



Hearts of Gold

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

Volume 8, Issue 4

FALL 2005



2006 GRRMF CALENDARS:
Orders being taken now!
Page 11



I'M ADOPTED!
10-year-old Velvet was no longer any use to her former owner. But now she lives a life of comfort and love. Read Velvet's story and others, beginning on Page 2.



Lucky is one lucky dude:
Read about a typical day in rescue, involving Lucky and a bunch of other dogs, applications, potential adopters and ...

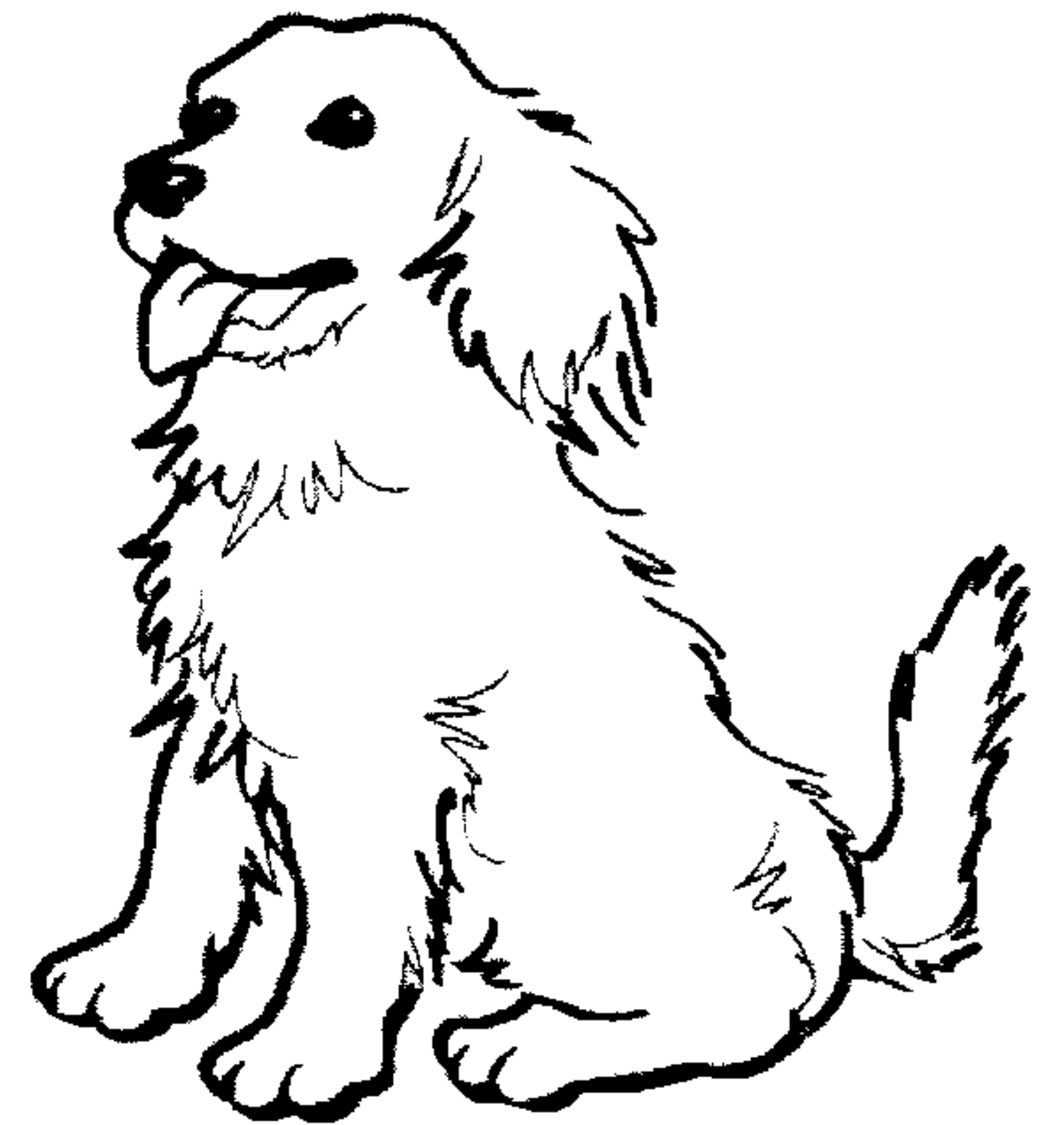


Former "nut butt" now a working dog:
Read what Autumn, formerly Peanut, is doing these days!

Mark Your Calendars! 2006 GRRMF Reunion

Saturday, March 4, 2006
Lake Parker Park in Lakeland
10 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Featuring games, prizes, raffle, auction and lots of fun activities for you and your goldens! Come meet other families just like you, who share their hearts and homes with a GRRMF golden, and get to know some of our hard-working volunteers from around the state. This is an annual event, and it gets better and better every year! You don't want to miss it! Details, including directions and nearby pet-friendly lodgings for those who wish to stay overnight, will be included in future editions of this newsletter and on our website: www.grrmf.org.



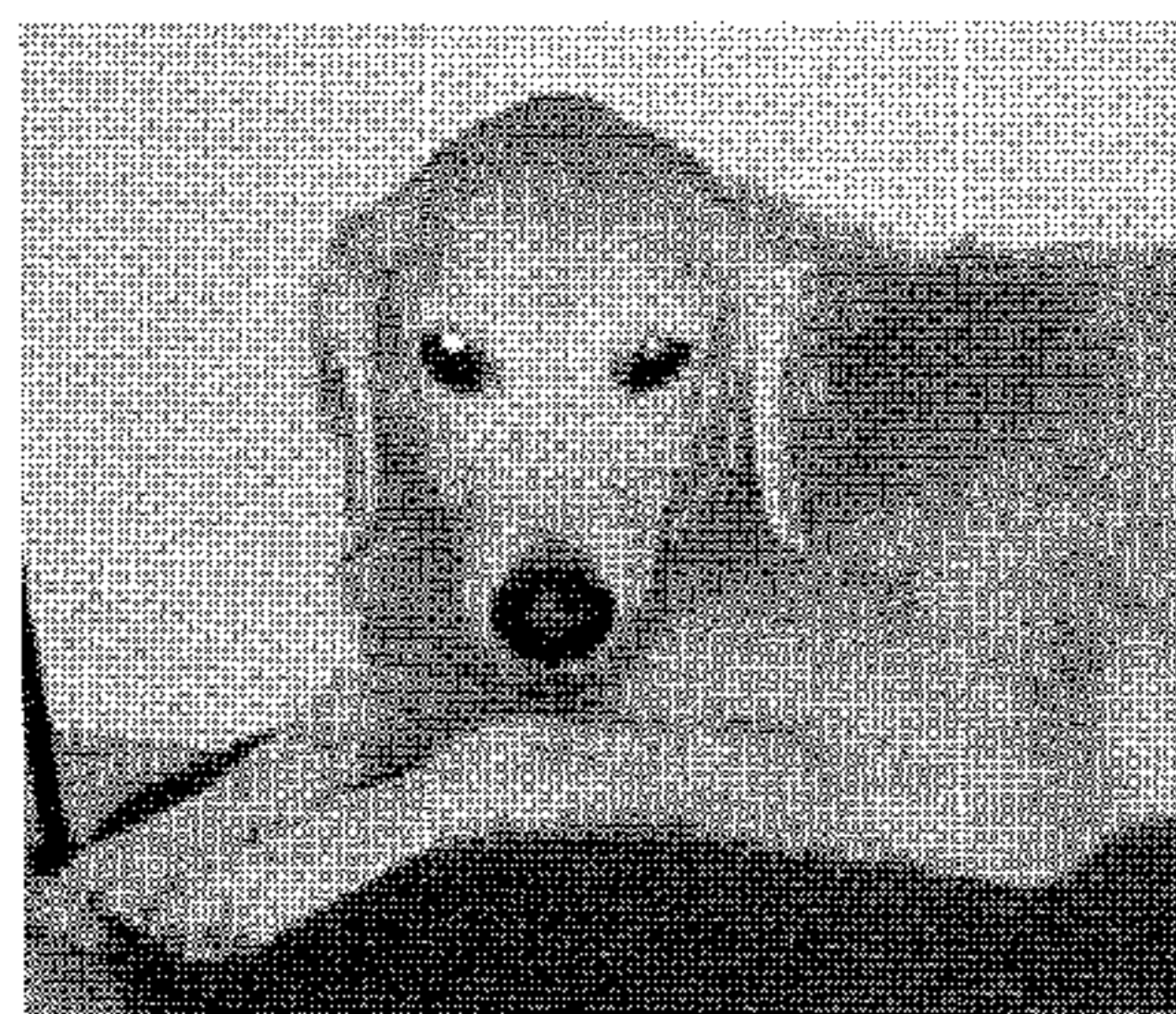
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers to help in all areas of the reunion - welcome table, raffle/auction, golden goods booth, games ... one-hour shifts work well, so we all can enjoy some fun time with our golden and human friends! Contact us: e-mail info@grrmf.org or call [407.332.2840](tel:407.332.2840) and leave a message.

Window of Opportunity, and the Saving of a Life

By Carol McKee

In the midst of my mid-life crisis, I seem to do a lot of pondering these days - about choices made, about roads not taken, and about opportunities ... those I went after, and those I let go.



We often hear about that "window of opportunity" that presents itself from time to time. How we took the opportunity - or didn't - and how it made all the difference. In RANDY's case, that "window" was very small. About 30 minutes, in fact.

The senior golden was found wandering along the highway. After he ducked out in front of a car and was nearly hit, an officer who saw the incident took him to Animal Control. Randy stayed there waiting to be claimed by his owner for the allotted time - 4 or 5 days that must have seemed like an eternity to him! He was put in the back, outside in a dirt pen, awaiting certain death when GRRMF learned about him through another rescuer. The first picture we received of Randy said it all - he literally looked like he was waiting to die.

Our volunteer was told that Randy would be available for adoption on a Thursday, between 5:30 and 6 p.m. After that, he was to be euthanized.

continued on page 2

He was a senior, after all, with little hope for adoption. So you see, Randy's tiny, almost imperceptible "window of opportunity" ~ his chance for life ~ was whittled down to the length of a sit-com, less than the standard lunch break, or the average daily commute. Not very good odds, by any measure.

Luckily, volunteers Tom & Kellyann Goring were available to pick him up, and by 5:35 p.m., Randy was no longer on death row, but instead on his way to a new life.

I've been fostering Randy for about a week now, and frequently find myself thinking about his near-death experience. Randy is approximately 10 years old. He was heartworm positive, had ear and eye infections that had been going on "for years" according to our veterinarian, Dr. Ehlers at 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood. He also was suffering from a staph infection, causing his skin to be discolored, his hair patchy and a strong odor that was nearly unbearable. On top of that, Randy was emaciated. You could poke your finger through his ribs, and his hipbones stuck out like cypress knees.

All that was to be short-lived ~ unlike Randy himself! Dr. Ehlers and his competent staff fixed Randy up, and when I went to get him a week later, I found a happy, smiling golden, ready to live and love again. Randy has been nothing but a joy to be around ~ he even smells good now! Every day, the life returns a little to his eyes, and I see a noticeable pep to his step.

I think perhaps the thing I love most about Randy ~ aside from his very kissable white snout ~ is that he is so incredibly grateful for every little thing. My three lovely golden girls feel a huge sense of entitlement to the finer things in life, whereas Randy is just happy to be alive. He asks for nothing, yet gives you everything in return. Merely smiling at him or speaking his name causes his gangly tail to begin thumping, and he looks at you as if you are the most wonderful sight he has ever beheld.

