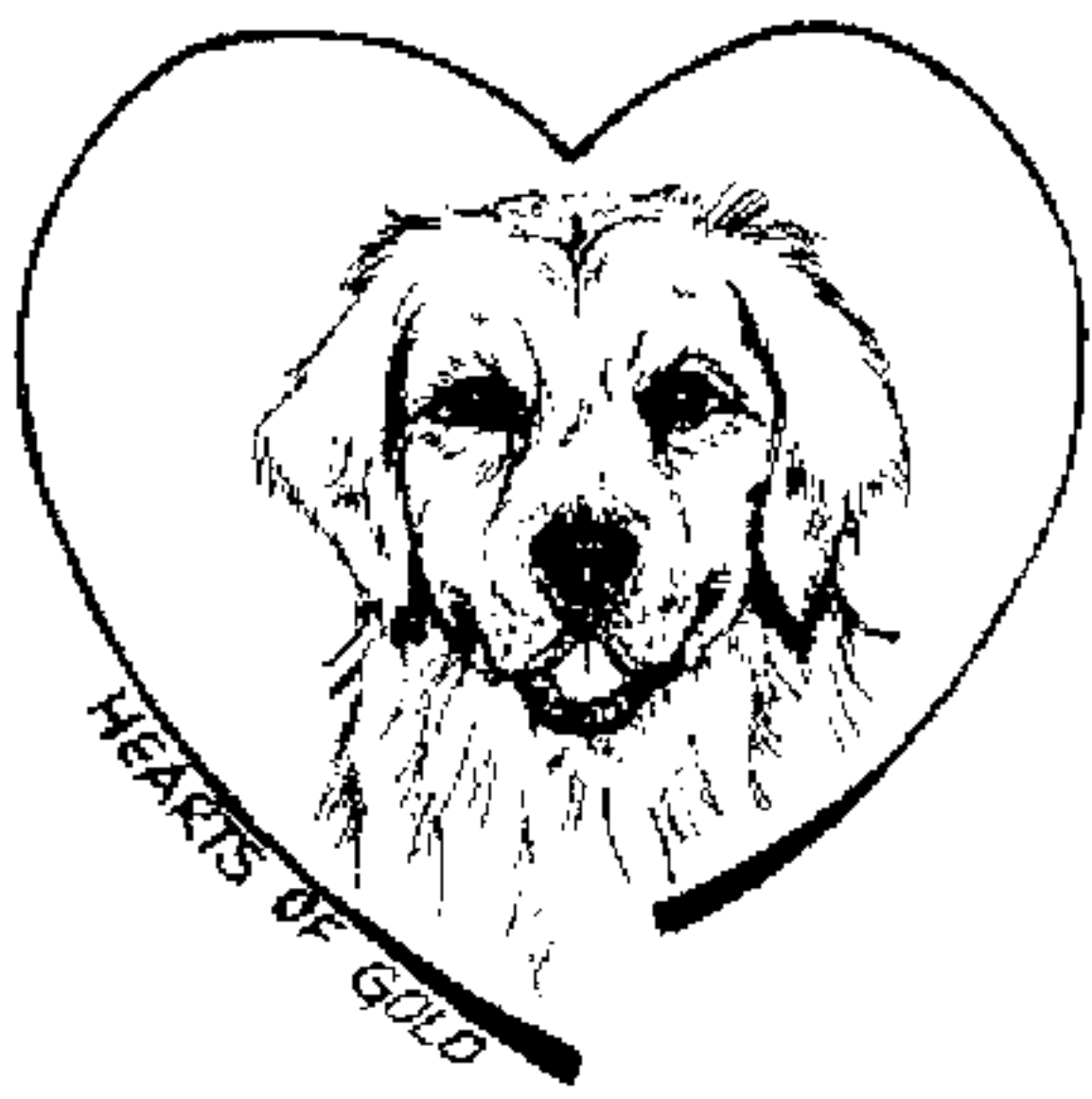


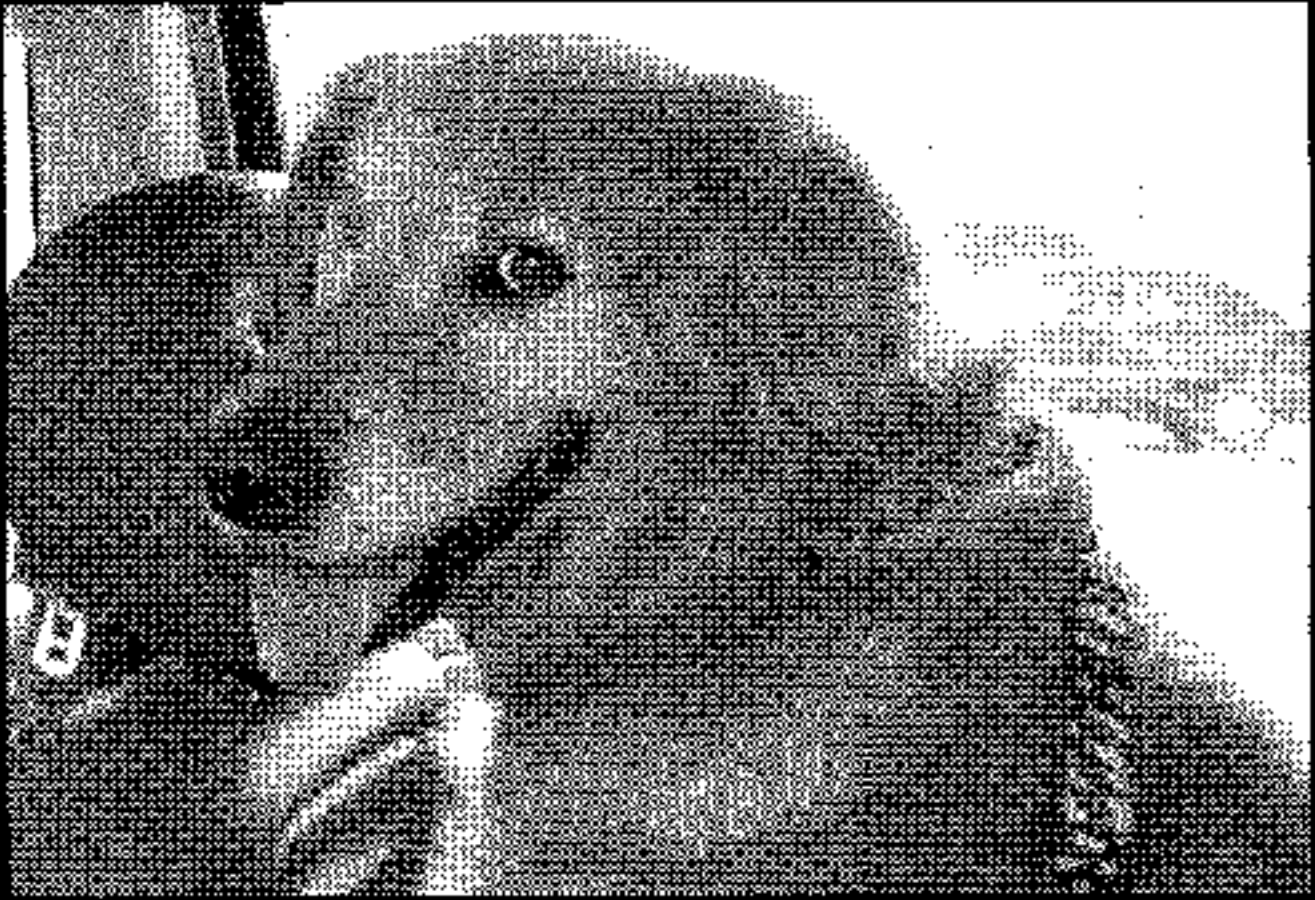


HEARTS OF GOLD

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

Volume 8, Issue 1

WINTER 2005



I'm Adopted!

O'Connor was found wandering the streets after Hurricane Charley. He was filthy, full of mats, and suffering from a serious eye disorder. We're happy to report that O'Connor now has found his forever home! Read more about him and other Recent Adoptions on Page 3.



Cancer!

Sassy, adopted 4 years ago, loves belly rubs ... that love might have saved her life. Read more starting on Page 2.



Volunteers Make the Difference!

**"The best part about volunteering for Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida? Ray and I can't figure out if it's the goldens or the people!" - Sue Angle
Read more on Page 10.**



**Happy Birthday, Abbey!
Abbey came to GRRMF at age 13 and just celebrated her 14th birthday with her friends at GRRMF. Read more on Page 11.**

**Please join us for the
2005 Rescue Reunion,
a homecoming gathering
for all GRRMF members
and adopters and
their goldens!**

We're planning a great day filled with friendly faces and wagging golden tails!

Many activities are planned including: 🐾 Raffle 🐾 Silent Auction
🐾 Golden Goods.

Lunch/drinks available on site for a small charge - proceeds donated to GRRMF.

Come spend a fun day with your golden, and help us raise money for needy goldens!

What to bring:

Your goldens 🐾 Chairs or blanket - some picnic tables available on first-come, first-served basis 🐾 Water & bowl for your dog 🐾 Crate/X-pen for timeouts, if required 🐾 Sunblock and a hat - some shade available under trees or inside screened pavillion
Comfortable attire 🐾 Pickup bags for doggie clean up
Dogs should be on no longer than 6 foot leash at all times.

You're Invited!



**Celebrating Goldens!
Annual
Rescue
Reunion
2005**

10:00 a.m.

**Lake Parker Park, Lakeland
Osprey Pavillion**

**Check out our Web site for updates!
www.grrmf.org**

Lake Parker Park

910 E Granada Street
(863) 499-2233

Lake Parker Park is located on Lake Parker. It is 100.5 acres of native Florida vegetation with lake access and hiking trails. The park is accessible from Robson Road and Granada Road off of Lakeland Hills Boulevard. Lake Parker is used by nature enthusiasts for bird watching and families of all ages.

For more information, call the number above or visit www.lakelandgov.net/parkrec/parks/LakeParkerPark.html.

This is the same location as last year, mid-way between Orlando and Tampa, with convenient access off I-4 (less than a mile) - Exit 33, follow signs for Marchant Stadium.

🐾 Crowd/Dog/Kid Friendly Dogs Only, Please! 🐾

*Hope to see you there!
Check inside this issue for more details!*

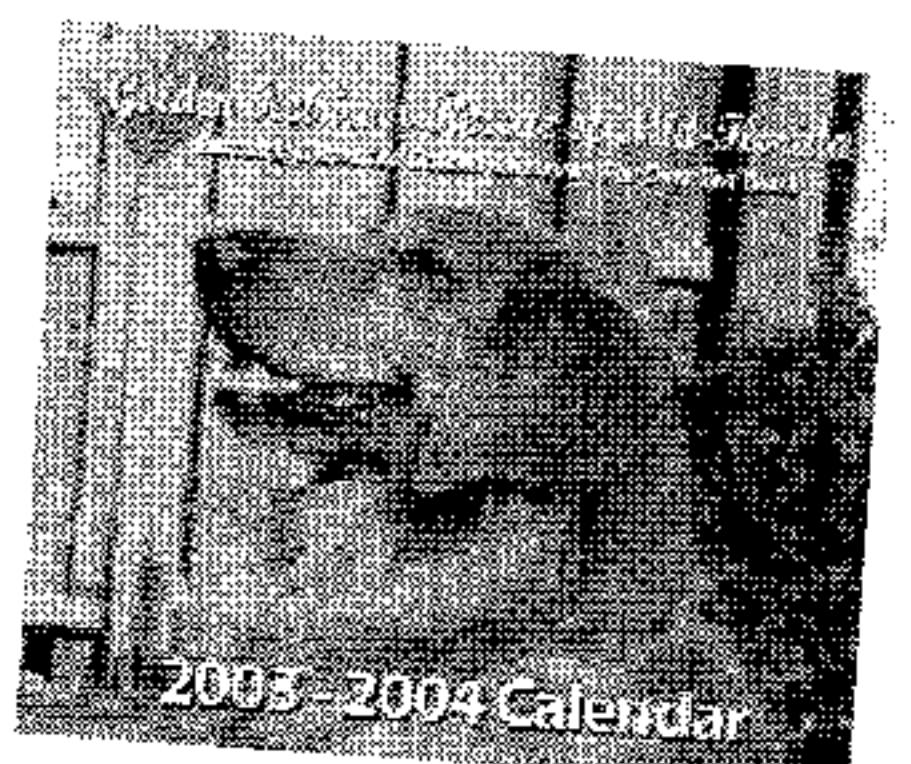
IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR GRRMF MEMBERSHIP!

Your membership provides the funds to save homeless goldens - for veterinary care and supplies. Without your support, GRRMF cannot continue our mission. Memberships start at just \$25 per year and include a subscription to this newsletter. And remember, GRRMF is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so your dues are tax-deductible. 100% of your donation will go toward helping goldens in need.

Turn to page 14 for our NEW membership levels & form!

2006 GRRMF Calendar

Wouldn't YOUR GRRMF Golden Retriever look great on the cover? The 2004 calendar (our first) was a huge success, and after taking a year off for hurricanes, we are now working on our 2006 calendar. So why not send us that great picture of your gorgeous golden today before you forget? And remember, you can also have your dog's birthday and/or "gotcha day" published in the calendar!



Read more on Page 15!

Happy New Year to our GRRMF family!

I'm sure I'm like a lot of you in that I'm thankful we made it through 2004. And what a year it was!

I am especially thankful for our volunteers and donors who persevered through all the hurricanes to still support our organization. Since we are spread out across the state, nearly everyone was affected at one time or another. Many volunteers had serious damage to their homes. Kathy Hendrickson, our Call Team Manager, lives in Sebastian and was hit especially hard, leaving her home uninhabitable. Many others experienced similar damage. As you must be, I'm grateful that no volunteers were injured.

GRRMF continued to operate through the storms. We did experience some problems, though.

Due to damage
in our volunteers'

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barbara Durham, GRRMF President

homes, we got our fall newsletter out late (you should have received it in November) and did not have time to get out a holiday issue like we normally do. But, we are celebrating the New Year with this newsletter and promise to bring you terrific newsletters during 2005! We are especially thankful for Carol McKee and Judy Ladney, who edit and produce our newsletter, and also to all the others that contribute.

We did experience a significant drop in donations during August, September and October. Most nonprofit organizations have been severely impacted by the hurricanes as people struggle to pay deductibles and deal with mounting expenses. We are especially thankful to those of you that have continued to support us and our thoughts are with our members that experienced damage to their homes. We are kicking off our 2005 membership drive with this issue and hope to recoup some of the funds we lost so that we have adequate funds to help needy goldens throughout 2005 and beyond. We have some great new membership levels and incentives -- see page 14 for details! **Please send in your membership today!**

There are so many people to thank for helping GRRMF continue operating and saving more precious gold than ever before. Our volunteers are the best, and nothing happens without them. Thanks also to our terrific veterinarians who help us keep our goldens healthy. Our vets and their staffs are caring individuals who are truly concerned about the welfare of our dogs.

Thanks to our donors who make our program possible and enable us to help so many sick dogs, seniors and special-needs cases. Thank you to Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue for our mutual partnership over the years and the help they gave us in taking dogs that were displaced during the hurricanes. Lastly, I'd like to thank our Key Leaders who work to coordinate our various teams. It's so hard to find people willing to take leadership positions in a volunteer organization. We have some absolutely terrific people in GRRMF and we are indebted to them. They have made a huge difference to our organization. I'd especially like to thank Nancy Spears for all her fine work as Treasurer, working behind the scenes to keep GRRMF going.

Cheers to all of you, and we look forward to another year helping goldens.

Barbara



Needed: Intake Team Volunteers

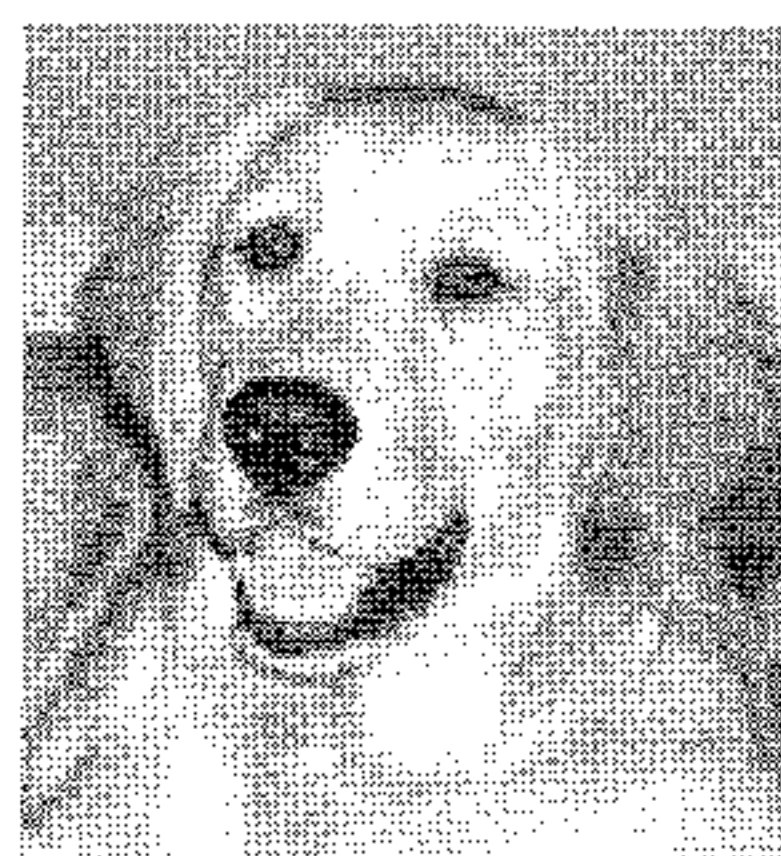
We currently are looking for people willing to help take rotating duty on our Intake Team. This team works to evaluate and bring dogs into the GRRMF program and makes arrangements for placement into approved foster homes. Working intake is not for everyone -- you often have to talk to difficult people wanting or having to give up their goldens, hear stories that make you sad or angry, and handle numerous details quickly to bring the dog into our program. Intake is also one of the most critical areas of rescue, because, obviously, we can't save a golden if we don't evaluate it and bring it in to our program. It also can be very rewarding, as you are on the "front lines" of rescue, and you get to see the fruits of your labor as you follow the dog through the program and read about its "happy ending" with a new forever family. Working on our Intake Team is a great way to make a huge difference. If you are interested in being part of our new rotating-duty Intake Team, please contact us at info@grrmf.org or (407) 332-2840.

