him. It is with great sadness we bid farewell to our loving dog. May you play in heaven. - Beth, Mike and Evan Russell



Clancy came to us after our little girl Tracy succumbed to Cushings disease. He was our second rescue in four years. He soon helped us ease the pain. He loved to go to the dog park, where he could roam safely off leash with other dogs and induce everyone there to give him rubs - most of the time, they didn't even realize they were doing it! All was well until 6 months ago, when an annual blood test revealed chronic kidney failure. Other than diet, nothing much could be done. Ed built a ramp so he could get in and out of the van on his daily trips to the dog park. Sadly, the time came when we had to say goodbye to our big red Clancy. We miss him. - Ed & Pat Howie

Ten and a half years of love, that's what **Cindy** gave us. We got Cindy April 1, 1995, when she was 8 weeks old. It was love at first sight and she returned that love a hundredfold. She was always with us, walking in the park or sleeping at the foot of our bed. - Jerry & Irene Clifford

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: \$50**

- ▼ 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

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.

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.

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 (grrmf.org) under "events" for the latest schedule in case of last-minute schedule changes.



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

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