There is a lot to be thankful for this season, if you think about it. In the midst of hurricanes, skyrocketing gas prices, stressful jobs and all the rest ~ there is Randy, and others like him, who truly are just happy to be here. You may have heard the phrase: "There is no greater reward than a puppy licking your face." Around our house, we've changed it just a little bit: "There is no greater reward than a smile and tail-thump from a dog like Randy."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all ~ I hope you take a moment to be thankful for all those little things ~ those windows of opportunity that present themselves to you, the people in your life who love you and, of course, the cold noses and wet kisses that greet you every day. And if you haven't yet, I urge you to help GRRMF by sending in a little something to help celebrate the season. Just like Randy, GRRMF doesn't ask for much, and we are extremely grateful for every little bit we get. (Form on page 17 for your convenience.)



No longer able to produce puppies, 10-year-old VELVET was of no use to her prior owner. She was an extremely sick gal when she came into rescue. She was nursed back to health by Char B.

and adopted by Donna and Kevin B. Velvet, now Ginger, had the perfect foster home and now a better than perfect forever home. She made herself right at home with Donna, Kevin, her new sister Mango and the family parrots. Velvet and Mango quickly became best friends, sharing toys, treats and even the same bed. Having experienced almost identical problems with Mango, who was also used solely for breeding, Donna and Kevin began and continue to provide the very best vet care, nutrition and an abundance of TLC. Velvet is truly one lucky girl. She is now happy, healthy, playful and full of energy. She has gained weight, become strong again, is no longer anemic, her ears are clear, her coat is coming in soft and cuddly, her eyes are bright, she is alert, curious and enjoying life for the first time. She is very much loved by Donna and Kevin, who said, "Through all the ups and downs she is still the same happy, loving girl. In just this short time she has become such a big part of our lives. It seems she was always a part of our family. She has her own special place in our hearts. It's just amazing".

BRYCE, approximately 5 years, was rescued from a shelter. We soon found out why. He is a great fence climber and probably got out of a yard somewhere. Although it was indicated that he might have some slight hip problems down the road, no one has told Bryce. He runs and jumps (and in a former life climbed fences) with no problems. Adopted by John and Leah W., Bryce has found his forever home with them and two canine buddies. It looks like his fence-jumping days are over ~ he is very happy at home now.

CARLY was turned in by a good Samaritan who heard that a backyard breeder was looking to dump some puppies. She came in with her sister Candy at about 3 months old. Adopted by



Recent Adoptions - Fall 2005

Jeanne and James H. and their canine kid Max, Carly is growing like a weed and is ready to start her canine obedience classes.

MAXIMILLIAN, 7 years, was turned in by his owners who had neglected him badly. He was over 100 pounds, heartworm positive and needed thyroid medication that they never bothered to give him. The meds, good food and moderate exercise have helped him shed over 20 pounds so far. Fostered and then adopted by Pam S., he is now named Opie and has fit into her household as if it was the perfect place just waiting for him.

Abandoned at a local shelter, CARLOS was a beautiful boy just waiting for his right home. He was placed in a foster home just to be sure he was as sweet as he seemed to be (he was!) and was ready to go in no time. The M. family saw him and immediately fell for this sweet guy.



LAYLA and CANDY were fostered together and were best buddies. Layla was one of Terra's puppies, and Candy was the little sister to Carly.

Kathleen and Robert K wanted two puppies but did not care if both were golden or not. They saw these two little pistols and fell in love right away. Off they went to their new home on the West coast of Florida where mom and dad plan to love and spoil them rotten. They also have a date to come back and see their foster mom Sandy any time that the family needs a sitter while they are away.

MARCUS, 2 years, was due to be put down at a shelter due to a lower leg/foot problem. He'd been found by the side of the road, and it was thought he'd been hit by a car. GRRMF got him out of animal control started some testing and rehab on the leg. He is

making slow but steady progress. We are still not sure if at some point he will need surgery but at this point it looks like he won't. And it certainly did not stop Jeannine T. from wanting and adopting him. He has a pool for more therapy and a family that loves him unconditionally.



TROOPER was turned in by someone who knew he needed a good home. Trooper was a gift from a friend, but his owner quickly

realized he couldn't care for a puppy and contacted us. He was fostered by the R. family and in no time found his forever home with Wesley Ann H. and Rod J. They have a dog park right near their house and plan to take him there to see other golden buddies.

CASPER, 9 years, was given up due to divorce and found his forever home with foster mom Sandy. A true ball nut, this boy requires daily romps in the back yard with canine buddy Scooby to see who can get to the tennis ball faster. Casper, now Cameron, loves people just as much as ball playing and plans on being a goodwill ambassador for GRRMF.



Sweet SAMANTHA was turned in to rescue because she was heartworm positive and the family could

not afford treatment. We often sound like a broken record, but we tell people all of the time that it is much safer, easier on the dog and cheaper on them to give the dog a HW preventative pill than it is to have the dog undergo treatment. Rescue treated her and

found the perfect home for her. The O. family saw her and thought she was just the right dog for them - and she is!



MILO, age 7, was turned in to a shelter shaved, but so sweet. He had been someone's dog but was no longer wanted.

We never understood why. Fostered by the M. family and adopted by the S. family, Milo has found true happiness in his forever home with mom, dad, two young boys and a canine brother named Jake.

RICKY and LUCY, 7 years, were turned in due to their shedding and the fact that they were an inconvenience to board when their prior family went on vacation. Luckily, Ricky and Lucy are no longer an inconvenience and the world now revolves



around them. They were both fostered by Char B. Ricky was adopted by Amanda and Peter P. who were in love the minute they heard about him. Ricky's one HAPPY dog! He loves the cats even though the older cats aren't as interested. But the new kitten loves to sleep & play with Ricky. He likes to attack Ricky's feet and tail, and Ricky retaliates by knocking the kitten over and licking him. The kitten even sleeps on his bed with him. Lucy was adopted by Patty A. and her daughters. Lucy has fit in wonderfully. Patty reports that "Lucy is doing great, settling in very nicely. My daughter and she have really bonded. If Lindsey is sitting down, there aren't many times that Lucy isn't up on her lap. Lucy likes to sleep on a pillow under Lindsey's desk next to her bed (when she's not IN the bed that is). She's such a nice little dog. She is certainly being pampered here.

You'd never know that we've only had her a short time. She's very comfortable and everyone here loves her to pieces!"

JACKSON had a rough begining. At 4 years old, Jackson was thrown out of a car in a rough neighborhood to fend for himself. An onlooker saw it happen and tried to care for him but could not keep him safe and he was on the streets again. She searched for him again and finally found him hanging out under a bridge with some homeless people. She turned him over to GRRMF. Lyn fostered Jackson while he underwent heartworm treatment, and soon Jackson found his special home with Kyle E and Connie S. Jackson was renamed to Jake and is doing great. He's adjusted very well to his new life and loves his daily walks. Jake has gone from rags to riches with the help of GRRMF.

ROSIE, 7 years, was an owner turn in to GRRMF. She was fostered and adopted by Amanda and David who say Rosie fits in so well with our family, 2 teenagers and four cats who not only get along with her, but she protects them from outside cats! This is amazing, because no one remembers giving her a list of acceptable and unacceptable cats. She is a great addition to their family.



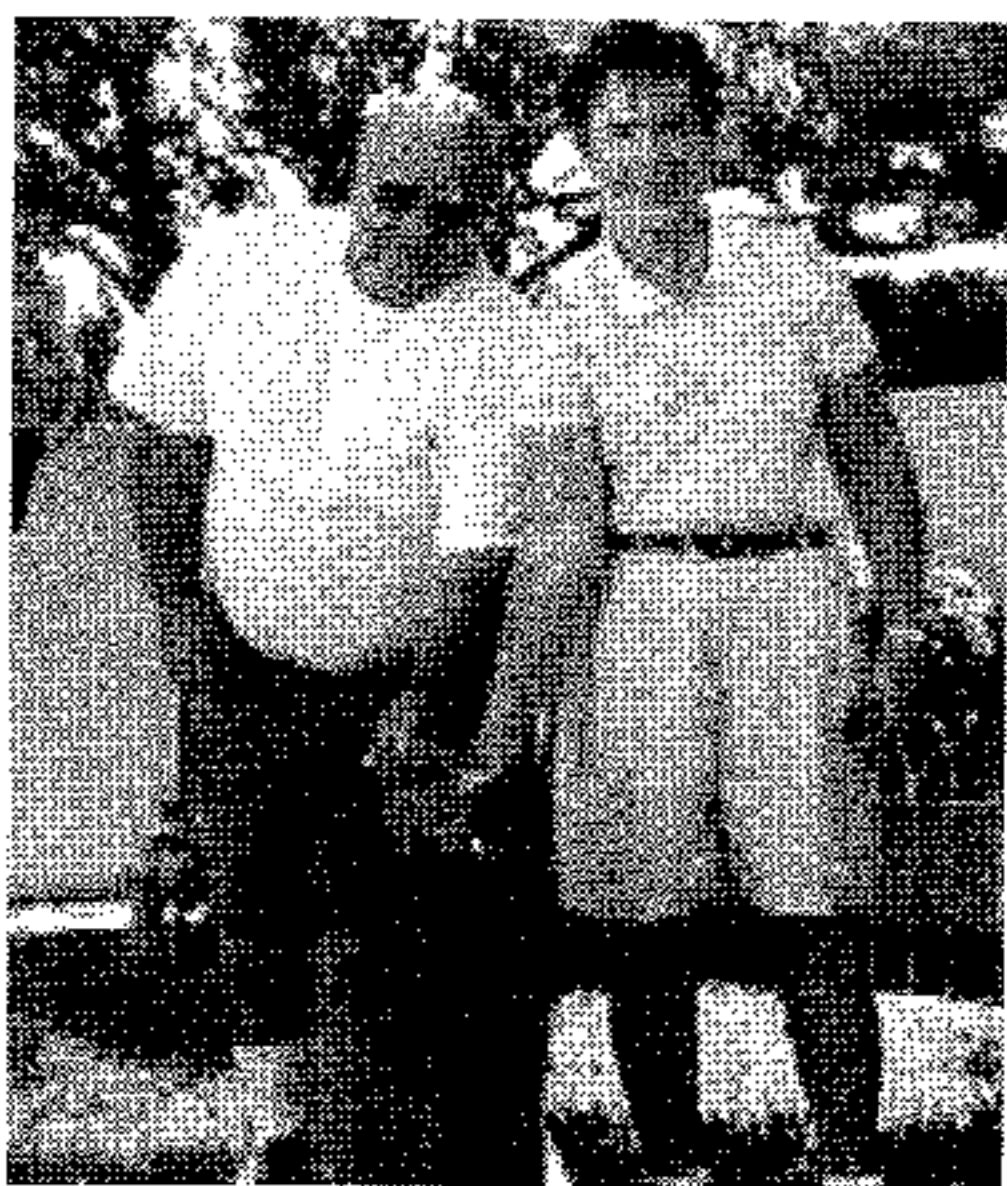
At 2 years old, GATSBY was turned in when his owner had to move. Sadly, Gatsby, a nice, well-behaved

young boy, had already been through two homes and was now facing his third. Gatsby was fostered by Bert and family and adopted by Kelly and Manny who promise that this will be his forever home.

CHARLIE, approximately 6 years, was picked up as a stray. He was fostered by Barb & Frank M., where he learned how to



be a good canine citizen. Charlie was adopted by Lisa and Joe C., who recently lost their beloved Millenium Jasper, GRRMF's 1,000th rescue. Lisa says Charlie is settling in well and has made lots of friends during his morning walks with his new mom.



TESS, 5 years, was turned in by her owner. This golden girl was as sweet as they come. She was fostered and very much loved by Tom & Gregg E.

until Marguerite and Francis S. were lucky enough to adopt her. They say she has settled in nicely and promise to bring her to the reunion in the spring.

MARIAH, approximately 1-2 years, was a stray and very thin. She was fostered by Pat, Lou & Laddie, who helped her learn the ropes of life inside a home.