Alumni News

Justus was adopted by Cindy & Gary S. in May 2003. We'd like to share this update Cindy sent recently: "My husband had completed treatment for cancer and was doing very well. Three weeks after we picked Justus up, my husband became very ill with an infection and died. Justus became my life line. He is so loving, and now is the only man in my life. He loves to go camping, swimming and really loves to ride in my Volkswagen Beetle. He spent the summer in Ohio with me this year visiting his cousins Blue the chocolate lab and Cricket the black lab. His playmate at home is Pollack the cat. Our vet really likes him, too. Every time I take him in for his semi-annual physical, Dr. Gordon comments on how beautiful he is. Justus is a happy and healthy 5-year-old now, but more importantly he has a wonderful and loving spirit. Thanks so much for rescuing this beautiful dog."



We just received some updated photos of Sara, now Annie. Sara was bought as a puppy, and the purchasers quickly realized they had made an impulsive decision. She was turned over to GRRMF at just 8 weeks, 3 days old and adopted by Joan & Steve K. Annie is turning out to be a very special golden - no surprise to us, of course! Here's what Joan recently told us: "Annie is about 8 1/2 months old now. She'll swim if we put her in and she'll paddle over to fetch a ball then she turns right back around and heads for the steps. Callie, on the other hand, takes the Mack truck approach to everything and will leap from pool deck into the deep end, and if the toy goes underwater, Callie does too. So if Annie gets a little bolder as she gets older and decides to emulate her big sister, I'm sure we'll have quite the swim team on our hands. In the meantime we're focusing on obedience school. Annie has completed basic classes and is now in advanced basic. Steve worked wonders with Callie in training and Annie is showing at least as much promise, maybe even a little more. We've never aspired to show them, but I think a dog who understands English and manners is a joy to have around. If only I could teach them to do laundry ..."



We received this note from Sassy's dad:

"A few weeks ago, Sassy (formerly Prissy), who adopted me nearly 4 years ago, was lying on her back waiting for a belly rub. As I got closer I saw a slight rise on the surface of her skin about 1/4 inch from the lowest nipple. It felt firm and was the size of a small pea. The veterinarian aspirated a sample from the lump, checked it and scheduled her for surgery to remove a mammary tumor. The results of the biopsy indicated the lump was malignant. The vet called it a "moderate" cancer and because it had not spread beyond the pea-sized lump. Sassy was back to her lovable, happy self within 48 hours, but we will continue to be very vigilant in watching for any suspicious lumps during grooming sessions or belly rubs. I wanted others to know, because what I found is not something I would have routinely been looking for each and every day ... but I will now. The picture shows Sassy with her "baby" - the teddy almost seems like a security blanket. If I go away on an errand, I usually find it in the middle of my closet on top of a shoe when I come home. I would love to have a camcorder going when I'm out, to see what she's up to when she's alone."



Recent Adoptions - Winter 2005



All familiar with recent happenings at GRRMF know the story of **O'Connor**. This 5-year-old hunk of gold was found wandering the streets after Hurricane Charley. A good Samaritan tied him up so he

wouldn't run away, and GRRMF was called. O'Connor was filthy dirty and full of mats. But the bigger problem was his eye - it was protruding and looked severely infected. After evaluation, O'Connor was sent to the University of Florida vet hospital in Gainesville, where his damaged eye was removed, thanks to the many donations we received from GRRMF members and golden lovers. He now sports a constant "wink," which we think suits him just fine - he is so beautiful and has such a warm, happy disposition that the wink only endears us to him more. Once his eye healed, O'Connor began looking for his forever home and won the hearts of Pat & Becky M., who took him home to live with their other two canines Daisy & Maggie. It took a few days for O'Connor to win over the new "girls" in his pack, but the three are now inseparable. Becky writes: "At first, Daisy wouldn't play with him. He started to pick up toys and try to get her to play, but she'd get the toy out of his mouth and run away. Not anymore! As of Saturday, they are playing tug-of-war together and chasing each other - and all of this in the house! O'Connor has fit in so well, and we love him very much. He gets kisses and hugs every 10-20 minutes whether he needs them or not. Last night he crawled into bed and was sharing my pillow." GRRMF sends huge doggie hugs to O'Connor's savior and foster mom, Penny I., who drove for over an hour at a moment's notice to rescue him after a hurricane and provided all the TLC he could ever dream of before and after his surgery.

Abby came to us as an obese 89-pound GRRMF former adoptee. Her owners kept her for about a year and then returned her to GRRMF saying that she was too scared of everything and they were afraid for their small grandchildren. When we picked Abby up as Transport Volunteers, we couldn't get over how jumpy she was in the home she had lived in for a year. We brought her home to our "Angle Animal Kingdom" and decided to foster her. Molly, Julie and Tonka welcomed her as they do all the goldens we bring in, but we're sure Abby had not been around cats before. We have four felines (all rescues), and Abby was very interested in these new little creatures. She followed them around "nose to tail" until they would get tired of her and sit down; then she would decide she'd better disappear. She also jumped at every noise - especially Ray's sneezes! - but the more time passed, the more she depended on her golden siblings for reassurance. She began to calm down and settle in. She also lost weight and she is down to less than 75 pounds. I took pictures and wrote an article for the "Adopt Us" section of the GRRMF Web Site ... then came those familiar words: "We aren't going to give up Abby, are we?"



Well, that was it. Abby is now an official member of the family. She is the latest "Best thing that ever happened to the Angles!" - submitted by Sue Angle, Abby's new Mom



Gulliver has had a long journey since coming to GRRMF. Born with severe hip dysplasia, 1-year-old Gulliver needed surgery to help him live a normal life. Rescue paid for the surgery out of its "Woody Fund" for dogs with special

medical needs, and then the hunt was on to find a home where Gulliver could get plenty of the right exercise to help him heal, including hydrotherapy to build muscle tone without further damaging bones or joints. We knew the right home would come in time, as Gulliver is a real love bug with a wonderful personality and temperament. Darrell and Angie L. were familiar with his issues, since they had a rescue dog with those issues before. Gulliver is very spoiled in his new home - and very much loved.

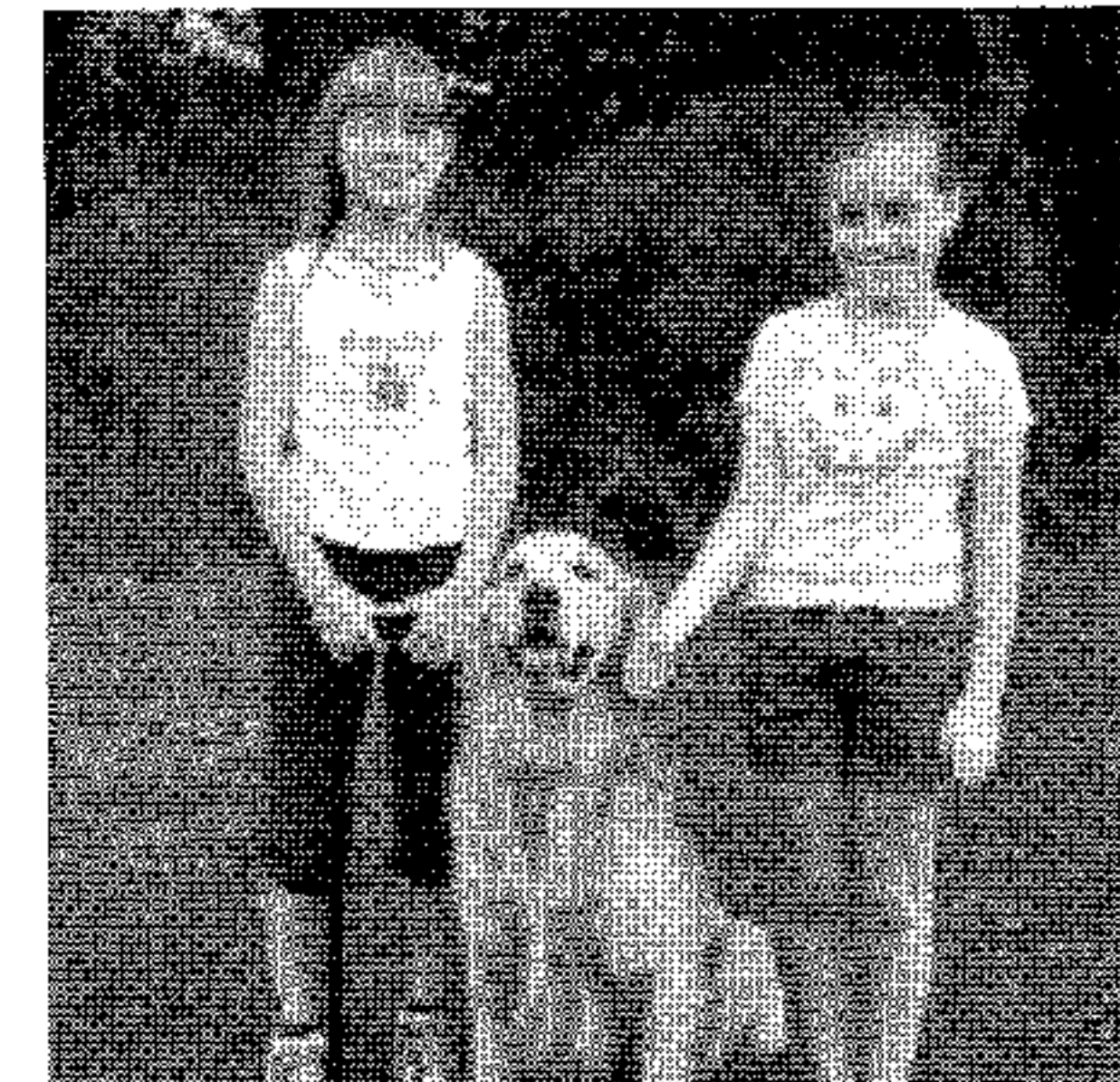
Sweet **Shelby** and her buddy Sheldon came to rescue from a shelter. The owners cited that they were "too destructive." We never saw that part of them, but we did see that they were terribly neglected - dirty, matted and overweight, with urine burns from being confined to a very small space. Shelby recovered quickly and became the ultimate Velcro dog. She found her forever family with Kim G. Shelby is an only dog and loving every minute of being the center of mom's attention. Sheldon was fostered by Mona H. and her canine buddy Daunte. With his easygoing ways, Sheldon fit in perfectly. When it came time to show him to a prospective family, Mona could not part with Sheldon, and he became a permanent member of the household.



Dana, 6 years, was given to rescue when her family could no longer care for her. While in foster care with Char, Dana learned many new skills such as how to play with other dogs and toys. These luxuries are things she was unable to

do at her prior home. She caught the eye of Jill and Ray L., who drove four hours each way just to meet her. Her new family says: "We are so happy that we were lucky enough to adopt Dana. She is adjusting and seems quite content here with us. We are both retired, so she gets plenty of attention now. She is learning to walk on a leash and loves everyone. Thanks for letting us adopt this special girl." We couldn't be happier here at GRRMF - it is obvious that Dana's dreams have come true.

Topper came to rescue when his owner died and no one in the family was able to care for him. He was very depressed in boarding and we were afraid we would lose him. In stepped Brooke and Brandon, who fostered him and then could not bear to part with him. Topper is easy to spot in a crowd - he is the one sporting the Mohawk down the center of his head!



Ross was found wandering the streets and taken in by a kind citizen. After repeated attempts to find his owners, Ross settled in with Suzanne and Tony R., who fostered him while he underwent heartworm treatment.

Ross is an all-around great dog, who wants nothing more than to be attached to your hip. He was adopted by Steve, Christine and their two children. They report that after having Ross only one day, he settled in as if he had always been with them. We can't ask for much better than that for one of our wonderful rescues!

A beautiful dog was found sitting in animal services crossing his paws he would be adopted. Simon was fostered by Cindy and Rick O. and adopted by Maria and Steve Z., who say he is an even better then they had imagined and that he fit in perfectly. They even thought his excessive drooling was cute. Now, that is love!

At 3 years old, **Sienna** was found wandering the streets and walked his way into the hearts of everyone he met. He was fostered by Suzanne and Tony R., who enjoyed watching his ball playing "technique." -- Sienna couldn't catch a ball to save his life, but boy, could he chase it! He also kept them entertained with this swimming style, as well. Sienna was adopted and renamed Fulton by Andrew and Lois B., who wanted an active, on-the-go-ready-when-you-are dog who also could easily settle in at home. They continue to work on Fulton's ball and Frisbee skills, and in between, he enjoys swimming in the pool. They say they both are very pleased to have him in their lives.



Lady Laurel was left on the front porch when her owner moved. So dedicated was she that Laura stayed there, hoping her owner would return. Luckily, a neighbor noticed her and called GRRMF to see if we could take her. Foster mom Lynne H. loved Laurel very much but knew she needed a home to call her own. Laurel was adopted by the S. family who plan to make her remaining days sunny, happy and indoors!!



Chandy, 8 months, was an outside dog turned in to rescue a day before one of the hurricanes. She was fostered by Nancy and Terry N., where she learned some manners and how to snuggle up to the warmth of a human, not to mention what a nice, comfy-cozy home felt like with people who wanted her to be with them. She is an absolute sweetheart with not a mean bone in her body. Chandy was adopted by Maureen, Ana and Leslie, who now spoil her with all the attention she can handle, three fold. Chandy, now Sidney, shares her new "digs" with three guinea pigs, a cat and prior GRRMF Shelby.

At three years old, **Morgan** found himself looking for a new home due to a child's allergies. He is a perfect soul who found the perfect forever home with Chuck P. and family.



Six-year-old **Amber** was an owner turn-in with her 9-year-old sister. Both gals were in desperate need of a fitness regime to help drop many unneeded pounds. Amber was fostered by Donna and Chuck, who immediately started her on her

way to regaining her girlish figure. She was adopted by Marie P., who reports that "Amber is doing excellent! Everyone has commented on how much weight she has lost. She looks so good. We walk every morning after breakfast and again in the evening. We are walking a lot faster now that it has cooled off." Amber lives with GRRMF alumnus Keiser, and Marie reports that the two of them get along great: "Amber is always giving Keiser kisses, and he acts like he hates it ... but we catch him smooching her right back. Way to go, Amber!"

Six-year-old **Rainey** was working on her third home prior to entering GRRMF. Despite being abused in her first home and put out back in her second home, Rainey is an absolutely lovely dog. She was lovingly fostered by Bert & Charlie H. and their boys and adopted by Tara and Jeff N. and family. Tara originally wanted a younger dog, but when they met Rainey they quickly realized she had all the "right stuff." Tara just sent this recent update: "Rainey is doing great. She is such a great dog ... we are totally in love." Son Carson took pictures of Rainey to school for show-and-tell, and the two have become best buddies. Another wonderful new beginning for some precious gold! Tara also wrote: "I want to sincerely thank all the GRRMF volunteers that we worked with over the past few weeks. You are a



fabulous organization. Before, I believe we were rather naive to think that people would never mistreat and abandon dogs as gentle and beautiful as goldens, but now we know the reality. I tell anyone who will listen (and even those who don't) about how awesome our adoption experience was." Many thanks, Tara, for the kind words, which we are sharing so that all involved in Rainey's rescue can hear how much their work is appreciated.

Due to no fault of his own, 3-year-old **Rusty** was working on his third home. GRRMF is happy to report that this time Rusty has found his forever home with Steve C. and family. His new family waited patiently for the right dog, and they certainly hit the lottery with Rusty. Their lifestyle has changed a bit but definitely for the better as Rusty keeps them active and on the go. He was fostered by Kathy S., who was heartbroken to see him go but did a great job with her first foster-adoption. Kathy, we're proud of you for being able to let this special guy go - hopefully it helps to know that he has found the perfect forever home, due in large part to your tender-loving care!