Mariah was snapped up by Joan & Jeff W. and their golden, Monte. After some playtime in the fenced yard with Monte, Mariah decided she approved of her new family and happily jumped right into the car with them. Mariah has a wonderful new home with a swimming pool, fenced yard and even a boat to cruise around in. Joan reports that Mariah fits right in with their family. She has learned to swim and loves it. She no longer needs to be crated and is being a very good girl in the house when left with Monte. She is definitely adored, and it seems she has found the perfect forever home!!

IRELAND was purchased as a puppy by a single mom with small children and no fenced yard. After just a few weeks, the mom decided Ireland was too



much to handle and turned her over to GRRMF. A wise move, as puppies are lots of work! Theresa & Bob B. fostered this little green-eyed gal and told us she was one of the fastest learners they've fostered yet. She learned where to go potty in a single day and it was all uphill from there. Her new folks, the W. family, took one look and fell head over heels in love with her. Ireland now has her own human boy and a canine buddy to play with and a cat to learn to play with. She also has a pool to swim in and expend her puppy energy in a positive way. Another success for rescue, and another happy ending!

MAXIE, 1.5 years, proves herself to be another sweet golden pup.

Maxie was on the verge of being dumped at animal services by her prior owner due to a new baby. She was fostered by Donna & Chuck, who worked with her and taught her how to behave like a good girl. Maxie made the decision to adopt Tonya M. when she walked over to her, laid down beside her, put her head on Tonya's lap and promptly fell asleep. Maxie, now Bella, has a pool, which she loves, and a couple of cats to play with. Here's a recent email from Tonya: "She is doing great. She was a little timid but has adapted very well with my cats. The oldest one let her lick his head yesterday! I am going to try to get us into an obedience class, just to fine-tune some of the commands she already knows, as well a few more. I don't know which one of us is going to learn more! She is an amazing dog and she really enjoys her evening walks and swimming in the pool. Thank you very much for allowing me to adopt her. She is a perfect fit!"



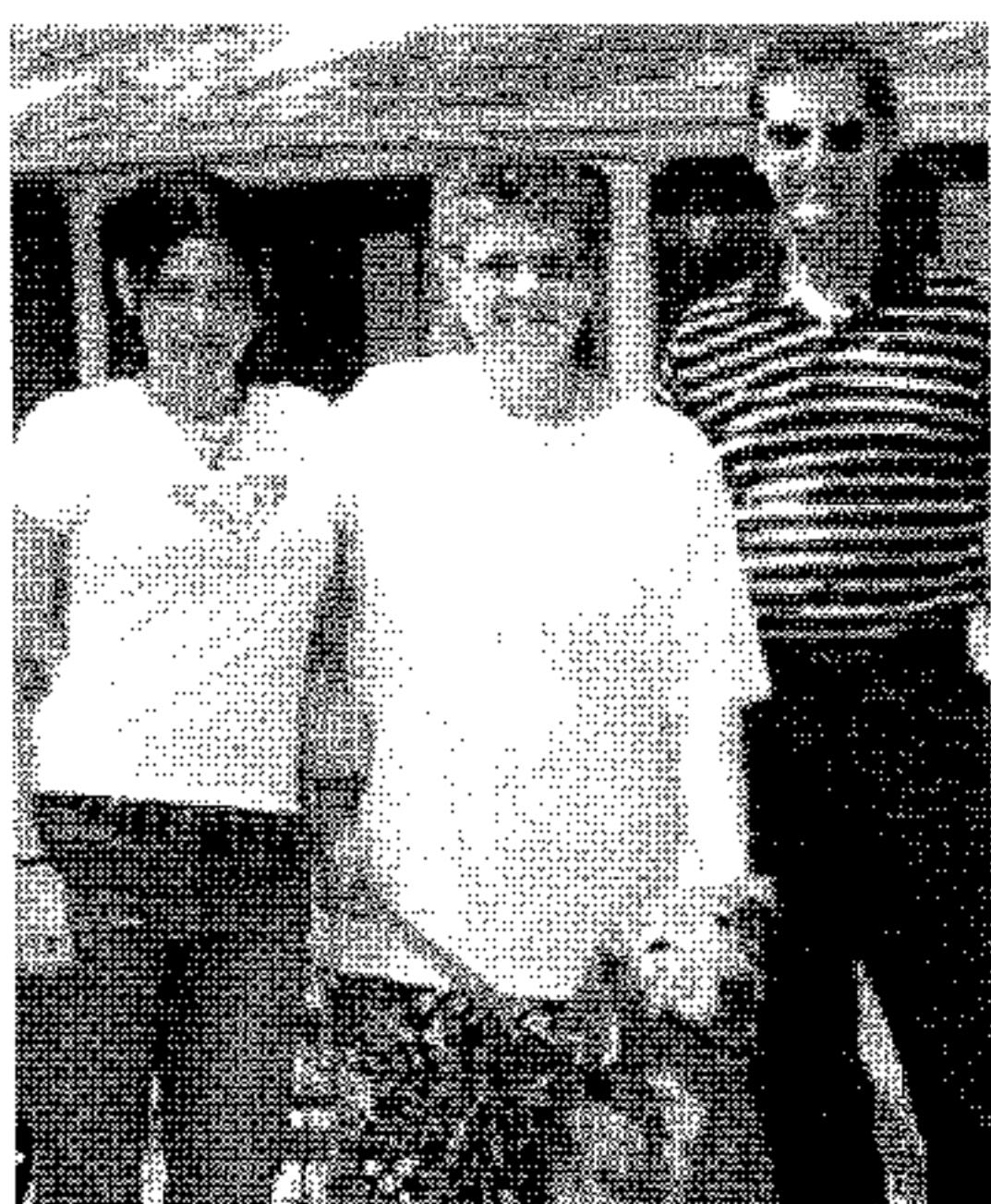
KELSIE is approximately 10 years old. She was fostered by Lynne H., who helped her lose 18 pounds and regain her girlish figure. Kelsie was



You Can never have too many goldens!

adopted by Jim & Joan K., who were very excited to welcome this sweet senior into their home and lives. Kelsie has her own pool and a "granddog" who comes over for play dates. Obviously, Kelsie is now living in the "lap of luxury."

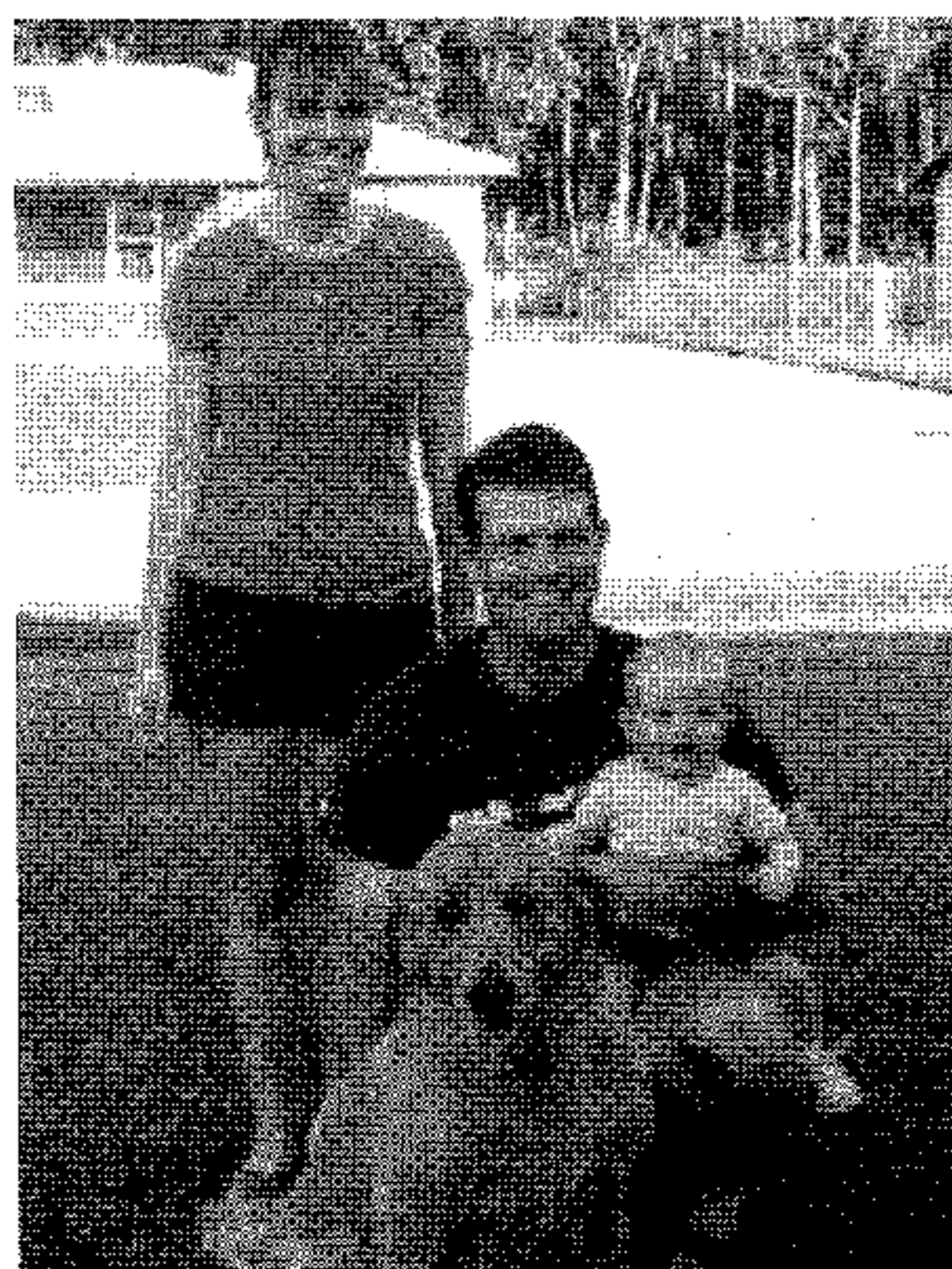
CISCO was purchased as a puppy by a college student, who spent a lot of time training and loving him. Unfortunately, Cisco developed mange, and when it became financially impossible to care for him any longer, she called GRRMF. Cisco was fostered by Sandy S., who started him on aggressive treatments and holistic supplements for the mange, and soon this scabby boy turned into a handsome golden dude! Cisco is as sweet as they come and very well-behaved. Even when he must have felt awful, the smile never left his face. He is a love, and a joy to be around. After he was over the worst of his illness, Kathy R. stepped in to complete the foster period, and Cisco learned to swim, which was great for his skin and coat recovery. He was soon adopted by Dena L. & Jeff J. Kathy says: "It was love at first sight. He was barely out of the car before they were in each others arms. Good job to all involved!"



CINDI, 8 years, was an owner turn-in. She was injured by a horse and required surgery to repair her leg. Pat H. lovingly fostered her for 6 months during her medical care and recovery. Sally and Tom S. are the lucky new humans for Cindi. She shares her home with Sally's dad, Jerome, who lost his precious golden last year and was still grieving for her. On the day of her adoption, Pat wrote:

"Cindi was extra loving this morning, giving me kisses and lots of snuggles. It almost seemed like she understood every word I said when I told her that a new family was coming today and might take her home. We've had her for almost 6 months and have grown to love her dearly, but Cindi eagerly jumped into her new van with no looking back. They are a very loving family, and I know will make her happy."

MURPHY was turned in when his owner's financial situation changed and they could no longer provide adequate care for him. He needed some sprucing up - his coat was dull and dry, and he had some itchy patches in places. Fosters Pat and Deb took on this task and got Murphy on his way back to "handsome hunk" in short order. Since he was raised in a home with small children, Murphy was a perfect fit for Mark and Kelly W. and their son Ethan. Mark had raised and trained goldens before for professional work, and the whole family was part of the process for adoption. Murphy now has his loving forever home, and has even accompanied his new dad to work!



DORA was the smallest of Terra's pups. GRRMF members may remember Terra, a young golden retriever who came to us ready to deliver. She mothered 8 pups, none of whom were golden in color, but all of whom have that wonderful golden personality! Dora is no exception. Nicknamed "Dora the Explorer," she quickly earned the reputation for being a curious adventure hound. She was fostered

by Bert & Charlie H., along with kids Aaron & Cole. They loved her so much, they decided she had to stay, so Dora is now an official member of their family.

QUINCY came from a shelter. He was abandoned in an apartment when his owner moved out. Quincy is very tiny and has a congenital disorder called "magaesophagus." His esophagus is malformed, causing him to regurgitate anything that enters his mouth unless he is held in an upright position. Penny & Guy I. fostered this little bug and decided he needed a very special family willing to provide the daily care he needs. Quincy is now a permanent member of their household and has lots of canine siblings to play with. Many thanks to Penny & Guy for taking this guy into their heart and home.

JACK came to us from his previous owner, who didn't have time to care for him or his sister Angel. Jack had zero house manners when he arrived at Kellyann & Tom G's house. But they taught him well, and realized immediately that the thing Jack loved most was fetching - tennis balls, Frisbees, sticks, you name it. If you threw it, Jack would bring it back and happily drop it at your feet for more. Hank & Janice B., who recently adopted Reggie, were looking for a "ball nut." Hank wanted a pal he could spend time with in the yard playing ball or throwing the Frisbee. And he got it - Jack was a perfect fit for them, and has settled in nicely with his new brother and human family.



MONTANA came to GRRMF just shy of her 2nd birthday. Her former humans allowed her to go outside on her own - no fence and no leash - and the inevitable happened. Montana was hit by a car, causing life-threatening injuries, including a shattered pelvis. When her family said they

didn't have the money to fix her up, GRRMF and our generous donors stepped in to help. Montana had surgery to fix her pelvis and rehabilitated at home with Emily R., who worked with her every day in building up her tolerance to movement with swim therapy. During her months with Emily, Montana's personality began to shine - and what we already knew as a VSG - "very special golden" was exemplified. What a sweet golden she is! As soon as she was cleared, Montana jumped right into the back seat to go home with Lori & Steve H., as well as their other golden, Abby. They report that Montana is settling in just fine and gets along great with her new sister. They love her very much.

Education Days Are Good For The Soul!

If you are interested in volunteering for GRRMF, but don't know how to get started, try attending an education day in your area. What are education days? For these sessions, we set up a table in a public setting, such as PetsMart, or at a special event, and talk to people about GRRMF and rescuing pets, responsible pet ownership and the merits of spay/neuter. We



have several brochures we hand out to help spread our message. This is how I got started in rescue, and I still think it is one of the most fun things to do. If you are afraid that you'd be too emotional working directly with the dogs, why not try this area?

We need friendly folks, either with or without crowd/dog friendly goldens to help out.

President's Message

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

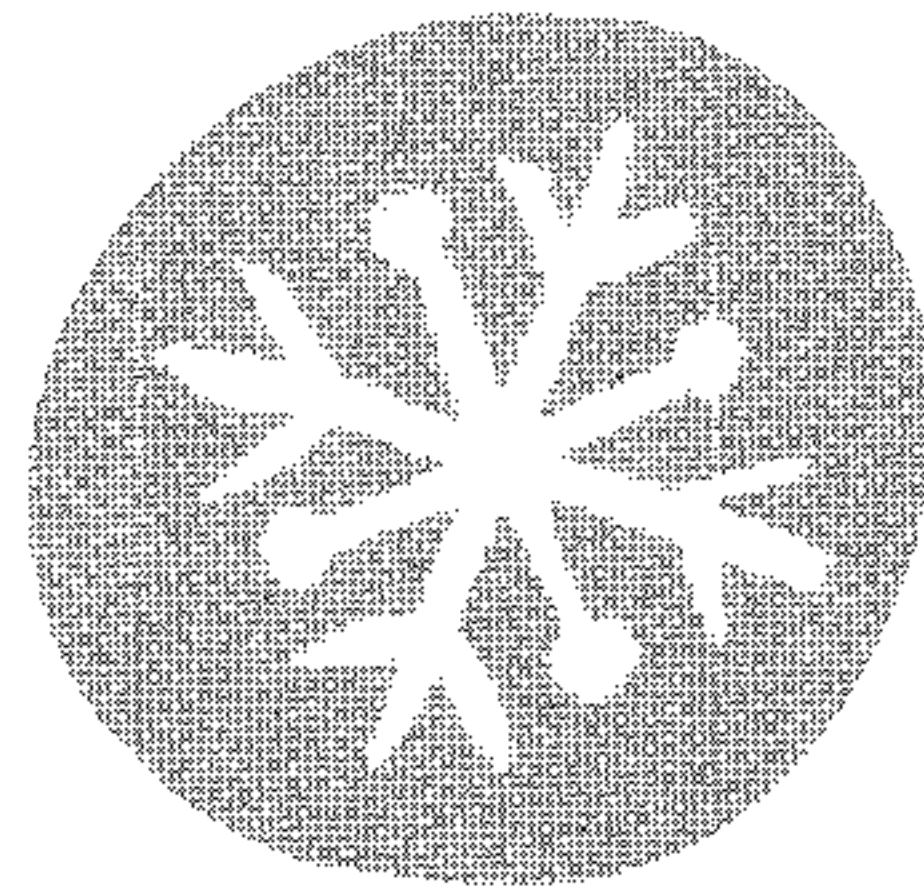
Let me tell you why they are good for your soul. I proved this to myself last month. I sometimes get bogged down in the administrative end of rescue. That is my job - tax returns, financials, regulatory issues, problem resolution ... not very glamorous stuff at times.

Add that to having three very old dogs each with their own set of problems, I was feeling a little down. Well, last month I went out to help our volunteer Rebecca Gushwa at her first session at the Ocoee Petsmart. It was like medicine; spending two hours with very cheery Rebecca, her mom and her wonderful dogs was just great. I love talking to folks as they walk up. Rebecca was a natural at being friendly - the most important thing is to greet everyone and try to present our organization in a positive light.

We had fun and it reminded me that education days are the type of activity that leave you feeling better than when you started - for many of us, that is some much needed medicine! Why not try a dose?

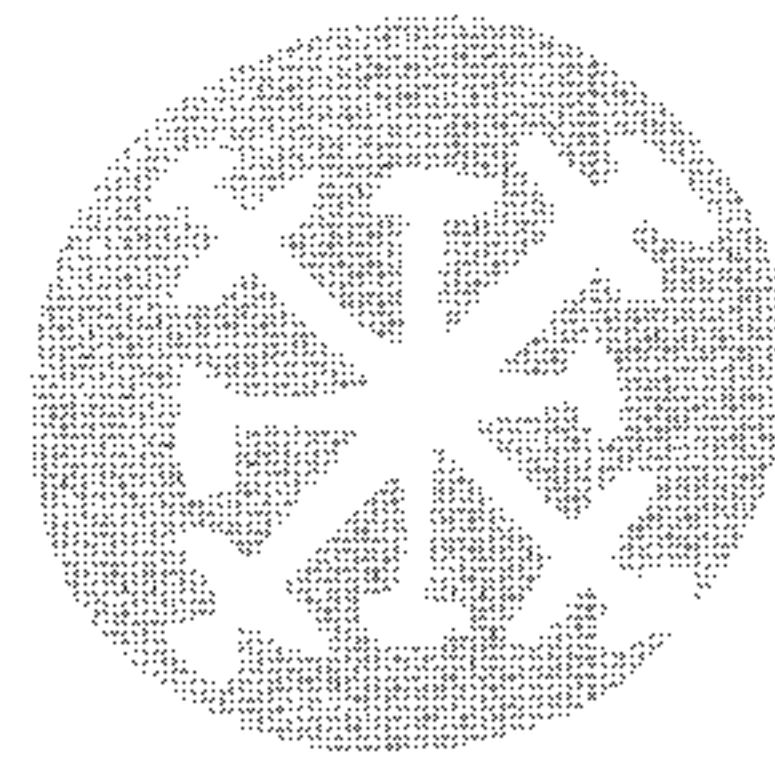
If you are interested in helping out, look at our events page on the website to see what is available in your area and email the contact person listed there. Or, feel free to email me at red2dogs@aol.com and I'll try to put you in contact with the right person. And, by the way, if you are in the Ocoee area, Rebecca is looking for helpers!

Until next time,
Barbara



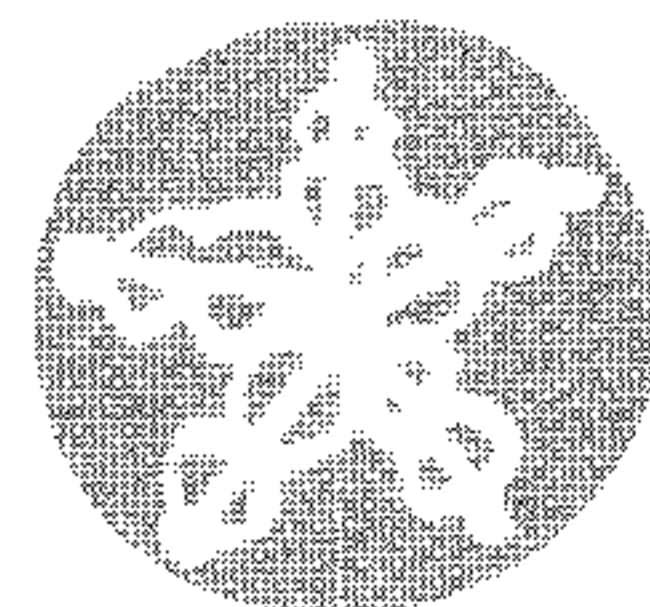
As Holiday Season 2005 approaches, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given, and Continue to give,

Golden Retriever Rescue
of Mid-Florida.