Sweet old gold **Dabney** came into rescue and found his forever home with Dick and Nancy S. and their two rescue goldens, Auggie and Sophie. He loves his swim time and snuggle time and enjoys the companionship of all members of the house.

Tag was "too much dog" for his former family. As handsome as he is energetic, Tag had no training and was very rambunctious. The family before that had given Tag up due to divorce. So he was in need of some stability and training. Tag was lovingly fostered by Kathy R. and adopted by Lisa and Chris P., who felt that they were up for the challenge.



Tuscan came in emaciated and neglected. It took no time to put some weight on him and get him looking gorgeous. His sweet golden personality never wavered through it all. Karen S. and Michelle J. wanted an active dog

who would get along with their current dog. Tuscan was the perfect fit. They can't believe what a good boy he is.

Halo was another typical rescue ... came in as a stray, intact, heartworm positive and unsocialized. His foster dads Chris and Tommy M. took care of all that, including spending a LOT of time teaching Halo manners and how to play nice. Halo's "halo" soon began to shine, and he was ready for adoption. Along came Charles P. and Theron S., who fell in love at first sight. Halo now has only happy and healthy days ahead of him.



Rocky moved with his folks from Colorado and - surprise! - didn't do well as an outside dog. Since he was not neutered, the family said they wanted him to stay outside so he wouldn't "mark" his territory indoors. GRRMF's first order of business was to take care of the neutering, so off Rocky went to see Dr. Ehlers at 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood. Rocky adored people and was perfectly content to be the only dog in the household. Wendy and Doug S. think "The Rock" is the perfect companion for them - he often goes to work with Doug and entertains the folks at the sheriff's office. He is a huge hit with all who come in contact with him.



Trevor was given up due to an illness in the family. He was a very good boy but the family members knew they would not have time for such an active dog. Susan H. and her two sons fell in love with Trevor from

the minute they met him. He is active and loving and just what they were looking for. The smiles in the picture show this best.

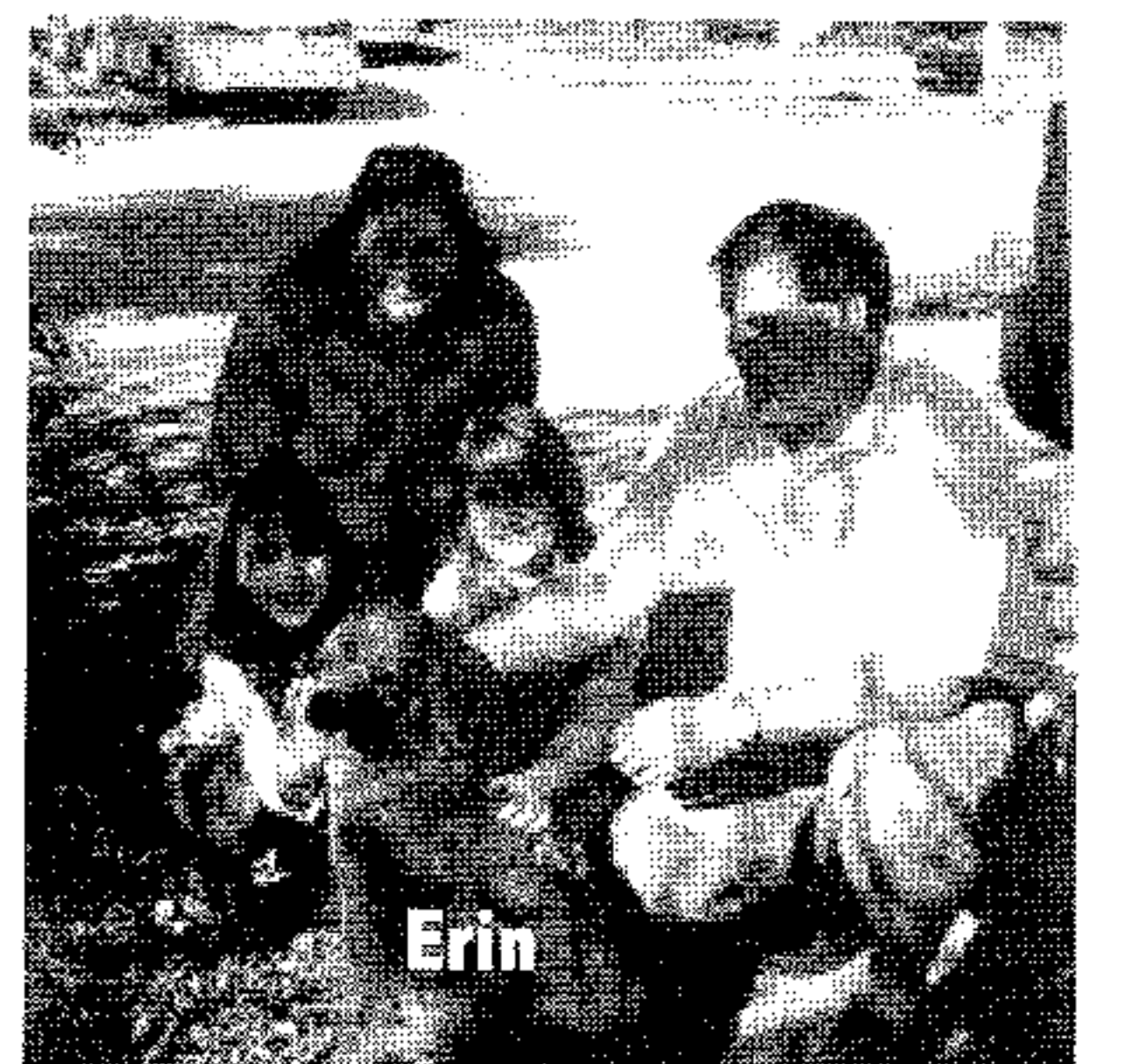
Cider found her forever home with her foster family - Kelly and Michael M. and their two-legged and four-legged kids. Cider joined their household to work through a skin condition, and they could not let her go. She recently attended a Christmas parade with GRRMF and gave it a big paws up.



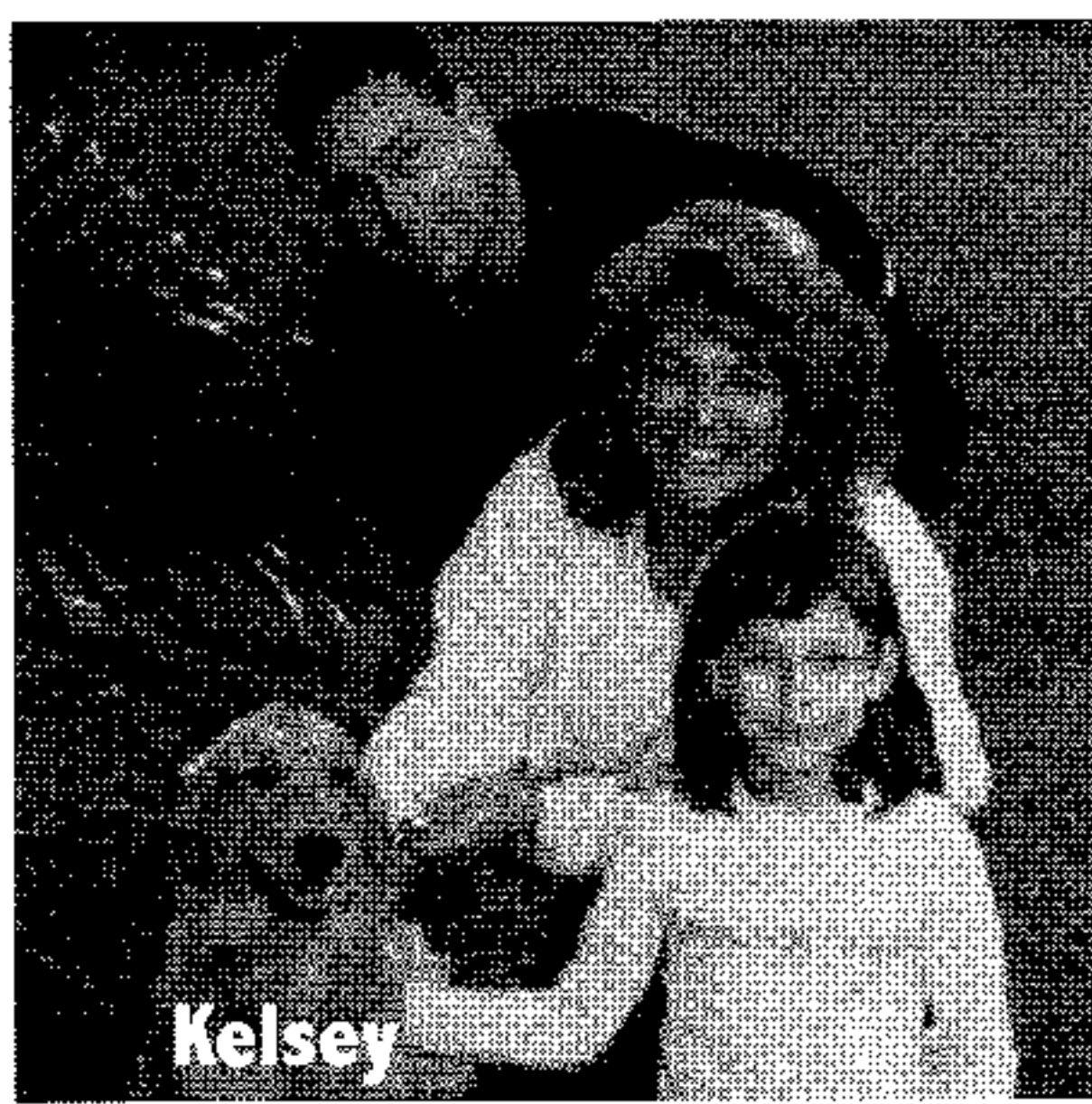
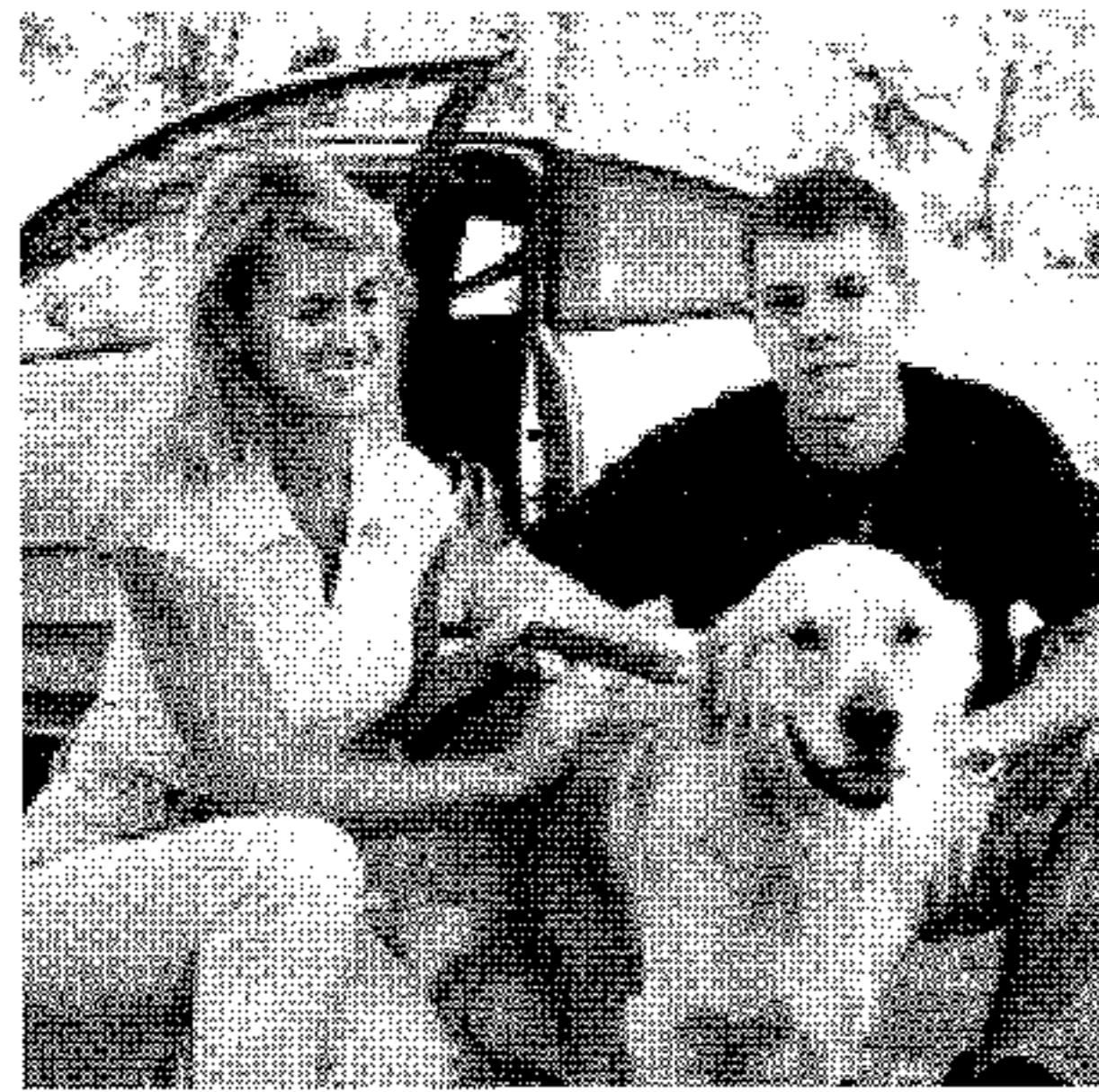
Baron was found at a local shelter needing our help. It did not take long for him to find his forever home with Rich and Patricia J., who call him Bailey. They loved his sweet face and easygoing manner. Who wouldn't?

Sweet, little **Shadow**, 11 years, came to rescue when his elderly owner could no longer care for him. His soft personality and tiny size make him ideal for the Leabs, who scooped him up and are planning to make him a therapy dog. Shadow was born to be a people pleaser.

Erin came in with her buddy **Kelsey**. Bought for the wrong reasons and never given the benefit of obedience classes, both were soon relegated to the back yard. Erin found her forever home quickly with Susan and Edward K. and their family who adopted Georgia from us in the past year. They thought all would benefit from another canine buddy, Georgia included. Erin has brought many smiles to the whole household. Kelsey needed a



home where she could romp and play and be loved. Sunny and Dean R. saw her and thought she would be perfect for their two girls. Sunny says that Kelsey, now named Kaci, has made their house a home.



Chandler was just 5 years old when he found himself in rescue. He was lovingly fostered by GRRMF veterans John & Gail P., who were committed to giving Chandler a second chance at finding a true forever

home. Chandler was adopted and now is very much loved by Tammy and Larry K.

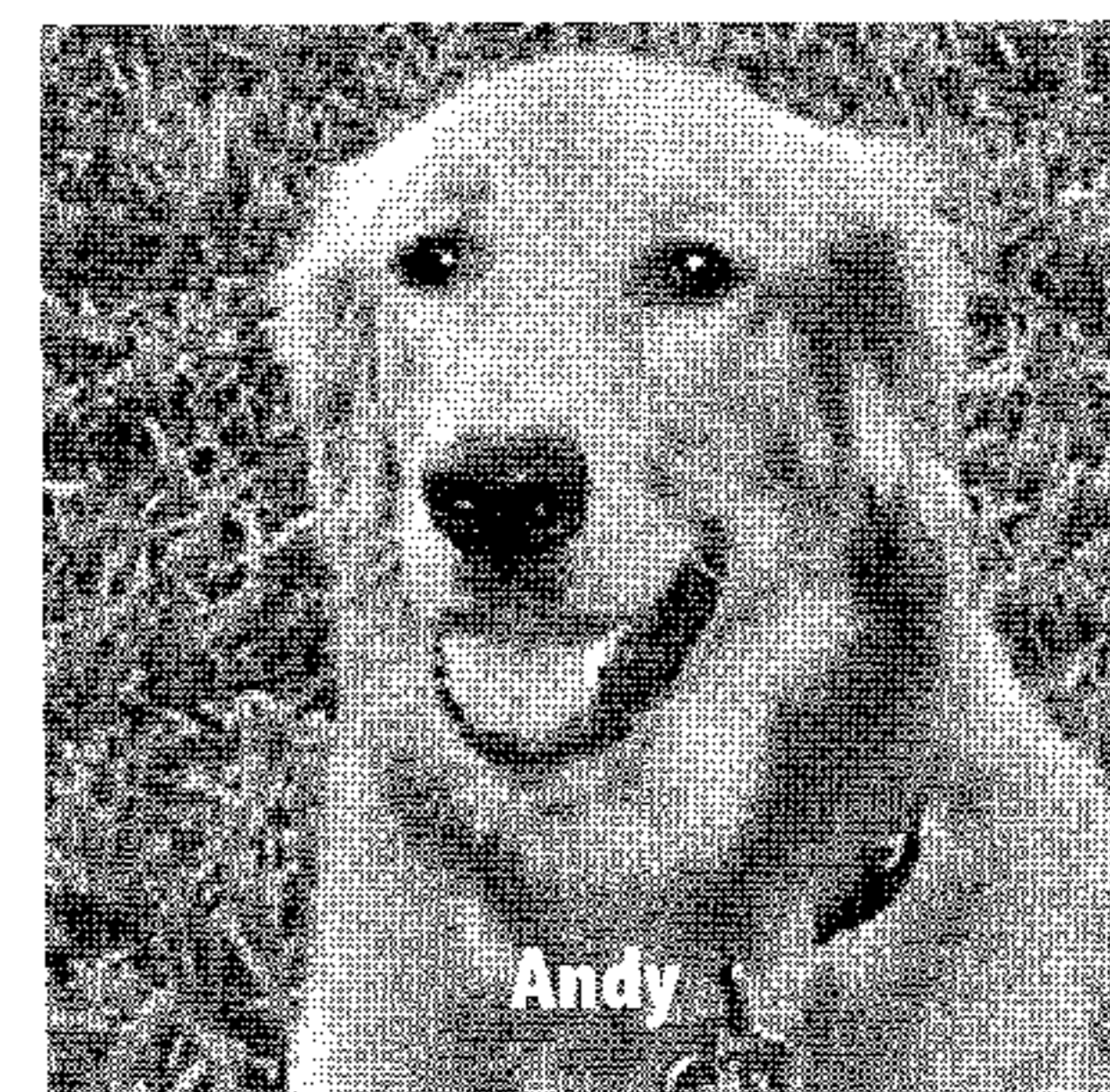
Jasper, 5 years old, came to us with his mate and two puppies. He was loaded with ticks and showed other common signs of neglect. To top it off, we suspect Jasper wasn't treated very well in his former home, because he would not come to humans unless he crawled on his belly. He also was prone to submissively urinating whenever he became frightened. Which was quite often at first! All that is behind him now. With much love, patience and gentle guidance, Jasper has slowly become more secure of himself and his surroundings. Jasper was adopted by Frank & Fran D., who call him Murphy. They have promised that they'll continue working with him to ensure Murphy continues to build self-confidence as he learns to trust humans again.