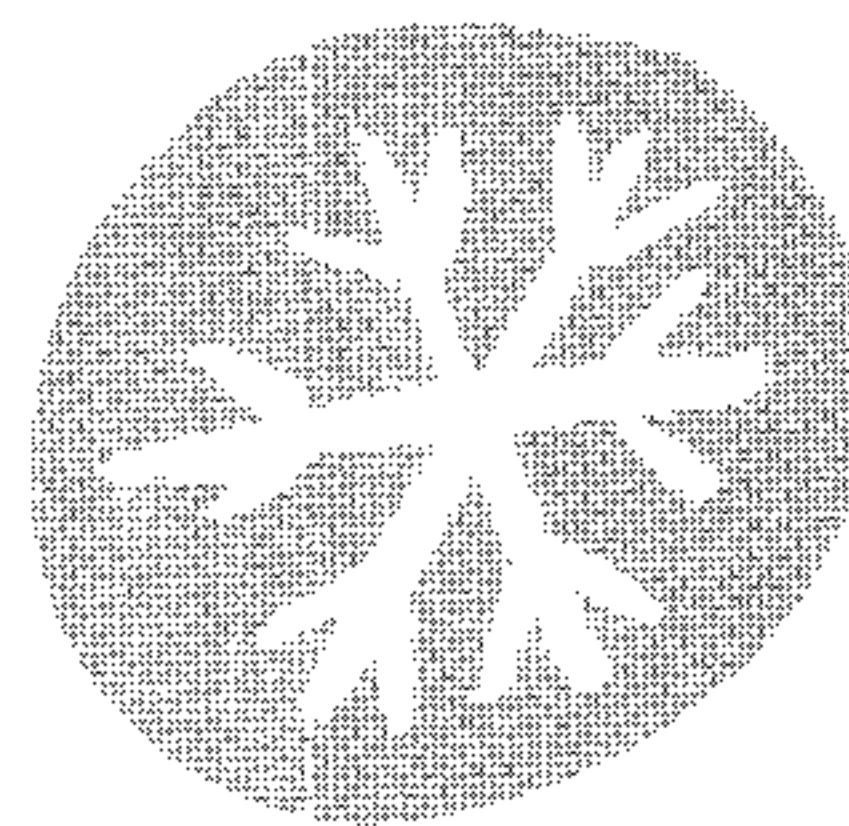


Everyone plays an important role ... transport teams, intake Coordinators,

home visit volunteers,



those who donate food and services, those who donate

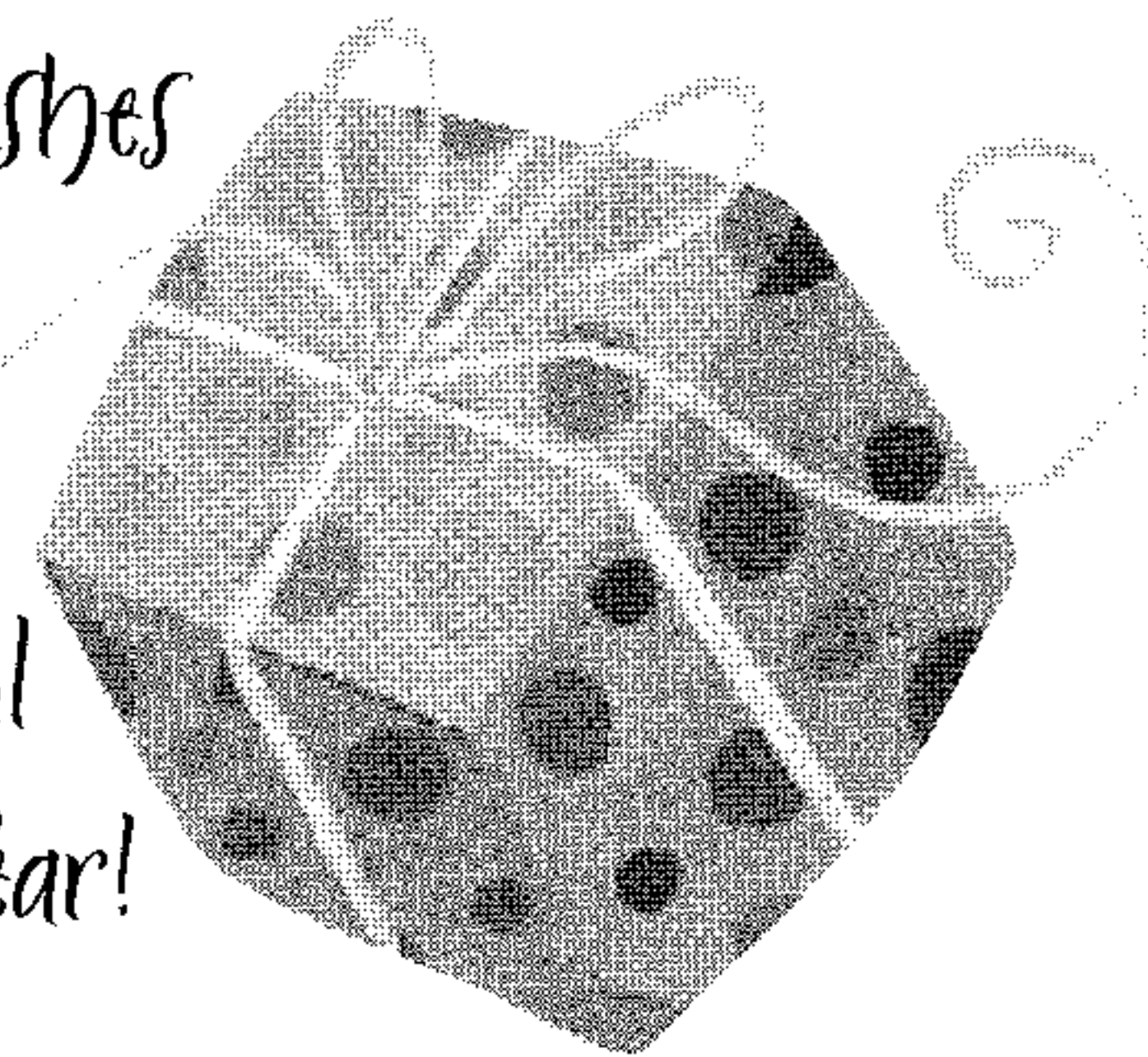


financially, our "foster" parents, education days volunteers, our special veterinary teams, and those who give our goldens



"forever homes"
We Couldn't do it
without you!

Our best wishes
for a Golden
Holiday Season
and a wonderful
New Year!



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

A Typical Day In Rescue: It takes A Village

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator

Each issue, I try to find something new to talk about with rescue. It is so much more than picking up a dog and adopting it out. So I decided to pick a day and record all that happened that day in rescue, at least from where I am sitting. I picked the day not knowing what kind of day it would be - calm or crazy or somewhere in between. You can be the judge.

On this day, GRRMF's Intake Coordinator receives five requests from people wanting us to take their dogs immediately. Here is how the process usually works: The people fill out an intake form, and we request a picture after someone on the Intake Team calls them back and gathers more information. Sometime the dog is not a golden, sometimes it has a behavioral issue that is beyond our scope for adoption, and sometimes it has serious medical issues - which we almost always take.

On this day, the dogs range from 10 months to 8 years old. One, Parker, is a true emergency. We have to act fast. He is in an abusive household, in which his owner is threatening to kill him if he digs out one more time. Parker has awful ear infections, his eyes are almost closed from an eye infection and entropion (a painful condition where the eyelashes are turned in on the eyeball), he has skin allergies and, as if that's not enough, he's heartworm positive. (We knew something was up when the woman asked if she could go to jail if her dog was heartworm positive). Volunteers are emailed to see who can go ID him and get him out of there right away. He then has to get from the Lakeland area to one of our veterinarians in Orlando. A temporary - and safe - resting place is found for Parker while the transport team does their magic to get him to the vet. We call the vet to be sure they have room and give them a heads up to his condition. One down.

Next, I receive a call from one of our vets about a dog previously turned in by his owner, who said he was on heartworm preventative. Our protocol is to have all dogs tested for heartworm disease, regardless of what their owners report to us. Well, turns out Lucky isn't heartworm negative at all. In fact, his results come back "VERY STRONG POSITIVE" for heartworm disease.

When the vet calls, Lucky's new foster mom is there, having traveled over an hour to pick him up. And now, he can't leave since he needs to start treatment. The foster leaves without Lucky, and I discuss the situation with the potential foster home to determine if they are able to care for a HW positive dog. If not, we need to find another foster home for him.

After work (for as full-time a job as rescue is, I still have to pay the bills!), I call three potential adoptive homes. They have passed their home visits and now we begin the process of trying to match the right dog with the right home. I get more information from them on their wants and needs and try to see if we have a dog in the program that would be a good fit. Each call can take from 30 minutes to more than an hour. I know I have more approved apps coming in, so I try to match these folks up first and then start on the new ones as I get them. Next, I contact the foster homes to give them a quick update and ask that they call the potential adopters so that questions can be answered by the folks who know the dogs best. Then a visit can be set up if the people like what they hear.

Next, three dogs are to go from our vet in Oviedo to foster homes over in the Tampa area. The transport team swings into action to get the dogs into their foster

homes for evaluation so that they can be adopted. Evaluation is critical and mandatory so that the dogs have the best possible chance to succeed in their new homes.

Last but not least, it's my job to update our database so GRRMF has an accurate record of who's in, who's out and "who's on first."

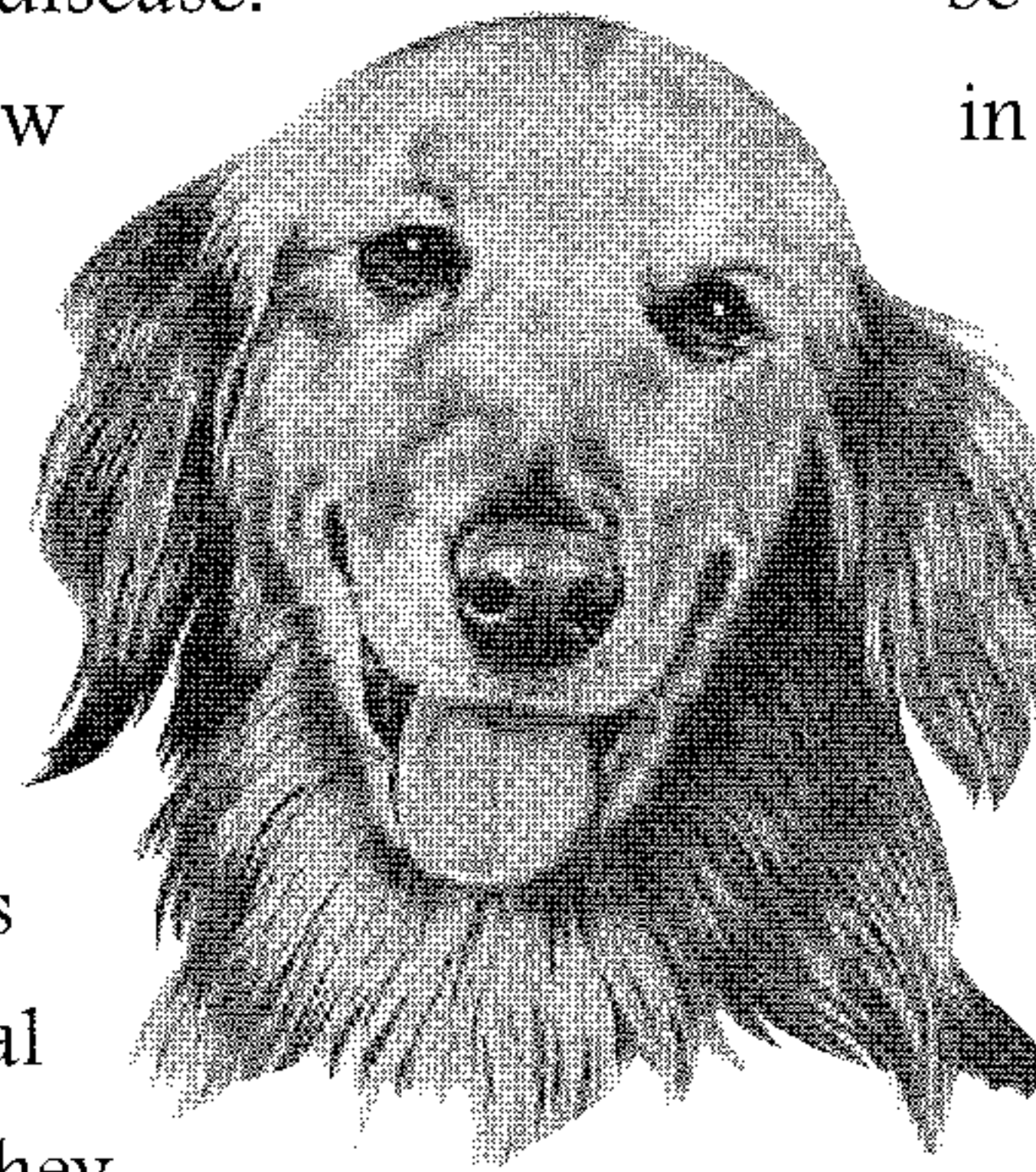
So there you have it: a "typical" day in rescue. It takes all kinds of help from people all over the state and in all groups (foster, intake, adoption, applications review, transport, etc.) to get through just one day. But the "GRRMF Village" always pulls together.

The result? Three of the five dogs came in to rescue (two of the families never got back to us). Parker came in, has had his eye surgery and has started his heartworm treatment. He goes to his foster home this week. The three others are in their foster homes now and on their way to being adopted. The other HW positive dog is in his foster home for the duration of treatment and will be adopted by them once he gets a clean bill of health. Two of the three families I spoke with on that day have adopted dogs, with the third to follow suit in the coming days.

What keeps us going? Overwhelmingly, it's the passion for the welfare of the dogs. No one gets paid in GRRMF - it is all a labor of love. But the payoff is more than money could ever buy, and the volunteers are what make any day in rescue one of satisfaction and the feeling that we have made a difference to many dogs across the state.