Merlin was a trained service dog who was turned over to rescue when his owner had to move. He was fostered and very much loved by Barb & Frank M. It was love at first sight for Pat & George K., who met him at Santa Paws in the Park. They

absolutely adore him and say he's settled into his new forever home very nicely. Merlin may get to see snow this year when he travels with his new family to Virginia for the holidays.

OK, now we've done it - a double foster failure! **Andy** and **Tanner** were turned in to GRRMF at 4 months old. Gregg & Tom E. fostered Tanner, and Andy went to stay with Bob & Theresa B.



Little did either foster family know at that point that their stay would be permanent. Theresa says: "Andy is a cute puppy, and he just fit right in at our house. Brad, Lee and Chucky love having him around. He is the perfect mix of mischief, love and snuggles. Andy is one of the happiest dogs I have ever been around. Our vet and her staff call him 'Mr. Personality.' I would hazard to say he has the perfect golden personality. Adopting Andy made us foster failures for the second time and GRRMF adopters for the third time. I don't know of any time in my life that failure has felt SO good!" What a coincidence, because Gregg has a similar story! **Tanner** was the best puppy, housebroken immediately, and he has a real easygoing disposition. All of this made it very hard for us to give him up. Tanner, now 9 1/2 months old, joins his other GRRMF brothers, Cody, Hadley and Spirit in his forever home. We're two-time foster failures and proud of it!"



Molly, 11 years, was an owner turn-in. The daughter was going off the college and the father worked long hours. Molly had been well cared for, but her family felt it was unfair to leave her alone all the time. They took her through obedience classes, and it shows. Molly is very sweet, obedient and loves everyone and everything. She was so special that her foster mom, Kathy E., decided she need to stay. Molly now does pet therapy at the nursing homes in Vero Beach and adores her new GRR brother Charlie.

Taken in after Hurricane Frances by Animal Services, 4-year-old **Sunday** was full of ticks, heartworm positive and suffering from a severe upper respiratory infection. Sunday was in pretty bad shape and spent a few days with Dr. Ehlers at 434 Animal Hospital in Longwood before she was released to her foster home to begin the healing process. We were pretty worried about her for a while, as Sunday was very ill. But we made a promise to her - and several others we took in after a series of three hurricanes blew through Central Florida. We promised Sunday that we'd do everything in our power to make her well. Then, we promised, we'd find a wonderful new forever home for her. Soon, Sunday began to heal. She became more bright-eyed, her energy increased, and when her heartworm treatments were complete, Sunday began to gain a more positive outlook on life. Sunday was fostered by Kristie & Wade C., who loved her very much and had a tough time parting with her. But they were consoled by the fact that her new mom, Kim, promised to care for her and love her for the rest of her life. Sunday now shares her life with another golden Jenny.



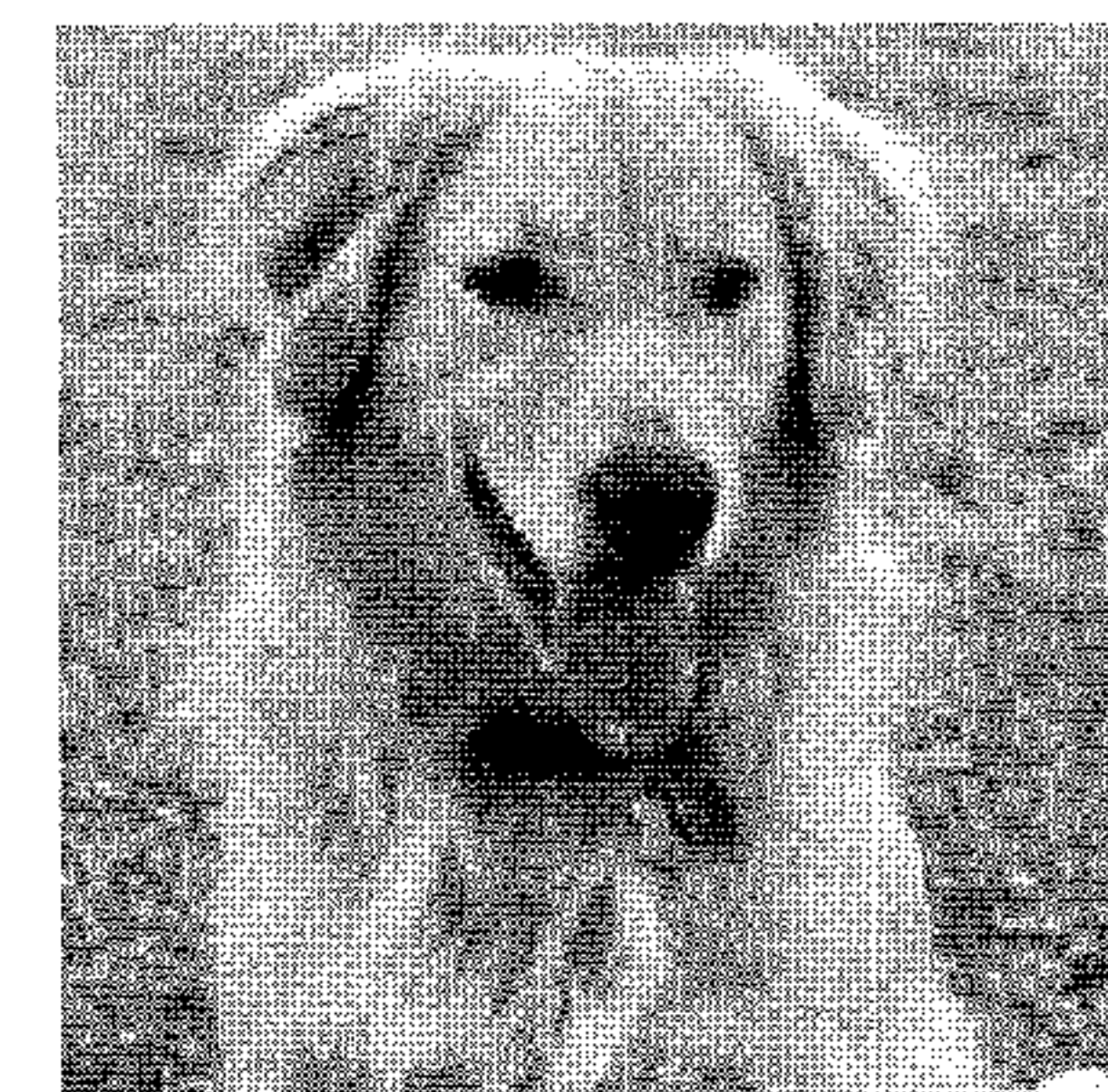
Two-year-old **Riley** came to GRRMF as an owner turn-in. He is a wonderfully gentle golden, so we knew he would have no problem finding a new forever home. Riley was adopted by Ramon & Jennifer R., who call him the "perfect addition to our family. We love him to death." Riley enjoys his morning walks and absolutely can't wait to play ball in the back yard when his humans get home from work. He plays until he is totally exhausted. Riley also has a "girlfriend" across the street - a 2-year-old doberman named Jessie. He is helping Jessie lose some weight by having her chase him around the back yard.

Jarrold came from a home with about 20 other dogs. GRRMF convinced the prior owner to surrender Jarrold and another golden named Ranger. Jarrold was fostered by Stuart and Cookie N., who worked diligently with this unsocialized, untrained but lovable boy with tons of promise. He was adopted by Lucy M. and family, who had waited patiently for everything to fall in place for the adoption. Jarrold is now in a loving forever home where he enjoys the spotlight all to himself. He also lives close to his foster home so he can continue to check in on them. He is one lucky boy.

Two-year-old **Buddy** was purchased as a puppy for a teenager who lost interest and stopped spending time with him. He was well-mannered and easygoing, which made him the perfect fit for the Reid family. When the Reids walked in the foster home of Carol and John R., immediately everyone knew it was the perfect match. With three boys to play with him, Buddy will never be forgotten, and someone will always have time for him. He is a true "Bud" to the boys.



Jaycee, 1 year old, was a stray picked up by Animal Services. GRRMF snapped her up and our generous donors sponsored her heartworm treatment. She was lovingly fostered by Leah W. and adopted by Brett C. and family in December. Jaycee is a good girl who will get the love and obedience school that she deserves. Another happy ending!



give the gift of forever ... adopt a golden!!

REFLECTING ON 2004

By Sandy Sumner, Adoption Coordinator

As I write this column, I have just learned that we reached 200 dogs taken in for the year. What a phenomenal accomplishment for any organization, but especially this past year, when Florida has had so many visits from Mother Nature.

Throughout the many ordeals, our staff of incredibly hard-working volunteers has gone above and beyond to take in dogs that needed our help like never before. Many of the dogs that came in were hurricane strays, offspring of hurricane strays, or dogs that people gave up as a result of hurricane damage and no place or time for a dog.

I will make this brief: Thank you to ALL of the volunteer staff, adopters, donors and businesses that have helped us and supported us this past year. We literally could not have done it without you. You stepped up and helped in any way that you could. Dogs like Baron, Miss Ellie, Shelby and Sheldon, Primo and Lindsay would have died in shelters because of their illnesses and/or age.

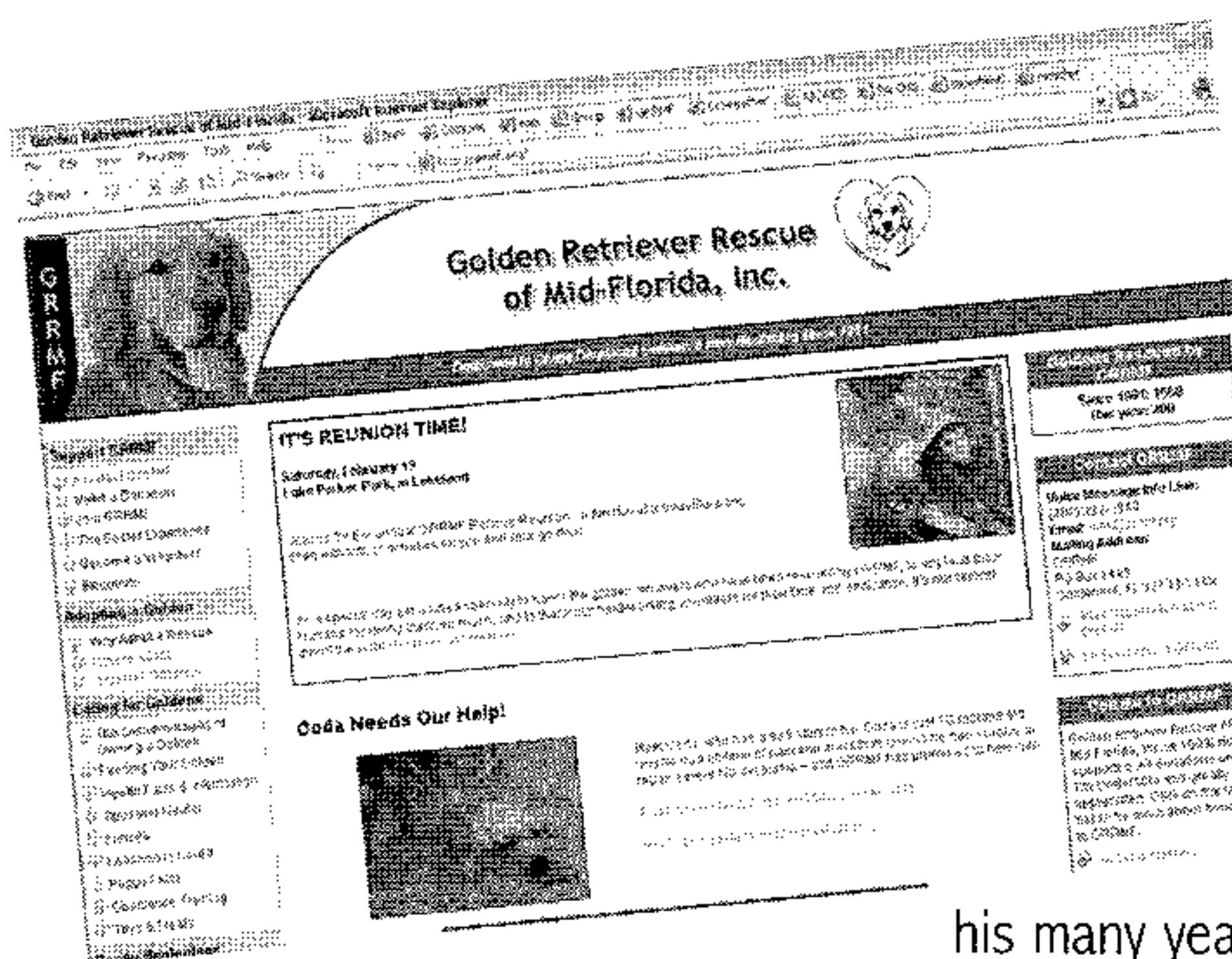
Dogs like Rusty and Tag and Jasper and Sasha would not be adoptable if not for the fosters taking time to get them ready to be good canine family members. Dogs like O'Connor and Gulliver would never have found forever homes if not for the generosity of donors and businesses who funded the surgeries they desperately needed.

Dogs like Oliver would still be in hunting crates if not for the "wagon train" that got him from the wilds of north Florida to Orlando. Golden Retrievers with skin allergies get a better chance for a good life because of those who coordinated multiple massive transport efforts to get them up to our sister group at DVGRR.

Senior golden Retrievers like Dana and Shadow have the opportunity to find forever homes because of compelling Web pages that pull in caring people, eager and willing to share their lives with a golden who so desperately needs someone to love. Our newsletter and Web site are top notch by anyone's standards, and give us the opportunity to get the word out about golden Retrievers and responsible pet ownership.

It takes a village, and we have a village that is rock solid. You make my job so much easier, and for that I thank you also. It is an honor and privilege to be part of GRRMF. I look forward to working with you in 2005.

Sandy and the Summer Crew



HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE RECENTLY?

As of December 1, we've totally redesigned the GRRMF Web site. Please visit it often to stay up to date on rescue activities!

We would like to thank our longstanding Webmaster, Tim Guy, for his many years of support in managing our site. He has gone above and beyond helping our organization and deserves a rest! Renee Duke of Jacksonville graciously offered to help with the Web site and has done a wonderful job on the redesign. Welcome, Renee, to the GRRMF Volunteer Family!

Reunion Raffle & Auction Items Needed!