Until next time, may your holiday season be filled with joy, and may all your days be golden.

Sandy



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Thanks!

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Nancy Spears, Judi
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John Pfohler,
Kathy Salisbury,
Renee Perkie,

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.

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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; Animal Hospital of Seminole - Seminole, FL.

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 SPORTSPLEX: for donating tennis balls!

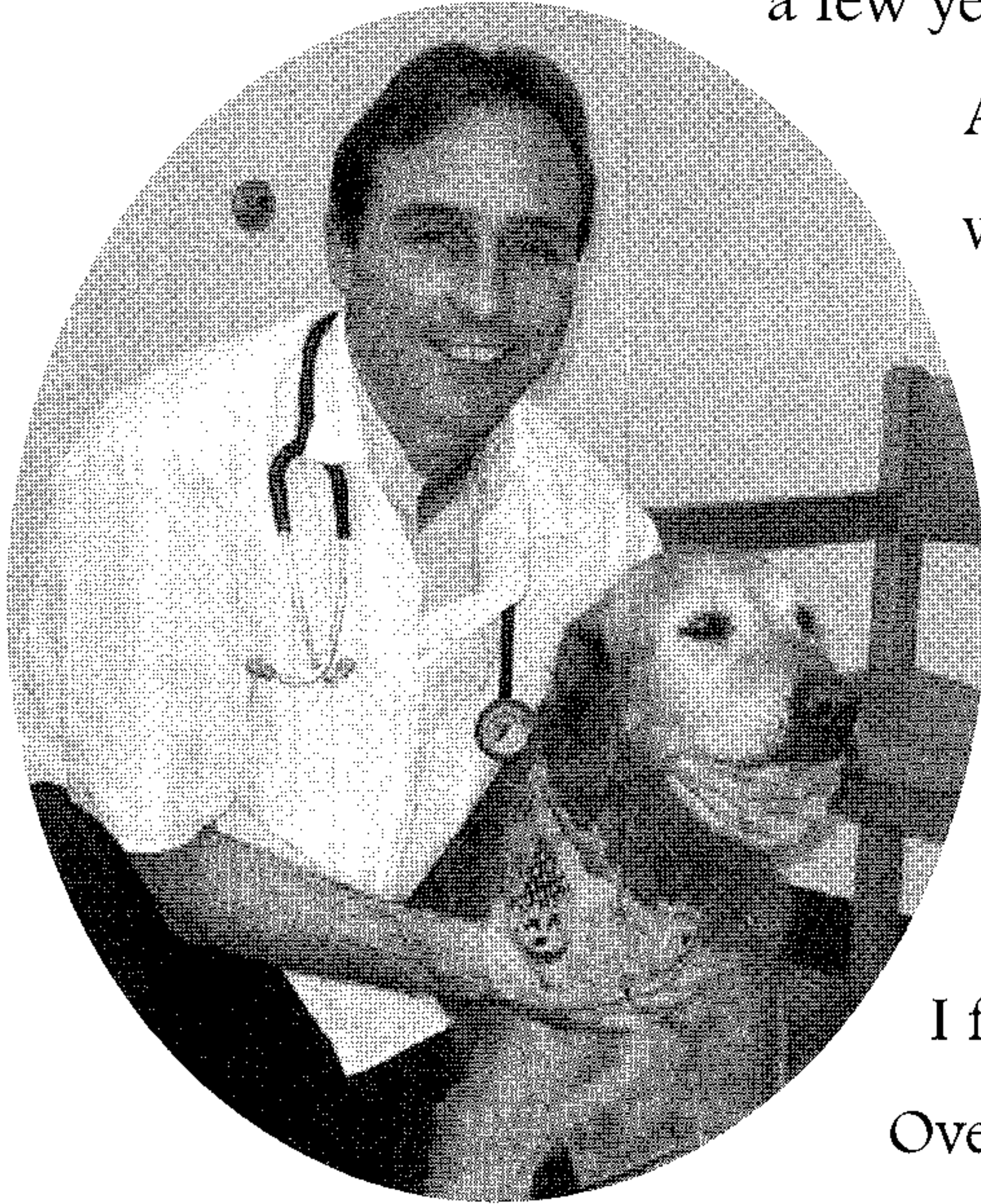
GRRMF WEB SITE: Renee Duke, our Web Goddess, who does such a wonderful job for us - we've received
comments from all over the country on the look and value of our Web site.

**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!!**

Veterinarian Spotlight: Dr. Bill Ehlers

By Sandy Sumner, Adoption Coordinator

Any of us who have been involved with GRRMF in the Orlando area know Dr. Ehlers of 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood. He started with Tuskawilla Oaks Animal Hospital and then started his own practice a few years ago. He has been involved with GRRMF for many years.



A more kind, gentle or soft-spoken man you will never meet. He is what we all think of when we want a veterinarian who is in practice because of his love of animals.

My first test of sorts was when my very first foster Molly did not eat her breakfast and I decided to take her to the vet to be sure everything was okay. It wasn't. I figured Dr. Ehlers would give me a pill for her and home we would go. As it turned out, Molly had an enlarged heart and was close to death. Dr. Ehlers was compassionate and sympathetic and I felt that he really understood my pain.

Over the years, he has helped many of my fosters to the Rainbow Bridge. He is never too busy to answer a question or see a sick dog. He will find the right solution for each dog whether it is holistic or surgical. He is kind and gentle with the older goldens and loves to horse around with the puppies. He understands what rescue is really all about - giving the dogs placed in our care the best that we possibly can. We never feel rushed or that our rescues are second best. Every dog is made to feel special. Many GRRMF volunteers and adopters in this area bring our own pets to him.

His staff is terrific and it is a very caring and cheerful working environment. Dr. Ehlers also practices what he preaches and has adopted rescue dogs from us. And not the showy attractive ones, but the ones that he felt needed him. As a foster and mom to my own former rescues, I know how incredibly important this attitude is.

Our president, Barbara Durham, has this to say about Dr. Ehlers: "Dr. Ehlers is my personal veterinarian for my three dogs and three cats. Over the past year, Dr. Ehlers cared for my golden Rocky as he progressed through chemotherapy treatments for lymphoma. Dr. Ehlers always took the utmost care in administering the treatments and I felt reassured that everything he did was in the best interest of my dog. Through Dr. Ehler's care, Rocky was able to live an extra year that we wouldn't have otherwise had, and I am forever grateful. Dr. Ehlers is also willing to try holistic treatments in conjunction with conventional treatments, which is a huge asset to me as a pet owner. He has supported GRRMF for many years and we are indeed very lucky to have him caring for our rescue goldens."

We who treasure our goldens believe that Dr. Ehlers truly has a heart of gold.

GRRMF 2006 Calendars Now Available!

Looking for that perfect gift for the golden lover in your life? Look no further, the 2006 GRRMF calendar is the gift that keeps on giving. Enjoy 12 months of heartwarming stories, color photographs and golden tips. With each flip of the page, your loved one's smile will get bigger and bigger. Plus it's for a good cause. Your calendar purchase goes to help GRRMF provide services to the 200 homeless, abused and neglected golden retrievers rescue takes in each year. Buy yours today!

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: \$ _____

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

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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, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733; To pay by credit card, use PAYPAL: www.paypal.com, GRRMF payment ID: info@grrmf.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE: MANY THANKS AND BIG DOGGIE KISSES TO ANDREA DAVIS AND MAGGIE GREEN FOR DONATING THEIR TIME TO PRODUCE THIS BEAUTIFUL CALENDAR. AND THANKS TO ALL WHO SUBMITTED ENTRIES - WE ARE PROUD TO DISPLAY THESE WONDERFUL PHOTOS OF GRRMF ALUMNI DOGS!

Healthy Peanut Butter Treats - Corn & Wheat Free: Great Stocking Stuffers!

1/4 cup honey
1 cup crunchy peanut butter
2 cups chicken broth or water

1 cup rolled oats
1 cup oat bran
3/4 cup oat flour
1/3 cup peanut oil



Preheat oven to 350

In a large saucepan combine honey, peanut butter, chicken broth and peanut oil.

Heat to a simmer. Remove from heat. Stir in rolled oats and oat bran and let cool until you can work with it. Add oat flour to form a stiff dough. Transfer to floured (use oat flour) surface and knead until smooth (about 3-5 minutes). Roll out and use cookie cutters to make shapes or cut into small squares, adding flour if the dough gets too sticky. Bake on ungreased cookie sheets for 30 minutes, turn over and cook another 30 minutes. When all are cooked put them on one cookie sheet, turn off the oven and let sit several hours or over night to get extra crunchy. Place in decorative containers to give as gifts. These freeze well if you want to make them ahead.

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.



I am the proud mom of Zachery aka "Velcro Dog" (formerly Scooter), whom I adopted from GRRMF in 1999. He was a throwaway dog found in a shelter. He is the most well-behaved dog I have ever had. I volunteer for GRRMF and take him to most of the Pet Expos where we have an educational table set up. Zachery has many trophies to his name for different fun contests in the past, including Canine Olympics and many costume contests. He is very hard to beat in the costume contests. Recently, I have been showing him in AKC Rally Obedience. He qualified in his first three shows for his Rally Novice Title. We will be going on and working toward his Rally Advanced title. He is my "heart dog" and

I thank GRRMF and God every day for such a wonderful, loving heart of gold. Just goes to show you what those wonderful rescues can do.

Donna Johnston
Proud Member and Volunteer, GRRMF

We received this note recently via the info@grrmf.org mailbox. We thought the message was worth sharing, as it is a nice example of a "lesson learned":



Thank you for considering our family's application. We received your card that we would not be able to adopt a golden as "it is not safe to bike ride with a golden, for the person or the dog." We see how right you are!

We had already adopted a lovely golden girl named Annie from a rescue prior to getting your postcard, and we agree with your comment. Now that we are proud owners, we see how fast and potentially unpredictable an animal can be. Thank

you for bringing this to our attention; we promise to never attempt a bike ride with her.

Your website is very informative and I can truly say how much I have learned by reading - reading - reading. We would have hated to have done something to harm our girl out of our own ignorance.

Thank you for providing a valuable service to our community. If we had not already adopted, I would ask that you reconsider our application based on our "re-education." I guess owners need training, too!

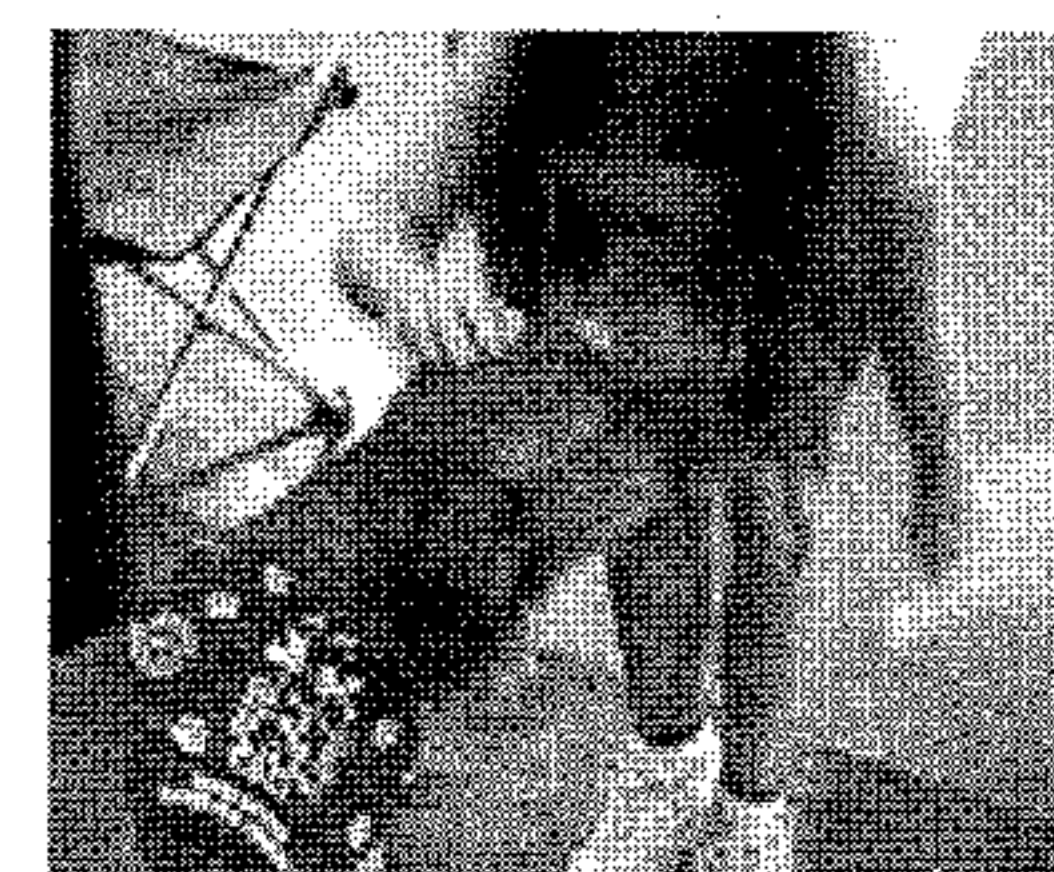
Thank you!
Melanie R and Annie



I thought I'd drop a line and give you an Autumn (formerly Peanut) update.

We love her and she's really doing well. She loves working! She did two full days at the Home Show over Labor day weekend and thought the entire show was just so people could come and pet her. It's really funny that when we put her Bark Busters Bandana on her she knows that she will be working and she goes right to the car. She was really good and sat, shook hands and laid down on command with a HUGE AMOUNT of distractions.

Warm regards,
Jeff



Maggie was adopted on 7/2/2001, by Michele L. Michele writes that since being adopted Maggie has earned her CGC, CD, 1 leg in Rally Novice and

1 leg in Novice agility all from the AKC. She is also working toward her CDX and is continuing with agility competitions. Michele writes that agility is Maggie's favorite and she is VERY fast! As if we couldn't tell how much she loves it by this wonderful photo! We wanted to share this note and photo, because it is a perfect example of how a rescue dog can go on to excel at obedience and agility. Throwaway dogs can become champions, too!



Dog-Gone Vacation: Head North to Georgia

By Barbara Durham

Looking for dog-friendly places to go? One favorite place we go every year in October is Pine Mountain, Georgia. It's home to Callaway Gardens, is a huge botanical garden with attractions, golfing and lots and lots of hiking trails. Dogs - on leash, of course! - are allowed everywhere except inside buildings, so you can hike your dog all over the place.

I started going there when my dogs were older - the trails are flat, so they are easy to maneuver. You can also bike for miles throughout the park. There is an admission fee, or you can also buy an annual pass if you are there for a period of days. Callaway also has restaurants throughout the property. One favorite is the Country Gardens restaurant that is way up on the mountain and overlooks a beautiful valley (doesn't require admission). It features southern cooking and a Callaway specialty - muscadine grape ice cream & jellies.

As far as places to stay - there is a small "mom-and-pop" motel called the White Columns in Pine Mountain just minutes from Callaway Gardens. It's not fancy, but it's clean and they are very dog friendly. If you camp, FDR State Park is in Pine Mountain and it has a beautiful campground set on a lake. We stayed there this year and loved it. The park allows dogs on leash, and there are miles of trails to explore.

Sometimes they have activities in the park. On a recent trip, they had a Bluegrass concert in the outdoor amphitheater. As far as things to do nearby, Warm Springs is just minutes away. You can visit Franklin Roosevelt's Little White House, which is fascinating, and also eat at the famous Bullock House Restaurant. The specialty in this region is southern cooking, including fried green tomatoes that are to die for.

From Orlando the drive is easy; you avoid going through any major cities by taking 520 west off of I-75 at Tifton Georgia, through Albany and Columbus and up. Even though the roads aren't marked as an interstate they are all nice four lane roads. Georgia is hot in summer like Florida, so we usually go in the fall, winter or spring when the weather is cooler.

Links: www.callawaygardens.com

White Columns Motel 800-722-5083

FDR State Park: www.gastateparks.org/info/fdr/

FDR's Little White House: www.fdr-littlewhitehouse.org/



It's
Reunion
Planning
Time
Again!

Every year, the GRRMF Reunion Raffle and Silent Auction get better and better, thanks to you, our wonderful donors. This has been a banner year for rescuing and finding goldens homes, with more than 170 rescued this year, as of this writing.

The Raffle/Silent Auction at the Reunion is the primary fundraiser for the year. We count on your donations to keep up this good work year after year. Next year will be no exception. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Examples of items donated in past years include: Silent Auction: a weekend at a Florida resort, balloon ride, autographed first edition book (Dean Koontz), hand-crafted wooden dog diners, jewelry, fine art such as paintings and sculptures, etc. For the Raffle: doggie gift baskets, golden retriever themed items such as picture frames, t-shirts and doormats, grooming kits, leash and collar sets ... just about anything you can think of that a fellow dog lover might like is welcome!

If you have an item(s) to donate, please call Marcia McGovern at 407-766-9358 or 407-549-5413, OR send items to Marcia McGovern, 110 Golfside Circle, Sanford, FL 32773 for inclusion in the raffle/auction.

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Do You Have a Hip Dog??

By Sandy Sumner, GRRMF Adoption Coordinator



What is Hip Dog? Hip Dog is a canine water and massage therapy center located in the Orlando area. Therapists use a combination of massage and swimming in a large pool to help dogs recover from surgery, improve mobility from chronic hip and shoulder problems and help increase activity of obese and arthritic dogs by use of a non-impact type of exercise. It is done in a fun and playful setting so that the dogs just think they are there to have a good time.

GRRMF first used Hip Dog's services when Angie, a foster dog who needed two hip surgeries, was not making progress after surgery. She did not want to walk and at first was not too crazy about swimming. That soon changed when a buddy (my golden Buster) joined in to swim and race her to the floating toys in the water.

Angie and Buster would swim back together, each holding one end of a toy. She also enjoyed the massage sessions, and the end result was a girl who could run and walk just like any other dog.

Since then, we have sent countless dogs to Hip Dog for sessions, the most recent of whom is Bayley. You may remember Bayley from our web page. She had a less than professional surgery done on her first hip prior to her coming into rescue. She also needed surgery on the second hip. She was making no progress after the second surgery, and it had the veterinarians baffled. We figured trying water therapy couldn't hurt. Bayley adored the massage (actually she adored the attention) and would swim if the toy enticed her. The progress was slow but it came. She went from a dog who could barely walk and just hop from place to place to a girl who enjoys going for long walks with a normal gait and no more hopping.

Buster, now 10, has gone there for years for his chronic shoulder problem. He loves swimming and will accept the massage for a little while. Typical boy. He is in better shape than he has ever been. He loves the people too. Tom, Bev, Jeannine and Kristina are wonderful with the dogs. They know exactly what to do and what massage works best for each dog. They also work closely with our local holistic veterinarian for supplements to help speed the healing. My Gracie, who tends to pack on the extra pounds if we're not very careful with her diet, goes for the exercise. She loves to take flying leaps into the pool and bring back a toy.

I have seen all breeds of dogs with a variety of conditions during my visits to Hip Dog - paralyzed dogs, dogs who had spinal surgery, overweight dogs and dogs stiff with arthritis. And, of course "hip dogs" - dogs with hip problems or a history of hip surgery - greatly benefit from this treatment program.

Just about any dog can benefit from hydrotherapy. You can read some success stories and additional information at their web site - www.hipdog.net.

Reading

By Ellen Lindenfeld



Hound Health Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Keeping Your Dog Happy, Healthy & Active,

by Betsy Brevitz, D.V.M.
New York: Workman Publishing, 2004.

A very handy resource guide to have at your fingertips, this book covers everything from selecting a healthy puppy to behavioral modification, to CPR and first aid. The format is user friendly and appendices include information on veterinary pet insurance, alternative and complementary medicine, veterinary schools, and helpful websites for dog owners. I currently have a copy from the library, but since I have reached for this book twice in the past 24 hours, needless to say I will be purchasing my own copy very soon!

Ellen Lindenfeld

A Dog Year: Twelve Months, Four Dogs, and Me,
by Jon Katz. New York, Villard, 2002.



After sharing his life with two very low maintenance Labrador retrievers, Katz takes on the "border collie from Hell," and you will find yourself laughing, crying and appreciating the dedication of a person who takes in a throwaway dog. Great read! Review from Library Journal: "Katz describes his

GRRMF Membership/Donation Form

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please check one:

☐ General Membership \$25

☐ Sponsorship to help special-needs golden \$100

☐ General Donation \$ _____ ☐ Woody's Fund \$ _____ ☐ Capital Campaign \$ _____

☐ Boarding Fund \$ _____

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

Send acknowledgment to: _____

Mail form and check to: GRRMF, PO Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733
GRRMF Inc. 501(c)3 Charitable Organization - Donations are Tax-Deductible

Official registration and financial information can be obtained from Division of Consumer Services: (800) 435-7352.
Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

Pup-kin Nut Bread

Sure to become a festive holiday favorite for your little nut.
Makes 6 Merry Mutt Mini Loafs.

1½ cups all-purpose flour

½ cup canola oil

¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon

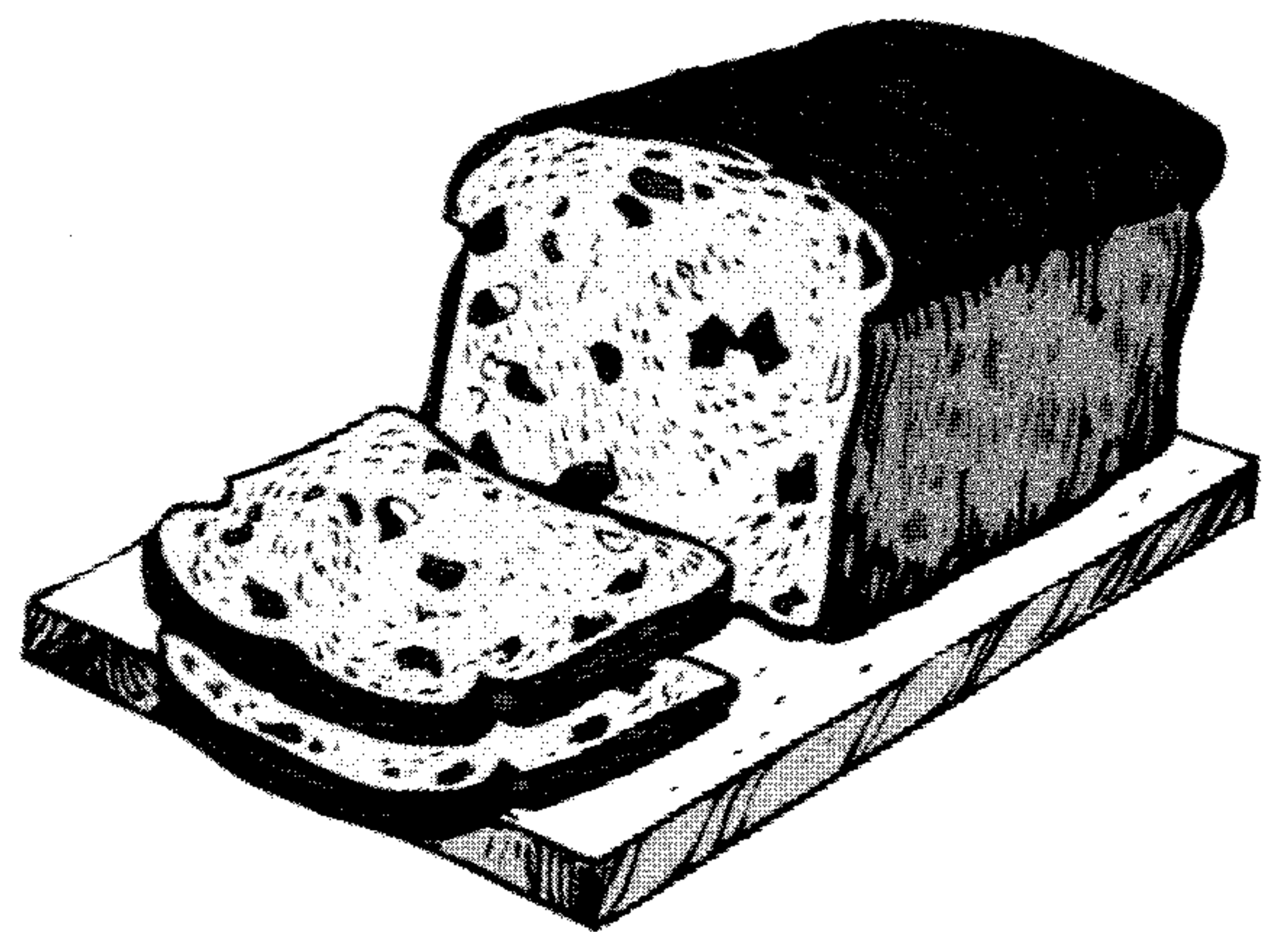
¼ cup honey

¼ teaspoon baking powder

1 18-ounce can pumpkin

Pinch of ginger

2 large eggs



Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease and flour six aluminum mini bread pans.