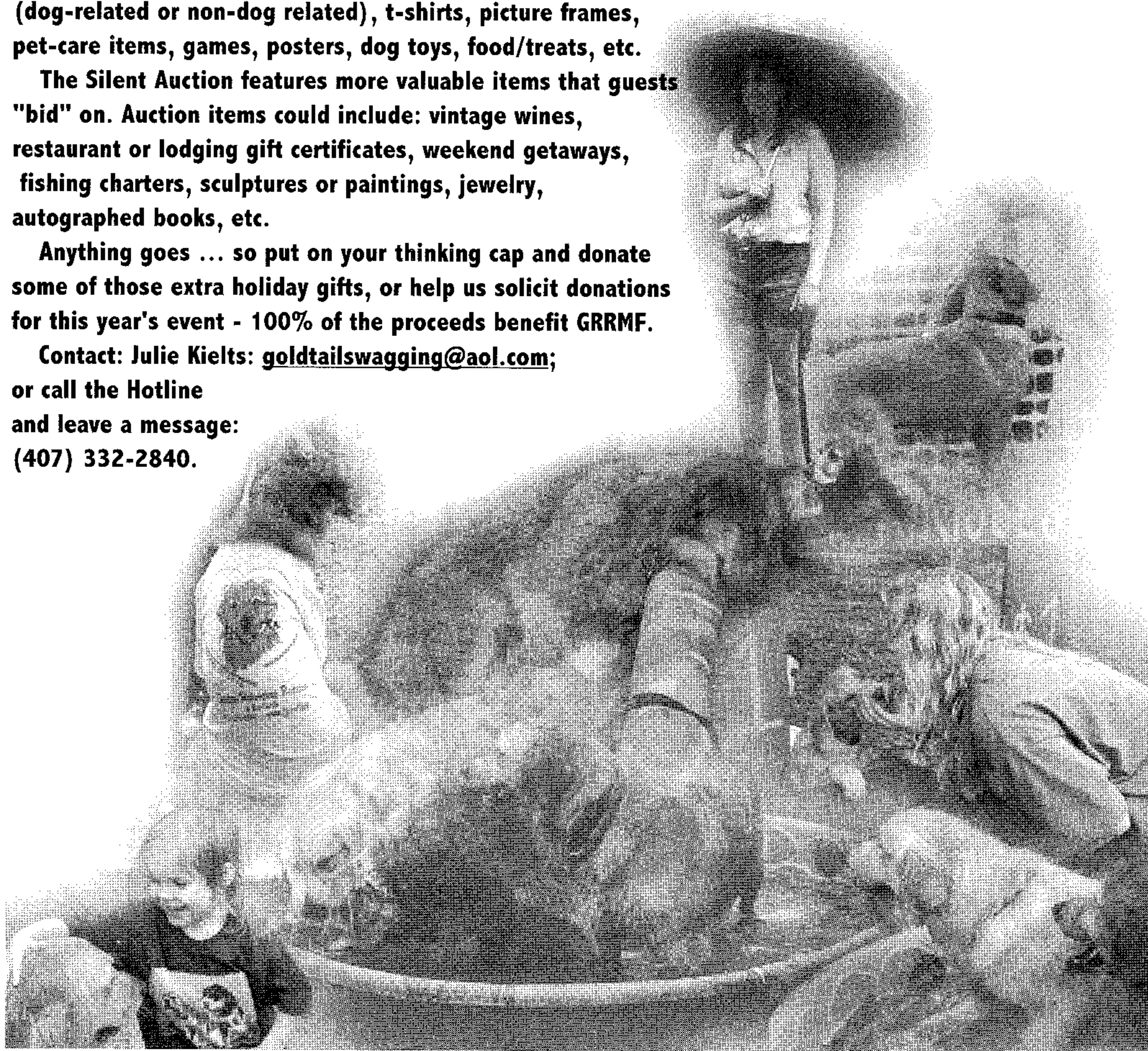
With the annual Rescue Reunion fast approaching, we are in need of donated items for the Raffle & Silent Auction fund-raisers. We have had some wonderful items in the past - every year it gets better!

Raffle items could include: gift items and baskets (dog-related or non-dog related), t-shirts, picture frames, pet-care items, games, posters, dog toys, food/treats, etc.

The Silent Auction features more valuable items that guests "bid" on. Auction items could include: vintage wines, restaurant or lodging gift certificates, weekend getaways, fishing charters, sculptures or paintings, jewelry, autographed books, etc.

Anything goes ... so put on your thinking cap and donate some of those extra holiday gifts, or help us solicit donations for this year's event - 100% of the proceeds benefit GRRMF.

Contact: Julie Kielts: goldtailswagging@aol.com; or call the Hotline and leave a message: (407) 332-2840.



HEARTS OF GOLD is published for members of Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, Inc. All material is copyrighted. For newsletter submissions, or permission to reprint information from this publication, please contact GRRMF Hearts of Gold editor at 2boatrats@comcast.net, or call: 407.332.2840. Unless otherwise specified, photos sent to GRRMF may be used in future publications. Editor: Carol McKee / Designer: Judy Ladney ©GRRMF Inc. 2005

Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid-Florida, An All-Volunteer, Nonprofit 501(c)3 Corporation
♦ Education ♦ Intervention ♦ Spay/Neuter ♦ Adoption
P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733-1449. For info call: 407.332.2840 / E-mail: info@grrmf.org
Membership dues: \$25 / All Donations are Tax-Deductible. Visit GRRMF on the Web: www.grrmf.org
GRRMF History: More than 1,550 Golden Retrievers rescued to date! 2004 rescues: 200!

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



Buffett: A Wise Old Soul **May 1992 - Oct. 8th 2004**

He came into rescue after his Mom's health prevented her from taking care of him any longer. He joined his foster home almost a year ago and spent his summer with Sally and Vann Frazier on several road-trip vacations. He loved car rides and long walks. Last month he made it through 3 hurricanes with no sign of failing health. His loving ol' heart just got tired. He will be greatly missed by both his families.

Navarre/Riley found his forever home with Milt & Betty Grosse in the fall of 2003. Riley was deaf but would obey hand signals. He was a wonderful old soul, and is very much missed by his humans. Riley died in Nov., as his family and veterinarian helped ease his pain from the cancer that was taking over his body.



Bronson Glaros **Nov. 7, 1991 - Nov. 15, 2004**

Our beloved golden boy and tennis ball fanatic, Bronson, went to Rainbow Bridge on Nov. 15 when pneumonia overtook him. We held him and talked to him as the vet helped end his suffering. Bronson had just had his 13th birthday. He came to us when he was 8 years old, so his time with us was short but so rewarding and full of love. His favorite place was the beach, and his greatest joy was running into the surf to retrieve his water toy. Thankfully, he had one last chance to do that when we took him and our other golden, Jack, to Sanibel for a few days in October. We all miss him terribly, but we're grateful for the time we had with him.

- Carol & Lou Glaros, Jack and kitties Rusty, Sally and Samson



In Memoriam: **Margaret Clark**

by John Pfohler

Margaret Clark recently passed away, and we all are a lot poorer because of it. You might think you didn't know Margaret ... but you did. She is that incredible older person who has lived a full life. She could be your mother, sister, the lady down the street, or someone you met when you took your

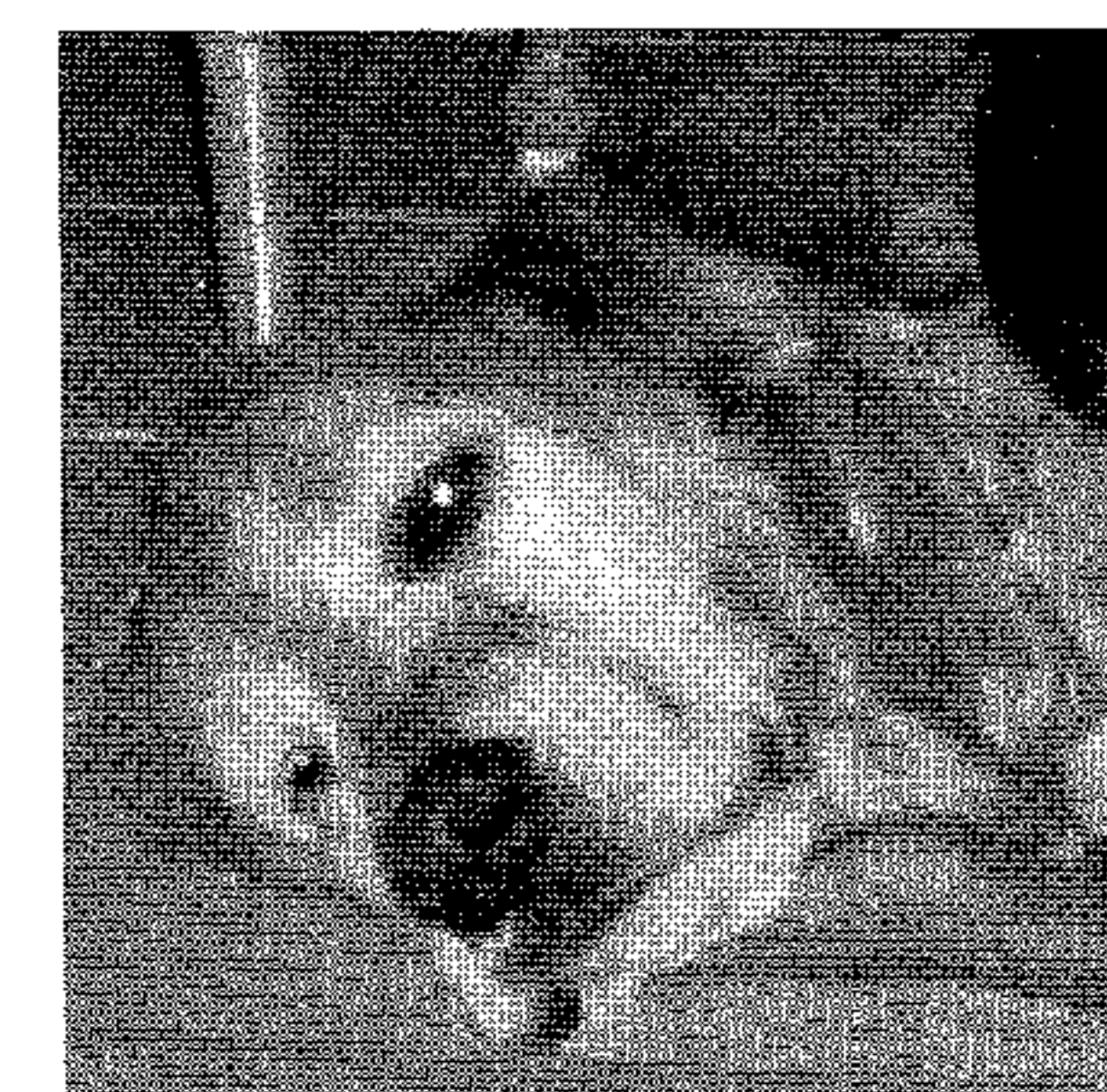
dog to visit the nursing home. She's the lady who makes a fuss over every animal she meets, because she knows what is in their souls. I met Margaret for the first time at PetsMart. We had recently taken in Makinney from a local shelter. This dog was so abused that he shied away from EVERYONE. I decided to bring Makinney to an education day and attempt to socialize him. When we walked in the door we were met by Barbara and Charlie White, who excitedly told me about a lady sitting in a car in the parking lot and giving money for rescue to anyone who would bring out a Golden for her to pet. I was more than a little skeptical, but I figured what the heck, let's see what happens. I stood dumbfounded as shy Makinney went straight up to Margaret for pets and treats.

When I explained his history, Margaret just shrugged and told me that ALL dogs knew she was their friend ... as she pushed another \$10 donation into my hand! It was the start of a beautiful thing. Margaret couldn't come into the store because of her disabilities, but every month her dear friend Donna would drive her to PetsMart for visits with our GRRMF dogs. She loved those dogs, all of them, and we loved listening to her stories. About six months ago, Donna came in to tell us that Margaret had entered a nursing facility. Not a problem - we just took the dogs to her! It was so much fun to see her face light up when she visited with the goldens. Margaret told me that she no longer worried about Makinney (we had adopted him), but she did worry about all the rest of the GRRMF dogs. With the recent hurricanes she always asked about the safety of the dogs. Margaret thought of GRRMF to her last day. In her obituary, which she wrote (she was a civilian writer/editor for the USAF), she asked that memorial donations be made to GRRMF.

I told you that you all knew her ... didn't I. Man, do I miss her. Thank you for everything, Margaret.

CHARLES SOUTHERN GOLD **Rescue Dog #001**

With great sadness, we must announce the passing of Charles Southern Gold on Sept. 16 after a long battle with cancer. Charlie came to us after a hard early life, having to face the possibility of "being put down" for grade III hip dysplasia due to indiscriminate breeding. Charlie endured the hip surgery, and the extensive rehabilitation to strengthen his



hip to become the wonderful Golden he was. In his young life, Charlie had too many families who considered him a disposable toy, tossed away due to his medical condition or just based on his size.

It would be easy for him never to trust humans again; but here he was selecting us to be his final family. Even after his hard early life, here he came so elegant and loving it was hard to believe what he had been through. Charlie gave us 13 wonderful years together.

He loved long walks, playing fetch, running in the park and trips to his favorite lake. When our son Adam was born, it didn't take Charlie long to develop a protective attitude toward him. There were plenty of times we would find Charlie in Adam's room watching over his crib. Everyone who ever met him always commented on his gentle demeanor, and how loving he was with everyone. On Sept. 16, 2004,

we all lost our No. 1 dog - for as Dog #001, Charlie's legacy is GRRMF. He lives on in more than 1,500 goldens rescued since 1991.

What a legacy he enjoys! We would like to send thanks to some very special humans in Charlie's life: Sandy Guy, Betty Wyatt, and Connie Heath, for her loving care of our Charlie during his rehabilitation.

-- Angela, Adam and Darrell Laxton

Donations

In Honor Of ...

BO - Richard Skelton
CHEWY - Carolyn Adler Conley
EVE - Ron & Linda Helm
Debbie McGhehey - Rick & Colleen Sosteri
MOLLY - Curtis Margo

In Memory Of ...

JESSE Webb - Beth Doyle & Mark Zintel
PADDLES - Peter & Susan Fitzgerald
NINJA - Jan Jenning
Karen Jacobs - Claudia Leonardi
VANNA -
Rick & Colleen Sosteri
Margaret Clark -
Charles & Barbara White

Woody Fund

Merle Fairbanks
Joseph Fetchick
Johnann Goines
Linda & Barry Holliday -
In honor of John & Ann Shepard
Rebecca Hughes
Diane Kingman
Christina Leggatt
Magic Mortgage USA
Eric & Lisa McGrew
Paul & Judi Richter -
In honor of SAMMY & JADE

For O'Connor's Medical Care...

Linda Cohen
JoAnn Conroy-Owens
Andrea Davis
Shawn Dieverich
Ashton Dovel
Gladys Henderson
Fred & Marilyn Lentini
James & Donna Lewis
Michael & Faith Libbe
Stephen & Mara Majewski
Donna Martin
Walter Miller
Lena Nordell
Paul & Judi Richter
Casey Sarano
Dick & Nancy Spears

Boarding Fund

Eric & Lisa McGrew
Richard & Virginia Withington

Capital Campaign

Donna Coulter -
In Memory of Margaret Clark
Kenneth Hunssader -
In Memory of LACY
John & Gail Pfohler -
In Memory of Margaret Clark
Cathy Sexton Yost - In Memory of CODY

Sponsorships

Kay & Russel Bethea
Diane Kingman

Doug & Barbara Gieger -
In Memory of KING Chatlos
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In Memory of RILEY/NAVARRE
Charles Hunter
Hoke & Renee Johnson -
In Memory of ADELINE Lemole
Marie Kelsey
Joe & Mary Kovach

Mike & Carol McKee - For O'Connor
In Memory of BUBBA
Bob & Grace Shappell
Dan Beach
Robert Easterday
Audrey Johnson
Sharon & Wayne Lehnert
Eric & Lisa McGrew
John & Carla Ostermeier
Mary Pascavage

General Donations

Robert & June Adair -
In Memory of Jim Kamis
Nicole Alonso
Kathleen Anderson
Michael Arnold -
In Memory of Margaret Clark
Agnes Balas
Bob Bishop
Tracy Boyer
John & Alison Brady
Ralf Bzura
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Don & Penny Dalton
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Bert Francis
Ron & Glenna Frantz
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Kenneth & Kathleen Larrison
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Donna Martin - In Memory of ARCHER
Michelle Martin
Henry & Pat Mayer
Allola McGraw - In Honor of Betty Wyatt
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In Honor of HANNAH
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Glenda Selby
Dick & Nancy Spears
Evelyn Spera
Scott & Leeann Sterling
Sandy Sumner
Kerrie Tatarka
Robert Trotter
Heather Valentine
Charles & Barbara White
Richard & Virginia Withington

Thanks!