Stir together the flour, cinnamon, baking powder, and ginger in a bowl and set aside. In a large bowl stir together the canola oil and honey. Add the pumpkin and eggs, one at a time, and stir to combine. Stir in ¼ cup of water. Add the dry ingredients and mix until smooth. Fill the bread pans 2/3 full. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in the center of a loaf comes out clean. Cool to room temperature before slicing and serving.

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

Dear GRRMF,

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that Oliver passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 17, after a brave battle with hemangiosarcoma, or cancer of the blood vessels. I adopted Oliver on September 4, 2000; he was then known as Jack, dog #663. During the last five years, Ollie was a huge part of my life and he will be missed more than I can ever say. He was the perfect dog; happy, gentle, playful, well-mannered, and loving. Ollie taught me many things over the last few years, but recently he reminded me that every day is a gift, and that the simplest things in life are the sweetest. I miss our walks together, our hikes in the state parks, and playing tug-of-war with rope toys. I miss watching him play with Maggie kitty, and watching the two of them cuddle together after a long play session. I miss having him here, laying at my feet, giving me all that unconditional love he had to give. Thank you, GRRMF, for giving me the years I had with Ollie. It is because of your hard work that I have so many wonderful memories to cherish.

Sincerely, Monica Chaplin



Our beloved Barney went on to the Rainbow Bridge on September 23, after a prolonged bout with bone cancer. He came to us through GRRMF on July 27, 2002, and was the best dog ever. His laidback manner and sophisticated behavior was unsurpassed. He got along with everybody (canine and human) and was a Canine Good Citizen and Certified Therapy Dog. We will always miss him immensely until we see him at the Bridge someday. Peace to you my noble friend.

Love, Charlie, Barb, Ace, Mocha and Trax.

Augie Dawgie Spears, alias Ridge Pine's August A Busch, came into rescue after being chained in the back yard for years. When we got him he was 10 years old and had no front teeth. He completely forgot about his past and fell in love with Chelsea and Glory and the three of them bonded beyond belief. Augie was also my Velcro dog; he reminded me every day at 4 o'clock that supper was due soon. We feed at 5.

For that hour I was never left alone - he was a super lobbyist to make sure that food was on time.

He has joined Chelsea and Glory at the bridge and left behind Sophie and Dabney. But I am sure

he has met up with Dusty, Mandy and Buster, our previous rescues. We miss all of them; each one has a special place in our heart. We look forward to joining all of them when our time comes.

- Nancy & Dick Spears



Cisco was unexpectedly taken from us in September. Cisco was a kindhearted soul who loved everything and everyone. He especially LOVED to chase lizards. Cisco, you are deeply missed and will never be forgotten. Please take care of all the others who have to make that journey across the bridge. We will meet again.

Suzanne & Tony Rider

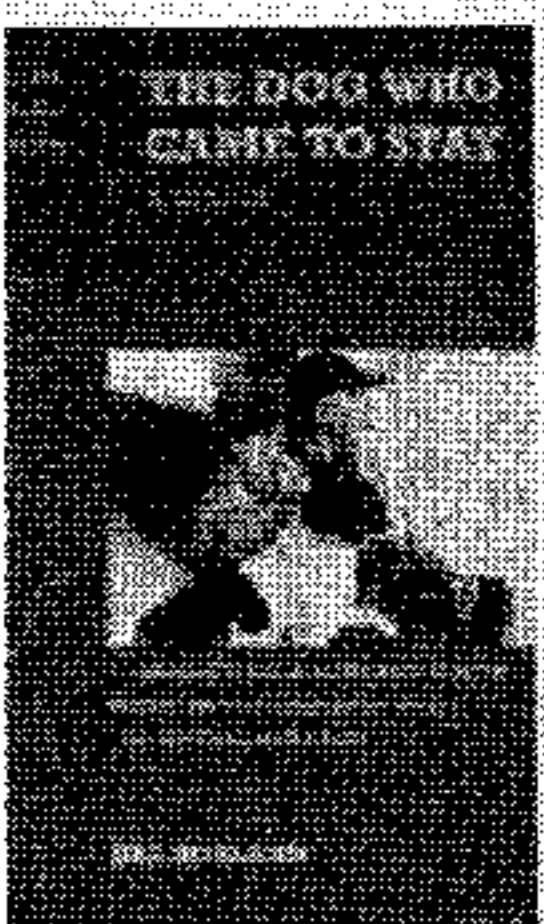


Of all the blessings I have been granted throughout my life, the ones I most treasure are of a spirited soul named O'Malley. No matter where I went, I knew without a doubt his love would follow me. His endless devotion stayed faithful to me until the very end. I shall always hold dear to my heart my memories of you, my darling. And I will look forward to your love continuing to follow me for the rest of my days. When the sun is shining brightly on me, I'll know it's the warmth of your smile coming down from the heavens.

With love, Tom Grasso

Letters We Get Letters We Get

adoption of Devon, a broken-spirited two-year old border collie. From Devon's frenzied entrance into Katz's life, escaping from the confines of his crate into a busy airport, to his exultant, trusting leap into Katz's arms one year later, this memoir is warm and heartfelt."

 The Dogs who
Came to Stay,
George Pitcher,
with drawings by
Tom George. New
York: Dutton, 1995.

I read this book coming home in the car several years ago from Cocoa Beach, crying my eyes out in the back seat while I hoped that my teenage son and husband did not notice . . . one of my favorite dog stories. From the School Library Journal: "This memoir of two bachelors who opened their home and hearts to a wild, frightened dog and her pup is a delight to read. Through a collection of anecdotes and a bit of poetry, Pitcher tells the tale of Lupa and her son, Remus, with warmth, humor and charm. These two dogs were an integral part of the lives of their masters. George's photographs and the drawings add to the pleasure of this story of the unconditional love and devotion of man to his dog and the dog to its master."

Dear GRRMF,

My family and I want to thank all the volunteers, members and everyone involved with Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida for all that you do for all the Golden retrievers that you are involved with now and in the future.

We especially want to thank two volunteers, Renee and Lynn, who were instrumental in helping us adopt a rescued Golden and provide a forever home. We recently were fortunate enough to adopt a rescued Golden named Reggie. Words alone are not enough to express appreciation for what Renee and Lynn did for us. Reggie is a typical Golden full of love and warmth. Within the first few days, he became as comfortable in his new home as if he had been here all his life. He loves to go far walks and has a stride that a jogger would love. My bad knees do their best to keep up so he has learned to slow down a bit to help me out. Although he isn't as interested in fetching the tennis ball like our dearly departed Golden, Phoenix, he loves to play keep-away. He gets his ball, Frisbee or some other toy and has us try to catch him. He will run to hide under a bush or table or he'll go to his bed. We'll get his toy of choice from him and he then chases us to get his toy back. If we are too busy to give him attention, which isn't often, he tosses his toys in the air and tries to catch them to amuse himself. He knows all the basic commands and will rollover for a treat. He loves to meet people in hopes of getting a little more attention.

With his large brown eyes, he can melt the hardest heart. He is such a sweetie that it is hard for us not to spoil him rotten. Petsmart is very glad to see us coming. Even though our hearts are missing a piece due to the passing of Phoenix, Reggie has brought the joy back into our lives that only a Golden can. He isn't a pet; he is our friend and will remain with us forever.

Caring for a Golden, like any animal, is a responsibility we take very seriously. Which is why we decided to adopt instead of perpetuating the overbreeding of these wonderful pups. It would be our wish that organizations like GRRMF weren't needed because people didn't abuse, neglect or abandon their animals. The human species is supposed to be more intelligent and thoughtful. Unfortunately there are those among us who have forgotten common decency and will be cruel. It is shameful how much rescue organizations are needed. Thankfully we are blessed to have those who will volunteer their time and homes to help and rehabilitate our canine friends that have been mistreated and tossed out like yesterday's garbage. For this we are eternally grateful. From the volunteers who do rescue to the volunteers who provide foster care to the volunteers that perform home inspections and match Golden retrievers with a beautiful family, these are special folks that deserve our gratitude.

We are honored to be members of GRRMF and will do our best to inform and educate about the need for more forever homes for the rescued Golden retrievers. If there is more that we can do, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,

Hank, Janice & Reggie Bogle

Editor's Note: Since writing this heartfelt letter, the Bogles have added a new GRRMF boy to their family. Jack, now Riggins, is about a year old and fulfills Hank's wish for a "ball nut" to play fetch with in his fenced yard. Hank and Reggie are two very lucky golden retrievers!

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:

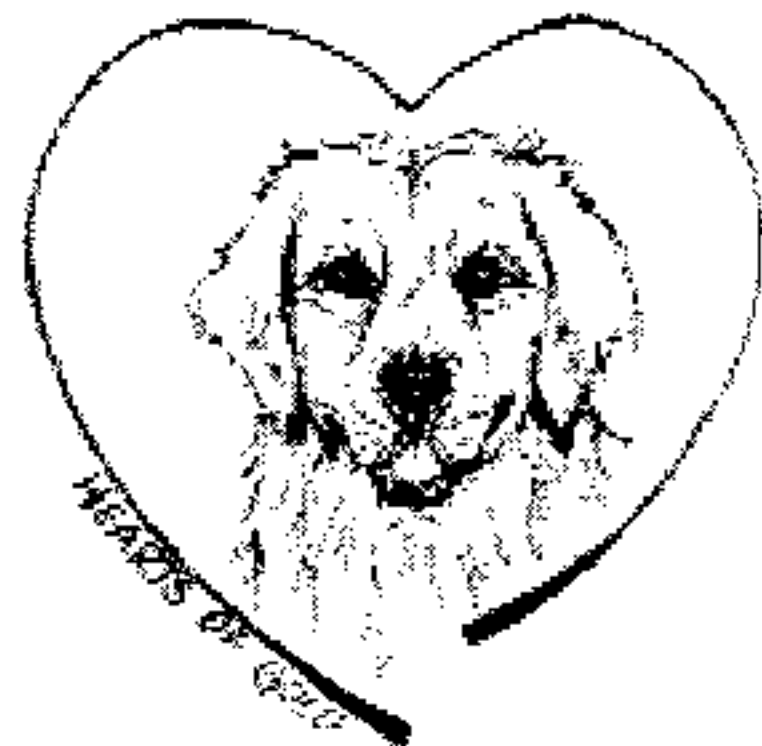
Pet Supplies Plus, Lake Park - Every fourth Sunday -- noon to 4:00 p.m.

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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