☀️**Home Visits:** Carol Buczyniski, Pat Chesley, Irene Clifford, Jill Cornell, Penny Dalton, Donna Dossing, Gregg Eddie, Jordan German, Steve Jaffe, Judy Ladney, Terry Martin, Cheryl Maze, Renee Perkie, John Pfohler, Suzanne Rider, Emily Rowe, Randi Shoemaker, Lyn Wagner, Barbara White, Sue Keiser, Kathleen Larrison, Janet Datillo, Ed Burger, Jan Jennings, John & Debbie McKenzie, Nancy Spears, Gail Mertz, Bonita Goldman, Laurel O'Conner, Chris Daher, Maggie Duncan, Hedy Greene, Julie Kielts, Pam Harrell, Peggy Litt, Diane Makinney, Ann Fitzpatrick, Jennifer McChesney, Kathy Salisbury, Susan Fulenwider, Ann Fitzpatrick
☀️**Fosters:** Ani Akarjalian, Linda Arnold, Charlotte Bauer, Carol Bowes, Bob & Theresa Bradley, Yvonne Byrd, Nancy Carroll, Mary Chaundy, Kristie Cobb, Bob & Mary Cooper, Lori Cubbedge, Chuck Graves & Donna Dossing, Nancy Dunbar, Gregg Eddie, Linda Fike, John Foss, Charlie & Bert Haker, Lynne Halleran, Jim & Pat Herrington, Mona Huffman, Guy & Penny Iannone, Jan Jennings, Loyd Kiernan, Robin & David Lane, Steve Loebeck, Diane Makinney, Chris & Tommy Manley, Frank & Barb Markowski, Kirk & Michelle Martin, Pete Masa, Dianne McLean, Kelly Mehigan, Cindy & Rick Owens, John & Gail Pfohler, Guillermo Porro, Linda & Harold Rhea, Suzanne & Tony Rider, Carol & John Ross, Kathy Rozzo, Emily Rowe, Kathy Russell, Susan Salladin, Sandy Sumner, Regina Vermeulen, Darcy Wright, Leah Wright, Kim Elman, Lisa Heller, Barbara Sullivan, Dominic Garvey, Rebecca Gushwa
☀️**Admissions Hotline:** Linda Arnold, Donna Dossing, Pam Marshall, Emily Rowe.
☀️**Call Team:** Vicki Ferros, Nancy Forster, Kathy Hendrickson, Penny Iannone, Sue Keiser, Carol McKee, Kathy Salisbury, Kathy Rozzo.
☀️**Transportation Volunteers:** Sue & Ray Angle, Linda Arnold, Chuck & Lisa Beck, Ed Burger, Nancy Carroll, Pat Chesley, Maggie Duncan, Gregg & Tom Eddie, Keith & Wendy Erskine, Kathy Ferguson, Sally & Vann Frazier, Jana and Greg Garrison, Richard & Diane Gleason, Rebecca Gushwa, Penny Iannone, Bill Jacobs, Kim James, Judy Ladney, Kirk & Michelle Martin, Kelly Mehigan, Pat & Bill Shepard, Kathy & Mike Staska, Olinda Sykes, Betty Taylor, Lynn Wagner, Rodney Wilcox.
☀️**Applications Team:** Sandy Sumner, Kathy Hendrickson, Pam Harrell, Peggy Litt, Marie Pacheco.



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.

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

☀️**Master recordkeeper:** Jennifer Longman.

☀️**Info@grrmf.org e-mails:** 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

☀️**Education Days/Events:** Many thanks to all who participate in educational events around the state - our dedicated volunteers and their goldens are out there almost every weekend spreading the word about rescue, which is invaluable in finding

homes for our goldens! For schedule and locations, see back cover or log onto our Web site: www.grrmf.org.

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

☀️**Training:** Courteous Canine, Lutz; Best Paw Forward, Sanford; Oviedo Dog Training Club; 3J Dog Training, West Orlando; Babette Haggerty's School for Dogs, Jupiter; John Pföhler, Sarasota; JaVic Dog Training, Melbourne; Scott Holloway, Chateau du Chien, Sarasota

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

☀️**Christa Roman of Merial and Nicole Prosser of Novartis** for donation of medical supplies such as Frontline, Advantage, heartworm preventive and heartworm treatment drugs. Also to **Ellen Pavlik** for coordinating these donations. We really appreciate your help!

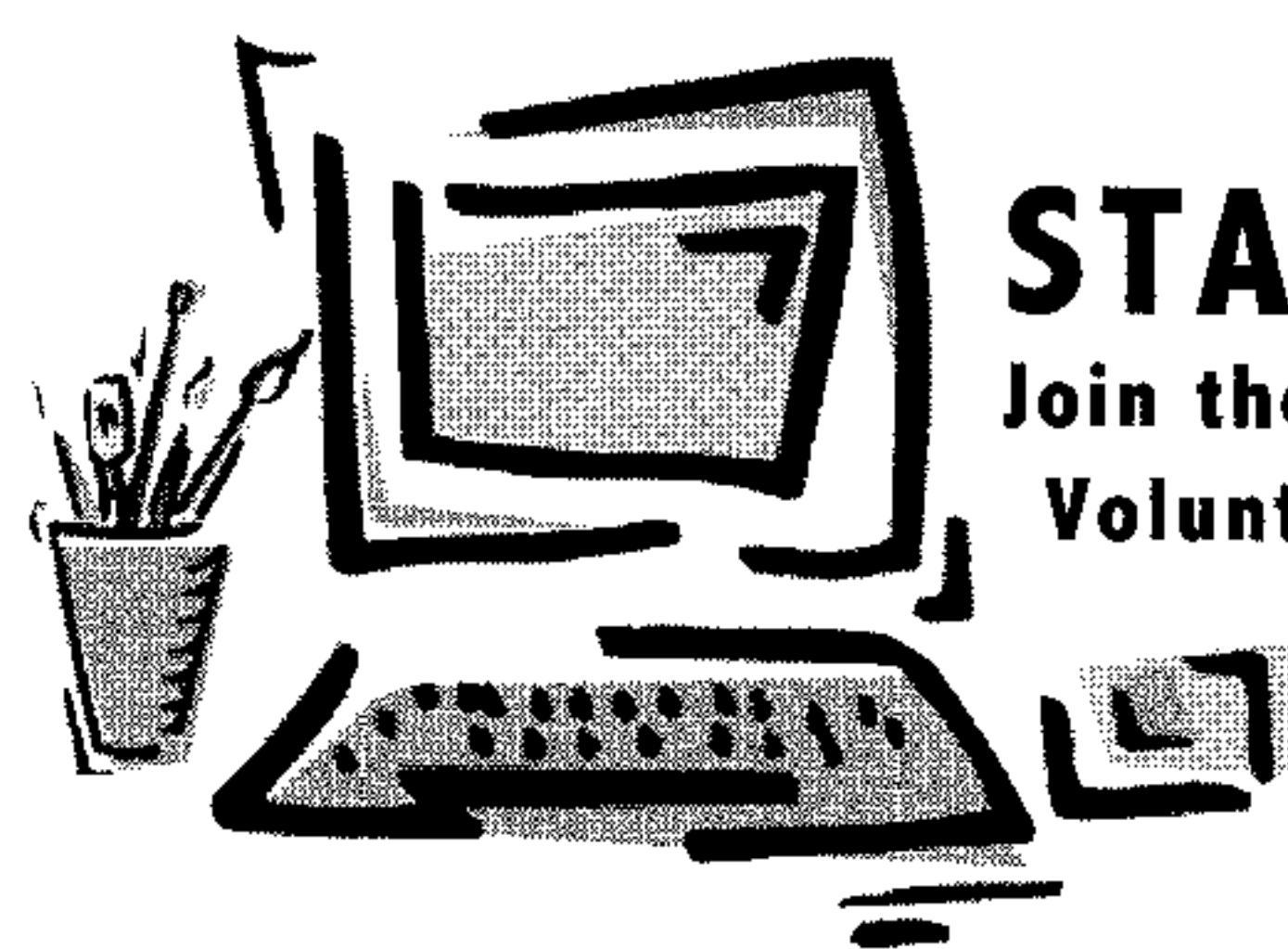
☀️**Dennis Grace of HealthyPetNet**, makers of Life's Abundance pet food, for donating food and supplements to GRRMF and also for setting up our new "Feed Your Dog, Save a Dog's Life" program - for every order GRRMF members place, GRRMF receives a percentage of the proceeds! Check it out:

www.grrmf.org/grrmf-canine-food.html.

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

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

☀️**Intake Team:** Linda Arnold, Emily Rowe, Donna Dossing, Bert Haker



STAY CONNECTED!

Join the GRRMF
Volunteer Internet Newsgroup

All you need to do is make sure you have sent in your GRRMF Volunteer Application and be sure to sign the back.

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

Questions about either newsgroup?

Contact Diane Makinney: dmakinney@aol.com.

WARNING! DON'T LET YOUR DOGS WEAR CHOKE COLLARS!

We're seeing more and more dog owners who allow their dogs to wear choke collars all the time. Some even attach the ID tags to the choke collar. These collars are designed for training purposes only and should never be used as your dog's regular collar. This practice presents a huge risk of injury to your dog. We know of many cases where dogs were inadvertently choked by catching the collar on furniture, a fence, door latch, another dog's tooth or claw during play, etc. All it takes is something to snag the collar and pull it tight. That dangerous object can be something very innocent-looking in your home or yard. One dog owner recently found his dog hanging from the backyard fence, dead. The dog had jumped up and the choke collar got caught on the fence and strangled the dog. Would you let a human toddler wear such a collar?

Of course not - any reasonable person would worry about the risk of the child hanging himself.

In this case, dogs are just like children - we must watch out for them, as they are just as likely to get into something that might snag the collar. If you are guilty of this habit, please replace your dog's choke collar today with a regular nylon buckle collar.

Be sure your dog has ID tags and if it is a GRRMF dog, make sure the yellow AKC microchip tag is on the collar, too.

Keep your dog safe!

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

Volunteer Spotlight

If it weren't for the generous GRRMF volunteers, the nearly 1,600 dogs we have saved would only be a dream.

With no paid staff, volunteers are literally what makes rescue possible. Meet two more volunteers, and watch for more spotlights in upcoming issues of Hearts of Gold...



"My favorite part of rescue is reading the alumni section of the Web site and newsletter and seeing the dogs I worked on getting in go to their forever homes. It makes it all worthwhile."

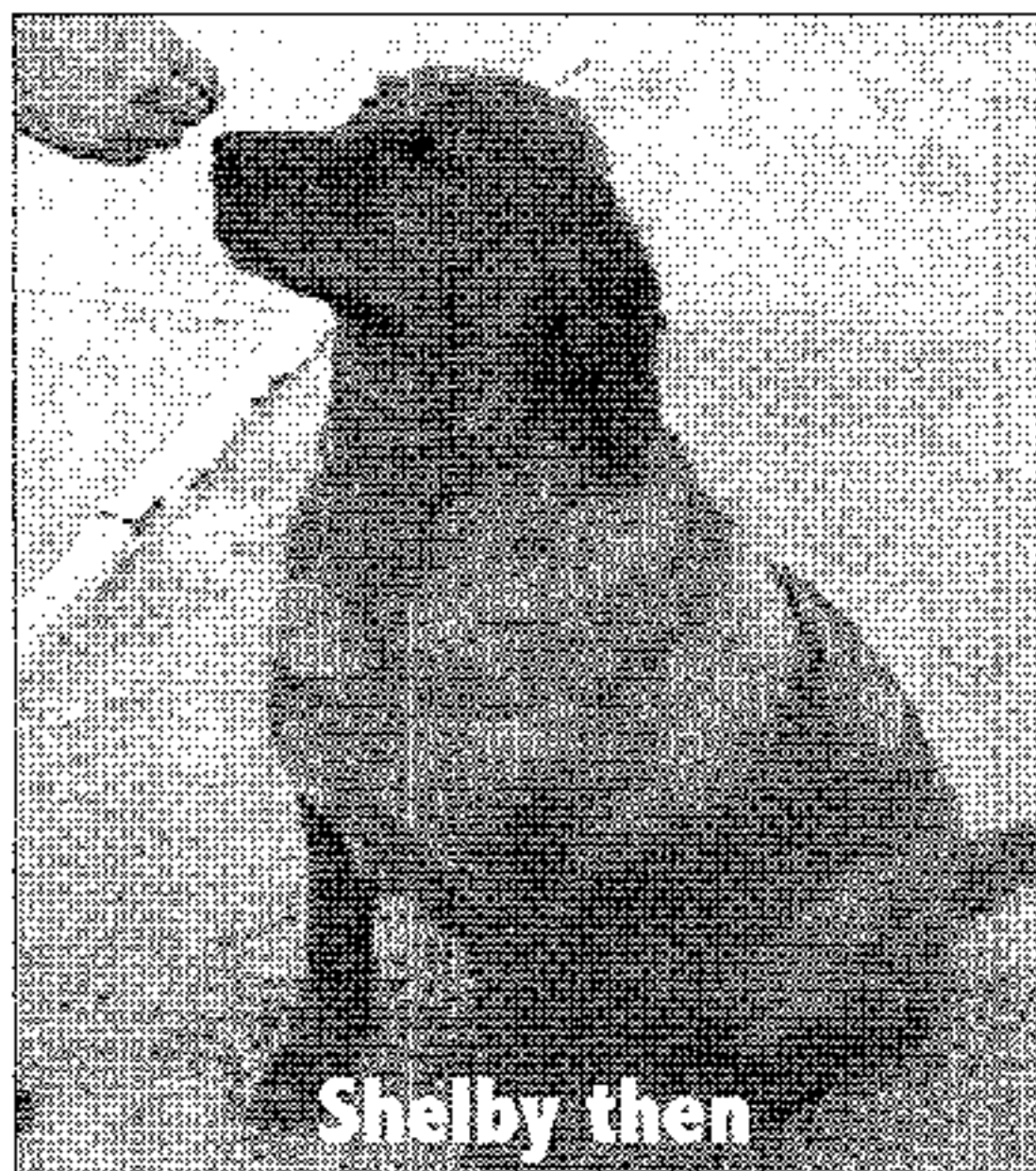
Kelly Mehigan

Intake Team Volunteer Kelly Mehigan has one of the most difficult jobs in rescue. She is responsible for working on getting the dogs into our program in the Orlando area. Kelly's love for goldens began when she worked with spinal cord injury patients and met all of the golden retriever service dogs. She was impressed by how they helped improve the patients' lives and gave them such joy. Kelly says she knew that was the breed for her. She also helps by identifying dogs to ensure they are goldens, works on the call team, transports dogs and fosters ... and Kelly now has become a foster failure, as she and her family adopted Cider last month. Cider joins a pack of several, including former GRRMF dog Adam.

"The best part of Golden Retriever Rescue? Ray and I can't figure out if it is the goldens or the people! Hard to say! In helping with the "transportation" part of GRRMF, we have become attached to so many golden friends by just driving them to their destination, even if it was a short ride! And the people we have met - we could not find a more dedicated and caring group of friends anywhere. We also enjoy sharing our love for Golden Retriever Rescue and all it accomplishes with anyone who will listen. Recently, we were approached by a person behind us in line at the gas pumps, and another in a parking lot during the rain and wind of Frances while we found him trying to copy the web site from our bumper sticker on his hand. We feel so fortunate and so proud to be a part of this organization."

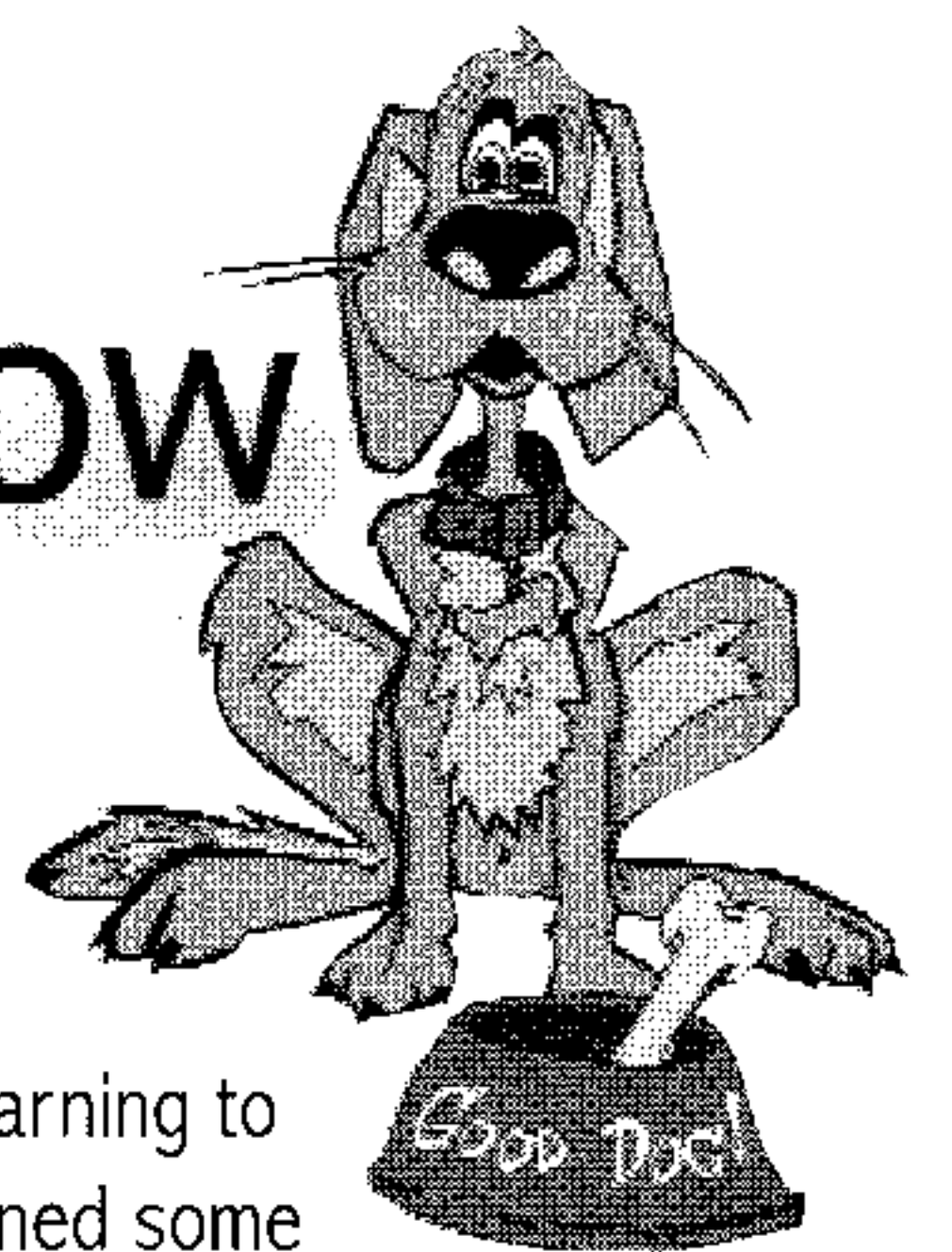
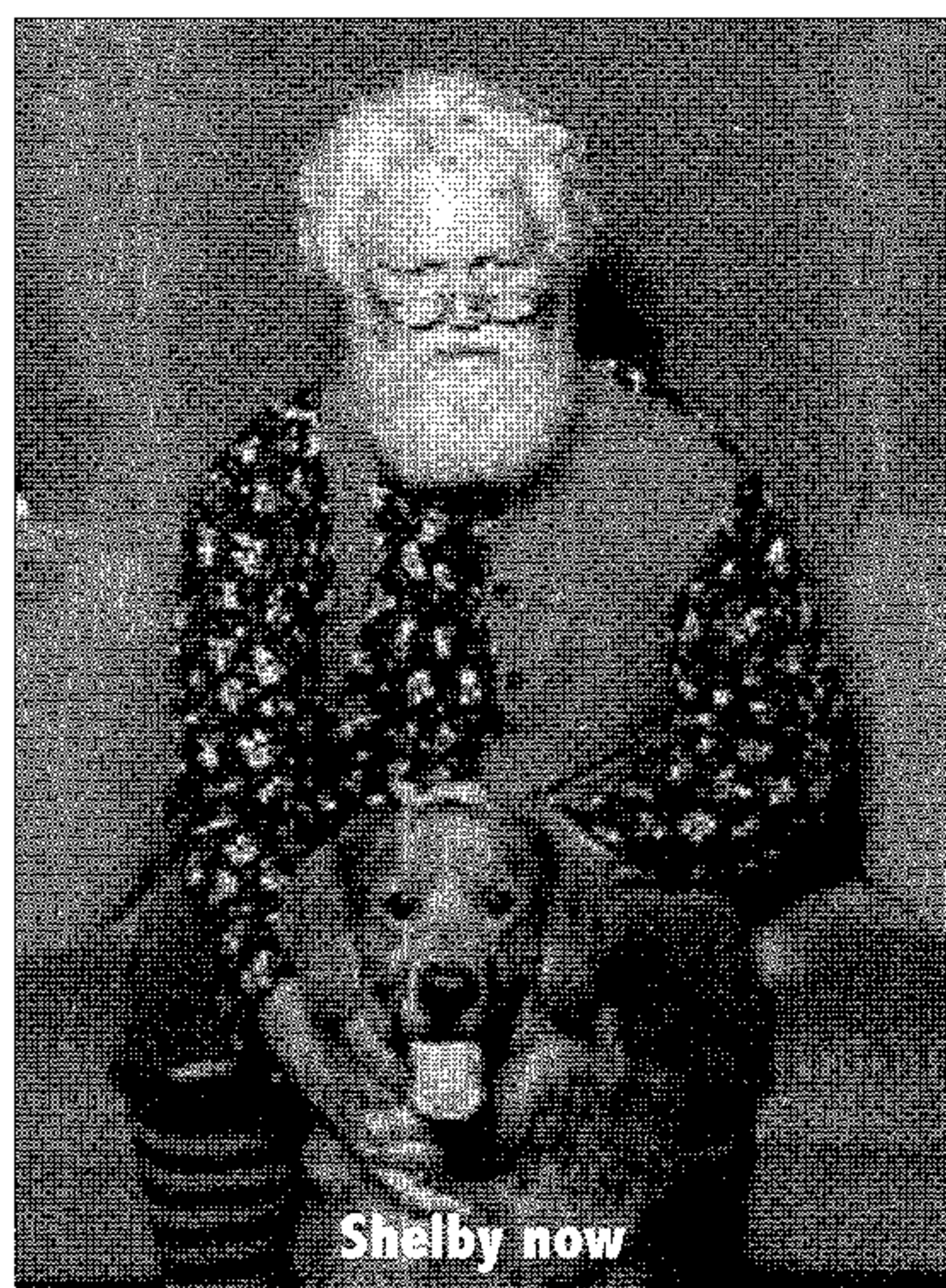
Sue & Ray Angle

Sue & Ray are our beloved "transportation angels." They spend hours on the road each month. And they also spend hours coordinating transports with teams of volunteers all over the state. Abbey was the latest GRRMF rescue to join their household, as the Angles became yet another "foster failure" family! Abbey says, "Yay, I'm in! I get to stay!"



Five year old Shelby and her brother Sheldon were turned in to animal control because the owner said they were destructive. Their fur was so filthy and matted that they had to be shaved. They had urine scalds on their bottoms, ear infections, eye infections and yeast infections of their skin. Shelby had no fewer than 8 tumors which had to be removed. She joined GRRMF weighing 103 lbs and was down to 90 when adopted by Kim G., who recently sent us an update: "I just wanted to let you know how the sweetest golden is the world is doing! Shelby has adapted so well that it feels like we have been together forever. She is now down to 81 lbs! She wasn't really sure how to play much at first but is getting more frisky every day. She 's learning to play hide & seek and loves to play chase for short periods of time. She LOVES her walks and has learned some more leash manners ... we are still working on those!"

Then and now



I think she was just so understimulated before she went into rescue that the world is just one big adventure ready for her to explore. Who can blame her? Every weekend, we go on an "adventure." Sometimes it's a trip to Petsmart or the Bark Avenue Bakery (where they have fallen in love with her, too), other times it's a play day with our friends that also have dogs and sometimes it 's just a ride in the car to do errands. We even had two trips to see Santa, andi am including apicture of the new Shelby with Mr. Claus. She is my love bug. She is beside me all the time, wanting love and head scratches. She has become a giant lap dog! Her house manners are impeccable, too. I don 't ever worry about her being alone inside because she has proven herself to be such a good girl. Thanks for the opportunity to adopt such a wonderful girl. She has been the perfect addition to the family and we are blessed to have her in our lives."

SEND US YOUR STORIES!

Do you have a "Then and Now" story you'd like to share about a former GRRMF dog?

Send submissions and photos to:

GRRMF Newsletter Editor, P0 Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733 or email: 2boatrats@comcast.net.

Senior Corner

We've said it before, and we say it again: there is nothing more precious than "old gold"! Our hearts feel heavy when we get a call on a senior golden. We know that, most likely, these goldens will not find a new "forever home," because of their age and, sometimes, physical conditions. Nevertheless, we try to take in as many as we can, through our "Hospice" permanent foster program. In this issue, meet Abbey & Scooby, two seniors relinquished to GRRMF who are going to spend the rest of their days in peace and comfort as permanent fosters.



Abbey

This 14-year-old girl came to us at the age of 13. Her owner had changed jobs and was working very long hours. Abbey's mate had to be euthanized due to health problems, so she was facing long days - alone. Her owner had her best interests at heart and asked GRRMF to help. Abbey had a clean bill of health and myriad tests - paid for by her owner to prove it - before she came to rescue. As of this writing, Abbey had just celebrated her 14th birthday with a "few good friends," complete with party hats and cake. She is doing better than ever and loves to jog after a tennis ball rolling on the ground or watch her canine housemates chase each other in the back yard. We're happy we were able to provide for Abbey, and many thanks to her foster mom Sandy, as well as all her rescue friends who help by donating for her care.

Scooby

This surprisingly energetic 12-year-old came to rescue in the past few months because his owner, a firefighter, had gone through a divorce and had no one to watch Scooby when he was scheduled to be on duty for days on end. Again, GRRMF was asked to make Scooby's final days ones of fun and happy times. Scooby has taken this philosophy to heart! He digs into every meal with gusto. He plays with the young pups from sunup until well after sundown. He has some arthritis and cannot jump up and down but he can rock back and forth and runs across the yard with the younger set every day. He's had many "girlfriends" since entering his foster home - and he really likes the young ones! Scooby also enjoys times at Hip Dog, the local canine hydrotherapy business in Orlando (visit them at www.hipdog.org). There, he gets to swim and have his muscles massaged. Scooby was an "ambassador" at Great Day in the Country in Oviedo this fall, and outlasted the other, younger goldens, getting hugs and lots of attention from everyone. He also walked in the Winter Park Christmas Parade - he tottered along like the happy little old man he is! You go, Scooby!



Where's Betty?Where's Betty?Where's Betty?

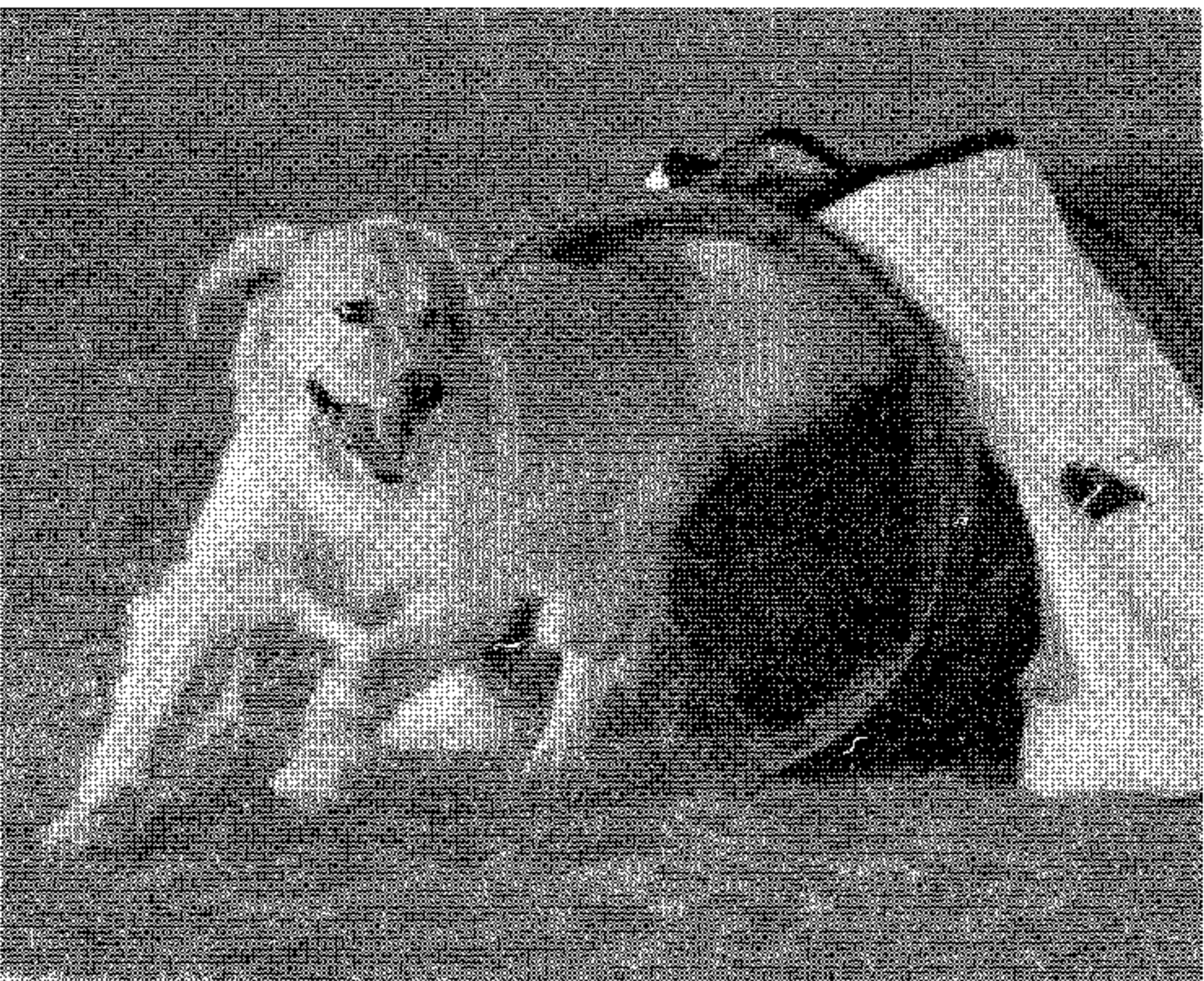
Betty Wyatt, GRRMF's longtime adoption coordinator, moved to Tennessee this summer to be closer to family. She has a lovely new home up there and her dogs Calypso, Elliot and Bridgette are all enjoying their large fenced yard. Betty still volunteers for GRRMF long distance, helping with staffing the GRRMF Hotline and correspondence. We are happy to have her help! Betty's new contact info is: Betty Wyatt, 115 Shady Oak Drive, Dickson, TN 37055, (615) 446-5867 - goldensunbird@bellsouth.net



A True 'Rags to Riches' Story

Fletcher was wandering the streets and ended up in a good Samaritan's backyard. The family couldn't keep him, so they called GRRMF. We knew with the right home, young Fletcher would flourish - and boy, did he ever! We received some photos from Fletcher's recent agility trial. He took home several ribbons and showed off on the agility course. Fletcher went from a wild man with no obedience training to an agility superstar! Thanks to the Carter family for adopting this boy and finding a way to channel his boundless energy.

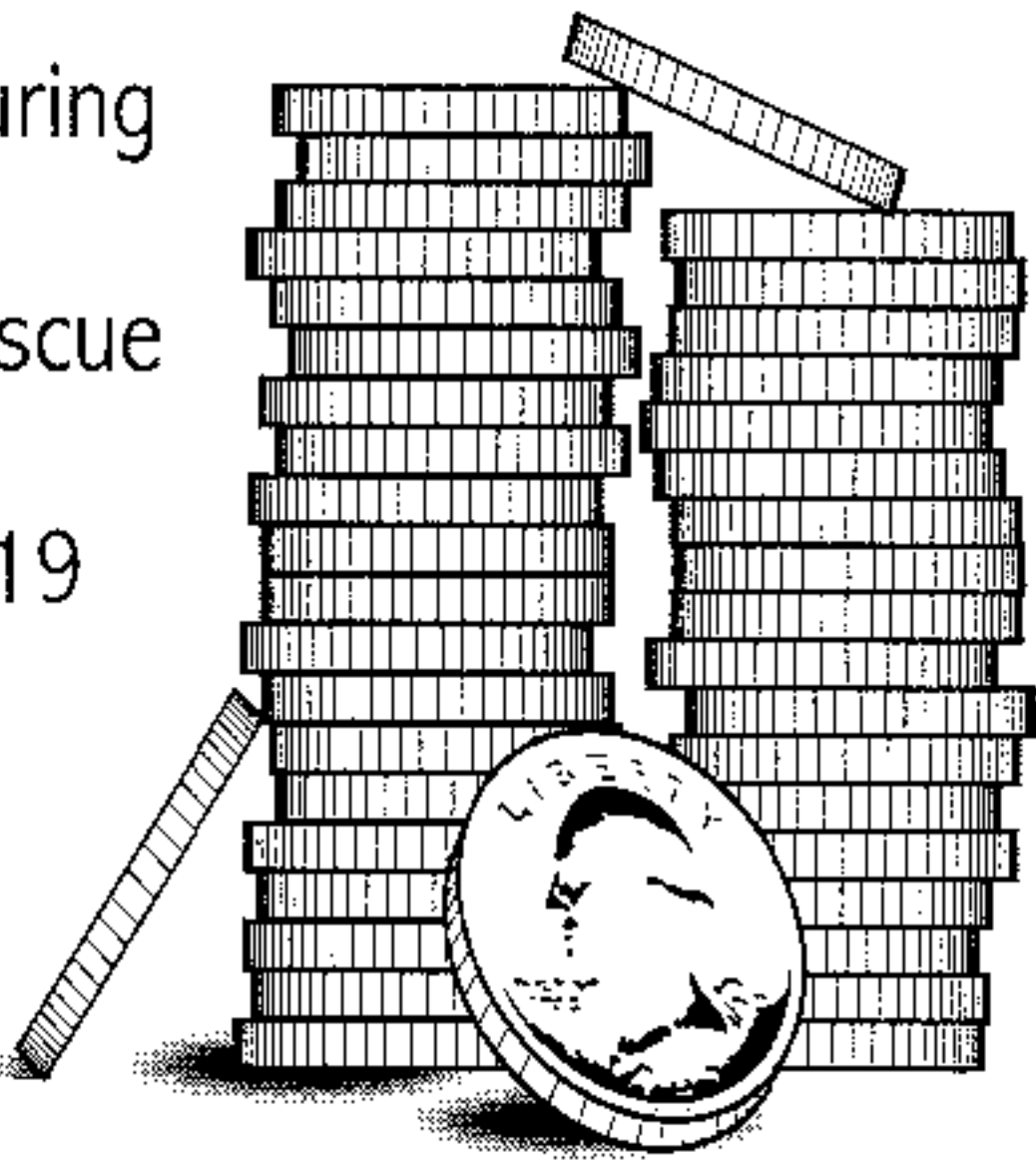
Watch out, "Animal Planet" - Fletcher is on his way!



Hey Buddy, Can You Spare a Quarter, or Maybe a Dose of Frontline?

Do you have some spare change lying around, just waiting to find a purpose? Or perhaps an extra dose of Frontline flea/tick preventive or Heartgard heartworm preventive?

Well, we know just what you can do with it! Rolled or unrolled, single or multiple dose packs, GRRMF will be collecting it during the Annual Rescue Reunion Feb. 19 in Lakeland.



Every "red cent" you contribute will help us "change" a dog's life. Every dose of flea or heartworm medicine "prevents" us from having to buy it for our rescues - in 2004 alone, we rescued 200 goldens, so you can see how the expense can add up!

Find your way to the **Golden Goods Booth** or **Welcome Desk** at the reunion, and drop off your change (rolled or unrolled, we'll take it all!) or preventives - we'll even send you a receipt.

And remember, ALL donations are tax-deductible - whether a quarter or a hundred quarters!

Golden Love

This poem was written as a tribute to Sandy Sumner's Golden Anniversary celebrating 50 goldens fostered for GRRMF.
We thought we'd share it with our members as a way of honoring all of our foster homes and what they mean to our goldens.
Fostering is a gift above all else -- the gift of a chance for a new life -- for a homeless golden retriever.

We were homeless or abused
Unloved and unwanted
Looking scruffy and quite used
But spirits still undaunted.

We were hoping for a special one
That would give us each a chance
To give our lives a ray of sun
And make us want to dance.

We were young and old and big and small
With flat or curly hairs
Spirits that were great and tall
With hearts as big as bears.

We came to stay with Sandy
The one with golden hair
With a heart as sweet as candy
And a touch that says, "I care."

She took us in and loved us
And taught us manners, too
Guiding and fussing over us
Until her face was blue.

We ate her stuff and made a mess
We barked and chewed and fussed
But still she lovingly caressed
And never ever cussed.

We learned we all got dinner
Special diets all around
The fat ones all got thinner
And the sickly ones health found.

She convinced us that we all had worth
Despite our sordid past
Which made our hearts all dance with mirth
And hoped that it would last.

As soon as we were healthy
It was time to find a home
We were beautiful and stealthy
No longer would we roam.

She told us we would all get homes
With loving families
With big backyards where we can roam
And watch the birds and bees.

A family who needed love
From big brown golden eyes
A smile sent from god above
That brightens all the skies.

We left with happy faces
With our new moms and dads
To live in brand new places
But in our hearts were sad.

It's hard to leave Miss Sandy
Who loves us all so dear
Who showed us all who we can be
And taught us not to fear.

We'll always remember how she cared
And think of her every day
Grateful for the love we shared
That helped us find our way.

Some of us didn't leave her place
Because we were sick or old
But we love this truly happy space
"Permanent Fosters" we are told.

She nurses us and hugs us
Giving tender loving care
Making us happy with out a fuss
So we would not despair.

She held us tenderly at the end
As we passed to the other side
Now we wait at the bridge for our special friend
Until then in her heart we abide.

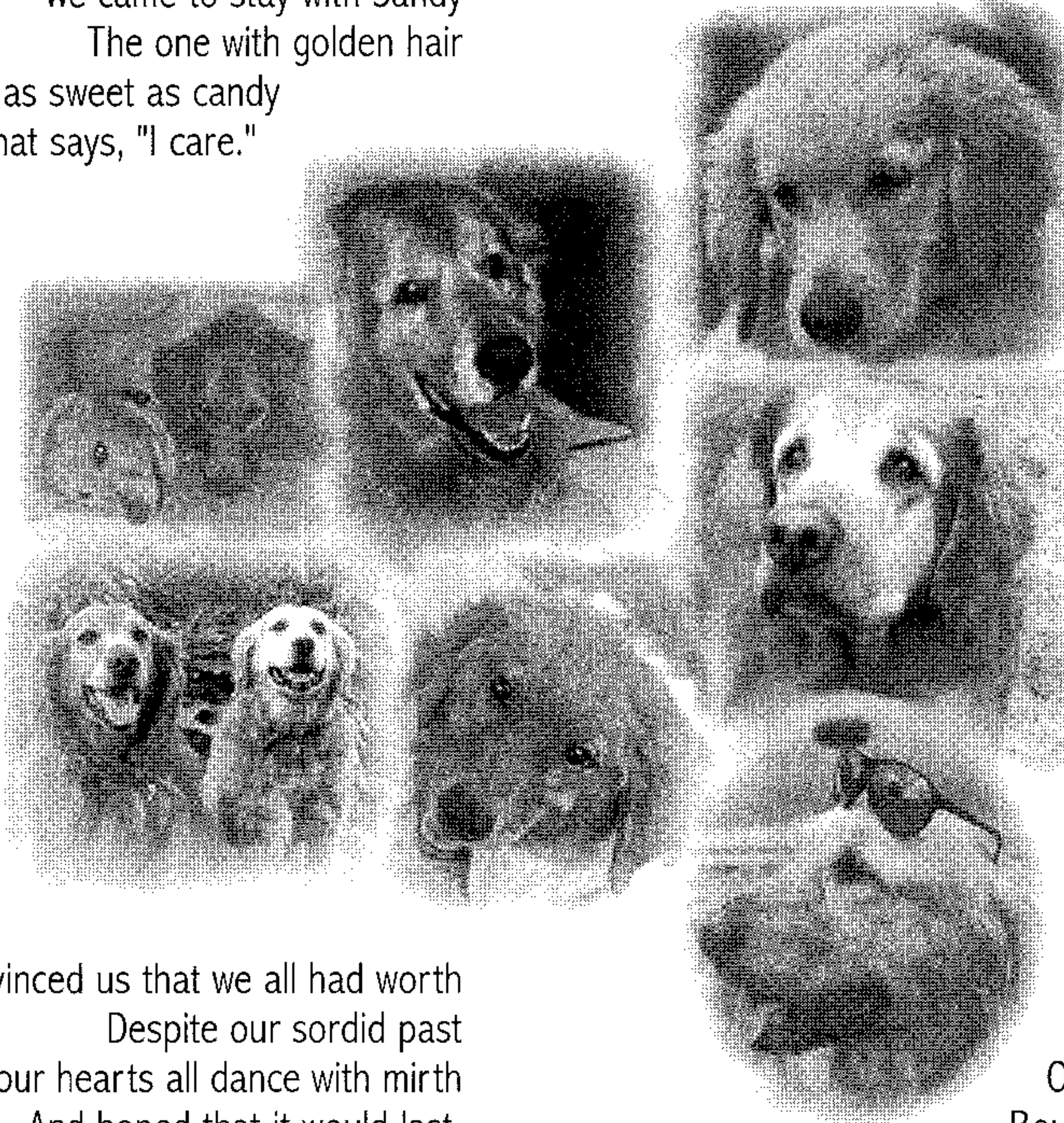
Someday we will all be together
With the one we love the best
Our hearts as light as a feather
Bouncing and prancing with zest.

We'll tell her we are in her debt
We had lost our heart and soul
Our lives begin the day we met
With love she made us whole.

Love,

All your fosters (past, present, and future)

*Written and submitted by Pat Matthews and Deb Wilson
and approved by Nora, with an extra wag of support from
Freeman. Nora is one of Sandy's former fosters, and she
approves this message!*



GRRMF Calendar Contest!

For the 2006 calendar, we will be choosing 13 photos, one for each month and one for the cover. However, we will also attempt to place every photo submitted into the calendar in some form subject to space limitations. A photo committee will judge the photos by July 31, 2005. We are looking for:

- ▼ quality of the photo (sharpness and clarity) ▼ no glowing eyes ▼ seasonal appropriateness
- ▼ dogs doing what dogs do best - having fun! ▼ photos must be of dogs adopted through GRRMF

You can also submit your dog's "gotcha" day (birthday, adoption day or anniversary day). "Gotcha" days are not limited to GRRMF dogs. Calendars will be available for sale in September on our website and at various GRRMF events.

SUBMISSION RULES:

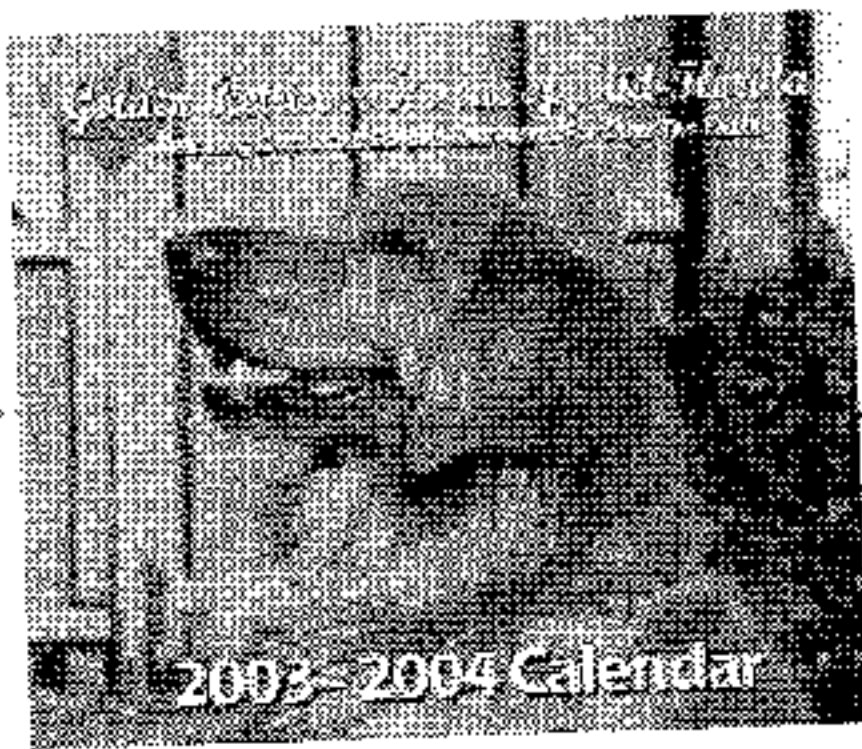
1. Give us your best shots - with a \$5 donation per picture or "gotcha day" - Contest deadline: May 31st, 2005. You can also renew your membership at various levels with rewards and submit a photo or "gotcha day" - see our membership drive information in this newsletter - Page 14!
2. Color prints must be horizontal (4" x 6" or larger).
3. Horizontal digital pictures must be at least 300dpi resolution and be in .jpg, .tif or .gif format.
4. Only dogs adopted from GRRMF are eligible.
5. Photos must be previously unpublished, non-professional images; no copyright photos accepted.
6. GRRMF reserves the right to use pictures submitted in future issues of our Hearts of Gold newsletter, on our Web site or other promotional purposes.
7. Send a brief story of your dog's past and present life with each picture. Be sure to include the year your dog was adopted and its original GRRMF name if you changed it.
8. Entries, including photos, will become the property of GRRMF and will not be acknowledged or returned.
9. Submission of an entry grants GRRMF the right to publish, use, adapt, edit and/or modify such entry in any way, in any and all media, without limitation, and without consideration to the entrant, whether or not such submission is selected as a winning entry. By submitting an entry, entrants irrevocably assign and transfer to GRRMF any and all rights, title and interest in entry and photo, including, without limitation, all copyrights. Entries must be the original work of the entrant; must not infringe third-party rights, and must be suitable for publication.
10. Submission of photo does not guarantee inclusion in calendar.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

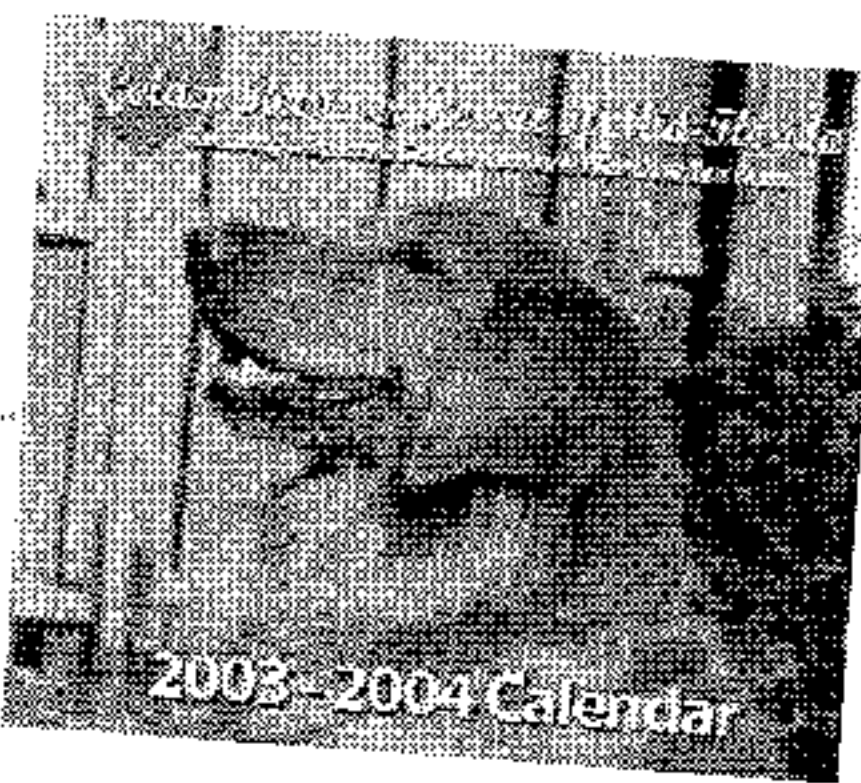
Entry Via US Mail: Send a check with completed form and picture(s) to: GRRMF, Attn: Photo contest, P.O. Box 1449, Goldenrod, FL 32733

Entry Via EMAIL: Email your photos or "gotcha" days to grrmfphotocontest@tampabay.rr.com. Please submit your donation (\$5 per photo or "gotcha day") via Pay Pal by going to www.paypal.com and submitting a payment to our GRRMF payment ID: info@grrmf.org. Or, go to our website at www.grrmf.org and follow the PayPal link.

Please include your name, address, dog's name, phone number, how you paid (mailed check or Pay Pal) and your dog's story in your email.



Thanks and good luck!!!



ENTRY FORM (photocopy for multiple entries)

Your Name: _____

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

Email _____ Phone: _____

☐ Photo Contest (\$5.00 per photo):

Dog's Present Name: _____ Original GRRMF Name: _____ Year Adopted: _____

Dog's Story: _____

☐ "Gotcha" Day (\$5.00 per entry): **Check One:** ☐ Birthday ☐ Adoption Day ☐ In Memorium

Date (month and day)for "Gotcha" Day _____ Name of Dog _____

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 -- see our web site at www.grrmf.org for details of this unusual gift!
- ▼ 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 -- see our web site at www.grrmf.org for details of this unusual gift!
- ▼ 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 two photo or "gotcha" dates for GRRMF calendar photo contest
- ▼ 2 GRRMF Fire Protection Stickers with logo
- ▼ Your sponsorship helps a specific dog in need. You will receive a letter informing you of the golden you are helping

☐ **GRRMF GOLDEN FRIEND: \$50**

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

☐ **GRRMF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25**

- ▼ 2005 Membership ▼ Hearts of Gold newsletter subscription

Donations

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

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

☐ \$_____ to the Capital Campaign for a home for Goldens. (\$100 donation will purchase an inscribed brick to be placed at the new shelter.

To order an inscribed brick, return this form with your \$100 donation or call the GRRMF Hotline: 407-332-2840, Mailbox 4.)

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

☐ \$_____ for this purpose _____

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

☐ \$_____ in honor of _____

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

SEE OTHER SIDE - GRRMF ANNUAL ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP FORM

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

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

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

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

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

General Information

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

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

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

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

Medical Follow-Up

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

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

What type of food do you feed your dog? _____

Please check any medical problems that have developed since adoption:

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

Status of medical problems and medications taken: _____

If deceased, indicate date and cause of death: _____

Behavioral Follow-Up

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

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

☐ Fearful - describe: _____

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

☐ Other (please indicate what) _____

☐ Aggressive, especially about _____

☐ Bites when _____

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

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

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

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

Comments

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

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

(See other side for new membership categories.)

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

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

Forms may also be faxed to 419-781-3538. Questions? (407) 332-2840, e-mail: info@grrmf.org.

Help Us Spread The Word About Rescue!

GRRMF is in need of volunteers to spend a few hours a month "preaching the golden gospel" at our educational days across the state. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, spread the word about rescue, and you can even bring your dog, if he or she is people and dog friendly!

MELBOURNE/EAST COAST: PetsMart, Melbourne / Petco, Viera/Suntree

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

PetsMart, Countryside/Clearwater - Every first 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

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

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

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

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

Reunion Time! Reunion Time! Reunion Time! Reunion Time!



Saturday, February 19th — Lake Parker Park — Lakeland, Fla



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

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